

Tehran puppet museum reopens with 800 marionettes, gains national registration



Arts & Culture Desk

Tehran's Ferdowsi Hall re-opened its Marionette Puppet Museum on Saturday, unveiling a collection of about 800 stage

puppets and securing national registration in a ceremony marking the birthday of veteran theater director Behrouz Gharibpour. Established by the Rudaki Arts

and Cultural Foundation in collaboration with Gharibpour's Aran Puppet Theater Group, the museum preserves a distinctive chapter of Iran's contemporary performing arts, bringing to-

gether puppets created for productions inspired by Persian literature, history and mythology, IRNA reported.

The collection features marionettes used in Aran's puppet operas since 2004, tracing more than two decades of work that combines theater, music and opera. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts presented the museum's operating license to Rudaki Foundation chief Mohammad Allahyari during the reopening ceremony. The museum will rotate its displays according to the group's performance repertoire, allowing visitors to encounter puppets from different productions while supporting their preservation. Special educational tours will also introduce visitors to the marionette-making process, from initial design and construction to preparing puppets for the stage. Founded in 2003 by Gharib-



pour, Aran specializes in puppet opera, a theatrical form in which figures are manipulated from above using strings and, in some cases, rods. The group has developed original productions drawing on Iranian musical traditions and the country's dramatic heritage, with the revival of national opera among its central aims.

Its repertoire includes 'Rostam and Sohrab,' 'Macbeth,' 'Ashura,' 'Rumi,' 'Hafez,' 'Layla and

Majnun,' 'Sa'adi' and 'Khayyam'. The productions have been staged in Iran, Europe and Asia. Ferdowsi Hall, a 140-seat venue dedicated to marionette theater, opened in February 2004 with 'Rostam and Sohrab,' directed by Gharibpour. The museum now offers audiences an opportunity to explore the puppets and theatrical elements behind Aran's productions beyond their appearances on stage.

'The Daughter of Lady Fairy' heads to Warsaw competition

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Iranian filmmaker Alireza Motamedi's latest feature, 'The Daughter of Lady Fairy,' will make its world premiere in the main competition of the Warsaw Film Festival in Poland, ISNA reported.

The film marks Motamedi's third feature after 'Reza' and 'Why Don't You Cry?' and continues the introspective storytelling of his earlier works. As in his previous films, Motamedi directs and takes on the lead role, IRNA reported.

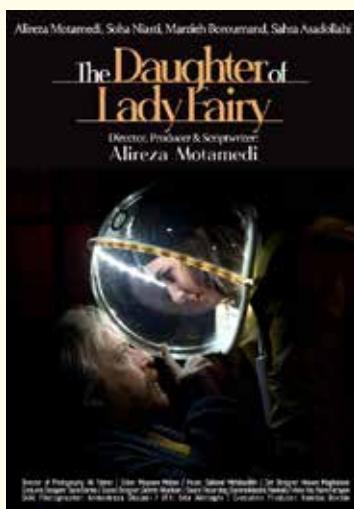
The cast also includes Soha Niasti, Marziyeh Boroumand and

Sahra Asadollahi.

The film follows a young woman working as a sound designer on a film dubbing project who returns after years away to confront her former lover. Her unexpected arrival stirs up old memories, forcing him to face unresolved emotions and painful truths about the past.

The 42nd Warsaw Film Festival, an internationally recognized A-list event, will run from Oct. 9 to 18 in the Polish capital.

Another Iranian production, 'The Caretaker,' directed by Mohsen Gharaei will also screen at this year's festival in the Encounters section.



'Peace Should Be Learned in Childhood' exhibition brings together illustrators from 20 countries

Arts & Culture Desk

The eighth international illustration exhibition 'Peace Should Be Learned in Childhood' opened at Tehran's Art Bureau, bringing together works by 20 illustrators and illustration groups from 20 countries ahead of the International Day of Peace (September 21).

The annual exhibition, which opened on September 18, uses children's illustration to explore peace and promote its values among younger generations, IRNA reported.

The event is organized by the Children's Book Council of Iran and the Iranian Illustrators Society, in collaboration with the Bratislava International Illustration Exhibition and the International Board on Books for Young People.

Ali Bouzari serves as the event's secretary, while Abbas Khan-Gholi contributes as an associate curator and poster graphic designer.



Alongside the exhibition, organizers are holding art and educational workshops for children ages 6 to 10, extending the program beyond the gallery and encouraging young participants to engage with artistic expression.

Visitors can view the works at the Paez Gallery of the Art Bureau through 25.

UNGA can open ...

In New York, the Iranian delegation can engage major energy-consuming countries and emphasize the importance of keeping commercial trade and energy markets open. Iran can discuss longer-term arrangements with oil buyers, including stable supply agreements and settlement mechanisms that reduce exposure to the US financial system.

Maritime cooperation is another important area. Iran can engage countries with major shipping, insurance and port industries to explore legal and commercially viable ways of maintaining trade flows. Cooperation among regional ports can also become more important if conventional routes face

restrictions.

Iran can present itself as a reliable energy and trade partner and seek support for maintaining normal commercial navigation. New York offers an opportunity to build diplomatic backing for these arrangements and establish direct contacts among governments, energy companies, traders and financial institutions.

What role can BRICS, regional partners and alternative financial mechanisms play in helping Iran maintain access to trade and finance as US sanctions become more comprehensive? BRICS and Iran's regional partnerships can become increasingly important as Washington expands financial sanctions

and secondary sanctions. However, these mechanisms need to move from political declarations toward practical economic arrangements.

In New York, Iranian officials can discuss expanding trade settlements in national currencies and developing banking channels that do not depend heavily on the US dollar. Iran can also promote cooperation among banks, export credit institutions and development banks in BRICS and neighboring countries.

The New Development Bank can be another part of this discussion, particularly in infrastructure and development projects. Iran can seek greater participation in projects involving transport, energy, logistics

and regional connectivity.

Regional cooperation is equally important. Improving customs procedures, transportation links and payment arrangements with neighboring countries could reduce trade costs. No single alternative can replace the global financial system overnight. Iran therefore needs a network of mechanisms, including local-currency trade, regional banking, development finance and stronger economic ties with BRICS members.

Beyond opposing sanctions, what concrete economic proposals could the Iranian delegation put forward in New York to encourage other countries to continue investing and trading

with Iran?

Iran can use the General Assembly to present a clear economic message that cooperation with Iran should be based on long-term commercial interests rather than short-term political pressure.

The delegation could present specific investment opportunities in energy, petrochemicals, transportation, mining, agriculture and infrastructure. Instead of making general calls for cooperation, Iran can offer concrete projects, investment frameworks and partnership models that foreign companies can examine.

Regional connectivity is another major opportunity. Iran's geographical position gives it the potential to connect Central

Asia, the Caucasus, the Persian Gulf and South Asia. Railways, ports, transit corridors and logistics projects can therefore be presented as regional projects rather than purely Iranian ones. Iran can also seek support for insurance and financial mechanisms that allow international companies to participate while managing sanctions-related risks.

The New York meetings should therefore be viewed as an opportunity to create an economic network around trade, investment and connectivity. The aim is not simply to ask countries to oppose US sanctions, but to show that continued economic engagement with Iran can also serve their commercial and regional interests.