



Rene Magritte (Belgian artist)

Art evokes the mystery without which the world would not exist.

Iranian 'Today Is Friday' to compete at Oxford Int'l Short Film Festival



ifilmtv.ir

Iranian short feature 'Today Is Friday' was selected to compete at the third edition of the Oxford International Short Film Festival (OXISFF) in the UK.

Directed by Mohammad Ahangar, the 14-minute film tells the story of Nader and Saeid who are two colleagues in a company, ifilmv.ir reported.

While they are arguing with each other because of their problems in the company, something unexpected happens that causes some changes in their destinies.

'Today Is Friday' has gone on screen at a number of global events, including the R.E.D. International Film Festival in Norway, as well as the Dead Center Film Festival and the Santa Fe Film Festival, both in the US.

Azadeh Seifi, Farid Qobadi, and Kaveh Ahangar and are on the cast list of the short film.

The Oxford International Short Film Festival "celebrates the diversity and creativity of short films", the event's website reads.

"We would like to encourage short films from all filmmakers in any genre (including documentaries). We're looking for great stories which stir the emotions, have strong characters, and unique voices or evocative worlds."

The festival will run from August 27 to September 4.

Iranian author Badraei rejects death reports

Arts & Culture Desk

High-profile Iranian writer Fereydoon Badraei on Monday rejected reports of his death.

Multiple sources in Iran reported on Sunday that the 85-year-old writer, translator and linguist had died in the United States on July 17, ISNA reported.

The news of his death was even followed by condolence messages from various cultural and literary figures in the country.

Speaking to ISNA, Badraei said, "I'm alive while the news of my death has been spread in the Iranian media."

Her daughter also rejected the news, adding, "I'm with my father in the US and he is OK. I read the news in the Iranian websites so I called the Asatir Publications in Iran to tell them they are incorrect."

Badraei was a part-time professor in the Department of Linguistics at the Faculty of Literature and Humanities, University of Tehran (1971-1978).

He was also Iran's cultural attaché in Pakistan from 1977-1979.

His first work, which was a collection of nine stories, was published under an unknown name in 1954.

'Zali and the Ismailis: A Debate on Reason and Authority in Medieval Islam,' 'Writings of Farooq Mitha,' 'Tradition and Culture,' 'Zabihollah Safa, and the History of Civilization,' 'Religious Reformation,' 'William James Durant,' and 'Ariel Durant' are among his famous works.

Iran's 'Three Meters and a Few Centimeters' to vie at Viva Film Fest

Iranian documentary 'Three Meters and a Few Centimeters' was picked to compete at the seventh edition of the Viva Film Festival in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It tells the story of a few people who are volunteered to wash the body of coronavirus victims for burial in Iran.

According to the obligations of Islam, when someone dies, the body must be washed by hand in order to move on to the hereafter cleansed.

The documentary previously participated in some international festivals in Japan, Sweden, Russia and the United States.

First held in 2015, the Viva Film Festival comprises two main sections of screening documentary films and holding workshops.

Directed by Mostafa Salehinejad, the documentary centers on the issue of COVID-19 and the circumstances caused by the pandemic, ifilmv.ir reported.

The event will be held on September 22-26 in Sarajevo.

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Iranian film associations congratulate Farhadi on Cannes achievement



Iran's Asghar Farhadi (R) is pictured alongside American filmmaker Oliver Stone after winning the Grand Prix award at Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, on July 17, 2021.

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's House of Cinema's Actors Association, and Film Critics and Writers Association, in separate messages, congratulated Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi on his achievement at the Cannes Film Festival.

Farhadi's latest feature 'A Hero' jointly won the Grand Prix award - alongside 'Compartment No. 6', directed by Finnish filmmaker Juho Kuosmanen - at the closing ceremony of the festival on Saturday.

The Film Critics and Writers Association praised the Iranian director as "a cultural ambassador", while "in this hero-less era of tough times, the success of 'A Hero' is like a beam of hope in the hearts of Iranians."

"The glorious cinema of Iran was awarded with a new honor on the global stage, thanks to the unique merits of Mr. Farhadi, who

again reminded the world of the primacy of Iranian art and culture," wrote Actors Association.

'A Hero' tells the story of Rahim who is in prison because of a debt he was unable to repay. During a two-day leave, he tries to convince his creditor to withdraw his complaint against the payment of part of the sum.

Saturday's achievement was Farhadi's second major prize at Cannes, having won the Best Screenplay award for 'The Salesman' in 2016.

The movie also brought Farhadi a second Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, after he won the award for 'A Separation' in 2012.

Farhadi first burst onto scene of international film industry in 2009, when he won the Golden Bear for 'About Elly' at the Berlin Film Festival.

Tehran's Azadi Cinema to screen nostalgic Iranian films

Arts & Culture Desk

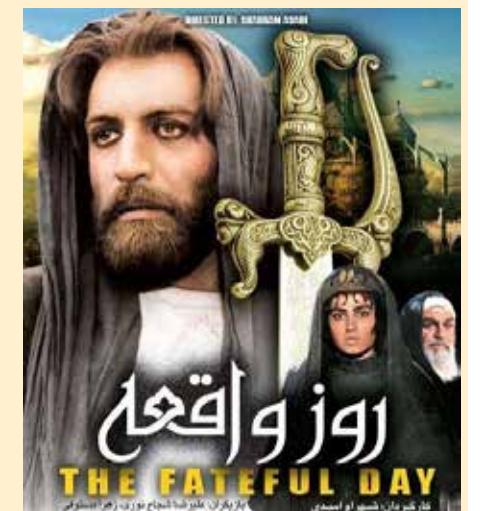
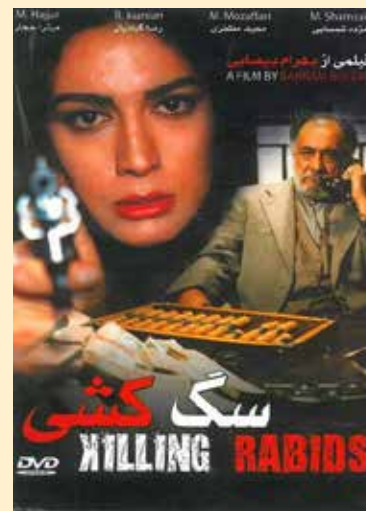
A number of nostalgic Iranian films made in the 80s and 90s will be screened in Tehran's Azadi Cinema Complex, said Sajjad Norouzi, the cinema manager.

Mohammadreza Honarmand's 'Thief of Dolls' (1990), Mohammad-Ali Talebi's 'City of Mice' (1985), Close-up (1990), by Abbas Kiarostami, Shahram Asadi's 1995 feature, 'The Fateful Day',

Bahram Bayzai's 'Killing Rabids', and Ebrahim Hatamikia's 'The Scout' have been lined up for screening, Norouzi told Mehr News Agency.

"Farabi Cinema Foundation has carried out the color correction process on all movies," Norouzi said.

He added when the coronavirus restrictions are eased in Tehran, ceremonies will be held alongside the screening of the movies to celebrate the cast and crews of the features.



Iran's short film 'The Recess' wins best award in San Francisco festival

Iranian film 'The Recess', directed by Iranian Navid Nikkhah Azad, won the Best Dramatic Short Film Award in the 15th San Francisco Frozen Film Festival (SFFFF).

The award was announced on Monday during an online event of SFFFF, IRNA reported.

The festival was held on July 14-18 via the video conference due to coronavirus restrictions.

The film is about a 17-year-old girl, named Sahar, who is determined to skip high school during the recess to go a football stadium to watch a match between two teams from Iran and the UAE, despite the ban on women in Iran to enter stadiums.

It has also received the Best Actress Award from the 33rd Student Films Festival "Living Skies" in Canada, the Best Short Film Award from 18th Oxford Film Festival, and the Best Film from 24th Johns Hopkins Film Festival.

SFFFF is a non-profit entity established in 2006 to make an environment for independent filmmakers who address moral issues among the youth.



Reading halls of Iran's National Library closed amid surge in COVID cases

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The reading halls of the National Library of Iran in the capital Tehran will be closed down until Monday amid a new wave of coronavirus cases in the country.

The coronavirus taskforce in Iran announced all public and private organizations and offices will be closed for six days in Tehran and neighboring Karaj Province as the Health Ministry on Tuesday reported 25,441 new COVID-19 cases for the past 24 hours, 213 of which were fatal, IRNA reported.

The library, however, said the digital library will be available to viewers on its



official website.

The National Library of Iran had to close for nearly a month in April due to the previous surge in COVID cases.

The coronavirus taskforce also said movie theaters will be closed until Monday.



The unveiling ceremony of music album, 'Mirza-Abdollah's Radif for Tar and Setar', by Iranian composer Dariush Talaei, is held at Roudaki Foundation's Hafez Hall in Tehran, Iran, on July 19, 2021.

