

From Byzantine to Saudi Arabia

Production odyssey of 'Salman the Persian'



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in for years. This series sets out to promote a national and Islamic perspective during the second stage of the Islamic Revolution, both at home and abroad, and can bring to light the cultural level of the Islamic Republic.

With over four decades of artistic activity in the field of drama and the production of memorable series, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) is at the peak of its maturity and should take a bigger step, which has been taken with the production of the 'Salman the Persian' series.

Salman the Persian's character in history had such capacities. He was an Iranian companion of the Prophet of Islam, who held a high position among the great companions and was considered one of the close companions of Imam Ali (PBUH). His spirit of seeking truth led him to travel from city to city and from one religion to another, passing through Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Judaism, and Manichaeism, until he finally found peace in Islam.

After the completion of the 'Mokhtarnameh' series, directed by Mirbagheri, a suitable opportunity had not arisen for IRIB

The life of Salman the Persian, with its ups and downs, had been drawing Davood Mirbagheri, a seasoned writer and director,

and Mirbagheri to start the production of this series with a high spirit. Finally, the zero phase of the largest cinematic and television project in Iranian history, was launched with the precise planning of Sima Film and Zolal Film, written and directed by Mirbagheri and produced by Hossein Taheri.

A large group of skilled individuals in the field of drama gathered to produce the 'Salman the Persian' series under the supervision and support of the national media. The use of the high capacity of the skilled director, writer, and Mirbagheri, after years of inactivity in the field of Islamic history, as well as the liberation of production capacities and various potentials in different sections, were positive events that followed the production of this series.

The eagerly awaited series 'Salman the Persian' has been making headlines since its announcement, and with the start of its broadcast slated for 2026, excitement is building up. The series, which promises to be a game-changer in the world of television, is being produced in three distinct seasons, each exploring a different chapter in the life of Salman the Persian. The story of the series will be narrated over three seasons 'Ancient Iran', 'Byzantine Empire' and finally 'Early Islam'.

The series' creator, Mirbagheri, has taken a multifaceted approach to portraying Salman's life, weaving together historical facts, cultural nuances, and philosophical insights to

create a rich tapestry that showcases the grandeur of ancient Iranian civilization and the profound impact of Islam on the region.

At its core, the series aims to humanize Salman, a towering figure in Islamic history, and explore the complexities of his identity as an Iranian, a companion of the Prophet Muhammad, and a symbol of the confluence of Persian and Islamic cultures. By doing so, the show's creators hope to provide a fresh perspective on the early days of Islam, one that highlights the significant contributions of Iranians to the faith's development and spread.

Through Salman's story, the series will transport viewers to a bygone era, allowing them to relive the triumphs and tribulations of a pivotal moment in human history. As the narrative unfolds, audiences will gain a deeper understanding of the cultural, intellectual, and spiritual currents that shaped the ancient world and continue to influence our lives today.

Ultimately, '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. As audiences immerse themselves in the world of the series, they will be inspired by Salman's courage, wisdom, and devotion, and gain a deeper appreciation for the enduring legacy of this remarkable individual.



Casting, character development

To get the best out of local talent, the directing team of the 'Salman the Persian' series set out to scout for actors from all over the country. They conducted reviews at dozens of domestic and international locations, taking stock of the various capacities available. This extensive search led them to test and record information from approximately 20,000 theatrical agents, with 6,000 of them making the cut for interviews. All of these actors will get a chance to shine in front of the camera.

The casting process was a massive undertaking, with over 20,000 aspiring actors signing up for auditions. A team of experts, including members of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, was brought in to sift through the applications and conduct a series of interviews and auditions. This thorough selection process paid off, with over 1,500 actors being chosen to participate in the series. Many of these actors are newcomers, making their debut in the series and bringing fresh energy to the production.

Collaboration across borders

Behind the camera, the production team emphasized the use of Iranian capacities. Dozens of production groups, with a combination of experienced individuals and talented youth, gathered to participate in the construction of this important work. The construction of decorations and equipment, and the combination of them with the latest visual and computer effects, were other special features of this large project.

Approximately 24 specialized workshops were set up in the Ghazali Cinema Town to bring in the most specialized individuals in various fields. In addition to

the performance of more than 700 first-class actors from our country, more than 40 actors from Greece, Morocco, Armenia, and Tunisia have appeared in front of the camera, including the late Hisham Rostom from Tunisia.

All foreign actors, after their presence in Iran and their performance in the 'Salman the Persian' series, become cultural ambassadors of our country in their homeland. The presence of foreign actors will also facilitate the distribution of the series in the international arena and increase its penetration into the target audience of international viewers.

Symbol of Iranian pride

The producer of the 'Salman the Persian' series Hossein Taheri stated that the axis of this series is the representation of 'Salman the Persian' as a symbol of wisdom, civilization, thought, and culture of Iran and Iranians, accompanying the Prophet of Islam.

The history, civilization, and culture of Iran are filled with names, figures, and personalities that each represent a golden page of the great cultural heritage of the world, Iran. Alongside the identity of culture and literature, which is an essential element of Iran's identity in the world, the alignment and solidarity with the guiding and Islamic religion, in

the form of accepting this religion in our land by the monotheistic people of Iran, and the solidarity of one of the thousands of Iranian men and women with the great men of this religion, from the early days of Islam to the era of Imamate and guardianship, each represents a symbol of pride for Iran and Iranians in the national and international dimensions.

'Salman the Persian' is one of these names, which the Prophet of Islam confirmed and stated: "Salman is one of us, the Ahl al-Bayt." This important and high position was achieved only through his companionship, solidarity, and

interaction with the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (PBUH), in the early years of his prophethood, from battles and wars to the propagation and promotion of Islam. The seventh day of the lunar month of Safar coincides with the anniversary of the digging of the 'Trench' around Medina to protect the city against attacks by the infidels of Quraysh, a move that was also among the suggestions and guidance offered by Salman the Persian in the entourage of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This day has been designated as 'Salman Farsi Day' on Iran's country's cultural calendar, Taheri added.



Exploring Iran's diverse landscapes

In 2018, the production team embarked on a reconnaissance mission to scout locations for the series. They visited various sites, including film studios in Turkey, to find the perfect setting for the Byzantine era. With a clear vision in mind, they began pre-production, designing and building sets, costumes, and props that would transport audiences to a bygone era.

The emphasis of the producers of the 'Salman the Persian' series is on the presence in domestic locations, which have been various regions so far.

Mirbagheri started shooting 'Salman the Persian' in Shahdad deserts of Kerman

Province in late 2019 as he said that it was expected to be completed in five years.

Shahroud and Semnan are among the most important locations, and a significant part of the work has been done and will be done in this region, which is the birthplace of Mirbagheri.

In Jolfa, the capacity of the region's churches, such as the Saint Stepanos Church, and the Aras River beach, were used. The capacities of the three cinema town of Ghazali, Noor, and Sacred Defense were also used, which resulted in an interesting combination of decorations and computer effects.

