The establishment of the National Theater Foundation was approved

Iran Theater- Mohammad Mehdi Esmaili, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, said that by the end of new Persian year, eight new Plateaus will be built at the site of the theater administration building.

Mohammad Mehdi Esmaili said about the renovation Tehran’s City Theater Complex: “This project has been started since the beginning of January 2024, and by the next year, the renovation will be done and new performance spaces will be available outside the boundaries.” Organization of peddlers in this area is also underway by the municipality.

He went on to say: “The document on dramatic arts has been presented to the Art Council before Eid (new year) and, I hope that it will be approved soon. During the visit to the building of Tehran City Theater Administration, we were faced with the destruction of this building, and 8 new plateaus will be available to theater residents by the end of this year.”

Minister of Culture: 8 new Plateaus will be built at the site of the theater administration building

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The establishment of the National Theater Foundation was approved

Iran Theater- The establishment of the National Theater Foundation was approved at the last meeting of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution. In the last meeting of the Art Council of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, the establishment of the National Theater Foundation was approved in order to support the production of national and Iranian theaters.

Reza Babak: The Iranian theater can reach to the peak days by the National Theater Foundation

Iran Theater-An Iranian theater, television and cinema artist, Reza Babak, says that the establishment of the National Theater Foundation can re-bloom and reach to its peak period. Babak said in this meeting: “The National Theater Foundation is a beneficiary of the recent period of the Art Council, things such as the music document, the creation of the animation foundation, the establishment of the world city of soft technologies and cultural industries, the emblem of culture and art, and the art market were approved, and the music document and the animation foundation were also approved by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution.” Mahmood Salari, the art deputy of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, also said: “The draft of the theater document was compiled with the cooperation and consensus of theater professors. If the theater develops, cinema, television, public morality will also develop in the society.”

Hadi Marzban: The approval of the National Theater Foundation was the biggest gift

Iran Theater-Hadi Marzban, the veteran theater director, said that the approval of the National Theater Foundation was the biggest gift to active Iranian theater artists. He said that in the new Persian year none of the theater artists will worry about earning a living so that they can shine on the theater stage without any worries. Marzban continued: “This foundation should be a supporter of artists. Definitely a decent budget should be allocated for the sole purpose of producing works for artists, so that no director is discouraged from continuing to work due to economic problems.”
Iran Theater Sound

Mahmoud Azizi’s message for National Dramatic arts Day

Iran Theater- Mahmoud Azizi, professor, director and theater researcher, wrote a message on the occasion of the National Dramatic Arts Day, considered theater as a bridge between nations.

Every year, on World Theater Day, one of the great artists wrote a message. This year, the International Theatre Institute ITI is honoured to invite Jon Fosse, a Norwegian playwright and the Nobel Prize in Literature laureate, to write the Message for World Theatre Day 2024. So it is customary for one of the great Iranian artists to publish a message on the 7th of Farvardin (Iran’s National Dramatic Arts Day).

World Theatre Day is an international observance celebrated on 27 March. It was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute.

The message of Mahmoud Azizi is as follows:

Happy World Theater Day to the performers and audience of this influential social activity who honored this beautiful activity until today and the future of humanity and give meaning to the show. There have been misunderstandings about the theme of the show with the aesthetics of the stage for a long time. It took a long time for the laws to confirm and welcome the value of this masterpiece of human creativity in teaching ethics, behavior and beauty. Although during the times, theater artists went through many hardships and until today they have survived from misunderstandings, with the patience, innovation and innovation and have reached this day.

Whether we like it or not, as long as there is a human being, the need to attend the theater, or in other words, this form of social demonstration, will be and will remain inevitable. From the time of Plato until now, the history of drama witnesses dissatisfaction with the way of looking at the universe. In an era, huge and magnificent theaters were built to extroverted theaters, and theater troupes were invited to put on shows in these theaters, entertain people, and earn cultural and artistic points for them by describing the accepted heroes of a certain class; But the theater is and will remain with the people. The phenomenon of theater and theater artists have arisen from the hearts of the people throughout history and always maintain and praise their popular status.

I remind you that during the golden age of Greece, government figures sponsored the production of the show in order to gain advantage and have their names recorded in the plaques prepared for this purpose. There was even a time when theater stars were given government responsibilities and we still see this process.

What is the phenomenon of theater that has always been disliked or praised throughout the history? Perhaps the theater is a mirror of life and the theater artist tries to show the beautiful side of life in this mirror, because the theater is dynamic and educational, it creates happiness, raises questions and makes the audience question the conditions of life. The theater has been able to preserve its oppressed body until today with its intelligence in different forms of performance.

When it comes to state, national, independent theater, etc., we must always be careful that these categories do not cause division among the big theater community. The demarcation of these different forms of theater is an inevitable thing for research, but any form of drama should not suffer from demarcation, political interests and create division generally.

Now that these words are being said, some peoples are looking for a way to attack to mislead the main theme of theater and World Theater Day and the Day of Solidarity of the Big Theater Family. They are unaware that the light of theater is always bright, even if Profiteers try to undermine it sometimes.

Intelligent societies always pay attention to the sacrifice of stage artists and know that this historical phenomenon is as necessary for life as air. Therefore, we always see the production of magnificent works that the public is eager to watch. Theater is a kind of politics, but it is not political. If it was political, it would not have a long life; The life of political theaters, like political groups, is short. We must avoid politicizing theater so that it does not deviate from its goals. From the time of transition from ritual to the present day, The history of theater developments is based on many theories that arise from the conditions of human societies, which shows the responsibility of the theater towards the society. The responsibility of mobilizing the audience to fight against inequality and the desire to raise people’s awareness are things that have always put theater under the microscope of political powers. And they have tried to use this virtuous power for their benefit. However, theater and theatrical activity is for the public and does not recognize categories or groups. Just as UNESCO’s motto was that “the theater is the bridge of communication between nations”.

If the theater sees its feathers and wings burned in the fire of narrow-minded people in a difficult time, it will find its wings again like a phoenix and continue to fly with a show of fantasy that is both drama and comedy. It continues to live like life. So think about the wings of the theater and enter the imaginary show; A fantasy that is both reality and a dream. Theater and life are necessary for each other. I congratulate all the self-sacrificing soldiers of theater, this bastion of humanity and its audience, who give meaning to theater, on International Theater Day, be happy.
Deputy Minister in Art Affairs: There will be a movement to build theater plateaus in the country

Iran Theater-Mahmoud Salari, art affair deputy of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, explained about planning to build a large number of theater training platforms in Iran. ***

Mahmoud Salari announced the increase in the production of works in the fields of theater, music and visual arts in the Iranian New Year (1403). He said about prepare the way for more theater artists: “The plateau movement is on the agenda of the Ministry of Culture, so that we can restart the old plateaus and build new plateaus in all the cities and provinces of the country in this year.”

Salari went on to say: “At the end of 1402, the Ministry of Culture allocated and paid sums for artistic associations in the provinces, which is expected to lead to an increase in the production of works in the cities.”

He emphasized: “We hope that the financial resources, which were limited last year, will increase a bit and something better will happen, but all the production resources will be allocated to the provinces and the art associations will benefit from it.”

He emphasized the key role of veteran and professional artists in the production of works: “In the field of theater, we tried to attract production budgets with the support of the minister and the budget of the complex, to be able to produce good works by Iranian prominent and well-known artists.

Normal Routine: press Conference With Majid Majidi
It is everybody’s duty to support the theater

Iran Theater-Majid Majidi, Iranian Oscar-nominated director requested all Iranian artists and cultural officials to support the theater at the press conference of the show “Normal Routine/Le Circuit ordinaire” which is being staged in Tehran these days.

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Written by Jean-Claude Carriere and directed by Kiaresh Roast, the performance of the play “Normal Routine” opened on Thursday, April 18, in the Charsoo Hall of City Theater Complex. A few hours before the premiere of “Normal Routine”, the press conference was held with the presence of Majid Majidi, a famous Iranian director who nominated the Oscar for the best international film for “Children of the Heaven”. Kiaresh Roast, the director of the show “Normal Routine”, cited Jean-Claude Carriere’s interest in Iranian culture and art as one of the reasons for performing a play by this French screenwriter and playwright at this conference.

Then, Majid Majidi, who produces the show, said: “Tehran’s City Theater Complex has a certain nostalgia for me. At the beginning of the Islamic revolution (from 1979 to 1984), I lived in the City Theater Complex for about five years. I have memories of each and every hall in this complex.”

He continued: “We worked on the show Movement at the beginning of the “Normal Routine” production last year, will increase the resources, which were limited last year, will increase a bit and something better will happen, but all the production resources will be allocated to the provinces and the art associations will benefit from it.”

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“Bird Academy” is performed during Eid al-Fitr

The play “Bird Academy” written and directed by Hossein Mazinani opened on the April 10 during Eid al-Fitr vacation at 18:15 at the Art Hall.

The performance of “Bird Academy” written and directed by Hossein Mazinani, which is a story about the competition of birds in a big music competition, has been on stage at 18:15 from April 10 through May 11 at Art Hall. It’s featuring Massoud Mehrabi, Hossein Mazinani, Leila Junidi, Hameed Nezami-Asl, Reza Haghgou, Aboozar Karimi and Shahan Karimi. Reza Haghgou composes the music. The duration of this performance is 60 minutes and children over four years old can watch the show.
Standing against Brecht’s ideology

Iran Theater- Farhad Aeesh, the actor of the “Galileo”, which has been performed at the Tehran’s City Theater Complex, said that he and the director of this play are standing a little in front of Brecht’s ideology, because Brecht has dealt with Galileo a little with anger or even injustice.

The press conference of the show “Galileo”, written by Bertolt Brecht and directed by Shahabuddin Hosseinpour, was held in the Hall of Fame of City Theater Complex. Shahabuddin Hosseinpour, and Farhad Aeesh, Nora Hashemi, Sadaf Espahboudi and Shahrourz Delafkar, attended at the press conference. Hosseinpour said at the beginning of the meeting: “Over the past few years, we have tried hard to make Galileo by Bertolt Brecht, but once pandemic of Covid 19 shut down many theater halls and in 2022, it was not made due to the conditions of the country. Finally for the third time, we started our rehearsals a few months ago and staged the show in City Theater Complex.”

He went on to say: “I feel it necessary to pay tribute to the translators of this play, Hamid Samandarian. In July 2013, at his funeral, I promised myself to make “Galileo” and now, after 12 years, this wish has come true.”

In response to the question of how much this show can be a tribute to the late Hamid Samandarian, the director answered: “This is my tribute to him. He had explained about this play that drama will end in comedy one day, and his work was very thought-provoking for me. Today’s audience doesn’t have the patience for a 3-4 hour show anymore, and this play is dramatically boring and sloganeering for today’s generation. With the conversations we had with the group, we took the play to another direction and the tone has changed from the bitter tragedy. In fact, this is a different look at Galileo, but it is never disrespect to the author.”

Farhad Aeesh said: “This play by Brecht is completely subjective and it should resonate with today’s audience in the 21st century. We didn’t ransom the audience, but this structure works for today’s generation.”

He added: “We had to stand a little in front of Brecht’s ideology in this show. I think that Brecht has dealt with Galileo a little with anger or even injustice in this play. On the other hand, the two main female characters in the main play are very neglected.”

Sadaf Espahboudi, a Simorgh -winner actress also said: “There is something interesting in this show, A sup plot that is very little discussed. I play a character named Mrs. Sarti, which is kind of a surprise for everyone.”

Nora Hashemi, a famous stage actress also talked about her role: “I had played the role of Virginia before, but the reason I agreed to bring the character back to life is because of the changes I saw in the role compared to my previous experience. Shahrourz Delafkar also explained: “I played this show with love. For the first time, I didn’t think about the role at all and I wanted to be with great people like Farhad Aeesh and to finally stage this show.”
Iran Theater-A meeting to exchange opinions and sign a memorandum of cooperation between the General Department of Dramatic Arts and Shahinshahr Municipality was held until the Sahebdelan Theater Festival was held in this city.

A meeting was held to review the necessary infrastructure for holding the 14th Sahebdelan Theater in Shahinshahr and a cooperation memorandum was signed. Officials were present in this meeting: Kazem Nazari (Director General of Dramatic Arts), Saeed Abrishmirad (Mayor of Shahinshahr City), Mahmoud Farhang (Head of Religious Theater Center), Sider Sool Hashemian (Head of Cultural, Social and Sports Organization of Shahinshahr Municipality), Navid Tavakoli (Head of Culture Department and Islamic guidance of Shahinshahr City), Maryam Sadat Molai (art director) and Shahram Nekoyan (capital secretary of Shahinshahr book).

Kazem Nazari explained in this meeting: “During my visit to Shahinshahr in February for the Practical theater repertory, I found the quality of the halls to be very standard, in a way that we don’t have examples of it even in big cities. Also, the behavior of the officials and people of this city with the artists was unique. At the same time, I thought of organizing the Sahebdelan Theater event in this gifted city.”

Nazari cited decentralization from the capital as one of the reasons for holding the Sahebdelan Theater Festival in Shahinshahr and said: “I think it is the right of artists and audiences in other cities in Iran to benefit from theater performances and festivals. As far as possible, we try to hold some festivals in cities other than Tehran.”

Saeed Abrishmi-Rad, the mayor of Shahinshahr, also thanked the Director General of Dramatic Arts for the trust and said: “On behalf of myself, my colleagues and the art-loving people of Shahinshahr, I thank you for your trust in handing over this event, and with all of our efforts we will use the capacity to hold this event magnificently.”

At the end of this meeting, the cooperation memorandum was signed by Kazem Nazari on behalf of the General Directorate of Dramatic Arts and Saeed Abrishmi-Rad on behalf of Shahinshahr Municipality.

**Eugène Ionesco’s“Exit the King” adapted into Iranian play**

Mohammad-Javad Kabodur-Ahangi has staged the play “Exit the King” by Eugène Ionesco in the form of an Iranian Ru Howzi play. The play “Exit the King (French: Le Roi se meurt)” is an absurdist drama by Eugène Ionesco that premiered in 1962. It is the third in Ionesco’s “Be-renger Cycle”, preceded by The Killer (1958) and Rhinocéros (1959) and followed by A Stroll in the Air (1963). “Iranian show” has a broader concept than theater and includes all field performances, street performances, puppets, Pardehkhani, Naqqali, Ta'zieh, Siah Bazi, Ru howzi which originate from popular culture and rituals. In addition to content, “Iranian show” has many differences with the universal concept of theater. Sometimes, Iranian artists rewrites the plays of famous author from the perspective of “Iranian drama” and stage different performances. One of them is “Sultan Never Dies”, which is based on the play “Exit the King” and has been on stage in the form of the Iranian play siah bazi, at Tehran’s Sangelaj Theater Hall. The play “Sultan Never Dies”, written and composed by Mohammad-Javad Kabodur-Ahangi, opens on April 23, 2024. On the opening night the director said: “I adapted the play Exit the King by Eugène Ionesco according to the potential of happy Iranian shows and humor of Mubarak’s character in the form of Ru Howzi.” He added: “This play is staged with the group of veteran and educated artists, as Moshtedi Mehdi Chayani, Mohammad Adel Gholami and Tahereh Bahrami.”
Iran Theater-Mohammad Mesgari, the director of "Dead Man's Dream", stated that the artists also contribute in not supporting the theater, he believed that we as artists choose the cafe between the theater and the cafe and we eat coffee with the same ticket money and do not spend time in the theater.

The play "Dead Man's Dream" directed by Mohammad Mesgari, which is about the life of two border soldiers, is performing at Arghavan Hall. Directed by Mohammad Mesgari and written and produced by Ashkan Abgoon, “Dead Man’s Dream deals with a character, Zaniah who ends his life in the last days of his service in the border towns, in front of the eyes of his fellow soldiers. His co-worker collapses after seeing this heartbreaking scene and...

This play was staged past fall in Entezami Theater, which was welcomed by the audience and critics of theater and cinema. Mohammad Mesgari said about the theme and story of this play: "This play has a lot to say about society. It is a picture of this judgments and harshness of society’s people towards a person who is collapsing in his life."

Mohammad Mesgari on his new directing experience “Dead Man’s Dream”

He went on to say: "Acting has always been a priority for me, and this project may be my second directing experiences; That's why the performance of my actors is very important to me, because the soul and atmosphere of a work depends on the cast. Fortunately, good actors have worked with us to present a good show for the audience." This director and actor clarified: "Showing some of the society’s issues was part of our goal, and we have done a good job in this field; For example, the presence of trans people, people’s special view of artists, the issue of addiction, etc. We did not want to separate these things from society; All these behaviors are part of our society and no one can deny them."

Iran Theater-Meisam Yousefi, the director of the “Mysterious Ring” hopes that the theater community, especially the children’s and Youth Theater, will gain new experiences beyond its past experiences, he insists that there is no place for professional theater education in schools.

The staged reading of Sue Arengo’s Pinocchio opens at Honar Hall

Iran Theater- The first play reading program of Honar Hall, introducing the best works of the world in the form of play reading, is dedicated to the play "Pinocchio" directed by Davood Zare, which will be staged in the early days of May 2024.

In the second month of persian year, the program of reading plays and introducing works of dramatic literature, especially for children and teenagers, will be performed in the Honar Hall.

The first play reading program is "Pinocchio" written by Sue Arengo, which is done by Davood Zare with the cast. Sue Arengo has a 1st Class (Hons) degree in Humanities. She worked for Oxford University Press as a freelance author for over 20 years, writing fiction for children and young adults learning english as a foreign language. As well as creating many original stories like Baby Robot and Archie’s Sweet Shop, she was also the sole author for the multi award winning series Classic Tales which involved retelling traditional fairy tales for overseas learners of english. This series is still in print, now in a 2nd edition.

She also works as a self taught artist, using the name Kisa - creating colourful, imaginative and visionary works of art in top grade oil paints.

Meisam Yousefi- There is no place for professional theater education in schools

Iran Theater-Meisam Yousefi, the director of the "Mysterious Ring" hopes that the theater community, especially the children’s and Youth Theater, will gain new experiences beyond its past experiences, he insists that there is no place for professional theater education in schools.

The show "Mysterious Ring" written by Atesa Shamlou will be staged from April 21 to May 23 at 19:45 at Honar Hall.
In the past three years, he has directed works such as “Nazgol”, the musical theater "War and Peace" and "The First Game" in the intellectual development center for children and adolescents, and his latest directing experience was the performance of "Haft Khan/ the Seven Adventures " in the family cultural center.

He believes that “definitely, a director conveys his experiences and message to the audience by choosing the style and context of his performance and “The Mysterious Ring” can convey the concept of hope, love, and philanthropy to his audience."

He continues: “This show is a combination of puppet theater methods, including siah Bazi, tabletop puppetry, Bunraku (Japanese traditional puppet). It will be performed on the stage for children and young audiences from April 21, with various Iranian music.”
Hooman Barghnavard to star in the show “They Lie”

Iran Theater- Homan Barghnavard, who last acted in a show in 2018, returns to the stage after a long time with the show “They Lie”.

He last played a role in 2018 in the play “Beauty is sometimes a woman” directed by Sohrab Hosseini, and after more than four years he returns to the theater with the play “They Lie” written and directed by Sohrab Hosseini. The make-up designer is Behnam Moayerian, and the fifteen-member musical orchestra composed by Behzad Abdi accompanies the cast.

This is the story of a young man and woman who met by chance in the park. They make a plan of hostage and armed robbery, but over time, the plans fall apart and they change their plans.

Hassan Mostajabian produce the show. Soheil Mostajabian and Sara Rasoolzadeh announced to join the cast previously.

Amir Kamali on Jean-Paul Sartre’s The Unburied Dead

Iran Theater-Amir Kamali, the director of the show “The Unburied Dead”, says that Iran’s modern theater will always be grateful for the works of great artists like Pari Saberi and other noble contemporaries.

The play “The Unburied Dead” was staged in Iran in 1963 for the first time by Hamid Samandar and Pari Saberi acted the role of Lucy. I wish we had a film of that performance nowadays.

The play “The Unburied Dead” by Jean-Paul Sartre, translated by Pari Saberi, directed by Amir Kamali will be staged on April 10, 2024 at Noel Loshato Theater. The Undead and Burial is a challenging play about the fears and sufferings of war. Sartre’s conventional philosophical notions of free will and power of choice can be seen in this book, but the Undead and Burial seem to have more emotion than some of Sartre’s other works.

Jean-Paul Sartre became closer to the general public as his plays came on stage. Yes, it is easier to communicate.

He believes that in the face of popular plays (psychological tragedies and psychological melodramas), only his theater, The Theater of Situations, is acceptable.

The conflict of the human conscience in the situations that have arisen.

What made you want to direct a play by Jean-Paul Sartre and a translation by Pary Saberi?

My personal interest in existentialist works in French literature was certainly a factor in this choice, but my main motivation for starting this project and any other art project is naturally also related to the current conditions of Iranian society. I think one of the most important weaknesses of modern man is the uncertainty of moral red lines; Therefore, choosing a play with a philosophical theme is a reflection of my preoccupations and mental concerns to make the future better, and I hope that the audience will have a suitable answer to their difficult moral questions.

Are you satisfied with the cast?

The most important job of the director is to choose the actors. Analyzing the role and recognizing the abilities of an actor has always been the most difficult thing for me. About a month before the pre-production, about 80 famous actors were auditioned and finally 8 people were selected. Talent, empathy and dynamism are the main characteristics of our team.

What do you see as the main challenge of theater nowadays?

- The main challenge of all directors of philosophical shows is obsession. Obsession in art is good as long as it doesn’t turn into conservatism and fear. Trying to perform the show as best as possible sometimes blocks the way to take risks and release the character. It is better if we don’t comment about the theater these days.