

Iranian-Swiss film 'Son' scoops triple int'l awards

Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian-Swiss short film 'Son' won three awards at international film festivals in Russia, Kyrgyzstan, and Argentina, its producers announced Wednesday. 'Son,' directed by Saman Hosseinpour and produced by Philippe Reitler and Hosseinpour, took home the top prize at the third Nomad Film Festival in Kyrgyzstan, Best Director Award at the Buenos Aires International Film Festival in Argentina, and a special mention for best actress for Maryam Boubani at the Moscow Kurdish Film Festival in Russia, ILNA reported.

The film, whose Persian title is 'Kor' meaning "son" in Kurdish, tells the story

of a mother's search for her soldier son in the city and her discovery of a major secret. The movie features a cast of Iranian actors, including Maryam Boubani, Kianoush Farzin, and Mahvash Sheikh. According to a statement from the Buenos Aires festival jury, 'Son' was recognized for its outstanding direction. "The director tackles the conflict between cultural and social constraints and human identity with sensitivity and nuance. With skill, Hosseinpour explores the tension between the norms imposed by society and an individual's need to live authentically, and the unconditional love that is shaped by conditioning. He elicits profound performances from his cast. In a world where our existence is

constantly questioned, the film underscores the value of embracing the new, the different, and the hard, real changes that make us more authentic and happy. The movie is a celebration of the courage to live truthfully and becomes a landmark work in contemporary cinema." According to the statement. The Nomad Film Festival was held in Kyrgyzstan from September 18-22, while the Buenos Aires International Film Festival took place in Argentina from September 4-14. The Moscow Kurdish Film Festival was held in Russia from September 18-22. 'Son' was produced in collaboration with the Swiss company Dynamic Frame.



Persepolis faces uncertain future without long-term preservation plan

Social Desk

Iran's ancient sites, including the iconic Persepolis, are facing a growing threat from lichens, experts warn, as the country struggles to find a solution to the problem. Lichens, a symbiotic organism composed of fungi and algae or cyanobacteria, have been growing on Iran's ancient stones for centuries. While they play a crucial role in natural ecosystems, their growth on historical sites poses a significant challenge for conservation efforts. Dr. Mohammad Sohrabi, a renowned lichenologist and founder of the Museum of Iranian Lichens, has been studying the impact of lichens on Iran's ancient sites. He notes that lichens can damage stones by producing acidic substances and infiltrating their pores, causing them to crumble over

time. In Iran, more than 50% of lichens grow on rocks and stones, earning them the nickname "golsang" in Persian, according to Sohrabi, an expert on the subject. "Lichens that grow on stones can cause significant damage, especially in areas with high humidity and sunlight," he explains. Iran's ancient sites, such as Persepolis, Bisotun, and caravanserais, provide an ideal breeding ground for lichens, according to research conducted in Iranian cemeteries. In Iran's climate, any stone with relative stability is susceptible to lichen growth within 10 to 30 years. In some arid regions, this timeframe can stretch to 50 years. When applied to 2,500-year-old historical sites, it's no surprise that these areas are prone to lichen growth due to the presence of moisture, sunlight, and wind.

Persepolis is one such site that has been plagued by lichens over the years. In the northern part of the Apadana Palace, inscriptions have been partially or completely erased due to lichen growth. Persepolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is particularly vulnerable to lichen growth. Sohrabi estimates that the site has been affected by lichens for centuries, with some species growing up to 25 centimeters in diameter. "The growth of lichens on Persepolis is not just a natural phenomenon, but also a sign of the site's age and history," Sohrabi says. "However, it's essential to distinguish between the 'good' lichens that are part of the site's natural ecosystem and the 'bad' ones that can cause damage." Sohrabi attributes the rapid growth of lichens on Persepolis to a combination of factors, including climate change, air pollution, and human activities such as tourism. "Tourists often bring food and drinks to the site, which attracts birds and increases the amount of bird droppings," Sohrabi explains. "These droppings can act as a fertilizer for lichens, promoting their growth." Experts warn that the lack of

funding and support from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts is hindering efforts to combat the lichen problem. "We have the scientific knowledge and technical capabilities to address this issue, but we need the necessary funding and support to implement our plans," Sohrabi says. Sohrabi proposes establishing a long-term monitoring system to track lichen growth on Persepolis and other ancient sites. He also emphasizes the need for a multidisciplinary approach, involving experts from various fields, to develop effective conservation strategies. "Conservation efforts require a long-term commitment and a comprehensive approach," Sohrabi stresses. "We cannot afford to make mistakes or take shortcuts when it comes to preserving our cultural heritage." Experts warn that if left unchecked, the lichen problem could have devastating consequences for Iran's ancient sites. "We need to act now to protect our cultural heritage," Sohrabi urges. "With the right support and funding, we can find a solution to this problem and ensure the long-term preservation of our ancient sites."



World Tourism Day: Iran seeks to boost peace, stability through tourism

Arts & Culture Desk

As the world marks World Tourism Day on September 27, Iranian officials are emphasizing the crucial role of security and cultural exchange in promoting peace and understanding through tourism. This year's theme, "Tourism and Peace," was chosen by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to highlight the industry's potential to foster global peace and stability. Awat Mokari, a tourism expert at the Kurdistan Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Department, noted that the UNWTO selects a theme each year based on current global events. "This year's theme is particularly relevant given the increasing tensions and conflicts around the world," Mokari said. Mokari stressed that security is the foundation of tourism, and that without it, the industry cannot develop. "When security increases, dialogue and peace also increase, and tourism can play a significant role in promoting peace and stability," he added. Rahim Khaki, Director General of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts of Alborz Province, echoed Mokari's sentiments, saying that tourism and peace are intricately linked. "The promotion of cultural understanding through tourism can be a new approach to diplomacy and a path to peace," Khaki said.

Khaki acknowledged that the current global situation, particularly in the Middle East and Asia, makes the theme of "Tourism and Peace" challenging to achieve. However, he emphasized that tourism can still play an important role in promoting peace by increasing cultural exchange and understanding between nations. In Iran's Kurdistan Province, officials are highlighting the region's growing tourism industry as a testament to the importance of security and peace. Mokari pointed to the increasing number of tourism infrastructure projects, including hotels, resorts, and cultural festivals, as evidence of the province's commitment to promoting peace and stability. Similarly, in Alborz Province, officials are investing in tourism infrastructure, including hotels, resorts, and agritourism projects, which are expected to come online in the next few years.



Myth of unilateral...

On the other hand, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said that the assassination of senior Hezbollah commanders by Israel has not weakened the resistance movement. Ayatollah Khamenei added that Hezbollah is victorious, and Israel will not be able to defeat this resistance. He further stated that although Hezbollah lost a few key and valuable members, this was not a blow that could destroy the group. On Monday, Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon, using American bombs, were aimed at reminding the resistance axis that the US stands behind Tel Aviv. For the first time

on Wednesday, Hezbollah used a long-range ballistic missile in its fight against the Israeli occupation, reaffirming its commitment to not escalating the war while simultaneously calling for a cease-fire in Gaza. However, driven by arrogance and backed by powerful countries, Israel carried out brutal airstrikes on densely populated areas of Lebanon, resulting in the deaths of 558 civilians, including a Hezbollah commander, over 50 children, and more than 70 women, with the number of injured exceeding 5,000. This was also the first time Hezbollah used a ballistic missile during the ongoing year-long conflict.

Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon's densely populated areas have intensified the flames of war, prompting Hezbollah to use a ballistic missile for the first time. Media reports indicated that after this missile attack, air traffic was suspended at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport, causing panic among Israelis, who confined themselves to areas they believed would be safe from further attacks. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled his trip to New York, scheduled for September 25, choosing instead to remain in a bunker designed to withstand nuclear attacks. Israeli people, eager for a cease-fire in Gaza, have been urging Tel Aviv to

resolve the conflict at the negotiating table, especially after Hamas put forth conditions for a cease-fire. Israel's civil society announced protests against the Netanyahu cabinet on Saturday in Tel Aviv and other areas. The day before, Hezbollah had fired 50 rockets at the Dado Base of the Israeli occupation army's Northern Command headquarters, located 12 kilometers from the Lebanese border, in the northwestern part of the occupied city of Safed. On Wednesday morning, Hezbollah announced the killing of one of its senior commanders and another member of the Lebanese resistance movement in an Israeli airstrike

in the capital, Beirut. The commander was identified as Ibrahim Muhammad Qubaisi, also known as Haj Abu Musa, and Hussein Hani Izz al-Din, known as Haj Faris. Six civilians were also killed, and 18 others were injured in Israeli attacks targeting Commander Ibrahim. There is no doubt that Hezbollah is facing an enemy backed by the US and Europe. However, on Wednesday morning, Hezbollah's ballistic missile strike on Tel Aviv has shattered the perception of a unilateral balance of power. The Israeli army confirmed that this was the first time a Hezbollah missile had reached the Tel Aviv area.