

News in Brief

Karimi to judge Pune Film Festival

Iranian actress and filmmaker Niki Karimi has been selected to serve on the panel of jury at the 2014 edition of Pune International Film Festival (PIFF) in India.

Karimi is slated to join other international cineastes to judge the 12th edition of the festival that will be held in the Indian metropolis of Pune, Press TV reported.

Laurence Kardish from the US, Alexandra Stewart from Canada, Javier Angulo from Spain, Eduardo Rossoff from Mexico, Klaus Maack from Germany and several Indian cineastes are among the festival's jury lineup.

Karimi, who has appeared in more than 25 films and scooped numerous domestic and international awards, has judged many international events including the Cannes, Locarno, Damascus, Rennes, Delhi Osian, Reykjavik, Abu Dhabi, Vesoul and Berlin film festivals.

She began her career with veteran Iranian filmmaker Behrouz Afkhami's 'Bride' and Dariush Mehrjui's 'Sara' for which she received the Best Actress Award of San Sebastian and Nantes film festivals in 1992.

She made her first directorial debut with 'One Night' in 2004 and her second film 'A Few Days Later' (2006) premiered at the Rome Film Festival.

Karimi's latest film 'Final Whistle' was warmly received at its Iranian premiere in August and has been screened in numerous international festivals so far.

Launched in 2002, Pune International Film Festival is programmed to take place from January 9 through 16, 2014.

27th Tehran International Book Fair in May

Iran is planning to hold the 27th edition of Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) in May with the participation of numerous Iranian and international publishers as well as book lovers.

The year's exhibition is scheduled to be held at Tehran's Grand Prayer Grounds (Mosalla), the fair planning committee announced on Monday, Press TV reported.

Over 2,500 domestic and 1,700 foreign publishers are expected to attend the exhibition. More than five million people visit the fair each year.



Some 2,545 Iranian and over 1,600 international publishers flocked to the last year's edition of TIBF.

International publishers were from 77 countries such as Britain, Germany, India, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Tehran International Book Fair is held annually as a social and cultural phenomenon with book displays, panel discussions and publishing deals.

The Fair is considered the most significant event of its kind in Asia and the Middle East and a significant venue for publishers and book lovers to exchange opinions and experiences.

The 27th edition of Tehran International Book Fair will take place from April 30 through May 10, 2014.

Gravity leads Bafta nominations

Space drama 'Gravity' leads the way at this year's Baftas, scoring 11 nominations including best film and best British film.

Its star Sandra Bullock is up for best actress, while Alfonso Cuaron is nominated for best director.

Steve McQueen's '12 Years a Slave' had 10 nods, with five in the main categories including best film, best director and best actor for Chiwetel Ejiofor.

Michael Fassbender and Lupita Nyong'o also landed supporting nominations, BBC wrote.

'American Hustle' equaled 12 Years a Slave's tally, with nominations in all the acting categories for its stars Amy Adams, Christian Bale, Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence.

The 1970s drama, about two con artists who get entangled with the FBI, is also up for best film, with David O Russell nominated for best director and original screenplay.

Ejiofor, who was previously nominated for Bafta's Rising Star award in 2006, told the BBC working on '12 Years a Slave' was "one of the greatest experiences I've had as an actor."

"To be received this way by Bafta is a really phenomenal moment," he added.

Ejiofor will compete for his award against Bale, Tom Hanks for Captain Phillips, Bruce Dern for Nebraska and Leonardo DiCaprio for 'The Wolf of Wall Street'.

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MEHDI GASSEMI/ISNA

A painting exhibition featuring works by the late artist Jafar Pejgar opened in Tehran on January 7, 2014.



France, South Korea to hold workshop at Fajr

Arts & Culture Desk

France and South Korea will hold an educational workshop at the 32nd Fajr International Theater Festival.

Titled 'bongsan telchulms', the workshop is centered on identifying body language in performance, IRNA reported.

The South Korean company 'Made the world over theater' along with French cultures and performances will hold the event.

The four-day workshop is scheduled for January 16-19 from 3-8 p.m. Those interested have until January 15 to register.

Meanwhile, the well-known Polish stage director Vladimir Stanivski will take part in the festival's international section.

The director will stage a play at Vahdat Hall with a Polish-Iranian cast. He also plans an educational workshop on the sidelines.

The 32nd Fajr International Theater Festival will be held from January 15 until February 1.



Kamal Tabrizi brings 'Critical Story' to Fajr

Arts & Culture Desk

Noted Iranian filmmaker Kamal Tabrizi will participate in the upcoming Fajr International Film Festival after a lapse of three years.

His 'Tranquil Streets' has not yet been screened in the country, since its debut at the 30th Fajr, cinemaneqar.ir said.

Though most of his movies highlight the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War, known as 'Sacred Defense', these feature comic overtones.

His latest feature 'Critical Story' has been picked out for 'Soda-ye Simorgh', the competition section of the gala.

The social drama narrates the story of a man whose wife is dead and buried in a two-story grave; the second story has been reserved for the time he dies. But, after a while the man realizes that a stranger has been buried in the second story.

Cast includes Reza Attaran, Pantea Bahram, Bahareh Rahnama, Peyman Qassemkhani, Houtan Shakiba, Bahram Ebrahimi and Azadeh Samadi.

"This is a unique film compared to my previous works. Of course, you should expect much surprise while watching the film," Tabrizi said.

Written by Peyman Qassemkhani, who also features in the movie, 'Critical Story' has been re-written many times to obtain screening permit.

The 32nd Fajr International Film Festival will be held from February 1-11.



Marzban to perform 'Hot Egg Tango' at Vahdat Hall

Art & Culture Desk

Hadi Marzban, famous Iranian theater director, said he may stage 'Hot Egg Tango' by Akbar Razi in Vahdat Hall during April 21-May 21, 2014.

He has refused to perform the play at the upcoming Fajr International Theater in January, 2014, Mehr News Agency reported.

It is not possible to stage the play at the

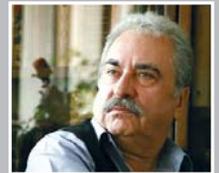
festival due to its big and heavy decoration which takes more than three weeks to construct and set up, Marzban said.

He added, "If we had secured the expenses of constructing the set, we could have participated in the festival."

"I cancelled the play's rehearsal sessions two days ago, so that I could stage it in the next Iranian year (to start March 21, 2014)."

Marzban earlier performed a reading of the play in September 2014 with the participation of actors, including Ferdows Kaviani, Farzaneh Khabli, Bahram Ebrahimi, Rouhollah Kamani, Azita Khorrami, Yasamin Arisha and Sara Hemmati.

During March-April, 2013, Marzban staged Stairway in Tehran City Theater's Main Hall. Iraj Rad and Danial Hakimi acted in the play.



Weather



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Amol



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Isfahan



20 15
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2 -7
Yazd



5 ^
v -4
Tehran



3 -9
Kabul



24 17
Mecca



4 2
Stockholm



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Tashkent



20 6
Tripoli