



Recreating historical architecture using cutting-edge visual effects

The series has also involved the recreation of historical buildings and architectural structures, which has provided an opportunity for Iranian architects and engineers to showcase their skills. The construction of a massive lake and two ships for the series' naval scenes is a notable example of this achievement. They have built a massive lake in Shahroud, a semi-arid region, to facilitate the production of the series' port and sea scenes. Two enormous ships, partially constructed physically and partially using visual effects, have been brought to life by Iranian teams of experts and artists.

The series has also been a game-changer in terms of production values, with the construction of a massive film set, rep-

licating the architecture of the Sassanid era.

The series' visual effects have been created by Iranian specialists, who have demonstrated exceptional skill and creativity in their work. The quality of these effects is on par with international standards, and in some cases, even surpasses them.



JAMARAN

Documenting production process

The entire production process, from filming to costume design, has been meticulously documented, providing a valuable resource for future generations of filmmakers, historians, and researchers. These documents will be made available to universities and film schools, serving as a testament to the series' educational value. As an example, a comprehensive documentary has been produced, focusing solely on the costume design process, from fabric selection to printing, and the research and construction of period-accurate clothing. This documentary can be considered a valuable educational

resource or a specialized university course. The key point is that professionals from the Iranian film industry have contributed to the production of 'Salman the Persian', which not only adds to the quantitative value but also lends credibility to the quality of the work.

To produce these documentaries, the filmmakers invited experts from the country to collaborate. This, in itself, can be seen as a distinguishing feature of the legacy that has been created for the first time in the production of a series on Iranian state television, and one that has practical and operational significance.

Legacy of 'Salman the Persian'

As the 'Salman the Persian' series comes to a close, it's time to reflect on its profound impact and the lasting legacy it will leave behind. This comprehensive special issue delves into the various aspects of the series' influence, from its educational value to its cultural significance, both nationally and internationally.

The series has been a transformative learning experience for the young generation involved in its production. By providing a platform for them to learn and grow, the project has not only honed their skills in their respective fields but also instilled valuable lessons in teamwork, discipline, and creativity. This, in turn, will have a positive ripple effect on the Iranian film industry, making it more robust, powerful, and effective.

The series offers a unique civilizational perspective on the history of early Islam, which can profoundly impact our understanding and appreciation of our cultural heritage. The production team's meticulous attention to detail and commitment to historical accuracy have resulted in a work that is both informative and engaging.

The series has left an indelible mark on the Iranian television industry and the world of art. By telling the story of Salman the Persian, one of the most influential figures in Islamic history, the series has not only showcased the rich cultural heritage of Iran but has also bridged the gap between Iran and the world.

Salman the Persian, a Persian companion of the Prophet Muhammad, played a pivotal role in the early days of Islam. His unique character, which embodied the spirit of Islam, has fascinated scholars and researchers for centuries. The series has brought this iconic figure to life, highlighting his contributions to the spread of Islam and his impact on the cultural and intellectual landscape of the time.

Ultimately, the impact of the series extends far beyond the realm of entertainment, as it has provided a platform for cultural exchange and understanding. The series has also been a catalyst for social change, promoting cultural justice and providing opportunities for talented individuals from across the country to showcase their skills.

Countdown to premiere

Despite various problems, such as the coronavirus and inflation, the 'Salman the Persian' series is being produced with precise planning. The team is currently present in Shahroud and is busy filming scenes from the season of 'Ancient Iran'. According to the plans, this series will be ready for broadcast in 2026. The plan is to air all three seasons of the series consecutively, without any breaks, to keep the audience engaged and invested in the story. This bold move is a testament to the confidence the production team has in their work. However,

it's worth noting that the final broadcast strategy may be subject to change, depending on the progress of the production.

As the production team works towards the final stages of filming, the anticipation builds up. With the premiere date set for 2026, the audience can expect a thrilling ride, as the epic saga of Salman the Persian unfolds on their screens. Will the series live up to the hype? Only time will tell, but one thing is certain – this is a production that promises to leave a lasting impact on the world of television.



Weathering the storm

According to initial planning, the first season of the series (Byzantine) was set to be shot in Turkey. The initial planning was designed to be completed in a year and a half, allowing us to wrap up our work in Turkey in a condensed timeframe. Since most of the buildings and architectures sought after by the director, the story's setting, and the production team were already finalized in eastern Turkey, there was no need to construct or rebuild existing architecture in the region to depict the Byzantine era. However, just as filming was about to begin in winter 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, bringing production to a grinding halt. The team faced numerous challenges, including the repatriation of foreign actors and the suspension of filming. Though, they refused to let the pandemic derail their project, and after a brief hiatus, they regrouped and devised a new plan.

In August 2020, filming resumed in the mountainous region of Majan,

Shahroud, where the team built elaborate sets, including a Byzantine-era port and caves. Simultaneously, they worked on constructing sets in the Tehran Film Studio, including a replica of a Byzantine city. Despite the ongoing pandemic, the team persevered, driven by their passion for the project.

The filming process continued, we shot a small portion of the series in Armenia, taking advantage of the existing structures in the country. Of course, there was no need to build sets or renovate them for that part, as we had already scouted the locations and all environmental conditions were in place. The team moved forward with the project simultaneously in the three regions mentioned – Shahroud, Noor Cinema Town, and Armenia – in a bid to stay on track, Taheri added.

The production team has been working around the clock, with a daily schedule of 16 to 18 hours of filming. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the team

has made significant progress, with the architecture and set construction nearing completion. The speed of production has increased by two and a half times compared to the previous year, thanks to the tireless efforts of the team.

The next phase of production, focusing on Iran, kicked off in September 2023. The construction of buildings, structures, and architecture envisioned for the series is currently underway at the Ghazali Cinema Town. According to the same planning, the team aims to wrap up filming for the Iran section by next year (2025) and move forward with the Hejaz section, whose pre-production began in early July 2024, at full speed. The initial steps of research and studies for the Hejaz and Islamic era have been taken, and some of the necessary architecture and equipment are being built to enable us to start casting for the Hejaz and Islamic era section from early 2025 and officially launch the filming process for this season.

“'Salman the Persian' is more than just a historical drama; it's an evidence of the power of faith, culture, and identity to shape human experience.”

Unparalleled attention to details

The attention to detail in every aspect of the production is staggering. For the Byzantine era alone, the team created over 4,400 sets of costumes, each meticulously designed and crafted to reflect the era's unique style. They also built an impressive array of props, including armor, swords, and other artifacts, which will eventually be showcased in a museum.

The production involved a network of workshops and studios across

Tehran, employing skilled artisans and craftsmen in various fields, from carpentry to jewelry-making. The team's commitment to authenticity and excellence is evident in every aspect of the production, from the intricate costumes to the elaborate sets. In Tehran alone, more than 24 workshops have been set up to handle the production of various components, including weaponry, clothing, and tools needed for the series. These workshops, which include carpen-

try, carriage-making, tailoring, jewelry-making, and others, have been working non-stop to meet the demands of the production.

In the tailoring department, the team has taken on the entire process from scratch to finish, given the importance of accurately reflecting historical authenticity. Our tailoring workshops, for instance, have been broken down into sub-sections such as patchwork, dyeing, embroidery, fabric printing, and many others.