



Oscars new requirements for best picture

The Academy's Board of Governors approved new theatrical release requirements to be eligible for the best picture Oscar beginning at the 2025 ceremony. In addition to the one-week qualifying run in one of the six U.S. markets, beginning with movies released in 2024, a film must meet additional areas regarding its theatrical release to be nominated and win the highly coveted best picture statuette. They include: Expanded theatrical run of seven days, consecutive or non-consecutive, in 10 of the top 50 U.S. markets, no later than 45 days after the initial release in 2024.

Giveh-bafi, a prevalent handicraft in Zanjan Province

Iranica Desk

The northwestern province of Zanjan is a main center of handicraft production in Iran. Archaeological findings also testify to the antiquity of the handicraft industry in the province.

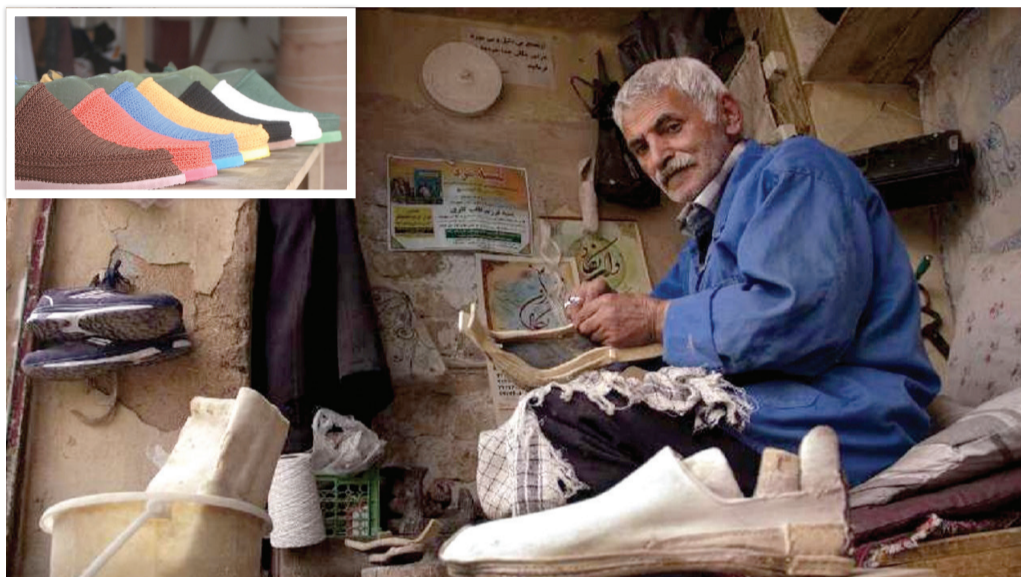
Giveh-bafi is a handicraft which is very prevalent in Zanjan Province. Giveh is a kind of soft, comfortable, durable, handmade shoe that is common in several parts of Iran, IRNA wrote.

Experts believe that in the past, giveh was produced in many Iranian cities with a dry climate. The craft of giveh-bafi displays a combination of male and female art, unlike embroidery, for example.

Presently, the craft is still alive in a few Iranian cities including Zanjan.

The craftspeople and experts of the province believe that modern methods should be employed to preserve the art and prepare conditions for producers to sell their works to other provinces of the country, and even export them to foreign countries. Soghra Mohammadi is an artist who has been involved giveh-bafi for 30 years. She said she has presented various ideas to make the industry flourish and profitable in the province.

"I went through a lot of ups and downs to achieve success. I am happy that our craft has become more popular among the public now," she said. She continued that she is making efforts to make



giveh-bafi of Zanjan Province a brand to encourage tourists to buy this traditional footwear as a souvenir, stressing that improving the designs and diversifying the colors is a prerequisite for achieving this target. "Givehs of Zanjan are woven using a crochet hook,"

she said, adding that the method is different from those employed in other parts of the country." Mohammadi said that she uses embroidery and painting arts on givehs to make them more attractive for customers, pointing out that, currently, a large number of artists are involved in the craft



and the market is saturated with this type of product.

She said that giveh can only be used in the first six months of the year, however, the period is longer in regions with a warm climate.

The artisan continued that a limited number of individuals wore givehs in the past, while presently the use of the traditional shoe is more prevalent among people.

She called for the officials at the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organizations and other related bodies to support the craft and prepare conditions for the giveh producers to introduce their products.

Deputy Head of Zanjan Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization Seyyed Mikaeil Mousavi said that giveh is a kind of summer footwear, which is lightweight, durable and suitable for long walks.

He added that the top of giveh is made of cotton, while its sole is made of leather.

He said that the art of giveh-bafi has recently flourished again and a large number of people wear these shoes for their long walks.

Mousavi noted that about 3,000 giveh weavers are active throughout the province, adding that a prominent artist produced 16,000 pairs of giveh per month, which has been the highest number in the province.

Over two million people went to cinema in one month: *Data*



Arts & Culture Desk

Despite having various holidays, scorching temperatures, and the burdensome school exam season, cinemas experienced a remarkable increase in the number of its viewers, with a 2.15 million individuals flocking to theaters during a one-month period commencing on May 22 and concluding on June 22. According to IRNA, a total of 19 newly pro-

duced films from the present year and seven holdover films from the previous year were showcased during this timeframe, resulting in an astonishing 64,876 showings.

The highest-grossing film, much like the preceding two months of the ongoing year, was the comedy masterpiece entitled 'Fossil,' skillfully directed by Karim Amini, captivating the attention of a remarkable 1.14 million moviegoers.

Following suit, securing the second position in the box office rankings was yet another comedy by Amini, titled 'Shahr-e Hert' (City of No Laws), making its debut on June 7. Despite its tardy release, the film managed to amass an impressive viewership of 276,000, placing it firmly in second place. In the course of this period, 'Two-Person Song' garnered the attention of 162,000 movie enthusiasts.

Notably, an intriguing observation emerged from the screenings during this timeframe, involving the film titled 'Private Meeting.' Despite its limited presence across theaters in comparison to other cinematic offerings, Omid Shams' film managed to captivate approximately 40,000 viewers, securing substantial box office revenue when juxtaposed with holdover films from the previous year.

Iran, Uganda keen to expand tourism cooperation



Iran and Uganda are demonstrating a profound interest in expanding their bilateral tourism relations, as expressed during a meeting between Muhammad Tezikuba Kisambira, the Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to Iran, and Iranian officials. The Ugandan envoy conveyed his belief that his country possesses exceptional capabilities to attract Iranian tourists, highlighting Uganda's pristine nature and mountainous terrains, which offer excellent opportunities for hiking and trekking. Moreover, the Ugandan ambassador in Iran emphasized the simplified visa acquisition process in his country and assured the presence of favorable security conditions for tourists visiting Uganda.

In support of strengthening ties, Hassan Mirzakhani, a provincial official, acknowledged the influential role of 54 independent African nations in international decisions, signifying the importance of these countries in fostering political and economic relations. He underscored the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance as a friend and supporter of African nations, striving to expand interactions through diverse frameworks.

The deputy coordinator further emphasized the substantial potential and favorable prospects for enhancing bilateral relations between Iran and Uganda.

Recognizing Markazi Province as one of the most significant provinces in Iran, he asserted its unwavering determination to promote robust ties with Africa.

To facilitate mutual cooperation, it was noted that Uganda, being a prominent nation in East Africa, could serve as a gateway for Iran to enter these markets. Moreover, Markazi Province expressed readiness to organize an exhibition showcasing the capabilities of the province in the capital of Uganda.

With hopes of finalizing a comprehensive memorandum of understanding, it is expected that the primary framework for cooperation with Uganda will be established and subsequently signed in Tehran, as expressed by Mirzakhani. Ali Joudaki, head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that the Ugandan ambassador has demonstrated a keen interest in establishing capacity-building initiatives within the province.