



Moviegoers keep cinema lights on till midnight in Ramadan



Tehrani people go to the Azadi Cinema to spend their nights watching films scheduled for the Iftar to Sahar program on August 25, 2009. (Fars/Hamed Malekpour)

Tehran Times Art Desk
TEHRAN — The lights of cinema theaters are on until 12:00 midnight and seats are packed full with interested moviegoers who like to spend their nights of Ramadan outside watching movies.

The new project of screening movies until late at night under the title "Iftar to Sahar" was launched at the beginning of Ramadan this year in several cinemas and has been enthusiastically attended by moviegoers.

Compared with previous years, brisk ticket sales for onscreen movies demonstrate the success of the new plan, said director of distributor FilmIran Ali Sartipi.

"We are seeing a ticket sales increase of over 5 times," he said, adding that half-price tickets also have been a good aid to draw more moviegoers to the movies.

"There are some seasons over the year when the cinema loses its fans like the month of Ramadan and Muharram, but now, this new project will help boost the cinema economy once again," he remarked, adding that it will also help screen a higher number of productions within a year.

"We are also planning to add more

theaters in the coming days. In addition, several other cities including Isfahan and Shiraz are undertaking special screenings during Ramadan," he mentioned.

"For example, last week all the seats were full in the Mellat cinema in the Shohada district of Tehran at 12:30 midnight for the film 'The Postman Doesn't Knock Three Times' by Hassan Fat'hi.

The onscreen movies of "Gamecock" (Masud Atyabi) and "Checkmate" (Jamshid Heidari) in the Javan cinema were also warmly received by audiences late at night.

Javan cinema director Mohammadreza Saberi believes the new plan is a worthwhile project, encouraging many interested moviegoers to come to the cinema at night.

Two additional theaters, Africa and Esteqlal, have also begun cooperating in this project.

Iranian publishers to look for foreign market at Frankfurt book fair

Tehran Times Culture Desk
TEHRAN — Iranian publishers are hoping to find translators for their Persian books during the 61st Frankfurt International Book Fair, which will be held from October 14 to 18.

The publishers will be promoting their latest Persian books in order to convince foreign publishers to sponsor translation of the works into other languages.

Iran is focusing on introducing the books during the exhibit and not on selling them, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance official Mohammad Elahyari told the Persian service of FNA.

The books going on display will be selected according to their subject matter rather than the publisher, by committees of experts that will be announced in mid September, he said.

However, the book fair's website announced 14 Iranian publishers including Roshangaran and Women Studies Publishing, Elmi Farhangi Publications and Shabaviz Publishing Company as among the participants at the event.

The first three days of the fair is dedicated to displaying the books and on the last two days, they will be placed on sale, Elahyari added.

The Frankfurt Book Fair is one of the most important marketplaces for books, media, rights and licenses worldwide.

Director Panahi selected for Mumbai filmfest jury

Tehran Times Art Desk
TEHRAN — Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi is among the five-member international jury of the Mumbai Film Festival (MFF).

The jury will also include the U.S. scriptwriter and director Paul Schrader, the Screen Daily reported on August 27.

Panahi will also lead the jury of the 33rd Montreal World Film Festival (MWFF), scheduled to be held from August 27 to September 7.

MFF announced that it would present lifetime achievement awards to Greek filmmaker Theo Angelopoulos and Indian actor-director Shashi Kapoor.

The festival will also feature a jury of 32 college students, dubbed "Mumbai Young Critics", who will vote for the film which will receive the Mumbai Young Critics Award and the Silver Gateway of India.

The festival, which will be held from October 29 to November 5, is sponsored by the Mumbai Academy of Moving Image.

Tehran art show centers oil impacts on Iran, Persian Gulf

Tehran Times Art Desk
TEHRAN — Petroleum and its impacts on Iranian society and the Persian Gulf region have been highlighted by an art exhibition, which opened at the Asar Gallery on Friday.

Works by Farideh Lashaii, Babak Kazemi, Soheil Afshar, Mahmud Bakshi, Arash Hanaii, Babak Roshaninejad, Behranh Samadzadegan, Erfan Abdi, Reza Azimian and Mohammad Ghazali have been put on display at the showcase entitled "101: Oil and Its Impacts on Modernism, Politics, Society and the Environment."

One of beauties of the show refers to expressionist Lashaii's "Mohammad Mosaddeq," a portrait that depicts the Iranian political leader, Mosaddeq, who



"Mohammad Mosaddeq" by Farideh Lashaii has been put on display in an exhibition, which opened at Tehran's Asar Gallery on August 28, 2009.

nationalized the huge British oil holdings in Iran in 1951.

Abu Ghraib prison has been illustrated in Arash Hanaii's work, using digital photos of action dolls placed in several light boxes.

"No Report of Casualties So Far" by Erfan Abdi is a video installation, featuring the scene of a bomb blast.

An untitled work by Reza Azimian spotlights rising income from oil, which has caused the art business to flourish in the Persian Gulf region, by portraying a scene from a fine arts auction by Christie's in the Arab states and crossing pipelines.

The exhibition runs until September 9 at the gallery located on 16 Barforushan St. off Iranshahr St.

Getty Center to host Rembrandt and pupils exhibit

LOS ANGELES (Artdaily) — The J. Paul Getty Museum has organized an extraordinary exhibition, which is the result of more than 30 years of scholarly research on the working practice of the great Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669) and the teaching process he employed in his studio.

Drawings by Rembrandt and His Pupils: Telling the Difference will be on view exclusively at the J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Center from December 8, 2009-February 28, 2010.

The exhibition will explore the differences between Rembrandt's drawings and those of his most important pupils — artists such as Govert Flinck, Ferdinand Bol, Gerbrand van den Eeckhout, Carel Fabritius, and Nicolaes Maes — many of whose identities and artistic styles have been revealed and clarified by decades of research. On view will be many of Rembrandt's most arresting sheets, as well as those of comparable beauty and importance by his students.

"Only a handful of artists have become so iconic that we refer to them by one name, and few have been hailed with more superlatives than Rembrandt," says Michael Brand, director of the J. Paul Getty Museum. "I am pleased that the Getty Museum has organized this remarkable exhibition based on decades of research by leading scholars-bringing to Los Angeles Rembrandt's finest drawings from around the world."

For centuries, scholars have struggled to discern the difference between drawings by Rembrandt and those of his pupils. From the time of his early success in Leiden and Amsterdam, Rembrandt maintained one of the most active studios of the 17th century-with more than 50 students passing through during its nearly 40 years of operation.

Robin Williams in Disney's 'Wedding'

NEW YORK (Variety) — Assistant Accountant, Second Assistant Accountant Robin Williams is plotting to run down the aisle for Disney, signing on to star in "Wedding Banned" for Touchstone Pictures.

In the comedy, Williams will play one-half of a long-divorced couple who kidnap their daughter on her wedding day in order to keep her from making a mistake. The divorced parents rekindle their relationship

as they elude cops and the angry groom.

Deal quickly pairs up Williams again with Disney after making the comedy "Old Dogs," which bows Nov. 25 and also stars John Travolta.

The Mouse House picked up the "Wedding" script from Jack Amiel and Michael Begler last summer for Mandeville's David Hoberman and Todd Lieberman to produce.

Nicole Rocklin and Blye Faust, who

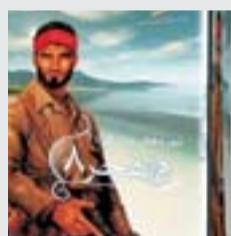
developed the script with its scribes, also serve as producers on the pic. Amiel and Begler also penned the comedies "Raising Helen" and "The Shaggy Dog" for Mandeville.

Mandeville most recently produced pic "The Proposal" and the upcoming "Surrogates" for Touchstone, and "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" for Disney before that. It's currently in production on Paramount's boxing drama "The Fighter."

Iran, Germany to conduct joint projects on computer games

Tehran Times Culture Desk

TEHRAN — The computer games ratings model for Iran (ESRA) will be collaborating with the USK, the German rating board, in future projects.



"Wal-Fajr 8", an Iranian computer game on a military operation of the same name during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, has been recently released in Iranian market.

Iranian and German officials met during the large exhibit GamesCom 2009, which ran from August 19 to 23 in Cologne, an official at the National Foundation for Computer Games (NFCG) told the Persian service of ISNA on Friday.

Mohammad Bitaraf said that NFCG officials held a number of sessions with USK directors. "They discussed protection

against abuse of games by users. In addition, visitors from European countries found Iran's rating board's designs promoting Islamic culture of interest, too."

Both parties also expressed hope to conduct joint projects and facilitate transfer of experience, he remarked.

This is the first time Iran has attended GamesCom 2009, with over 30 other international computer games producers also participating.

"Mona Lisa" comes to life in high-tech art exhibit

BEIJING (Reuters) — For centuries, Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" and her enigmatic smile have inspired as much speculation as admiration. Now she's ready to answer questions -- in Mandarin.

A digital, interactive version of the renowned 16th century painting is one of 61 high-tech replicas breathing life into classical and ancient art works in the "World Classic Interactive Arts Exhibition" which opened in Beijing last week.

These recreations of works by old masters and renowned modern painters were crafted by a South Korean gallery. Exhibition organizer Wang Hui said it took two years of preparation and a hefty investment to bring the works to China.

"What's special about this is that it's the first time the 3D technology, holographic technology, and voice recognition technology is fused together in one exhibit," Wang told Reuters.

As is the case with the original painting in the Louvre in Paris, the digital Mona Lisa is the star attraction. She talks and waves to visitors, who ask her age and about her life.

"Hello, I am the Mona Lisa. It's nice to meet you," she says in Mandarin.

"The Last Supper" is another da Vinci painting digitally brought to life, and in which Jesus talks to the apostles and moves across the plasma canvas.

The exhibit also includes a multimedia play by life-size replicas of ancient statues of Greek and Roman gods and goddess, who brag about their virtues and beauty while striking poses.