



Hosseinpour wins top prize at Toronto Nollywood festival

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian director Ramin Hosseinpour picked up the Special Jury Award and the trophy for Best Short Documentary at the 9th Toronto International Nollywood Film Festival (TINFF), which ran from September 6 to 13 in the Canadian city. The short film 'Sculpture,' entered as an official nominee in both the directing and documentary categories, secured Hosseinpour's second major international recognition this year, inn.ir reported.

The festival, recognized as a qualifying event for the Canadian Screen Awards, is regarded as one of North America's more prominent showcases for independent cinema. Hosseinpour was also invited to serve on TINFF's international industry panel, underscoring what organizers described as his "growing stature" on the global circuit. His documentary remains eligible for the 2026 Academy Awards in the United States, Britain's BAFTAs and Canadian Screen Awards.

Away from the red carpet, Hosseinpour is at work on 'The Pretender,' a short centered on the life and philosophy of medieval Persian poet and mystic Attar. The director, who is also an architect and composer, has described his multi-disciplinary practice as shaping a "distinctive path" within contemporary documentary filmmaking. Festival jurors said 'Sculpture' stood out for its "artistry" and "conceptual depth", marking another step for Iranian non-fiction cinema on the international stage.



Iran, Hungary ink higher education accord in New York



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) and Hungary's Foreign Minister Peter Szijjártó lean in to shake hands after signing a memorandum of understanding in New York, the US, on September 23, 2025, during the 80th United Nations General Assembly.
● IRNA

Social Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Hungarian counterpart Peter Szijjártó signed a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday in New York, setting out plans for closer cooperation in higher education during the 80th United Nations General Assembly. The accord, signed on the side-

lines of the annual gathering, covers science, technology, medicine and agriculture. Both ministers also exchanged views on regional and global developments as part of their meeting, IRNA reported. The agreement underscores a push by Tehran to broaden academic partnerships abroad at a time when its universities seek stronger international links in

research and applied sciences. Hungarian institutions, long known for their medical and agricultural program, will be part of the collaboration. Araghchi arrived in New York on Monday, ahead of a week of speeches and bilateral talks with world leaders and media. He is heading Iran's delegation to the Assembly, which runs from Sept 23 to Sept 29. President Masoud Pezeshkian has also flown to the US city to deliver a national address to the world body. The two foreign ministers stressed "mutual interest" in expanding ties and highlighted the importance of education as a field where, as one diplomat put it, cooperation can "stand the test of time."

Seoul film archive hosts Iranian family-themed productions

Arts & Culture Desk

The Korean Film Archive (KOFA) opened its doors on September 24 to a four-day Iranian Film Week titled 'Family Portrait,' featuring works by leading directors from Tehran and a new generation of filmmakers. The screenings, staged from September 24 to 27 at the Korean Film Archive's cinema-theque in Seoul, bring together dramas noted for their humane and social themes. Organized jointly by Iran's Embassy in Seoul, the Korean archive and Tehran-based Soureh Cinema Organization, the program aims to give South Korean audiences a glimpse into family life in contemporary Iran. Reza Mirkarimi's 'A Cube of Sugar' served as the opening night film, accompanied by a formal inauguration ceremony. Other titles include Maziar Miri's 'The Painting Pool,' Hamed Mohammadi's 'Angels Descend Together,' and 'In the Arms of the Tree,' the latest feature from Babak Khajeh Pasha. Organizers said the films were selected for their shared focus on "family relations" and the fine line between tradition and modernity in Iranian society. "Each film tells a different story, yet they all explore the universal language of family," one of the curators remarked. Iranian cinema has long been acclaimed abroad for its pared-down style and moral storytelling. For Seoul viewers, the Family



Portrait showcase offers what promoters describe as "a fresh angle" on Iranian culture through characters caught in everyday dilemmas. International distribution of the selected works is handled by Soureh Cinema Organization. The Seoul screenings add to a string of recent cultural exchanges between Iranian filmmakers and Asian audiences, underscoring the continued relevance of Iranian cinema on the global stage.

Farhadi begins shooting 'Parallel Tales' in Paris with French stars

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian director Asghar Farhadi began filming his tenth feature, 'Parallel Tales,' in the French capital with a line-up led by Isabelle Huppert, Vincent Cassel and Catherine Deneuve. Cameras started rolling on September 8 and production is scheduled to run for three months, inn.ir reported. The internationally acclaimed filmmaker, twice an Oscar winner, has assembled a cast of France's best-known performers including Virginie Efira, Pierre Niney and Adam Bessa. Huppert, Deneuve and Bessa have already taken their turns before the camera, according to the production team. The project marks Farhadi's



return to European cinema after works shot in Spain and Italy. Haideh Safiyari, Farhadi's long-time collaborator, is handling the editing. Paris-based Memento Production and Los Angeles company Anonymous Content are co-producing alongside Farhadi himself. The film

is a joint venture involving France, the United States, Italy and Belgium. Farhadi, whose dramas 'A Separation' and 'The Salesman' won Academy Awards for best foreign language film, has built a reputation for drawing out "raw tensions" and everyday dilemmas from his characters.

'At the End of the Night' picked among Cologne TV festival's top ten

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian filmmaker Ida Panahandeh's television series 'At the End of the Night' was shortlisted in the "Top Ten" line-up of the 2025 Cologne Film and Television Festival. The annual German showcase, which runs from October 9 to 16, is considered one of Europe's leading platforms for television and cinema fiction, Mehr News Agency reported. Panahandeh's nine-part drama, produced for the Tehran-based streaming platform Filmnet, will go head-to-head with high-profile productions from Germany's ZDF, Britain's BBC, Denmark's DR, France's Arte, and US giants Discovery and Warner. The Cologne event also hands out the Hollywood Reporter Award, backed by the Los Angeles trade magazine, for the best narrative

entry across its competitive categories. Past winners have often gone on to wider international distribution. 'At the End of the Night,' co-written by Panahandeh and Arsalan Amiri and produced by Mohammad Yamini, traces the fate of two characters, Nahid (Hoda Zeinolabedin) and Amir (Parsa Pirouzfar), whose lives unravel through "secrets" and fraught choices. The series leans on suspense and melodrama to probe themes of family, betrayal, trust and truth-seeking. The production has already made waves at home, sweeping three awards at Iran's Hafez Festival this year, including best TV drama, best screenplay and best actor for Pirouzfar. It later screened in Spain at the Cinema Jove festival, marking its second international outing before landing a coveted berth in Cologne. With its brooding tone and taut



narrative, the show represents Iran's latest attempt to place its scripted content on the global stage. "It is a story about choices and consequences," Panahandeh has said, stressing the universal pull of its tragic arc.