News in Brief

Tehran to Host 95 Nations

Nearly 100 countries have submitted their productions to take part in the 2010 edition of the Tehran International Short Film Festival (TISFF).

According to the festival secretary, Hamed Moradi, more than 2,900 films from 95 countries have been submitted to the event, Payvar said.

The high number of submitted works provides a great opportunity for filmmakers from different countries to exchange ideas and experiences, he added.

Referring to the event as the most important short film festival in Iran, Moradi announced that participants will be from Europe, Asia, Africa and the US.

This year’s festival will also host several workshops and discussion sessions by Iranian and foreign cineastes and experts.

Organised by the Iranian Young Cinema Society (IYCS), a member of the International Short Film Conference (ISFC), the 2010 TISFF will be held in national and international sections.

The 27th Tehran International Short Film Festival will be held from November 19 to 24, 2010, screening narrative, documentary, experimental and animation shorts.

Extensive Picasso Exhibition Opens in Denmark

One of the seminal figures from art history receives full treat-ment at the National Gallery of Denmark with an extensive exhibition about Pablo Picasso held at the Royal Collection of Graphic Art.

Featuring about 110 works, the exhibition traces the main lines of development running through Picasso’s ever-flourishing and restless universe by looking at important highlights from his graphic work as well as carefully chosen original drawings, AP said.

The Royal Collection of Graphic Art’s new exhibition offers a chronological sequence of important works from some of the most important periods within Picasso’s oeuvre.

Right from his early production from the dawn of the 20th century, cubism and symbolist undertones and his Cubist breakthrough around 1910 through his fascination with Classicism and subsequent loose affiliation with the Surreal-ist movement, and further onwards to his emerging political commitments in the 1930s and his creative, more stringent for-mal language just after World War II.

The exhibition paints a picture of Picasso as an intrepid in-ventor of the realms of graphics and drawing are most certainly on a par with his paintings in terms of originality and sheer craftsmanship.

Inarittu’s ‘Biutiful’ Opens Mexican Fest

Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarittu, acclaimed for his movies “Babel” and “Amores Perros,” opened Morelia’s International Film Festival on Saturday with his newest work set against the plight of migrants.

The film, which Mexico has nominated to compete for best foreign film in next year’s Oscars, is Inarittu’s first departure from his well-known style of interweaving several simultane-ous stories, AP reported.

“A biutiful” is a movie with a sweeping theme about politics or despair—rather it is the story of a dying man discovering what is most important as life runs out, AP reported.

The main character, Usul, played by Os-car-nominated Spanish actor Javier Bardem, lives and works in a Barcelona slum as a mid-dle-aged alcoholic who is dealing with a bipolar ex-wife and trying to make ends meet for his two children.

Inarittu is regarded to be one of the intellectual directors of Iranian cinema. A graduate of phi-losophy from UCLA, Mehrjui made his debut direct-ing Fajr,” Farhad Tohidi, the film’s producer, told Mehr News Agency.


Gharibpour said the French festival invited Iranian director Behrouz Mirzakhani to stage ‘Ashura’ puppet opera at the world Festival of Puppetry in France’s Charleville-Mézières.

Speaking to Mehr News Agency, the director said he held talks with the festival’s organizers and hoped they would provide a suitable hall for per-forming the puppet show.

“We can’t perform the opera at any hall. It should be staged at a hall with certain specifications,” Gharibpour said.

He recently attended the Théâtre du Festival of Theater with his puppet show ‘Rouman and Sozbad’.

The puppet show, well-received by the Georgians, went on stage at the festival from September 29 to October 13.

Gharibpour said the French festival selected Ashura opera since they are quite familiar with traditional Persian performances and ‘La zikr’.

‘La zikr’ (Ashura passion play) means depicting and visualizing the agonizing martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions or one of the incidents related to the Karbala tragedy.

Imam Hussein (AS) is the third Shi‘ite imam. He and his 72 companions were martyred on the tenth day of the lunar month of Muharram (Ashura) in Karbala, present day Iraq.

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