



## Iran's 'Paper Dream' wins in Romania

At its 44th international experience, Iranian drama 'Paper Dream' won the Best Film Award at Independent Producers Indie Film Festival (IPIFF), held in Bucharest, Romania, from May 12 to 15. Directed by Ali Atshani, the film tells the story of a young man who has been out of public view because of his being an albino. The film has already participated in various festivals including Bridge Film Festival in Vancouver, World Film Carnival Singapore,

# Museums are valuable treasures left by our ancestors

By Leila Imeni  
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE



National Museum of Iran  
iranationalmuseum.ir

International Museum Day is day of global celebration that takes place annually on May 18. The purpose of this day is to expand scientific and cultural cooperation and convergence among museums around the world. Museums are places that exhibit part of a country's cultural and historical heritage, which has been passed down from generation to generation. One who enters a museum can imagine the past for a few moments and get acquainted with the evolution process of human societies. Museums are highly attractive for a large number of art and history lovers across the globe; they are among the most frequented tourist destinations, thus the greater

the number of museums in a city, the longer the stay of travelers. The word 'museum' has classical origins. In its Greek form, *mou-saion*, it means 'seat of the Muses'. A museum is a building in which a collection of interesting and valuable artifacts or scientific, historical and natural objects left over from the past are kept, studied, and exhibited. Museums, which are essential in fostering social cohesion, serve as a link between the past and present. They are the accessible treasures that help enhance our awareness about the massive efforts taken by human beings throughout history to survive, overcome nature and meet human needs. It goes without saying that their attempts have been

very instrumental in the evolution of human civilizations. Moreover, museums play a significant role in strengthening the national, religious and historical roots of a nation. Educating the young generation about what have happened in their homeland across the ages is a prerequisite for the long-term survival of the cultural and historical heritages of a nation. Known as an instrumental platform for cultural dissemination, museums carry multiple functions including collection, protection, research and education. Thanks to the rapid changes being brought by technology, the concept of a museum has changed in many ways today; they are no longer merely small structures

displaying historical and cultural objects. Some believe that museums should enhance one's engagement with communities to address social issues. They claim that museums have the ability to inspire and connect people from all walks of life. Museums have significant economic functions as well. Today, a large number of people travel to various destinations to visit museums, thus a comprehensive plan should be devised for museums so that they could compete with other tourist attractions. According to some historical evidence, the first official and royal museum of Iran was established by Nassereddin Shah Qajar (1831-1896 CE) in a hall at Golestan Pal-

ace, located between Shams-ol-Emareh (Edifice of the Sun) and the northeastern part of the garden. Over 700 museums are presently operating across Iran. However, considering Iran's rich culture and ancient civilization, this is not a significant number. Known as the "City of Museums," Tehran is home to many famous museums including the National Museum of Iran, the Carpet Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Jewelry Museum, and the Glassware and Ceramic Museum. The National Museum of Iran was established in 1916 and exhibits more than 300,000 historical relics, including a large number of treasures left from the ancient Persian Empire.

## Cannes to unveil doc 'Room 999', featuring Iran's Farhadi



Arts & Culture Desk

Cannes Film Festival will unveil the French documentary 'Room 999', by Lubna Playoust, featuring interviews with 30 famous filmmakers in Cannes including Iran's Asghar Farhadi. The documentary will be screened in the Documentaries 2023 of the French festival. "Thirty prominent directors who attended the Cannes Festival in 2022 are left alone in a hotel room and express their views on the current situation of the art of cinema and filmmaking, as it is being threatened by new means of expression and consumption. The result is a captivating, smart, contradictory, fun, and thought-provoking conversation about the recent technological and sociological changes impacting cinema today," according to mk2films.com. Familiar faces in the film include Wim Wenders, Audrey Diwan, Joachim Trier, David Cronenberg, James Gray, Arnaud Desplechin, Lynne Ramsay, Nadav Lapid, Claire Denis, Baz Luhrmann, Alice Winocour, Olivier Assayas, Paolo Sorrentino, Agnès Jaoui, Kirill Serebrennikov, Cristian Mungiu, Kleber Mendonça Filho, Albert Serra, Pietro Marcello, Rebecca Zlotowski, Ruben Östlund and Alice Rohrwacher. In 1982, Wim Wenders asked 16 of his fellow directors to speak on the future of cinema, resulting in the film 'Room 666'. Now, 40 years later, in Cannes, director Lubna Playoust asks a new generation of filmmakers the same question: is cinema a language about to get lost, an art about to die?

# Iran, Venezuela cooperation in book publishing promotes cultural exchanges

By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

Cultural exchanges between Iran and Venezuela are being promoted through their cooperation in book publishing and translation, according to the executive director of Monte Ávila Editores, Venezuela's most prominent publishing house. In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Omar Rangel expressed optimism about the progressing cultural interactions between

the two countries. Rangel believes that by translating books from Spanish to Persian, and vice versa, they can foster further cultural rapprochement. At the 34th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), the Spanish and Portuguese versions of "Cell Number 14" were unveiled. Rangel mentioned that this book was printed as a result of an agreement between Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and Venezuela's Ministry of Culture. "Cell Number 14" contains the memoirs of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei,

the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, documenting his struggles during the pre-revolution era in Iran. The Spanish rendition of the book received a warm welcome from Spanish speakers and Venezuelan citizens, as highlighted by Rangel. Venezuelan Minister of Culture Ernesto Villegas praised "Cell Number 14" for conveying the message of resistance and emphasized its potential to guide countries striving for independence and freedom. Additionally, "Abril, Golpe Adentro" (translated as "April, inside the coup"), a book written by the Vene-

zuelan Minister of Culture, will be unveiled during the book fair. Rangel explained that the book delves into the coup against the former Venezuelan president, Hugo Chávez. Following Chávez's victory in the 2000 presidential elections, an unsuccessful coup attempt was orchestrated in 2002. The coup ultimately failed after 48 hours due to public support for Chávez. Regarding the familiarity of the Venezuelan people with Persian literature, Rangel noted that in recent years, Ferdowsi's monumental work,

"Shahnameh," one of the largest collections of Persian poetry, has been published in Spanish and distributed in Venezuela. Rangel expressed hope that the ongoing cooperation in book publishing and Venezuela's presence in this year's book fair will contribute to greater familiarity among the Venezuelan people with Persian poetry. He further mentioned that, until a couple of decades ago, most Venezuelans associated Iran primarily with its abundant oil and energy reserves. However, since the presidency of Chávez, a new image of Iran has emerged, depicting it as a country rich in culture, literature, and productivity. This has allowed the people of Venezuela to discover other facets of Iran, he added. Overseeing the Venezuela pavilion, Rangel said that his country is participating in the 34th edition of the exhibition, with over 95 book titles covering various subjects, including



poetry, novels, and Spanish grammar instruction. The exhibition features three publishing houses: Monte Ávila Editores, Rana Publications, and Ayacucho Library Publications. Reflecting on the Tehran International Book Fair, Rangel mentioned that Venezuela has consistently participated in previous editions, while this year marks his personal debut. He expressed his surprise at the extensive array of publications in Iran, along with the enthusiastic response from visitors, which has left a lasting impression on him. The 34th edition of the book fair, which commenced on May 10, will run until May 20, offering an expansive platform for literary exchange and collaboration.

