



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, Hashem Mirzakhani, more than 2,500 films from 95 countries have been submitted to the event, PressTV 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 Asia," Mirzakhani announced that participants will be from Europe, Asia, Africa and the US.

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

Organized 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 treatment 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 effervescently varied 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 with their social and symbolist undertones and his Cubist breakthrough around 1910 through his fascination with Classicism and subsequent loose affiliation with the Surrealist movement, and further onwards to his emerging political commitments in the 1930s and his cleaner, more stringent formal language just after World War II.

The exhibition paints a picture of Picasso as an intrepid innovator. Most of all, it shows that Picasso's endeavors within the realms of graphics and drawing are most certainly on a par with his paintings in terms of originality and sheer craftsmanship.



Inarritu's 'Biutiful' Opens Mexican Fest

Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, 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.

Inarritu said, though, that "Biutiful" is not 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, Uxbal, played by Oscar-winning Spanish actor Javier Bardem, lives and works in a Barcelona slum as a middleman for African and Chinese migrants who is dealing with a bipolar ex-wife and trying to make ends meet for his two children.

Though the raw portrait of migrant life and their exploitation is a key secondary theme, the tragedies that unfold are not a commentary on immigration, Inarritu said.

"I'm not trying to make them victims or saints," he said. "I'm just trying to integrate them into a dialogue, show that they're human beings with virtues and flaws, with their needs as parents and children."

Inarritu said Barcelona is just one of many cities around the world grappling with the growing flow of migrants. He acknowledged the phenomenon is heartbreaking, too, in his own country—where 72 migrants from Central and South America were recently massacred, reportedly after refusing to work for a drug gang that kidnapped them on their way to the US.

But he said political arguments over migration are for others to make, not his movie.

The film, which Mexico has nominated to compete for best foreign film in next year's Oscars, is Inarritu's first departure from his well-known style of interweaving several simultaneous plot lines.



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Managing Director:
Editorial Dept. Tel:
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Aziz Shahmohammadi
88755761-2
88761869
88329002-4
88500617
http://www.iran-daily.com
iran-daily@iran-daily.com
Melli Bank

Add.: Iran Cultural & Press Institute, #208 Khorramshahr Avenue Tehran/Iran

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Pomegranate harvest begins in Behshahr, Mazandaran province in mid October. (Photo by Meisam Mohseni)



Ashura Puppet Opera Bound for France

Noted Iranian director Behrouz Gharibpour said he has been invited 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 performing the play.

"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 Tbilisi Festival of Theater with his puppet show "Rostam and Sohrab".

The puppet show, well-received by



the Georgians, went on stage at the festival from September 29 to October 15.

Gharibpour said the French festival selected Ashura opera since they are quite familiar with traditional Persian performances and "Ta'zieh".

Ta'zieh (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 Shiite imam. He and his 72 companions were martyred on the tenth day of the lunar month of Muharram (Ashura) in Karbala, present day Iraq.

Mehrjui Documentary For Fajr Festival

A documentary about distinguished Persian director Dariush Mehrjui will go on screen at the 2010 Fajr International Film Festival in February.

"We are doing the final sections and it will hopefully be ready for the upcoming Fajr," Farhad Tohidi, the film's producer, told Mehr News Agency.

Directed by Mani Haqiqi, "40 years of Mehrjui" is a two-episode documentary on the life and works of the artist featuring his childhood, youth and a selection of his films.

The film features great Iranian actors such as Ezzatollah Entezami, the late Khosro Shakibai, Bita Farrahi and Leila Hatami.

As an Iranian New Wave cinema icon, Mehrjui is regarded to be one of the intellectual directors of Iranian cinema. A graduate of philosophy from UCLA, Mehrjui made his debut in 1966 with "Diamond 33".



His second feature film, "Cow" (1969), brought him national and international recognition. His most acclaimed film, "The Cycle", won the Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique Prize at the Berlin Film Festival in 1978.

In Hamoun (1989), a portrait of an intellectual whose life is falling apart, Mehrjui sought to depict his generation's post-revolutionary turn from politics to mysticism.

The '90s also found Mehrjui releasing films dealing with women's issues (Banoo, Pari, and Leila).

Saffarzadeh Commemoration Due

Iran's Pen Association will commemorate the late Iranian poet, writer and translator Tahereh Saffarzadeh in a session on October 25.

Titled "Poet of Vigilance", the session will be attended by Saffarzadeh's family and literary figures. It will be held in cooperation with Book House Institute, Fars News Agency reported.

Saffarzadeh has published fourteen volumes of poems and ten books on the principles of translation regarding literary, scientific and Qur'anic texts.

She published her bilingual translation of Qur'an in Persian and English in 2001. The book is the first bilingual translation of the Holy Qur'an.

The Organization of Afro-Asian Writers selected Saffarzadeh as the most prominent woman in the Islamic World in 2005.



Weather



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