



"Glorious Frontiers" makes children familiar with Iran's folklore: author

Tehran Times Culture Desk

TEHRAN — Author and translator Manuchehr Karimzadeh said the collection "The Glorious Frontiers" narrates Iran's folklore of different regions and provides an opportunity for children to become more familiar with their homeland's folklore.

The 12-volume bilingual (Persian-English) collection is published by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) and is now available for children and young adults.

"The stories of five volumes are written by me which include 'Golden Bird,' 'Farmer and the Cock' and in 'In Search of Sky', and I have edited three more volumes," he said.

"The 'Golden Bird' centers on acquisition and that the feeling to want more and more leads to destruction in man. The story takes place in the Kurdistan region and its Kurdish narration is written by Hajar Safabakhsh and the book is illustrated by Behruz Gharibpur.

"The story of 'In Search of Sky' features a man from Azerbaijan region who is looking for the sky to ask him the reason for his poverty. He finds the sky who tells him how to reach fortune but then he becomes so proud that he loses it in the end. This story also tries to say that everybody assigns his own fate. The story was translated into Azeri by Mohammad Simzadi and illustrated by Mahkameh Shabani."

"Farmer and the Cock" also takes place in Yazd. Mozafar Salari has written the story in the Yazdi dialect and Atefeh Malekiji has done the illustrations. The story focuses on the issue of cruelty and that it does not last forever.

"The Legend of Young Tree," "Forty Tales" and "Everybody Has the Right" are among other Karimzadeh's credits.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hamedan's cities to host children filmfest

TEHRAN — Ten cities in Hamedan Province will host the 23rd International Film Festival for Children and Young Adults which will be held from August 2 to 6.

The cities of Asadabad, Tuyserkan, Razan, Famenin, Qahavand, Kabudarahang, Salehabad, Laleh-Jin, Malayer and Nahavand will host the event.

Iran's cinema ticket prices increased

TEHRAN — Iran's cinema ticket prices will go up on July 6, the head of Iran's screening guild council Mehdi Karampur told IRNA.

The price of tickets will rise from 20 to 25 percent. This increase was expected since cinema ticket prices in Iran have not changed since two years ago, he added.

Director Forman stars at opening of Karlovy Vary Film Festival

PRAGUE (AFP) — Oscar-winning director Milos Forman was welcomed as a star to his native Czech Republic Friday for the opening of the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

The filmmaker arrived to applause at a hotel in the western city for the opening ceremony, attended by Czech President Vaclav Klaus and Prime Minister Jan Fischer.

During the festival, the 77-year-old will present the film version of "Well-Paid Stroll", a jazz opera that he directed in Prague's prestigious National Theatre.

Forman fled into exile in 1968 from the former Czechoslovakia, first to France and then to the United States.

He launched a stellar career as a Hollywood director and won Academy Awards for "Best Director" for his 1975 "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and 1984 "Amadeus."

Following the collapse of communism, Forman began to take regular trips to the Czech Republic again to make films or visit friends, including former Czech president Vaclav Havel.

The 44th Karlovy Vary festival will hand out Crystal Globes, a top honor at the event, to French actress Isabelle Huppert and U.S. actor John Malkovich.

Spanish actor Antonio Banderas, who made his debut under director Pedro Almodovar and went on to conquer Hollywood, will receive the President's Prize.

This year, the festival will bring together more than 800 producers, film buyers and sellers, distributors and filmmakers, and its official competition lists 19 world premieres.

Besides the official competition with 14 feature films and 16 documentaries, the festival will feature the "East-West" competition of films shot by young filmmakers from Eastern Europe.

The festival is one of the few which is open to the public, and last year attracted 145,000 cinemagoers.

Tehran museum to display artworks on Imam Ali (AS)



(file photo)

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — Tehran's Imam Ali (AS) Religious Arts Museum is to display a collection of artworks entitled "Imam Ali (AS) in the Mirror of Rumi".

A total of 160 artworks manifesting the aphorism of Imam Ali (AS) in Rumi's poetry in the form of Latin calligraphy by Mojtaba Karami, calligraphy-painting Ahmad Aryamanesh and intarsia by Ali Arabgari will be put on display.

At the opening ceremony, the Nahj-ul-Balagha Foundation will present the active researchers and academics with the Nahj-ul-Balagha Academic Special Award on July 7.

The exhibit which is organized on the auspicious occasion of the Imam Ali(AS) birth anniversary on Monday, will run through until August 7.

The gallery is located on Esfandiari Blvd., near the intersection with Vali-e Asr Ave. in northern Tehran.

Astan-e Qods, one of Islamic world's most important libraries

Tehran Times Culture Desk

TEHRAN — Iran's Astan-e Qods Razavi Library in Mashhad is one of the most important libraries of the Islamic world.

The library which has over 80,000 volumes of manuscripts is one of the oldest libraries of the Islamic world, the library director Mohammad Hadi Zahedi announced in a press conference on Saturday.

The Astan-e Qods library has 39 branches in other cities around the country and another branch will be opened in Yazd on July 9, he added.

Named Vaziri, the Yazd branch will contain 90,000 volumes



as well as 4,500 manuscripts, he said.

The Astan-e Qods Razavi organization encompasses 12 museums and the library, which is adjacent to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), and houses over 80,000 manuscripts, over one million copies of old periodicals, and 7m copies of historical documents.

The Astan-e Qods central library and museum are two of a number of buildings adjacent to the shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad, located in Iran's northeastern Khorasan Razavi Province.

The library houses 78,000 manuscripts, 40,000 rolls of microfilms, and 45,000 lithographs.

Potter is back: box office big bucks assured

LONDON (Reuters) — Boy wizard Harry Potter is back in cinemas later this month with the sixth installment of the movie franchise, and another box office bonanza looks assured for the Warner Bros. studio.

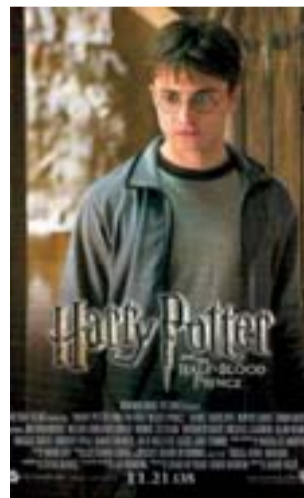
"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" hits screens on July 15, promising high-speed action, dark and dangerous battles with the forces of evil, budding romance at Hogwarts school for wizards and the expected death of a prominent character.

The wait has been a long one for Potter fans around the world who have followed the fate of Harry and his friends through the seven best-selling books by British author J.K. Rowling.

Warner Bros. pushed the release date of Half-Blood Prince back from 2008, leaving a two-year gap since the fifth movie "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" and the final novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows".

The release of Potter books and films are major events for the entertainment industry, both because of the passion fans share for the stories, dubbed "Pottermania" in the media, and the amount of money they generate.

The seven Harry Potter books, which began in 1997, have sold more than 400 million copies worldwide and turned Rowling into a multi-millionaire publishing phenomenon.



The five movies released so far have grossed \$4.5 billion in ticket sales, and box office experts see little reason to doubt that the sixth installment will fall within the \$800 million to \$1 billion range, a huge amount for a single film.

"This is just a remarkable franchise that has consistently drawn blockbuster numbers each time out, and it is hard to imagine this picture not continuing that trend," said Brandon Gray, president of tracking firm Box Office Mojo.

Pent-up demand is expected to ensure a big opening in the key North American market and in countries like Britain, after which word-of-mouth will be a key factor.

The fact that the Potter story is now complete may mean some fans lose interest, but U.S. advance online ticket sales look strong, according to MovieTickets.com.

Two films are being made from the Deathly Hallows book, part one scheduled for release in November 2010 and part two in July 2011.

In Half-Blood Prince, Hogwarts headmaster Dumbledore is intent on preparing student Potter for a final showdown with the evil Lord Voldemort, who is seeking to tighten his grip on the worlds of wizards and non-wizards, or "Muggles".

Yates made Order of the Phoenix and is directing the Deathly Hallows pictures. Warner Bros. is a unit of Time Warner Inc.

Wim Wenders stops Pina Bausch movie

BERLIN (Hollywood Reporter) — German director Wim Wenders has stopped production on the planned 3D film "Pina" following the death of the film's subject -- the legendary choreographer Pina Bausch.

Bausch, who is often credited with

having revolutionized modern dance, died on Tuesday after being diagnosed with cancer only days earlier. She was 68 years' old. She had been preparing the film project with Wenders, which was to be the first dance film shot in 3-D.

Wenders' production company Neue Road Movies said it had stopped all pre-production work on the film. After a mourning period, the company will discuss with Bausch's company in Wuppertal whether and how to proceed.

Religious beliefs depicted less in movies: filmmaker Sadr-Ameli

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — "Each Night of Solitude" director Rasul Sadr-Ameli is convinced that the religious beliefs of people are depicted less in movies.

Sadr-Ameli's award-winning "Each Night of Solitude" was screened and reviewed at Iran's Spiritual Film Center on Friday.

Movie director, cinematographer Faraj Heidari, actor Hamed Behdad and head of the center Abdollah Esfandiari attended the session.

"Each Night of Solitude" narrates stories about the pilgrims who travel to Mashhad to visit the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS). It tells the story of Atieh who is a writer and works at a radio station. She listens to people who call her and recommends to them to have a better relationship with their spouse. Now, Atieh has come to Mashhad and is facing a problem with her husband herself.

Sadr-Ameli was first to make a speech and said that he was longing to make a film based on the inner faith and beliefs of mankind, adding that less attention has been paid to this genre in the past few years.

"This movie discusses faith. When we began shooting the movie, it coincided with the holy month of Ramadan, and we thought we should first follow the religious rituals ourselves and then make a movie in this genre," he stated.

He later discussed the subject of spiritual films and continued, "After this movie, I prefer to make use of the phrase religious cinema rather than spiritual. I am happy that I could make a film on religion and I must admit that the idea was proposed by filmmaker Asghar Farhadi."

Sadr-Ameli also talked about the international success of the movie and said, "Nowhere in the world, was the movie ignored, and this is a result of our sincere intentions. It portrays what religion can do for the internal aspects of man and demonstrates how we can make use of cinema in depicting that faith."

The movie brought Sadr-Ameli the Best Director Award at the Asian Feature Film Competition Section of the festival this year. It also received the best film award of the Seeking the Truth section of the 27th Fajr Film Festival.

Referring to his eleven movies produced so far, he said, "I gave my best efforts to make good movies and would like my films to go on screen in every part of the country. I promise this movie will be a hit on screen in the country since it has been made with all our love and honesty."

Actor Hamed Behdad was next to speak briefly and said, "I am originally from Mashhad and enjoyed taking part in this project. I also feel that Sadr-Ameli is a filmmaker who was looking for new experience."

Cinematographer Heidari also remarked that he loves all his films as if they were his children but this movie is his favorite, adding, "I believe this is my favorite child. I also enjoy working with Sadr-Ameli. He is the one who never repeats the same thing twice and is always seeking new experiences."