

## The exhibit of forty years of Fadjr Theater Festival

A shift in cultural discourse after the Islamic revolution (1979), change in social situation in wake of the Iran-Iraq War, and the development of political conflicts in the 1980s, made cultural institutes and organizations focus on the celebration of revolution days in the form of holding artistic events. The first year of the National Fadjr Theater Festival in January and February 1983 is an instance of such events. The festival that is held today is one of the most significant art events in terms of diversity, background history, participation of artists and the audience, and the diversity of works therein presented not only on the national scale but also throughout the region. In the research section of the 40th Fadjr International Theater Festival, the "festival" itself was the subject of study. For this purpose, the exhibit of documents in "40 yards of Fadjr Theater Festival" was divided into two sections: "Real exhibit" and "Virtual exhibit" of the visual data for the event throughout different ages. This was done to set grounds for studying, documentation of the history, and defining its nature and function. The documents in this exhibit will be provided as follows:

- Various documents that can be presented in the real and virtual exhibit of "40 years of Fadjr Theater Festival". These include cases such as posters of the festival in different years, festival programs schedules, photos of performances in the festivals, posters of performances in the festivals, image of pieces of newspapers, also images and videos related to the festival such as those of opening ceremonies, closing ceremonies, meetings and sessions, seminars, educational workshops, etc.
- If we consider artists, administrative staff, and the audience as the building blocks of the festival, the provided documents in physical exhibits consist mostly of the administrative staff and the audience. In this exhibit, "40" images, each belonging to a distinct year, are presented to you. Watching them can help you get familiar with the ambiance of every period more than using them for research purposes. Because of some restrictions for presenting those documents physically, those images are selected for depicting memorable events, those that are often marginalized compared to actual performances during the festival.
- In the virtual exhibit, not only the related events of the festival are presented in detail but the performances in the festival are addressed as well. Meanwhile, the plays from 1982 to 2011 are depicted more extensively compared to the ones from 2012 onwards. Documents related to the performances from 2012 onwards were illustrated less because most of them are easily accessible in cyberspace like social media and websites.
- Virtual exhibit of documents of "forty years of Fadjr theater in Iran" will be presented for each year of the festival on the website "TV.THEATER.IR" after the physical exhibit to the end of the festival.
- This exhibit is a small step to make tangible and concretize the festival past, an event that is today known as one of the most significant national and regional events. It is hoped that, by putting the experiences of the great people who studied and researched about the area, into consideration, the exhibit, despite all the limitations and flaws, can provide proper materials for researchers of dramatic arts, social sciences, and history.