



Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — The Iranian Photographers Center (IPC) will pay tribute to veteran photographer Fakhreddin Fakhreddini on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of its establishment this week on Thursday.

In a press conference held here at the venue of Tehran's Art Bureau, director of the center Rasul Oliazadeh said that it holds an exhibition of photos every year on the anniversary of its establishment.

"The previous exhibitions always hosted 100 photos by 100 photographers, but this year we will be displaying 200 photos by 200 photographers on the central theme of 'My Beautiful City,'" he added.

"The opening day will begin with a honoring ceremony for master Fakhreddini who is famous for black-and-white portrait photos of Iranian celebrities. Also on the opening day, the books of the exhibitions containing the displayed photos will be introduced," he explained.

"Last year in the commemoration ceremony of the late Hadi Shafaieh, (known as the father of modern Iranian photography) the center decided to hand out a plaque of Shafaieh to a prominent figure every year, and this year this plaque will be presented to Fakhreddini."

Oliazadeh also announced that an exhibition of Fakhreddini's photos would be set up on the side section in one of the galleries at the bureau. (Iranian Photographers Center is affiliated to Tehran's Art Bureau.)

He remarked that while the first editions of the exhibit did not focus on a particular theme, it was decided to select a specific subject for the exhibit each year, and this year it centers on "My Beautiful City".

IPC to honor photographer Fakhreddini



Fakhreddini who was also present at the conference spoke briefly about his work and stated, "My father was a photographer and I began to learn the profession when I was 18 and gradually found interest in portrait photography.

"I learned portrait photography from my father but his method was different from mine. I gained my primary experience, then decided to develop my skills, so I traveled to the United States and then to Germany, and focused on personal characteristics. I actually tried to depict the reality of the figures in my portrait photography," he noted.

Fakhreddini has been working in the field of portrait photography for the past 40 years but still believes that this kind of photography is different from what is he doing.

He then expressed his intense displeasure over retouching photos and said, "Photographers destroy the patterns and textures in the photos which are influential to the beauty of a portrait photograph and ruin the unique features of the face."

"I have always wanted the next generation to become more familiar with realistic portraits of celebrities, such as artists, writers, painters and other enduring personalities, so they can really feel their essence and that is why I chose portrait photography," he concluded.

Iran threatens to boycott Western festivals

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TEHRAN — The art advisor of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Iran would boycott the Western festivals if they were turned into a venue for the 'shows of subversive activities' against the government.

"The world's festivals should know that if they want to become venues showing subversive activities against the (Iranian) government, (Iranian) artists and officials will decide to boycott the event," Javad Shamaqdari said in a report published on Iran's Islamic Society of Artists website on Monday.

"The enemy, which has been disappointed concerning their plans for a velvet coup and a soft war in Iran, tries to keep up the fever of their subversive activities at foreign art and cinematic events. The Venice film festival was a vulgar display revealing the enemy's plan," Shamaqdari said.

These remarks were made following the screenings of several films by foreign-based Iranians directors at the Venice film festival last week.

Hana Makhmalbaf's "Green Days" depicting the street protests that followed June's presidential vote was in the festival's lineup.

The festival also screened video artist Shirin Neshat's "Women Without Men", which chronicles the lives of four women at the time of the 1953 foreign-backed coup in Iran.

In addition, Nader Homayun's "Tehroun", which shows the dark side of Tehran, presenting it as filled with prostitutes, beggars and baby traffickers, hit the silver screen at Venice.

Many Iranian and foreign participants clad in green, symbolizing the supporters of opposition candidate Mirhossein Mousavi, posed for photographers during the festival's photocalls.

NEWS IN BRIEF



American photojournalist publishes book on Islamic Revolution

TEHRAN — American photojournalist David Burnett has published a collection of photos in a book on Iran's Islamic Revolution.

Entitled "44 Days: Iran and the Remaking of the World", the book was published by the National Geographic Society.

David Burnett has worked in over 75 countries and has received many major awards for his photojournalism. A veteran journalist of the political scene in Washington, he has photographed every American president from John F. Kennedy to Barack Obama.

Tehran Intl. Holy Quran Exhibition wrapped up

TEHRAN — The 17th International Holy Quran Exhibition was concluded during a ceremony on Monday in Tehran.

The exhibit, which was on the theme of "The Development of Quranic Concepts and Services," was held from August 17 to September 14 at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla.

Over 15,000 books from Iran and other countries were on display, including many valuable research texts on matters concerning the Quran.

Asma-ul-Husna Poster Exhibition extended at TMCA

TEHRAN — Asma-ul-Husna Poster Exhibition at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts (TMCA) has been extended until October 8.

The exhibit which is displaying typography posters themed on the names of Allah, contains a collection of 200 works and was scheduled to run only until September 19.

Iqbal collection hits Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN — Poet Muhammad Iqbal's collection was recently released by Negah Publications in Iran.

Entitled "Kulliyat-e-Iqbal", the book was published by the Lahore Iqbal Academy in 1990.

Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938) was a Persian and Urdu poet, philosopher and politician. He is commonly referred to as Allameh Iqbal.

MAG MART



Film

Managing director: Masud Mehrabi

This special issue of the monthly is on the occasion of the Iran Cinema Celebration, held annually on September 12 in Tehran.

It contains reviews and reports on the problems of obtaining a screening license for films in Iran and also features a roundtable with younger Iranian filmmakers whose movies have not been released yet.

It also includes an interview with Iranian director Bahman Farmanara on the distribution and release of independent films in North America.

It also contains interviews with Hanid Farrokhnajad and Reza Kianian who acted in films that have not been released yet.



"Macondo" receives diploma of Belarusian festival

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TEHRAN — "Macondo", an Iranian play directed by Azadeh Ansari received a diploma for the best performance at the Belaya Vezha International Theater Festival.

The festival was held in Brest, Belarus running from September 5 to 12 and the Organizing Committee of the Festival granted the diploma to "Macondo" for its innovation and novel combination of puppets and actors.

"The Secretary of the festival also invited the troupe to participate in the next edition of the festival with a new play next year," Ansari told the Persian Service of ISNA.

"A good review of the play was written in the local daily



of Brest. In addition, the participating troupes of Azerbaijan and Georgia invited the 'Macondo' team for performances at international festivals held in their countries," She remarked.

Written by Arash Parsakhu and directed by Ansari, "Macondo" is an adaptation of "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. It features the story of a supernatural being in the form of an old man, who arrives in an imaginary town

and the strange events that subsequently take place that influence the lives of the residents.

"Macondo" won the grand prize at the 12th Mobarak International Puppet Theater Festival last year.

"The Kite Runner" author flies a kite for Afghan progress

KABUL (AFP) — Khaled Hosseini, the Afghan-American author of bestselling novel "The Kite Runner" flew kites with boys on a Kabul hilltop Monday, hailing development as the key to crushing Taliban rebels.

Hosseini, in Afghanistan as an ambassador for UN refugee agency UNHCR, capped his visit by going to a famous viewpoint, where despite his literary prowess he failed to get his kite airborne as curious children milled around.

His most famous novel tells the tale of two boys growing up in Kabul and portrays Afghanistan as a poor, brutalized society.

The author left Afghanistan when he was a child and has spent 30 years in the United States, where he has built a reputation writing about his homeland, which is battling to emerge from decades of civil war.

Hosseini told AFP he had seen "great progress" in Afghanistan since visits in 2003 and 2007 after the fall of the Taliban regime, but said deteriorating security was a huge concern.

"That progress is fragile and I think it stands to be lost, to evaporate, if we — as some people suggest — cut our losses and leave Afghanistan. I hope that does not happen," he said.

There are more than 100,000 US and NATO troops in Afghanistan battling a resurgent Taliban in a war becoming increasingly unpopular in Western countries as foreign military deaths soar.

Hosseini, also author of "A Thousand Splendid Suns," said the best way to crush the Taliban was to focus on education, health care, jobs and better living conditions in the world's fifth poorest nation.

"If we're intent on winning this war with guns and tanks and air strikes, we're going to lose because this is where many great armies have been foiled," he said as blue-and-white kites sailed through the hazy sky.

"This is to me as much a war on poverty as it is a war against the Taliban. People are far more susceptible to the voice of the extremists when they are disappointed in their living conditions."

Hosseini has a development foundation which allocates grants for humanitarian work in Afghanistan. He said he was working on a third novel set in the country, but gave no timescale for its publication.

"Ghost" star Patrick Swayze dead at 57

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Actor Patrick Swayze, whose turn as a smoldering dance instructor in "Dirty Dancing" made him one of the iconic film stars of the 1980s, died on Monday after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 57.

Swayze, an actor and dancer who played opposite Demi Moore in the 1990 romance "Ghost", died at his home.

"Patrick Swayze passed away peacefully today with family at his side after facing the challenges of his illness for the last 20 months," publicist Annett Wolf said in a statement.

Swayze became one of Hollywood's top stars with 1987's "Dirty Dancing," which defied Hollywood expectations to become one of the most-watched movies of all time.

The Texas-born actor played the swaggering dance instructor Johnny Castle in the film opposite Jennifer Grey's sheltered teenager Frances "Baby" Houseman, who becomes smitten with him while on vacation at a New York resort during the 1960s.

Swayze was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer, one of the most deadly forms of the disease, in January 2008. He said at the time that the cancer had already spread to his liver.

But he vowed to fight the disease and had treatment with an experimental drug, surprising Hollywood by filming a new detective series for television called "The Beast" in which he played the grueling lead role.

The series was broadcast earlier this year.

"I think everybody thought I was out of my mind ... thinking I'm gonna pull off a TV show," Swayze said in an interview in January 2009, adding that he was scared and angry at his diagnosis.

Swayze was working on a memoir with his wife of more than 30 years, Lisa Niemi, earlier this year.

"Dirty Dancing," which was made for a modest budget and almost scrapped by its studio, became a massive box-office hit, earning Golden Globe nominations for both stars and spawning the Oscar-winning hit single "(I've Had) The Time of My Life."

Producers did not have high hopes for the film but it reaped \$64 million at the U.S. box office and \$214 million worldwide.

Swayze co-wrote and performed the song "She's Like the Wind" for the movie's soundtrack, which went to No. 3 on the pop music charts. The film remained widely popular more than two decades later and recently spawned a stage musical version.

In 1990, "Ghost" was an even bigger hit than "Dirty Dancing," with a domestic box office take of more than \$217 million and \$505 million around the world.

Jim Carroll, poet and punk rocker, dead at 60

NEW YORK (AP) — Jim Carroll, the poet and punk rocker who wrote "The Basketball Diaries", died Friday. He was 60.

He died from a heart attack at his home in Manhattan, his ex-wife Rosemary Carroll told the New York Times.

In the 1970s, Carroll was a fixture of the burgeoning downtown New York art scene, where he mixed with artists such as Andy Warhol, Patti Smith, Larry Rivers and Robert Mapplethorpe.

Carroll also published several poetry collections, while his 1980 album, "Catholic Boy", has been hailed as a landmark punk record, and he became known for one of his songs, "People Who Died".

But it was "The Basketball Diaries", his autobiographical tale of life as a sports star at Trinity, an elite private high school in Manhattan, that brought him his widest audience. The son of a bar owner, Carroll attended the school on a basketball scholarship.

The book, which began life as a journal, was first published in 1978 and then became even more popular, particularly on college campuses, when it was issued as a mass-market paperback two years later. A 1995 movie version starred Leonardo DiCaprio.