Promotion of theater books increases the audience

Zanjan International Pantomime Festival deadline Extension

Iran Theater - The deadline for submitting works to the secretariat of the festival was extended until August 23, 2023.

Sasan Qajar, the secretary of the 2nd Zanjan International Pantomime Festival announced that due to the simultaneous holding of the Pantomime Festival with the 19th International Puppet Theater Festival and also the widespread interest of artists to register in the International Pantomime Festival, the deadline was extended until August 23, 2023.

Qajar considered the reason for this extension to respect the request of the artists for the participation in the festival and also to create more opportunities for them: “According to the arrangements made with Mehdi Hajian, the head of the festival secretariat of the General Directorate of Dramatic Arts Center, the holding time of the festival was from July 2nd to 6th July and it was changed to October 9th to 12th, 2023.”

Sasan Qajar said that the lineup will be announced on September 1 and he added: “Those interested in participating in the festival can send their works to the address of the festival secretariat located in Zanjan, Shaikh Fazullah Nouri St., Imam Khomeini Cultural Center (RA), Zanjan International Pantomime Festival Secretariat.”

The International Pantomime Festival will be held under the direction of Sasan Qajar. The purpose of holding the festival is to spread the new and different methods of global pantomime.
Meeting of the director general of Dramatic Arts Center with the director of the Asia Pacific Center of Islamic Culture of Relation organization

Kazem Nazari and Adel Khani met on Saturday, May 5, 2023 with the aim of creating an atmosphere of cooperation to present and perform the best performing works of Iranian artists and co-productions. In this meeting, which was held with the aim of creating an atmosphere of cooperation, various topics were raised:
1. Holding festivals, conferences, cultural weeks, webinars and rituals on the subject of performing arts
2. Artistic co-productions, including collection, translation and printing of various books and papers in the field of performing arts
3. Production and performance of plays in Asia-Pacific countries and the performance of theater groups of these countries in Iran, as well as performances of co-productions.
4. Holding retrospective, rituals and ceremonies of these countries in the form of performances
5. Production and distribution of art items and works (educational documentaries, publications)
6. Joint collaborations regarding the teaching of performing arts (playwriting, translation of plays, performance of dramatic literature, stage design)
7. Holding workshops and training courses
8. Cooperation with scientific centers in the field of joint research with a focus on performing arts
9. Communication with reputable theater companies and organizations in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region (Georgia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Japan, China, Bangladesh, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia)

Reza Haddad, Iranian theater director, dies at Age 54

Iran Theater-Reza Haddad, theater director, passed away at the age of 54 at his home. Shahram Gilabadi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Theater Directors Forum, confirmed this news: Reza Haddad, a good and stylist Iranian theater director, died at his home. He added: “In addition to being a thoughtful director, Reza Haddad also contributed a lot to the theater as Art director and did everything to promote the theater.”

Referring to the theater director’s night that was held a while ago, Gilabadi said: Reza Haddad helped us a lot in organizing this event. He was always with us in all the union programs and used all his facilities for the development of Iranian art and theater.

Reza Haddad, studied drama at Tehran University of Art and Architecture, he was born in Abadeh in 1969. He started his professional career in 1984 as a stage director. He had directed numerous shows abroad and received international awards. The shows “Revelation about a silent party”, “We came, you weren’t, we left” and “No one remembers all the stories”, are among Haddad’s works as a director.
Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, stated that Shahnameh and other literary, cultural and historical heritages of Iran are full of wisdom and virtue. The Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance attended the special performance of the musical show “Esfandiar’s seven labors” directed by Hossein Parsaei and conducted by the Bardia Kiares, which was performed on the occasion of the commemoration of Ferdowsi. After watching the performance of “Esfandiar’s seven labors”, Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili said that watching the show at the same time as the commemoration anniversary of Ferdowsi doubled the pleasure of watching it, he said: Shahnameh and other literary, cultural and historical heritages of Iran are more than just stories and poems, they contain wisdom and virtue. In the end, he wished success to the executive team of this show and said: “The spirit of self-sacrifice, forgiveness, dedication and the spirit of monotheism that is the history of Iran is one of the important advantages of stories like Battle in Battle which is well represented in this show.”

Seven labors were a series of acts carried out by the greatest of the Iranian heroes, Rostam. The story was retold by Ferdowsi in his epic poem, Shahnameh. The Seven Labors were seven difficult tasks undertaken by Rostam, accompanied, in most instances, only by his faithful and sagacious steed Raksh, although in two labours he was accompanied also by the champion, Olad.

“Esfandiar’s seven labors” is a co-production of Owj Arts and Media Organization and Roudaki Artistic Cultural Foundation. It’s on stage at Vahdat Hall at 8:00 P.M every night.

Anton Chekhov’s The Cherry Orchard at Hafez Hall

The Cherry Orchard is the last play by Russian playwright Anton Chekhov. Written in 1903, it was first published by Znaniye, and came out as a separate edition later that year in Saint Petersburg, via A.F. Marks Publishers. The play revolves around an aristocratic Russian landowner who returns to her family estate (which includes a large and well-known cherry orchard) just before it is auctioned to pay the mortgage. Unresponsive to offers to save the estate, she allows its sale to the son of a former serf; the family leaves to the sound of the cherry orchard being cut down. The story presents themes of cultural futility – both the futile attempts of the aristocracy to maintain its status and of the bourgeoisie to find meaning in its newfound materialism – and dramatizes the socioeconomic forces in Russia at the turn of the 20th century, including the rise of the middle class after the abolition of serfdom in the mid-19th century and the decline of the power of the aristocracy. This show is based on the play “The Cherry Orchard” written by Chekhov and Sajad Ahmadlou, Parvaneh Amiri, Amirreza Babetv, Amirali Zamanian, Morteza Sobhani, Behnaz Saeedi, Mohammad Amir Shayghi, Henghame Moalem, Habib Mousavi, Niki Mirsadeghi and Sepideh Noorsaleh play roles.
Siavosh Tahmoures:
Without studying, you cannot become a successful stage artist

Iran Theater- Siavosh Tahmoures, who was attended at the booth of Namayesh Publications at 34th Tehran International Book Fair, emphasized that a lot of purposeful study is the first condition for the success of any artist in the theater.

Siavash Tahmoures, a veteran theater actor and director, was one of the guests at the Namayesh publishing booth, who in a short interview talked about the impact of studying on the performance of theater artists, the status of academic theater books, and the importance of Namayesh publishing.

He emphasized the importance of reading books for theater artists: Certainly, the impact of reading books on the performance of artists cannot be ignored. So theater artists should not limit their reading to a few books. A person who is going to work in the performing arts must read novels, plays, stories and books on history, geography, psychology, sociology, economics, philosophy, etc. These studies are very important for his better understanding of life, society and people around him.

Tahmoures is the director of the show “Battle in Battle” which was on stage in the Iranshahr Theater Complex. He said: To create a character, a theater artist must find respect for human reality. Of course, if he wants only fame as an artist, an actor or director, he does not need to study. But the artist must definitely study to become a prominent director or actor.

He advised young artists: “I have nothing to do with those young people who comes to theater and cinema for fame and fortune. But young people who are interested in theater and cinema should know that art is formed in a person when it is based on the study of books and also the correct knowledge of the society. The effects of study make the artist say things to the society that he understood.

This actor and theater director pointed out the important role of Namayesh publications and said: “These publications have worked very well and are successful in the field of performing arts. But it is a mistake to only think of publishing works that are directly related to the field of performing arts. History, economics, psychology, sociology and other subjects are also related to art, and books can be published in these fields that indirectly help theater artists.

Bahram Shahmohammadloo will be honored

Iran Theater- With the efforts of the production team of the show War and Peace, an honoring ceremony will be held for Bahram Shahmohammadloo, a veteran theater, cinema and television actor in Niavaran cultural center with the presence of press.

The play “War and Peace” written and performed by Maisam Yousefi will be staged on Wednesday (May 17th) with the honoring ceremony of Bahram Shahmohammadloo, a veteran theater, cinema and television actor at Niavaran Cultural Center.

Shahmohammadloo was born on 25 December 1950 in Tehran. He was one of the founders of the first professional theater group of the Center for Intellectual Development of Children and Adolescents in 1970. He completed his studies in the performing arts department of the Fine Arts Faculty of Tehran University in 1373.

The musical show “War and Peace” is going on stage in May and June every night except Saturdays at 20:00 PM in the Persian Gulf Hall of Niavaran Cultural Center.

The cast: Nasser Avijeh, Behnam Motearef, Elham Zarrei, Qasem Ansarishad, Mehdi Rahmati, Hassan Tadayouni and Saeede Tarkashvand.
Iran Theater - The musical show "Male cat and cunning fox" by Oshan Mahmoudi will be performed in Tehran's City Theater Complex.

A new adaptation of Carlo Collodi's "The Adventures of Pinocchio" is the latest musical show to come on stage from May 27th at the City Theater Complex.

The Adventures of Pinocchio is a children's fantasy novel by Italian author Carlo Collodi. It is about the mischievous adventures of an animated marionette named Pinocchio and his father, a poor woodcarver named Geppetto.

According to extensive research by the Fondazione Nazionale Carlo Collodi and UNESCO sources in the late 1990s, the book has been translated into as many as 260 languages worldwide.

After the death of poor Geppetto, Pinocchio receives a will as an inheritance, in which the secret of the golden tree is written in code. With the help of his duck, Pinocchio tries to discover and reach that valuable heritage, which is accompanied by a Male cat and cunning fox.

The Fox and the Cat are Greedy anthropomorphic animals pretending to be lame and blind respectively, the pair lead Pinocchio astray, rob him and eventually try to hang him in the book.


The crew: Shahab Mahmoudi and Seyed Emad Ameri (producers), Amir Sephr Taghilou (project manager), Ali Kozegar (light designer), Faeze Soltani (light and make-up designer), Mohammad Asghari Asl and Mohammd Hossein Ghafari (sound designers and music production), Shayan Safavi and Mohammad Hossein Ghafari (sound technicians), Sherin Aghili (video), Mitra Masa'eli and Oshan Mahmoudi (motion designers), Ayeh Fili (poster and brochure designer), Sohrab Khanzadeh (photographer and production of advertising material)

The show "Male cat and cunning fox" written and directed by Oshan Mahmoudi is staged every day at 19:30 in the main hall of City Theater Complex.

Iran Theater - Referring to the powerful presence of Namayesh publications in the 34th Tehran Book Fair, Kazem Nazari said that the promotion of theatrical books can increase the audience of this art in Iran.

Kazem Nazari, Director General of Dramatic Center and ITI President of Iran, was present at the Namayesh publishing booth on the first day of the 34th Tehran International Book Fair and met with people.

Iran Theater asked him about the plans of the publishing house during the book fair.

Kazem Nazari said about the role of books and reading in the field of performing arts: “We must do everything for the prosperity of Iranian theater. Even by promoting the reading of theater books and plays, we must always maintain our audience because they are the origins of Iranian theater.”

He explained about the subject and content of the books presented at Namayesh publishing booth: “some good works of Iranian drama writers are presented here: Special works for children and teenagers, Quranic and religious topics in performing arts, Eastern and Western theater, books translated from other languages, theatrical teachings, plays, etc.”

The Director General of Iranian Performing Arts also said about the presence of theater artists in the booth: “We have planned to host prominent and veteran artists in Namayesh publication booth and we will hold several specialized meetings on the topic of street theater, academic theater, Iranian plays and religious theater.”

The 34th of Tehran International Book Fair was held from 20th to 30th of May in Imam Khomeini Mosalla.
Our show Much Ado About Nothing is a tribute to Shakespeare

Matin Zabihi: Our show Much Ado About Nothing is a tribute to Shakespeare by combining four plays Macbeth, Richard III, King Lear and Hamlet with a modern narrative.

The comedy show "Much Ado About Nothing" written by Reza Bighashi and directed by Matin Zabihi has been on stage since Monday, May 29) at the Azhman Hall. Zabihi has previously appeared in the shows "Lens", "Machology" and "three Orang", the show “Much Ado About Nothing” is his debut as a director. He said: The main idea of the show is related to the events and challenges that happened to him as an actor.

He continued: “The show is a result of six months of efforts of our group, which was staged for the first time in Sabzevar, and now it's on stage at Azhman Hall.” The director of “Much Ado About Nothing” revealed that this show does not refer to Shakespeare’s play of the same name at all: “Each act is related to four plays of Shakespeare until the main character comes to the end of his story. He faces the challenges of his life.” He considered the show “Much Ado About Nothing” as a tribute to Shakespeare and adds: “The concept of the character’s life in this play is only close to the title of Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing”; While this character shows a combination of the characters of “Macbeth”, “Richard III”, “King Lear” and “Hamlet” in a completely modern way.

Zabihi said that the show is a situation comedy, and as we get closer to the end of the work, this comedy becomes more and more bitter. The director explained that playing in this show was a big challenge for the actor, he added: “The actor must benefit from different expressive, physical and performance characteristics in different situations, which was a big challenge for him in our work, but fortunately with flexibility And with his company in the short time we had, he was able to do this well.”

In the end, Zabihi declared his interest in acting: “Both acting and directing are difficult, but if I had to choose between them, I would definitely prefer acting, because directing is a much more difficult and stressful job than acting.”

The members of the specialized book council were introduced

Iran Theater- Esrafeel Farajollahi, CEO of the Iranian Performing Arts Association, appointed the members of the specialized book council and the advisers of the Education, Research and Drama Namayesh Publishing Office.

The introduction meeting of the members of the specialized book council and the consultants of the education, research and publishing office was held on Monday, 1st of May, in the office of the director general of Dramatic Arts Center. This meeting was held with the presence of Kazem Nazari (Director General of Dramatic Arts Center) and Narges Yazdi (Director of the Office of Research, Education and Theater Publications).

Esrafeel Farajollahi (CEO of the Performing Arts Association) introduced the members of the specialized book council and the consultants of the education, research and publishing office: Mansour Brahimi, Hamidreza Afshar, Mohammad -Bagher Ghahremani, Hossein Fadaei-Hossein and Dawood Daneshvar.

This council is supposed to cooperate with the Office of Education, Research and Publications in the selection of written works and translation and consultation in educational and research projects.
Iran Theater- In a meeting with a group of artists, writers and poets, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance promised to make Iran’s cultural atmosphere more vibrant and lively.

Mohammad Mahdi Esmaeili, the cultural minister, talked with a group of science, culture and art experts at Tehran University on May 19 in the program “Discussion House”.

This cordial meeting lasted for more than four hours, after hearing the points of view in the meeting, he said that the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in the 13th People’s Government proudly serves all artists with different tastes and views. Culture and art usually have different approaches and opinions on a single subject, and the nature of science and knowledge is to recognize the difference in tastes. In this regard, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance listens to all kinds of suggestions and opinions from artists.

He emphasized that every period of progress, there was free thinking and dialogue in the society.

“In discussions with artists and media, the cultural administration of the 13th government always tries to provide favorable conditions for the growth and excellence of Iranian children, with kindness and avoiding harsh tones, and undoubtedly, it is necessary to hold such meetings.”

In the end, Esmaeili emphasized: “As cultural Minister and employee of artists, poets and writers, I declare with confidence that the country is firmly moving towards a lively atmosphere and solving the problems ahead, and in next months, we will see good and effective steps in various cultural and artistic fields.”

Saeed Changizian joins There is a window left open

Iran Theater- The show “There is a window left open” starring Saeed Chengizian in the role of Hengameh and Morteza Youneszadeh as Saeed will be staged from May 23 at Iranshahr Theater Complex.

The show “There is a window left open” written, designed and directed by Neda Shahrkhi and Yasman Khajaei will be staged in Iranshahr Theater Complex from May 23.

The play was written by Neda Shahrkhi and Yasman Khajaei, inspired by The Conference of the Birds.

The Conference of the Birds or Speech of the Birds is a Persian poem by Sufi poet Farid ud-Din Attar, commonly known as Attar of Nishapur. The title is taken directly from the Qur’an, 27:16, where Sulayman and Dāwūd are said to have been taught the language, or speech, of the birds.

This show had been on stage in France in 2017 at the Maria Cazares Hall; The storyteller is an artist named Hengemeh, who narrates her ups and downs life story in the form of a visual exhibition inspired by the logic of The Conference of the Birds.
Iran’s Traditional and Ritual Theatre Festival

Date and Deadline

Iran Theater - The Traditional and Ritual Theatre Festival will be held from September 26 to October 3, 2023 under the direction of Ahmad Julai.

The 21st Traditional and Ritual Theatre Festival will host the audience of various types of ritual and traditional shows in different performance (competitive and non-competitive) and research sections from September 26 to October 3, 2023.

So far, nearly 250 works have been registered to participate in different sections of this artistic event in, and it is possible to hold different parts of this festival in a centralized and decentralized manner in Tehran and different provinces.

The deadline for uploading and receiving registration information in sections of festival has not ended, and artists can go to the festival website (https://irtf.theater.ir) for more information.

Farahani explains about the effect of theater activities on autistic children: Signs of autism in children include less social understanding.

He continues: Since autistic children seek structure and strict rules, theater and acting can help them learn rules for dealing with the world around them. Therefore education for autistic children is considered as one of the effective ways to improve their lives.

Kazem Nazari:
We support the performances of artists from other cities in Tehran

Kazem Nazari saw the play Simorgh which is the work of artists from Ardabil and has been staged in Sangelaj Theater Complex these days. He emphasized that the General Directorate of Dramatic Arts will support the works by artists from other cities in Tehran.

The play “Simorgh” written by Mahmoud Mahdavi and directed by Akbar Sadeghi was staged on Wednesday evening (May 24), on the occasion of liberation of Khoramshahr and battle of Khoramshahr, with the presence of the director general of dramatic arts center and a group of artists and media.

At the end of this performance, the “Simorgh” show, which is the work of Ardabil artists, was dedicated to the brave warriors of liberation of Khoramshahr in 1982.

After watching “Simorgh”, Kazem Nazari said: “This fascinating show, with its brilliant performances, went on stage very energetically. The use of distancing effect of Iranian shows also added to the effectiveness of show.”

He continued: The General Administration of Dramatic Arts is eager to support the city theater groups if they have the conditions to perform in Tehran. We are witnessing the presence of Ardabili artists with the performance of “Simorgh” in Sangelaj Theater Complex now, and we hope that this trend will continue with the cooperation of the provinces.

Leili Aaj, the writer and director of theater and cinema, who was also one of the guests at the special performance of “Simorgh”, said: “This play was a simple and unpretentious work that expressed important words without exaggeration and content.”

She stated that the performance of city groups in Tehran is a positive event, she continued: “This group is a professional artist from Ardabil and our guest in Tehran. I hope we will be good hosts and support them by watching their work.”