



Iranian cinema wins four awards at Indian festival

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — Iran's cinema won four awards at the 16th International Children's Film Festival of India, which concluded on Friday.



"Child and the Angel"

The Best Film award of the children's jury went to "Half Mine, Half Yours" by Wahid Nik-khah Azad at the Asian Panorama section.

The award for Best Animation Film went to "The Cunning Tailor and the Young Man" by Rashin Kheirieh.

The Best Screenplay award went to Masud Naqashzadeh for "Child and the Angel".

Silver Elephant for the Best Short Film went to "I Feel Pity for the Ozone Layer" by Purya Aqili.

"The Crocodiles", a German film by Christian Ditter, won the Golden Elephant in the International Competition.

Filmmaker Ali Vazirian was a member of the international jury this year. This time, Iran participated with seven entries at the festival.

The 16th edition of the International Children's Film Festival in Hyderabad ran from November 14 to 20.

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting

* An exhibition of paintings by Elahe Rahimian is underway at the Mehrva Gallery.



The exhibit will continue until November 25 at the gallery located at 78 Azodi (S. Aban) St., off Karim Khan Zand Ave.

* The Mah-e Mehr Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by veteran Iranian modernist Ahmad Vakili.

The showcase will run until November 26 at the gallery located at 7 Nilufar St., off Africa Ave.

* Paintings by Omid Shayan are currently on display in an exhibition at the Mah Gallery.

The exhibit will continue until December 1 at the gallery located at 89 Golestan St., near Africa St.

Animated short films get on short list

NEW YORK (Variety) — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences today announced its list of the 10 animated short films that will advance in the voting process for the 82nd Academy Awards.

The 10 films are listed below in alphabetical order by title, with their production company:

- "The Cat Piano," Eddie White and Ari Gibson, directors (The People's Republic of Animation)
- "French Roast," Fabrice O. Joubert, director (Pumpkin Factory/Bibo Films)
- "Granny O'Grimm's Sleeping Beauty," Nicky Phelan, director, and Darragh O'Connell, producer (Brown Bag Films)
- "The Kinematograph," Tomek Baginski, director-producer (Platige Image)
- "The Lady and the Reaper (La Dama y la Muerte)," Javier Recio Gracia, director (Kandor Graphics and Green Moon)
- "Logorama," Nicolas Schmerkin, producer (Autour de Minuit)
- "A Matter of Loaf and Death," Nick Park, director (Aardman Animations Ltd.)
- "Partly Cloudy," Peter Sohn, director (Pixar Animation Studios)
- "Runaway," Cordell Barker, director (National Film Board of Canada)
- "Variete," Roelof van den Bergh, director (il Luster Productions)

For the preliminary round of voting, the Short Films and Feature Animation Branch Reviewing Committee viewed all 37 pictures that originally qualified in the category. The branch members will now select five nominees from among the 10 titles on the shortlist.

The 82nd Academy Awards nominations will be announced Tuesday, February 2, 2010.

Turkish university honors Iranian author Moradi Kermani

Tehran Times Culture Desk

TEHRAN — Turkey's Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts honored Iranian teen's author Hushang Moradi Kermani.

Kermani, whose translated books have been enthusiastically received by Turkish readers, traveled to Turkey following an invitation from the director of Kelime Publications, Asya Çaglar. His visit lasted from November 1 to 9.

The university planted five trees at the Hatira Ormani, a forestation project, in commemoration of Kermani as a symbol of the green, prosperous world he presents to Turkish children through his books.

He also visited several educational and research centers during his sojourn and was accompanied by the Turkish translator of Moradi Kermani's latest book, Visel Basci.

Kermani's previous books "The Stories of Majid," "Sweet Jam," "Like the Full Moon," "The Tandoor" "The Cruse" were translated into Turkish by Nezahat Basci.

Prior to his trip, Ayse Basci had praised the Turkish version of his stories in an article in the Turkish daily Radikal under the title of "The Neighbor also benefited from us".

The article highlights commonalities in the world of children



Iranian children's writer Hushang Moradi Kermani holds the prize he received from Iran's 5th Eternal Figures Gathering on November 13, 2005. (Fars/Satyar Emami)

and how it appears in Hushang Moradi Kermani's stories.

Moradi Kermani (born September 7, 1944) is an eminent writer of books primarily for children and teenagers. However, his works also appeal to adults.

A number of his books have been translated into English, German, French, Spanish, Dutch, Arabic, and Armenian.

Exhibit of China's terracotta warriors in U.S. capital

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A group of China's famed terracotta warriors are going on display at the National Geographic Society in Washington, on the last stop of a four-city U.S. tour.

The exhibition, entitled "Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor," includes a group of 15 of the statues that were recovered from the tomb of emperor Qin Shihuangdi, who ruled between 221 and 210 BC.

It is the largest group of the warriors ever to be displayed in the United States, said museum director Susan Norton.

The statues, which include infantrymen, a chariot driver, archers and a cavalryman, are around six feet (1.80 meters) tall and weigh 300-400 pounds (200 kilograms).

"Every single one has a different face, hair, position or armor," said Norton. Experts believe that the individual statues' faces may have been based on the artists who created the figures.

Some of the warriors bear traces of

their original colors, pigments that were made with minerals and mixed with egg whites or animal blood.

Discovered in 1974, some 1,000 warriors have been excavated from emperor Qin's tomb near the Chinese city of Xi'an, but there are believed to be another 6,000 still to be unearthed.

The statues, which also include figures representing professions ranging from musicians to court officials, were intended to serve the emperor in the afterlife.

The exhibition has already drawn crowds across the United States, with 215,000 visitors on its Santa Ana stop in California, 400,000 in Atlanta, Georgia and 260,000 in Houston, Texas.

The warriors promise to attract similar interest in Washington, with Norton telling AFP that 100,000 tickets had already been purchased in pre-sales.

The National Geographic Society, known for the photo-rich magazine it

has produced since 1890, obtained special access to the exhibit thanks to a pre-existing relationship with China and the excavation team working at emperor Qin's tomb.

The National Geographic magazine was one of the first to send a Western photo-journalist, Lou Mazzatenta, to take pictures of the warriors in the 1970s.

"Because of this, there is a warm collaborative relationship between China and National Geographic and most of all between Xi'an and National Geographic," Norton told AFP.

Along with the warriors, the society will be displaying 20 "Level 1" artifacts, China's highest rating for items of historical rarity and importance.

Among the items on display are weapons, coins, jade ornaments, a bronze crane and swan and stone armor.

The exhibition will run through March 31, 2010, when the warriors will be returned to China.

LA attorneys distance Polanski from French lawyer

PARIS/LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — A French attorney for Roman Polanski who said the film director would not return voluntarily to the United States to face child sex charges is not authorized to speak in the case, Polanski's U.S. attorneys said on Friday.

Polanski, 76, is being held in a Swiss prison pending a decision on a U.S. extradition request. He fled the United States in 1978 while awaiting sentencing for having unlawful relation with a 13-year-old girl, and he was arrested in September in Switzerland on a U.S. warrant.

The director's French lawyer, Herve Temime, told Le Figaro newspaper in an interview published on Friday that Polanski would not return voluntarily to the United States. But Los Angeles attorneys Douglas Dalton, Bart Dalton and Chad Hummel said in a statement that Temime's comments were not authorized by Polanski.

"The French lawyers do not represent him in the case and do not speak for him about it," the statement said.

The statement said only the three Los Angeles lawyers, along with Dr. Lorenz Erni in Switzerland and Polanski himself "are authorized to speak on his behalf" about the case.

A spokeswoman for the Los Angeles lawyers declined to comment beyond the statement.

Temime has long been identified as representing Polanski in France, and he told Le Figaro in the interview that he believed the "Chinatown" director had already been punished for the original offense after undergoing psychiatric tests during a 42-day period in detention in California in 1978.

Temime said the fact the event took place more than 30 years ago should also weigh in any decision on extradition.

"We also maintain that Mr. Polanski did not face a fair trial in Los Angeles," he said. "For all these reasons, among others, his position remains unchanged: he will not accept being extradited to the United States."

Temime said Polanski was bearing up well in prison but had asked to be released provisionally and was prepared to offer a substantial financial bond as well as other guarantees against flight, including wearing an electronic bracelet.

Oprah sets date for OWN launch

NEW YORK (Variety) — Oprah Winfrey has set the date. A day after the daytime TV titan announced plans to end her syndie yakker after the 2010-2011 season, Winfrey confirmed that she is targeting a January 2011 launch for OWN -- the Oprah Winfrey Network.

The January 2011 date had been expected in recent weeks, but Discovery Communications -- Winfrey's partner in the joint venture -- waited for Winfrey's Thursday announcement before making it official. Winfrey's decision to end her show and focus her energies on OWN reps a significant shot in the arm for the channel, which up until now has been plagued by executive shuffles, early programming missteps and a delayed launch date. Winfrey and Discovery first unveiled their partnership in early 2008 as a replacement for Discovery Health.

OWN was targeted for launch by the end of 2009 or start of 2010, but since then that date has been pushed in the wake of course changes in programming and executive structure.

Originally, Robin Schwartz was hired in June 2008 as OWN president; at the time it wasn't clear whether the channel would hire a channel topper above her as well. Meanwhile, OWN's January 2011 launch date ensures that the channel will get a heap of publicity on Winfrey's top-rated talker during her farewell season, which will wrap in May 2011 (although stations will continue to run through that September).

In a statement on the launch date, OWN CEO Christina Norman called Winfrey "the life force" behind the cabler's programming. In announcing her plan to exit after next season on Friday's edition of "Oprah Winfrey," the host did not mention the cabler.

She emphasized that the 25-year milestone, which the show will hit next season, was important to her.

"I love this show. This show has been my life," Winfrey said, according to the transcript provided by Harpo. "And I love it enough to know when it's time to say goodbye. Twenty-five years feels right in my bones, and it feels right in my spirit. It's the perfect number -- the exact right time."

Iran's Women's Theater Festival to become international event

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — Iran's Women's Theater Festival will be turning into an international event next year, said Director of the Art and Cultural Organization of Tehran Municipality Mohammad-Javad Shushtari.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 8th edition of the festival held at the Soleimani Complex in downtown Tehran on Thursday, Shushtari announced that the organization is establishing the secretariat for the ninth edition of the festival, which will target an international presence.

He added that the organization is planning to promote theater in all of Tehran's districts through construction of cultural complexes and theaters.

"Ignorance by officials has distanced Tehran's citizens from the theatrical arts. By increasing the number of theaters, we can help bridge this gap and turn theater into an art available for everyone.

Afterwards, the ceremony continued with performances of live music, and several acts from the two plays "Lady of Iran's Land" and "Abji Khanom's Marriage Proposal".

Veteran theatrical personalities Behruz Gharbpur, Ali-Akbar Qazinezam, Shamsi Fazlollahi, Manijeh Mahamedi and Javad Ensafi were among the participating guests.

Several street and stage theater troupes also went on stage during the second and third days of the program. "Body of the Woman..." by Hamed Zare'an, "A Bridge Made of Glass" by Milad Mohammadi, "The Bowl" by Amir-Hossein Shafiei, "Sohrab and Gordafarid" by Anahita Kashf were among the onstage plays.

The festival will run until November 28 in a number of Tehran's theaters and cultural centers.

Tehran to host mime festival in winter

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — Tehran's Eshraq Cultural Center will host the first edition of a mime festival from February 6 to 9.

The festival was planned to be held in summer 2009 but was postponed due to financial problems, the festival's organizer Bahram Reihani told ISNA.

He went on to say that the festival will be held in two Professional and Amateur sections and that between 12 and 15 performances will go on stage during the event.

Reihani also expressed his thanks to the Eshraq Cultural Center officials as well as the Theater Department of the Art and Cultural Organization of Tehran Municipality.

"The festival aims to boost the art of mime in public and also to discover and develop young talented artists," he mentioned.

Workshops and meetings will be held before the beginning of the festival to improve the quality of the participants' performances, he said.

The festival's call for participation will be sent to all cultural centers, art academies and universities in the near future, he concluded.

Eshraq Cultural Center Director Ahmad Mayel has been appointed as secretary of the festival.