



Iranian film selected for Canadian festival

The Iranian film 'Yasa,' helmed by director Mani Mehripour and produced by Armin Moradi, has secured a coveted spot in the ninth edition of the Gbeck Future Film Festival held in Quebec, Canada. This achievement comes hot on the heels of the film's honorable diploma at the renowned Student World Impact Film Festival. Scheduled to unfold from September 8 to 10 on the picturesque Prince Edward Island in Canada, the Gbeck Future Film Festival serves as a platform for exceptional cinematic creations.

Arts & Culture Desk

The 19th Tehran-Mobarak International Puppet Festival is currently underway in Iran, drawing attention from puppet show enthusiasts. The event stands out for its well-planned schedule, precise execution, and diverse sections. Lasting for ten days, from June 29 to July 8, the festival offers over 10 shows daily across Tehran's famous venues like the City Theater Complex, Molavi Hall, Honar Hall, and Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.

Notably, the outdoor area of the City Theater has witnessed a remarkable turnout, with thousands gathering to see captivating street performances, infusing the complex with an artistic ambiance.

The festival's inauguration was graced by ambassadors and cultural attachés from six nations at the City Theater and Honar Hall. Hadi Hejazifar, the festival's secretary, has announced a groundbreaking development in the theater festival landscape. In a first-of-its-kind move, participating directors will serve as judges, each responsible for voting on 12 other productions. This innovative approach ensures that all directors have the opportunity to watch every show, fostering an exchange of experiences among puppetry enthusiasts.

Hejazifar underscores the significance of festivals as platforms for creating new works, particularly in puppet theater, which faces high costs and limited

Festival puppets pulling at heartstrings in Tehran



dedicated venues and support. This year's festival boasts a participation of 58 performing groups. Among them are seven productions from Brazil, Georgia, Peru, Mexico, Turkey, and Armenia. Standout entries include 'Treasure Island' directed by Fabio Superbi from Brazil and 'Magic Lamp' directed by Cengiz Ozek from Turkey. While discussing the Interna-

tional Section, Hejazifar highlights the festival's efforts to minimize expenses. Despite encountering setbacks such as a show cancellation and visa issues, the organizers have maintained a diverse range of techniques. However, logistical challenges led to the unfortunate loss of several talented groups. The puppet festival in Tehran

serves as a fertile ground for the growth and advancement of puppetry art, providing a platform for Iranian artists to showcase their talents and creations. Artists express their desire for puppetry to regain its place in theaters beyond children's entertainment, highlighting its universal language and cultural significance. Support for puppet shows is

crucial due to the high cost of puppet-making tools, and it also contributes to the education of future generations. The festival aims to facilitate roundtable discussions among artists, audiences, and puppets, capturing diverse narratives depicting human conditions. Moreover, it strives to promote harmony and happiness within society.

Kerman, city of tastes



Iranica Desk

All human creations, from historical monuments and handicrafts to cuisines and sweets contribute to the collective identity of a nation.

The cultural manifestations and lifestyle of people in each community are very attractive to tourists. The intersection of food and culture is a powerful force which is the root of identity and the place of connection in a community.

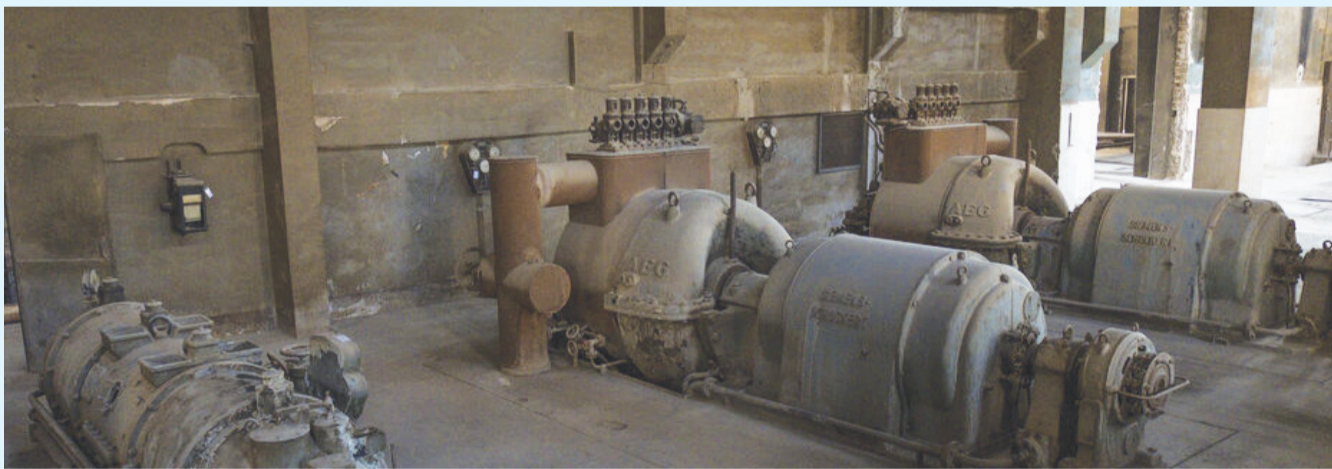
The southeastern province of Kerman, which hosts 25 percent of the horticultural fields of the country, has a great capacity in the fields of foodstuff production and processing. The agricultural crops cultivated in the province, including pistachios, dates, walnuts and citrus fruits can be used to introduce the food culture of its people to the world in the best possible manner, according to IRNA.

Kerman has very versatile souvenirs which are attractive to all travelers. The variety of souvenirs satisfies every taste, with every financial ability, and no one returns to his or her city empty-handed.

In fact, there are few tourists who travel to Kerman and haven't tasted kolompeh (a soft, golden cookie filled with dates, nuts and spices), qavoot (a nutritionally-dense recipe made of powdered seeds, nuts, and sugar), komach sehen (a date pie made with high protein wheat flour, filled with dates and walnuts). From sweets and local breads to organic and natural products, you can find anything in Kerman. Experts believe that the capacity of Kerman's food production and processing industry hasn't been used properly, thus more efforts should be taken to introduce the delicious foods and sweets produced in the land to the people across the country and worldwide. In order to achieve the target, 13 companies of the province participated in the 30th International Exhibition of Food, Food Technology & Agriculture (Iran Agrofood 2023), held at the Tehran International Fairgrounds, from June 16-20, 2023. Deputy Head of Kerman Food Industries Association Hamed Badrabadi said Kerman Province has a great potential in the field of farming, and this causes the related industries to prosper significantly.

He said a number of the products made with pistachios and dates, cultivated in the province, were displayed in the expo, but more efforts should be made to encourage investors to invest more in the sector.

Preserving industrial heritage a necessity



Industrial heritage and monuments in Iran should be preserved as a symbol of the country's industrial transformation, Abdulmehdi Hemmatpour, the director of Shahr-e-Rey National Heritage Site, told Iran Daily in an exclusive interview. He added that outstanding examples of full-scale industrial buildings have remained in Shahr-e-Rey which pertain to early industrial era in Iran. Shahr-e-Rey is a town located in the south of the capital Tehran. Hemmatpour described industrial heritage as an integral

part of cultural heritage. "Industrial heritage is defined as the remains of industrial culture with scientific, social, technical, historical and architectural values. These include buildings, machines, workshops, factories, mines, processing sites and refineries, warehouses and reservoirs, transportation and all its infrastructures. Places that were used for collective activities related to industry, such as residence, worship and education are also included," he added. Hemmatpour said industrial buildings have undergone transformation like cultural

heritage sites. He noted that these buildings are at the risk of destruction and have also turned into a symbol of urban chaos. He said the first industrial buildings in Iran had beautiful architecture but their European counterparts had poor and inappropriate architecture. Hemmatpour pointed out that industrial structures in the late Qajar era and early Pahlavi era symbolized industrial transformation. "The number of Iran's manufacturing factories exceeded 20 between 1890-1900. These included sugar, textile, match,

flour, glass, ammunition, tobacco and leather factories." He added that industrial heritage has environmental, historical and architectural dimensions which necessitate the preservation and renovation of industrial heritage sites. "Industrial archeology can be employed to renovate industrial buildings." Hemmatpour said Shahr-e-Rey Cement Factory can be the focus of industrial archeology studies.

This factory was launched in the 1930s and is considered as one of the oldest factories in Iran and the first cement production line in the country. He noted that the factory not only has historical and architectural values but is also a symbol of transformation. "This factory symbolized industrial heritage based on brutalist architecture." Brutalist architecture is an architectural style that emerged during the 1950s in the UK, among the reconstruction projects of the post-war era. Brutalist buildings are characterized by minimalist constructions that showcase the bare building materials and structural elements over decorative design.