

Thoughts of Avicenna and Averroes discussed in Madrid

Tehran Times Culture Desk
TEHRAN — The conference on thoughts of the masters of philosophy Avicenna and Averroes was held on Thursday at the Complutense University of Madrid.

A group of Iranian and Spanish scholars and university students attended the conference at which Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Ahmadi from Tehran's University of Tarbiat-e Modarres made the opening speech.

Hoj. Ahmadi discussed the issue of wisdom, its limits and its powers according to the views of Avicenna and Averroes.

He explained that in Avicenna's opinion, wisdom understands the issues related to the materialistic world, but considering those issues beyond the world, it is not able to understand.

"Although Averroes is a follower of Avicenna, he disagrees with Avicenna in different issues and in the meaning of wisdom, Hoj. Ahmadi remarked, and later compared the viewpoints of both philosophers and talked about their ideas.

Iran's cultural attaché in Spain Ahmad Khezri also delivered a speech on the topic "Avicenna, a physician or a philosopher" and continued, "Despite the vicissitudes of a life full of hardship, Avicenna was one of the most prolific authors in Iran's history of science."

"People of Iran and the Orient believe that Avicenna was more of a philosopher, while the Western people regard him primarily as a physician," Khezri stated.

"The philosophical system of Avicenna has left an enduring influence on the philosophical thoughts in the world of Islam, and although he was inspired by Aristotle, he did not imitate him slavishly and had his own innovations," he discussed.

"The West made use of the scientific heritage and innovations of Avicenna more and that is why he is introduced more frequently as a physician rather than as a philosopher," he pinpointed.

Afterwards, other participating scholars gave their lectures including professor of philosophy Rafael Ramon Guerrero who presented his article on "Love in the Idea of Avicenna", and Saeid Hushangi who discussed "Unknown Character of Averroes."

The conference ended with Iranian traditional music performed by the "Tarz" band.

Abu Ali al-Husayn ibn Abd Allah ibn Sina, known as Abu Ali Sina and commonly known in English by his Latinized name Avicenna was born in c. 980 near Bukhara, contemporary Uzbekistan, and died 1037 in Hamedan, Iran.

He was a Persian polymath and the foremost physician and philosopher of his time. He was also an astronomer, chemist, geologist, logician, paleontologist, mathematician, physicist, poet, psychologist, scientist, soldier, statesman, and teacher.

Abu l-Walid Muhammad ibn Ahmad ibn Rushd better known simply as Ibn Rushd and in European literature as Averroes (1126 -1198), was an Andalusian polymath: a master of early Islamic philosophy, Islamic theology, and jurisprudence, logic, psychology, Arabic music theory, and the sciences of medicine, astronomy, geography, mathematics and physics.

He was born in Cordoba, in modern day Spain, and died in Marrakech, in modern day Morocco.

Tehran to host Fajr Visual Art Festival

Tehran Times Art Desk
TEHRAN — The first edition of Fajr Visual Art Festival will be held from January 31 to March 2 at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, the Niavaran Cultural Center and the Azadi Cultural Complex.

The festival contains five sections including painting, sculpture, poster, photography and cartoon, the secretary of the festival Gholam-Ali Taheri told IRNA on Saturday.

He went on to say that the significance of the Fajr festivals is to feature the achievements of the Islamic Revolution over three decades and it is also an opportunity for artists to demonstrate their innovations.

The festival has three subsidiary sections including exhibitions, workshops and conferences. An exhibition of calligraphy created by artists over the past 30 years will also be held on the sidelines of the festival, he added.

Iranian and foreign art experts and artists have been invited to take part in the conferences and three workshops will be held at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art during the festival, Taheri said.



The secretariats of the different sections have been appointed as follows: Alireza Saremi for Photo,

Nader Qashqai for Sculpture, Farzad Adibi for Poster, Kazem Chalipa for Painting, Masud Shojaei-

Tabatabaai for Cartoon and Nasser Javaheripur for the Calligraphy Section.

Image of the Year exhibit opens at IAF



Tehran Times Art Desk
TEHRAN — The sixth edition of the Image of the Year exhibit opened during a ceremony at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) on Friday.

The Youth, Graphic Design and Cartoon Sections opened on Friday and the Free Section and the "Image of an Artist" documentary film festival opened on Saturday.

At the opening ceremony on Friday, Seifollah Samadian lamented over the mismanagement of the forum saying that officials' promises to prepare two additional halls of the forum for this exhibition went unfulfilled.

"Due to the large quantities of artwork on display this year, it was not possible to showcase them in corridors and halls, forcing the works to go on display on LCD monitors at Beethoven and Nasser Halls of the forum," he added.

Over 43,000 photos were submitted to the secretariat whereas about 12,000 to 13,000 photos are typically submitted to Iranian photo biennials, he mentioned.

He also paid tribute to deceased

Iranian photographer Mohsen Rasoulouf, who at the age of 25 lost his life recently in an air crash. Samadian went on to say that the Youth Section of the gala is dedicated to young artists 25 and under, just like Rasoulouf.

Rasoulouf had participated in 17 exhibitions and produced three short films in his last year of life which demonstrated his talent and interest in art, he mentioned.

Although the exhibit was a non-competitive one, the young artists in the three sections of cartoon, photo and graphic design, will be competing for Mohsen Rasoulouf Award.

About 230 films in the form of short films, documentaries, video art, and animations will go on screen during the event as well as 28 films shot from Abbas Kiarostami's workshop on the theme of "Door," "Wind" and "Wind blows wherever it wants." They will be screened in three intervals each day, he mentioned.

The program will continue through December 19 at the forum that is located on Musavi St., off Taleqani Ave.

Paris gets temple to cinema as Forum des Images reopens

PARIS (AFP) — Paris got a brand new temple to film Friday when the Forum des Images reopened after three years of renovations and kicked off a packed program with a three-month cinematic homage to New York City.

The Forum, best known as the movie center that launched the world's first annual film festival for movies made on or for mobile phones, sits deep in the bowels of the historic center of Paris known as Les Halles.

The street it lies on, one of the maze of alleys that form a giant subterranean shopping mall, was this week officially renamed Cinema Street.

It hosts the giant UGC multiplex, which claims to be Europe's busiest

cinema, and the brand-new Francois Truffaut film library named after the French New Wave director.

The Forum des Images, redesigned by architect Anouk Legendre to give it the futuristic feel of a trendy bar or nightclub, claims to be unique on two counts.

"This is the first time that a city has said to itself that its memory does not only exist in books but also in images," its director Laurence Herszberg told AFP.

"No city in the world and no capital in the world has like Paris built up a collection of thousands of films, exclusively films where the action takes place in Paris, which talk about

New version of "Harry Potter" guide to be released

NORTH MUSKEGON (AP) — A "Harry Potter" fan and Web site operator said Friday he's publishing a different version of his Potter reference guide after losing a copyright-infringement lawsuit filed by the author of the massively popular book series.

Steven Vander Ark said during a news conference at a small bookstore that Muskegon-based RDR Books will publish "The Lexicon: An Unauthorized Guide to Harry Potter Fiction and Related Materials" on Jan. 12. The suggested retail price for the trade paperback will be \$24.95.

Author J.K. Rowling and Warner Bros., maker of the Harry Potter films and owner of intellectual property rights to the Potter books and movies, sued RDR Books in 2007 to stop the publication of a similar volume by Vander Ark.

A federal judge in New York ruled in favor of Rowling in September, permanently blocking publication of that reference guide. He also awarded Rowling and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. \$6,750 in statutory damages.

RDR Books appealed the court ruling last month but withdrew the appeal on Thursday.

Vander Ark, a former school librarian who launched The Harry Potter Lexicon Web site in 2000, and his publisher say the new version

meets specifications for such a book laid out in the judge's ruling. The author said he spent five or six months working on it following the three-day court hearing in April.

During the trial, the independent publisher did not contest that the lexicon infringes on Rowling's copyright, but argued it was a fair use allowable by law for reference books. The judge ruled Vander Ark went too far.

"We learned a lot at the trial about what was acceptable, what would follow the fair use guidelines," said Vander Ark, 50. "That was not clear before. There was no law on the books that made it clear what was acceptable and what wasn't."

"So, coming out of the trial, I had a much better idea of what should go into the book."

RDR Books Publisher Roger Rapoport said the biggest difference between the two versions is that the new one contains "a lot more critical commentary, which means more analysis."

"It isn't just saying what happens, it's his interpretation of why it's important," Rapoport said.

Vander Ark also removed plot spoilers from his book, in adherence to the decision by U.S. District Judge Robert P. Patterson in New York, Rapoport said.

"We are delighted that this matter is finally and favorably resolved and that J.K. Rowling's rights — and indeed the rights of all authors of creative works — have been protected," said Neil Blair, a lawyer for Rowling's London-based agent, the Christopher Little Literary Agency.

"We are also pleased to hear that rather than continue to litigate, RDR have themselves decided to publish a different book prepared with reference to Judge Patterson's decision."

Warner Bros. spokesman Scott Rowe said he, too, was pleased that the matter had been resolved.

Vander Ark worked for 15 years as a teacher and librarian at Byron Center Christian School near Grand Rapids before resigning in October 2007 to become a full-time writer.

Iran's most beautiful books heading to Leipzig Book Fair

Tehran Times Culture Desk
TEHRAN — Iran has selected 43 titles to participate in this year's Leipzig Book Fair in March 2009, competing for "The Most Beautiful Book in the World" award.

The books selected are from 10 Iranian publishers including Dastan, Shabaviz, Gaj, Goya, Yassavoli, and Negar. Iran has attended the competition since 2007.

The Leipzig Book Fair is a traditional springtime event with a strong appeal to the general public. It offers its visitors a special kind of book experience.

The fair brings together exhibitors in various categories including academic, audio books, art books, calendars, children's books, comic books, cartoons, fiction and non-fiction, and school textbooks.

It also features a second competitive category named the Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding, and its 2008 award went to the Dutch writer Geert Mak.

In 2008, the Leipzig Book Fair attracted 2300-plus exhibitors from more than 40 countries in the world.

Angelina Jolie tops actress salary list

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Oscar-winner Angelina Jolie has proven again how handsomely it pays to combine gun-wielding action with serious roles, as she topped The Hollywood Reporter's list of highest-earning actresses on Friday.

But salaries are plummeting for top actresses and still lag the earnings of leading men, the trade paper said.

Jolie, 33, earned \$15 million for the action movie "Wanted" this year and she could make \$20 million to star in a possible sequel, it said.

Jolie played dramatic roles in 2007's "A Mighty Heart" and in this year's "Changeling". The mother of six and partner of actor Brad Pitt last month talked about eventually fading away from acting to spend more time with her family.

Oscar winner Julia Roberts, 41, claimed the No. 2 spot after a long absence from the screen, making more than \$15 million for "Duplicity," which comes out next year.

Actors are also earning less, with the exception of Will Smith, star of blockbusters "Hancock" and "I Am Legend", who is riding high with up to \$25 million per movie.

"Everyone else's prices have gone down," an unidentified talent agent told The Hollywood Reporter.

Reese Witherspoon, 32, who topped the female list last year after winning an Oscar for her role in the 2005 movie "Walk the Line", dropped to No. 3. She earned \$14 million for appearing in the comedy hit "Four Christmases" that opened last week.

Cameron Diaz, Katherine Heigl, Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway and Jennifer Aniston rounded out the list, with 39-year-old "Friends" star Aniston earning more than \$8 million for the comedy "Marley & Me" opening on Christmas Day.

Big stars such as Halle Berry and Nicole Kidman -- both Oscar winners -- are no longer able to earn \$10 million a movie.

Compare that with Pitt and Johnny Depp, who according to The Hollywood Reporter make between \$15 million and \$20 million per film.