



## The biggest theater festival of West Asia comes to the end

### In the name of God

Dear Artists,  
Greetings from the Dramatic Arts Center of Iran and Iran Center of ITI.

Undoubtedly, the efforts of you artists in the field of performing arts are important in the cultural and artistic interaction around the world. The art of theater and performance has expanded thanks to my artist colleagues, and I found it necessary to publish this newsletter in order to introduce the theater of my country, reflecting the news of Iranian theater artists and expanding the "diplomacy of art" beyond geographical borders.

In this issue of the newsletter you will find the Provincial Theatre Festival (PTF) report that started working in more than 15 provinces since 1989. Next in the coming years it developed its scope of activity through engaging all the remaining provinces in this national event. Every year, the headquarter of performing arts centers revises its activity guidelines in so far as the present-day cultural and geographical situations are concerned.

I will be grateful if you send me your comments and suggestions about the contents of this edition while reading this art newsletter, which has been published for the first time by the ITI Center of Iran.

I wish you health, peace and success.

Best regards,

**Kazem Nazari(Ph.D.), President of Iran ITI center & General Director Dramatic Arts Center of Iran**

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## An event that creates equal opportunities for artists

# A theater festival as wide as a country

**Iran Theater- Provincial Theatre Festival (PTF) in Iran is one of the largest theater festivals in the world in terms of geographical scope.**

It is a big event that change the mood of the whole country for several months during the holding and bring together all fans of this folk art. This is a great opportunity for artists to be seen and tested and prepare to enter a bigger event called Fajr International Theater Festival.

These days, PTF are in their final days. 31 provinces have introduced their winners to participate in the Fajr regional theater festival, one province is holding the festival and the last province's festival will end on December 12 with the closing ceremony.

According to the statistics, 244 theater groups and 3563 artists participated in these events and 36020 spectators watched the performances in theaters across the country. We have a brief look at the history of these events.

### **The history of PTF**

Provincial Theatre Festival (PTF) started working in more than 15 provinces since 1989. Next in the coming years it developed its scope of activity through engaging all the remaining provinces in this national event. This festival has been established in every province as a result of winning the provincial credits as well as the material and spiritual supports of the Directorate-General of the performing arts. Every year some 15 works of art will be selected for the competition in various fields at the Fajr International Theatre Festival.

### **Objectives of PTF**

Every year, the headquarter of performing arts centers revises its activity guidelines in so far as the present-day cultural and geographical situations are concerned. Having objectives within the last few years, PTF continues its fruitful life despite all the rigors of the time.

1.Preparing the suitable working



grounds for theatre in the far-off provinces and cities.

2.Affording equal opportunities for the theatre family members of the provinces throughout the country.

3.Paying special attention to the various ethnic cultures and sub-cultures.

4.Growing the theatre art as a means of communication in the country.

### **The method of judgment**

To satisfy the interests of the managing directors and reducing the possibility of damages against increasing its fruitfulness, they decided three types of judgment by the jury each having its own friends and foes.

Nominating and dispatching to the province of three judges from Tehran by the Directorate-General of the performing arts.

Nominating and dispatching one of the judges as the observer to the festival by the Directorate.

Nominating all three judges by the Directorate-General of Islamic Culture and Guidance of the province.

But this year, two judges were selected by the provincial authorities, and one of the judges was selected by the General Department of Performing Arts and sent as a judge and supervisor of the festival.

### **The Competition shows**

The competition order will also be in accordance with the guide-

line being sent for the province in one of the following ways:

A competition of all components and elements such as the best directing , playwriting , acting male and female, stage designing, costume designing, brochure designing, music, etc. Finally, two or three groups would be candidate for the Regional Theatre Festival or Fajr Festival.

A general competition without any detailed account for selecting two or three works for the Regional Theatre Festival.

### **The Methods of holding PTF**

The methods of holding Fajr theater festivals in the provinces are centralized and decentral-ized.

The concentrated order in which one city of the province would host the other nominated groups so as to perform there.

The scattered order in which the jury would be dispatched to every city of the province as to evaluate the works there. This order provides almost no chance of interaction among the groups.

### **The 34th PTF**

The 34th PTF was held in 32 provinces and two free-zone islands of Qeshm and Arvand in the present year on the basis of the activity guideline sent at the end of 2021. At first the Secretary of the PTF was established as to send invitations of participation as per the activity guideline and made available to the artists through the social networks. Next was the evaluation of the works which ended in selecting 5 to 14 works for taking part at the Festival. The event was largely welcomed during its activity in November and December, and the 75 to 78 selected works will be sent to the Directorate-General of the performing arts to be hosted by the regional festivals of Kermanshah, Bushehr, Fars and Mazandaran from Dec. 28, 2022 to Jan. 10, 2023. Based on the evaluation there, some 15 to 20 works would lead to the 41st Fajr International Theatre Festival.

## The biggest theater festival of West Asia comes to the end

**Iran Theater- Provincial Theatre Festival (PTF) in Iran is the largest theater festival in West Asia region.**

The 34th Provincial Theatre Festival was held in 34 provinces and regions of the country with 260 performances, 3826 artists and 36820 spectators for one month.

According to the public relations of the General Directorate of Performing Arts Center, 2022 PTF, which started on November 15, closed after a month of excitement hosted by 34 provinces.

In this national festival, which was held for the 34th time, 673 shows from all over the country applied and 550 works were accepted for the evaluation step.



The selection committee, whose members were among the provincial artists, reviewed the submitted works and selected 260 shows to participate in the provincial festivals.

After holding the provincial Theater festival and tight competition of artists, according to the number of participating works, the quality of the them and based on the imple-

mentation guidelines, 2 or 3 shows from each province were introduced to Fajr regional theater festivals based on the jury.

Accordingly 69 selected shows of the provinces will compete in four Fajr regional Theater Festivals and make their way to Fajr International Theater Festival.

After the last edition of Fajr Regional Theater

in 2014, Fajr Regional Theater Festival was revived in 2022 with the planning of the General Directorate of Performing Arts Center to pave the way for the best shows to compete in Fajr International Theater Festival. After two years of stagnation in Iranian theater due to the pandemic, all provincial festivals were held in person in 2022 with enthusiastic presence of artists and the welcome of the audience and those interested in performing arts. The performance of 3826 artists in this event and 36,820 spectators welcomed the shows in 34 provinces, turned the 34th edition of Provincial Theatre Festival (PTF) into a great theatrical event.

## Tehran International Puppet Theater Festival was postponed to Spring 2023

According to Iran-Theater, citing the public relations of the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Show Festival, based on the request of the Festival director and with the approval of Kazem Nazari, the General Director of Dramatic Arts center of Iran, holding this artistic event was postponed to the Spring of 1402 (2023).

Mentioning the reasons for this decision and pointing to the importance of this international festival, Hadi Hejazi said: "According to various reasons and after talking with groups, professors and activists in this field and members of the Puppet Show Association, I believe that for the Technical reasons, lack of continuous rehearsals of the groups, the difficulties of the participants and the audience enjoying domestic and international performances, the impossibility of the participation of the private sectors due to the coincidence with the World Cup..., holding the festival at this time, will not be possible.

Hijazifar said: incompletely holding it at a time when the goal of the Department of Performing Arts is to promote and develop puppet shows, will deprive us of many blessings of this festival. He added that by changing the time of the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Show Festival and holding it in the Spring of 1402 (2023), we will have a magnificent international festival and provide an opportunity for students and other audiences and especially enthusiasts from all provinces to observe, learn and synergize with Find a way to discuss and criticize.

## The evaluation of the submitted shows for the stage section of FITF begins

**Iran Theater- The evaluation of the submitted shows for stage section of the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival will begin intensively from December 6 to 11.**

Hojatollah Nazari, head of the secretariat and executive director of the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival, announced the beginning of the evaluation of the submitted shows of the stage section.

Hojatollah Nazari said: "According to the call schedule of the 41st FITF, the review will start on December 6."

Nazari explained: "These reviews are for the section of the big competition of stage section (direct submission) to the festival, which will start from December, 6 and will continue until December 11."

He explained about the way of planning reviews that: "Provinces were placed in the evaluation process based on the priorities of the lottery in the festival secretariat."

In the end, he introduced the members of the evaluation committee of the FITF and said: "Hossein Ali Shavandi, Mohammad Reza Azad and Seyed Mostafa Motorchi are members of evaluation committee."

The 41st Fajr International Theater Festival will be held in February under the direction of Koorosh Zareie.

**Majid Alambeigi:**

# **Many people do not consider theater a job**

**Iran Theater- Majid Alambeigi, stage actor and director, stated that he would direct the show Coffee Shops soon, .**

**He believed that unfortunately, many people do not consider theater as a job because the law and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare do not define art a job.**

**What about the process of preparation and production of the show "Coffee Shops"?**

Rehearsals began in early days of September, and These days we are doing the final process to bring the show on stage.

**In What genre and what topic does this show deal with?**

"Coffee shops" is a comedy with an absurd approach. Basically, the show is adopted from three plays written by Victor Van Bilo. The three plays were written separately which turned out to be one play as a result of my rewriting them with a common story line. Coffee shop is a symbol of society.

**Many audiences know you with children shows and comedy, what factor has caused this way of thinking?**

For 33 years, I have been working as an actor and director in various genres. It is true that most of the audience know me because of my per-



formances in comedy and children's works. In my opinion, these two genres have a lot in common. The first thing they have in common is that they are funny. In addition, comedians and children are honest and innocent people who have a pure and gentle spirit.

**What things are important to you for performing a play?**

First of all, the play must have an attractive story, and then as an actor or director, I should have the facilities and ability to bring it on stage; Do I have something to add to the plot and can I develop it or not?!

**Mehrdad Kavousi -Hosseini to Iran Theater:**

## The first tradition of theater is friendship

Iran Theater-Seyed Mehrdad Kavousi - Hosseini, the director whose show competes at the 34th theater festival of Hamadan province, believes that the veteran stage artists of the province, active artists and students should unite to first fulfill the custom of friendship and then the competition will begin.

The 34th theater festival of Hamedan province was held under the direction of Kianoosh Behroozpour from 22-25 of November in Bahar city. Seyed Mehrdad Kavousi-Hosseini is known to the stage artists for his Naghali and acting on the theater stage and he is present in the 34th theater festival of the province as the director of the show "The Singing of lip Reed to the End of Red Rose".

**Tell us about the show "The Singing of lip Reed to the End of Red Rose" and how you decide to bring it on stage.**

I read a lot of plays in order to direct a work according to today's social relations.

The play "The Singing of lip Reed to the End of Red Rose" is a romantic tragedy and is one of my concerns these years. We examine open love and hidden love in this show that sometimes love can be useful and sometimes harmful.

**How did you see the 34th provincial theater festival?**



All festivals have many advantages and disadvantages, which is better to leave aside the praises in dealing with this question. Sometimes the hall and performance facilities are not suitable for the performance group, sometimes the light and lighting facilities do not match with what we have designed. The fact that the festival is held in a small town in terms of geographical location and that we are happy to see old friends through this festival.

**How do you evaluate the theater situation in Hamadan province?**

I think that the theater in Hamadan province is as a half-life cripple, if it is not taken care of, this shortcoming and disability will grow day by day, and somewhere this half-life body will be disabled. The veteran stage artists of the province, active artists and students should unite to first fulfill the custom of friendship and then the competition will begin.

In my opinion, if we didn't have the International Children and Youth Theater Festival, there would be no such thing as Hamedan Province Theater.

## In The Name of God

Dramatic  
Arts  
Center



Dear artists,

You are hereby invited to be a guest of the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival from January 21st to 31st, 2023 by holding an educational workshop in the field of performing arts (acting, playwriting, directing, sound and light designing, stage designing).

For this purpose, please send me the proposal for holding your training workshop in detail, along with your resume (CV), by the end of December. The forwarded requests would be notified of the acceptance and review time table.

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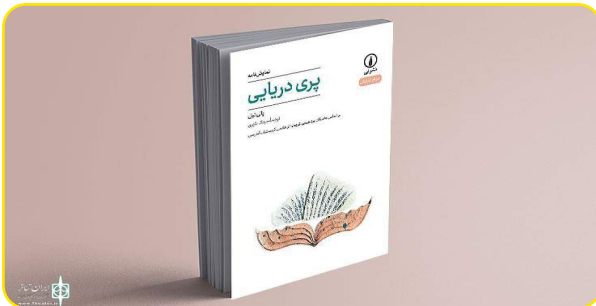


## Khosrow Bamdad Dies at 84

Iran Theater-Khosrow Bamdad, researcher, lecturer, playwright and veteran theater director, passed away today, Wednesday, November 10, due to old age.

During his professional career, he wrote the plays "Sharpening Knife", "Goodbye Forever", "Hasanak Vazir", "Mansour Hallaj", "Two Women" and "Khasi Dar Mi'ad". As a director, he brought on stage many plays, including "Bear", "Illusion", "Journey in the Desert", "Rainy Night" and "Robotic servant".

As a researcher and lecturer, he analyzed the works of playwrights such as Shakespeare, August Strindberg, Harold Pinter, Eugène Ionesco and Eugene O'Neill.



## Polly Teale's Mermaid is translated into Persian

Iran Theater-Ney Publishing published the play *Mermaid* written by Polly Teale and translated by Mazdak Booluri based on the story *The Little Mermaid* by Hans Christian Andersen.

Polly Teale (born December 1962) is a British theatre director and playwright best known for her work with the Shared Experience theatre company, of which she was an artistic director.

The play "Mermaid" is an adaptation of the short story "The Little Mermaid" by Hans Christian Andersen. In Hans Christian Andersen's story, mermaids live in the depths of the ocean free, and when they reach puberty, they swim to the surface to see the world above.

The mermaid leaves the ocean (which is like the Amniotic sac of the fetus in the mother's womb) behind and suddenly finds herself a different being in a vast world. From this moment on, there is no going back to the safe world. She looks at the world with all its beauty and violence, and at the same moment she falls in love with a mortal prince. She can no longer remember what it feels like to feel whole inside. For the first time in her life, she experiences having a dream and along with it, the feeling of loneliness comes to her. She must either live under the ocean, invisible from the world of people, or sacrifice her language and voice and beautiful song so that she can walk in the world above the ocean and win the Prince's love.

Mahtab Askari on Oedipus Rex

## Performing classical plays is a great lesson

Iran Theater-Mahtab Askari, the director of the show *Oedipus Rex* believes that theater is a dynamic art that should move with the times.

*Oedipus Rex*, also known by its Greek title, *Oedipus Tyrannus*, or *Oedipus the King*, is an Athenian tragedy by Sophocles that was first performed around 429 BC. Originally, to the ancient Greeks, the title was simply *Oedipus*, as it is referred to by Aristotle in the *Poetics*.

The show "*Oedipus Rex*" is on stage at Tehran Theater Complex these days.

Mahtab Askari explained why she chose this play: "It is a great honor for any director to be close to the classic and authentic works of the world. I decided to direct one of the classic plays a long time ago."

She continued: "Performing classical plays is a great lesson and experience in the career of theater directors. Initially, I prepared the play "*Prometheus Bound*", but finally I decided to direct the play *Oedipus Rex*."

Askari added: "Theater is alive art and based on the conditions of the time. Certainly, artists can communicate with people much better and have a greater impact on people. Definitely, the show that reflects the society should stay on the stage. We, the directors and writers, must be the voice of the people and we must move forward with the society."





## “Five Continents of Theater” the latest work of Eugenio Barba and Nicola Savarze translated

“Five Continents of Theater” the latest work of Eugenio Barba and Nicola Savarze translated by Mohsen Tamadoninejad and Shahab Agahi and published in 548 pages by Nimaj.

It has been written for those interested in theater criticism and theory.

This is a book resulted from more than twenty years of research. For the first time, the authors define the history of theater from the point of view of the actors and explore the material culture engraved in them; a culture that focuses on usefulness, preparation and flexibility and requires a set of myths and stories that make the profession of theater fertile and fruitful.

Eugenio Barba is a theater director and writer from Italy who lives in Holstebro, Denmark. He is the founder of the prominent theater group Odin Teatret (Odin Theater) and the international school “Theatre Anthropology”, both of which are located in Holstebro, Denmark.

In this book, Eugenio Barba realizes his long-time dream and visits the mysterious and dark rooms of the hidden history of the theater. Emotional aspects of values such as friendship, courage, self-sacrifice, rebellion, patriotism and inner exploration emerge in the hidden history of theater.

In this book we read: “Where do I come from?” who am I, where do I go. In order to answer these questions, we have to re-examine the countless forms, experiences, findings and secrets that the history of this profession conveys to us from a different perspective. This is the only way to build a personal compass on the way to cross the five continents of our career: where? who? how about? for whom? and why do we work in theater?

## Iranian present at the 26th Bursa Theater Festival

Iran Theater-The Iranian show **My Imaginary Skirt** will go on stage at Bursa International Children and Youth Theater Festival.

The show “My Imaginary Skirt” written and directed by Behnaz Mehdikhah is produced by Kanoon Theater Production Center.

The show went on stage in 2019 at the theater and puppet show production Center (Kanoon aka Center for the Intellectual Development of Child and Adolescent), and was well received by the audience. Behnaz Mehdikhah is also playwright, performer, designer and making puppets for the show.

The story deals with the life of an actress who describes her world. She says that with an incident in her childhood, her black and white world has become colorful like a rainbow. In this show, the audience goes with the actress to her childhood in a village and to see and discover the beauty that exists in nature. The sound of roosters and chirping of birds, meeting the earth, hearing the song of seeds and plants that are growing and growing, bathing in the river and sleeping under the starry roof of the sky, all with pleasant images that are in the corners of the girl’s imaginary skirt. It leads the audience to better see and hear the beauty of the surrounding environment and God’s blessings.

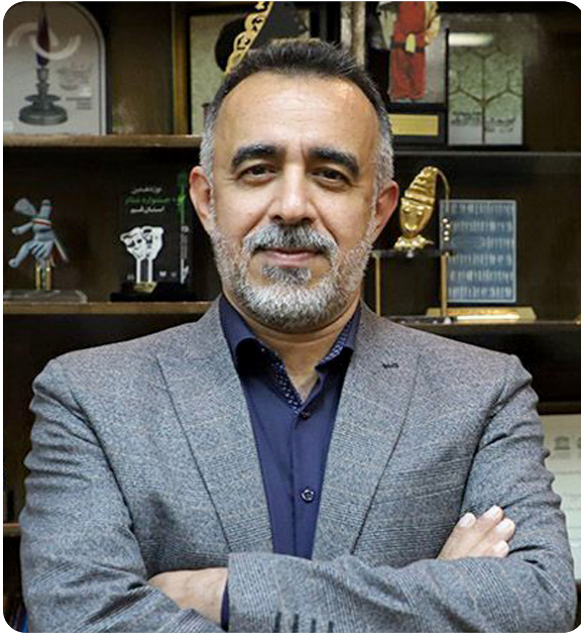
Arash Solgi is the composer, Farzad Soleimani and Alireza Hosseini are the assistant directors, Azade Farhangian is the poet, Maryam Gholami and Behnaz Mehdikhah are the stage and decor designers.

The 26th edition of Bursa International Children and Youth Theatre Festival will be held on November 12-17. Six performances from Turkey and three from various countries will be presented free of charge alongside workshops, seminars and artistic gatherings for TYA practitioners.

workshops, seminars and artistic gatherings for TYA practitioners.

Providing its artistic consultancy, ASSITEJ Turkey has been an integral part of the festival that’s an anticipated annual event in the historic city of Bursa. “Inspiring artists through recognition, promoting growth with international cooperation, and creating a high-quality TYA experience for the public” being the main goals of our involvement, we look forward to reaching more troupes and a bigger audience every year.





Kazem Nazari on Tehran Province Theater Festival:

## We must use the full capacities of performing arts in the cities

**Iran Theater- Kazem Nazari believes that the artistic capacity of the theaters of the cities of Tehran province is bigger than the capital itself, which should be used for the development of performing arts. He considers holding the provincial theater festival as one of the ways to flourish this latent capacity.**

The 27th Tehran Province Theater Festival will start on Tuesday, October 22 at the Tehran Theater Complex.

Kazem Nazari, General Director of Dramatic Arts Center of Iran, believes in the necessity of holding a theater festival in Tehran province: "Tehran Province Theater Festival is an artistic event for the artists of the cities of Tehran Province, and there are capacities in this county that may be even beyond Tehran. Therefore, as the utilization of facilities and capacities increases in the cities of province, it will help the development of theater."

The General Director of Dramatic Arts Center of Iran, continued: "I have taken over the management of the performing arts center this year and have closely observed the activities of the performing arts association of Tehran province and I have found out that due to the presence of Shafei, the performance of this association has been very good and acceptable." "Although there are short-

comings in the performing arts association, it should be pointed out that some of the weaknesses are not related to individuals, but to financial and logistical issues that will be corrected over time. Our expectations from the Performing Arts Association of Tehran Province are more than this and Again, it is possible to use the capacities of performing arts (artists and spaces) of the county and cities of Tehran province, But it is necessary to provide a series of support for the progress of theater in the cities of Tehran province. "

Nazari emphasizes on strengthening the theater economy of the cities: "When the livelihood, economic and cultural issues of the artist are resolved, there will be no need to migrate to Tehran and leave their city. For example, Shahryar is a relatively large city and has many theater groups and theater directors who live there, but why is there no platform for theatrical activity there so that these people can engage in artistic productions and perform their works in the same city? The only reason is that the facilities have been concentrated in Tehran and they have been forced to migrate to Tehran and has left their city. "

The 27th Tehran Province Theater Festival will be held from November ( 22-27) in the Tehran Theater Complex.

### Woody Allen's Don't Drink the Water Comes to stage in Tehran

Iran Theater-The show Don't Drink the Water written by Woody Allen and directed by Taha Mohammadi, which tells the story of the problems of a priest in a communist country, comes on stage from (Friday, November 11) at Sepand Theater Complex.

Don't Drink the Water is a play written by Woody Allen that premiered on Broadway in 1966. The farce takes place inside an American Embassy behind the Iron Curtain. Although Allen contributed material for the 1960 Broadway musical revue From A to Z, this was his first professionally produced play. The play was described as being "near the hit line", "one big overfed American folk joke" and "a very funny situation comedy" by critic Otis L. Guernsey.

The story take place in an unnamed European country behind the Iron Curtain. The American Ambassador must leave the Embassy for business. In his absence he places his incompetent son Axel Magee in charge. Almost immediately the Embassy is thrust into a crisis as the Hollanders, an American family of tourists, come rushing in on the run from the Communist police. Walter Hollander, the father, had accidentally snuck into a high security area and taken pictures, causing the communists to believe that the family are spies. Axel digs the hole deeper



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