



News in Brief

Musicians to Mark Islamic Revolution

A number of renowned Iranian musicians are to compose pieces to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

According to IRNA, 30 musicians will compose traditional, indigenous and choral pieces, presenting different aspects of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Indigenous pieces will include 10 works from different provinces, including Lorestan, Kurdestan, Azerbaijan, and Khorasan.

The Islamic Revolution's anniversary is celebrated every year by the Iranians from February 1 to 11.



Rasht Showcasing Carihana Caricatures

A caricature exhibition featuring works by the renowned Romanian caricaturist, Florian Doru Carihana, is underway in the northern city of Rasht, Gilan province.

The exhibit has put on display a number of Carihana's original works, ISNA said.

Doru Carihana is a celebrated caricaturist whose works adorn numerous modern art museums around the world.

The artist has held many international exhibitions. He served on the jury panel of Tehran's 8th Caricature Biennial in 2007.

The exhibit, which runs until August 15, is being held in a joint effort with the Rasht office of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry.

Tehran will soon host a caricature exhibit by the artist.



Genuine Art Can Preach Islamic Values

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said that genuine art can serve as a means to help propagate Islamic and spiritual values.

Speaking in a session with the members of the Muslim pop band Debu this week, Ahmadinejad praised the group for their efforts to spread Islamic thoughts through the arts, ISNA said.

"Notions such as morality, peace and justice are among human aspirations," he said, adding that Debu band can help spread these values through the arts.

Noting that humane values are properly outlined in Islam, the president said, "Islam is an endless ocean, and whoever dives into it can take invaluable pearls."

Ahmadinejad further said that Islamic values belong to humanity and not just Muslims, and art is a way of serving humanity.

Debu was to give concerts at the Interior Ministry's Grand Auditorium from July 29 to August 1 to mark the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) ascendancy to prophethood, known as 'Mab'ath'.

Debu was formed in 2001 by American, British, Swede and Indonesian members, who perform songs in Arabic, English, Persian, Turkish, Spanish and Chinese.



Iranian 'Solitude' Wins Italian Award

Iranian film 'Solitude', directed by Mehrdad Sheikhan, has won the Best Animation Award at Italy's Malescorto International Short Film Festival.

The film received the award for strong philosophical and existential messages it conveys, Mehr News Agency said.

The 10-minute animation, screened at the festival's Free Subject section, is the story of a stone colossus who lives a lonely life on his barren planet.

The Ninth Malescorto International Short Film Festival was held from August 4 to 9 in the northwestern city of Malesco.

Honarmand Shooting Hugo-Inspired Serial

Noted Iranian filmmaker Mohammad Reza Honarmand is shooting the TV series 'Wind and Vent' inspired by 'Les Miserables' by the French author Victor Hugo.

Written by Ahmad Rafizadeh, the project will be produced in 26 episodes for national TV's Channel 2, Mehr News Agency said.

The story of 'Wind and Vent' begins in 1940's and continues until the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. It is a free adaptation of the 'Les Miserable'.

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An Iranian band staging a concert as part of programs for a festival held on the sidelines of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Cultural figures and scholars from Iran and China attended the event's inaugural ceremony on Sunday. Handicrafts and traditional arts are on display at the event.

Iranian Band at Beijing

Major Cinema Complex Planned

Construction of the world's biggest cinema complex in Tehran will begin by March 2009.

Announcing this, producer and film distributor Ahmad Golchin, who plans to build the complex, said within the next two weeks he will visit the country to buy a suitable venue for the purpose.

Golchin, owner of some of the largest cinema complexes in the Middle East, further told Fars news agency that the project will become operational once feasibility studies are over.

"I intend to build a cinema that befits the dignity and culture of the Iranians," he said.

He added that the complex will include 25 halls, used for cultural, commercial and recreational purposes.

The producer has so far established several movie theaters in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

Golchin recently inaugurated the Middle East's first digital cinema in Dubai, UAE.

The owner of the new Grand Festival Cinema Complex in Dubai Festival City, said the complex has 12

halls, eight of which have been launched and the rest will become operational within a week.

Digital versions of the latest sequel to "The Mummy" are on screen at the complex which boasts VIP seating. It also includes a Grand Class theatre with 44 reclining Lazy Boy chairs and a personalized butler service during the film. Instead of using 35mm projectors, digital cinema stream films onto the big screen from a hard drive.

Film fans will see the difference in the clarity of the picture and sound.

Salahshour Responds to "Hazrat-e Yousef" Critiques

Director of the TV serial "Hazrat-e Yousef" has said that only religious experts can make comments on the content of the biopic.

Referring to recent criticisms about the series, Salahshour said, "So far the public and experts have expressed positive attitudes towards the series," adding that there were also criticisms by cinema critics, Mehr News Agency reported.

"Cinema critics are not qualified enough to discuss religious issues brought up in the series. However, this should be reviewed only by religious experts," Salahshour said.

This is while main criticisms about the film have been made by religious experts such as Ayatollah Jafar Sobhani and Hossein Rahimzadeh.

Ayatollah Sobhani has criticized sections of the film which are based on fabricated narrations in Is-

lam. He has warned filmmakers to be aware of this problem.

"Hazrat-e Yousef", being aired on national TV's Channel 1, provides a Koranic account of the life of Prophet Yousef (AS) from his birth to the time he reached his middle age.

Prophet Yousef is envied by his brothers because his beauty and virtues has made him the apple of their father's eyes. They send him down a well, but he is strangely saved and taken to the Pharaoh's governor's palace as a slave. There in the palace he catches the eye of Zoleikha, the governor's wife. She falls head over heels for him and he is then wrapped in a series of bitter-sweet incidents that make his life story one of the most fascinating in the Koran.

Katayoun Riyahi takes the role of Zoleikha while Mostafa Zamani plays the role of Yousef (AS).



A frame from "Hazrat-e Yousef"