



The Presence of 91 performances in the 41st Fadjr International Theater Festival in Tehran (2023)

Minister of Culture & Islamic Guidance: Artists with different tastes were presented in FITF



Iran Theater- Mohammad Mahdi Esmaeili, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, said in Saf Aval program of the news channel in I.R.I.B that many artists of all tastes with all kinds of costumes and dialects were present at 41st FITF, and that we can make fundamental changes in the field of culture and art for the benefit of all

people.

He presented a report on the sidelines of Fadjr cultural and artistic festivals and the government's approach to these events in Khabar channel, I.R.I.B.

"This festival was well received by people and art lovers."

He added: "One of the most important topics that was at the center of our priorities from the beginning was the field of culture. We intend to change these existing conditions in the cultural and artistic sectors in favor of regions and to provide opportunities for all young Iranians."

"The artistic field of the country seems to be enclosed in certain areas of Tehran and we must break this fence. If we talk a lot about cultural justice, it is for this reason that the artists of all cities should be seen."

Whst's inside:

- ② **The Meeting of the Islamic World Theater Union was held in the 41st FITF,2023**
.....
- ③ **Txema Munoz:**
Iran has the largest number of theater festivals in the world
.....
- ④ **Iraqi theatre troupes meets organizers of Iran's FITF**
.....
- ⑤ **Ahmed Hasan Mousa:**
The young and creative generation of Iranian theater is amazing
.....
- ⑨ **Ali Al-Sudani:**
Communication with the world begins and ends through cultural communication
.....
- ⑫ **Ara Yernjakyany from Armenia:**
Iranian shows have modern language
.....
- ⑫ **Lenerson Polonini from Brazil:**
Theater can be a symbol of our inner being

The Meeting of the Islamic World Theater Union was held in the 41st FITF, 2023

Iran Theater- Hassan Rahimpour- Azghadi, a member of Iran's Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, said: we are thinking about rebuilding Islamic civilization.

The meeting of the Islamic World Theater Union was held Sunday morning, Jan.29, on the 10th day of the 41st FITF, with the presence and speech of Hassan Rahimpour- Azghadi in the City Theater Complex.

The meeting of the Islamic World Theater Union was held with the presence of guests and officials: Kazem Nazari (General Director of DAC and Chairman of the Founding Board of the Islamic World Theater Union), Ahmad Hassan Moussa from Iraq, Jamal Garmi (theater director and head of the artistic department of the National Theater of Algeria), Sadegh Rashidi from Iran. Ezzeddin Abbasi (head of the Tunis University of Fine Arts), Jalila Fahdi from Oman, Adel Shams from Bahrain and Kooroush Zareie (theater director and Artistic Director of the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival) as founding members of the Islamic World Theater Union.

Kazem Nazari, general director of DAC, said: I hope that good things will happen in this international consensus of the Islamic World Theater Union. There is a theater union of European countries in

UNESCO, but there was a lack of such a union for Islamic countries with this capacity and potential. And we hope that we will be able to form this union with the cooperation of the festival guests, so that it has a constitution, a guideline, and members who can provide education in performing arts, networking between countries and



members, as well as Sustainability in performing arts and macro planning in the field of drama and theater.

Then the poster of this cultural event was unveiled. Kooroush Zareie, Artistic Director of the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival, was the next speaker of this meeting.

"Theater is a medium that brings us closer to each other, and also allows us to agree on a common and global message and a word of peace and friendship. Islamic countries have made significant progress in economy, industry and construction. Like industry, economy and all ele-

ments needed by people, art and theater must develop. If we are together, we will achieve this progress in art. Theater is the art of dialogue and conversation between civilizations.

With theater, we can create human harmony between the cultures and customs of both Islamic and non-Islamic countries.

Theater is the only art that just deals with human beings and human values and ethics; Because human produces theater, the subject of theater is man and the beneficiary of theater is man. This triangle is made up of people with great people and moral thoughts, something that has been lost in the world today and we can."

Hassan Rahimpour-Azghadi, a member of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was present as a special guest and speaker in this event.

"There should be a discussion about the concept of Meeting of the Islamic World Theater

Union because it is the first time we have gathered together. As long as theater and cinema universities in the Islamic world do nothing but translate and the works that are translated are without sources, we will not have anything called the theater of the Islamic world."

"Ontology, anthropology, moral philosophy and legal philosophy are all influential in making the content and art that is offered." He continued: "We have been told that art has nothing to do with commitment and ideology, but today you will not see any work in cinema and theater in the world that is not ideological. We say that art has nothing to do with morality, but in today's society we see anti-moral art."

This expert stated: In the field of aesthetics, tangible beauty has been divided from reasonable beauty. Although both form and content should be beautiful. You cannot bring a vile content into an art form. This is a betrayal of beauty. We have to reproduce our own beliefs, worldview and anthropology as well as Islamic ethics and moral philosophy with new thinking, far from deviating towards westernization or easternization. Otherwise, civilization cannot be built without theater or new cinema.

Txema Munoz met the General Director of Dramatic Arts center of Iran and the president of festival

Iran has the largest number of theater festivals in the world



Iran Theater- Spanish actor and stage director, Txema Munoz had a meeting with Kazem Nazari, the General Director of DAC during the 2023 FITF.

Spanish director of the show "Lumiere" met Kazem Nazari (General Director of Dramatic Arts Center of Iran & President of Festival)

and Mozghan Vakili (Director of International Affairs of DAC) in the office of the general director of DAC.

Kazem Nazari confirmed the high position of Spanish artists in the world and welcomed the presence of Spanish artists in the 2023 FITF.

"Iran has a variety of festivals, and therefore Iran can be considered to have the largest number of theater festivals in the world."

The Director General of DAC considered this to be the result of Iranians' great interest in performing arts. Txema Munoz discussed that

theater has common movements and the basics everywhere in the world.

"Different countries of the world may have different points of view in politics, but they all share the same feelings, and all feelings can be unified on stage."

Txema Munoz has a conservatory education, mime and pantomime and choreography and magician. He said: In the first two days of my stay in Iran, I have gotten to know more about Iranian art and I hope that next year I will be able to participate in Iranian theater festivals

with more shows. Mozghan Vakili, Director of International Affairs of DAC announced the holding of a new festival in Zanjan city in the field of happy shows (circus, clown, etc.) next year, which was also welcomed by the Spanish artist, and he expressed his hope that he would be able to participate in this festival with shows New participation.

The Spanish monologue "Lumiere" written and directed by Txema Munoz and Carls Sans competes in the international section of the 2023 FITF.

A Russian troupe praised Iran



Iran Theater- The cast and crew of Poor Liza appreciated the warm welcome and attention of the Iranian audience.

"Poor Liza" theater group, which performed twice on the 10th day of Fajr International Theater Festival in Vahdat Hall and received a great reception from the audience and artists, expressed their gratitude to their Iranian audience and fans on their social media accounts.

"January 30th (10th of Bahman) in Tehran and at the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival, we performed the play "Poor Liza" twice. Thank you for the warm welcome, cheers and shouts from the audience. Bravo! Thank you Iran!"

The play "Poor Liza" which was a musical work, with a folklore and romantic story, "Poor Liza" was welcomed by Iranian theatergoers.

The meeting of the jury of the international section with the general director of DAC and the secretary of the FITF

The meeting of the jury of the international section with Kazem Nazari, General Director of DAC and Kooroush Zareie, Artistic Director of the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival was held, Saturday, January 21st, at the Dramatic Arts Center of Iran.

The explanation of the details of the judging process of the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival, the details of the performance of the works of the international section and attention to the cultural exchanges between the countries present in this event were some of the matters to be noted in this ceremony.

In this meeting, Kazem Nazari General Director of DAC, spoke about the need to address the points of view, suggestions and criticisms of the juries of the international section in order to hold this artistic event as well as possible in the coming years.

In this ceremony, Ivana Vujić Kominac, a jury from Serbia, also expressed her satisfaction of being in Iran and expressed her desire for more cooperation between Iran and Serbia.

Other juries of this artistic event also said the need for more cooperation in the theater field of the countries.

Mr. Jeung Woo Son from South Korea, Ms. Ivana Vujić Kominac from Serbia, Mr. Ahmed Hasan Mousa from Iraq are the jury members of the international section of the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival who were present at this event.

Ahmed Hasan Mousa on Iranian stage artists and FITF

The young and creative generation of Iranian theater is amazing

Iran Theater- Ahmad Hasan Mousa, jury of the international competition section of FITF, says: what surprised me was the talented and creative young generation in Iranian theater.

The 41st Fajr International Theater Festival ended with the introduction of the winners of different sections in the closing ceremony held at Vahdat Hall. Iran Theater made an interview with Ahmed Hassan Mousa, who was from Iraq.

How did you find the thematic diversity of the works of 41st FITF?

In any international festival, it is better to reflect the current conditions and reality of that country. I saw a lot of variety in Iranian shows, which were about thirteen shows. Foreign and Arab shows also brought the current conditions of their own countries

to the stage; And of course, it is the nature of any festival to have diverse topics according to the countries participating in it.

I know you have been familiar with Iranian theater for a long time; How do you see the quality of Iranian plays and the state of Iranian theater compared to the past?

Iranian theater is an advanced theater in the past and now, and because you have so many halls and venues. The high number of shows creates creativity. When 120 shows are produced in Iran per year, surely at least a quarter of these shows will be diverse and creative; And what is surprising is the talented and creative young generation in Iranian theater.

What is your advice about holding FITF?

Pay more attention to the audi-



ence. More countries should be given importance to participate in the festival. This festival has been held for forty-one years and this festival, which I love so much, should become stronger and shine like a lasting work in the region and the world.

Mark Rozovski's Poor Liza was welcomed by the audience

Iran Theater-On the last day of the 41st FITF, the show Poor Liza from Russia was welcomed by the audience.

The musical show "Poor Liza" has a folklore and romantic story and went on stage on Monday, Jan.30, at 17:00 and 20:00 at Vahdat Hall.

This show was performed with a hall full of audiences. Apparently, most of the audience were theatergoers. Seyed Javad Taheri, the di-

rector of the City Theater Complex, Asghar Khalili, stage director and a group of Russian watched poor Liza at Vahdat Hall.

Although the subtitles of this show-like all the shows in the international section-were sometimes disturbed, but the explanations of the brochure, the simplicity of the story, and the good acting of the cast, who all mastered singing, made the Iranian audience relate to the

show.

Lenerson Polonini's stateless from Brazil went on stage at Vahdat Hall as well. It was about war and immigration, which was performed in the form of several monologues. Lenerson Polonini's stateless relied on words and there was a lot of interference in its subtitles, so there was a little bit difficult for audiences to communicate with it.

Iraqi theatre troupes meets organizers of Iran's FITF

Iran Theater- Two Iraqi theatre troupes met Kazem Nazari (General Director of Dramatic Arts Center of Iran President of Festival) , Kooroush Zareie (Festival Artistic Director), Gholamreza Nemati (Executive Deputy of DAC) and Mozhgan Vakili (Director of International Affairs of DAC) on Tuesday.

Kooroush Zareie mentioned the progress of Fajr International Theater Festival from Iran to Arab countries and other regional countries such as Turkey and Azerbaijan.

He clearly said that after his participation in a theater festival in Iraq, his opinion about the state of theater in Iraq has changed, and for this reason, the Iraqi people should be congratulated.

Kazem Nazari praised the members of two Iraqi troupes in the 41st FITF and their very good performance.

He confirmed Kooroush Zareie's opinion and added that he did not have a clear view of the theater in Iraq before, but after watching these two Iraqi shows, his view has changed.

He said: There are Arabic-speaking cities in the Khuzestan region where theater festivals in Arabic can be held. After the 2023 FITF, Kooroush Zareie will follow up on this, and in addition to stage section, these festivals will have a variety of sections such as puppet, ritual-traditional, religious, children and young adults, etc...

Kazem Nazari emphasized on the possibility of co- production of the show with the coop-

eration of Iranian and Iraqi theater troupes in these festivals and announced his readiness to carry out academic and research projects in the field of performing arts between universities and scientific and research centers of Iran and Iraq.

Kooroush Zareie mentioned that he received his new order as the secretary of the 20th Razavi Theater Festival, which will be held in June, 2023 in Tabriz.

He added: Ten professional writers have been commissioned to write ten plays, and these plays will also be translated into Arabic. He invited all those interested in Imams and lovers of Imam Reza (AS) in Iraq to participate in this festival.

Then, Dr. Ali Al-Sudani, director of the theater of Iraq, thanked the organizers of FITF and announced that the theater situation in Iraq is very good.

Al-Sudani, who in the absence of Javad Alasadi, the director of the show "Amal", managed the performance of this show at the 2023 FITF, added that after his participation in this festival, he considers Tehran a beautiful city and a city of lovers.

Mohammad Moayyed, director of the show "Mercy Shot" also thanked the organizers of the FITF and all the members of his troupe who worked with him to perform this show.

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

In The Name of God

Dramatic Arts Center of Iran (DAC) is pleased to inform you that the 2nd Pantomime International Theatre Festival will take place from July 2nd to 6th 2023 in Zanjan, Iran.

We highly appreciate if you could send the new production of your company. The application should reach by the deadline of the May 21st, 2023. The selection Committee will announce the invited international guest Performances through international affairs office of Dramatic Arts center.

The festival will be held uncompetitive in international Section.

Theatrical axes of the festival (Performances' Section):

* Mimo dynamic

* La mime

* Momo musical

Workshop Section:

* Mimo drama *Clown

* Dumb drama

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<https://theater.ir/en/attach/412355>





Omani Ambassador Ibrahim Almuaini visits 2023 FITF

Iran Theater- Omani Ambassador Ibrahim Bin Ahmed Almuaini visited Vahdat Hall and watched Youssef Al Balushi 's Henna Pestle. He watched Youssef Al Balushi 's Henna Pestle which is competing with some other shows in the International Competition section. Madgh Al-Henna (Henna Pestle) is a folk drama about a village that is attacked by foreigners and collapses occur in the absence of the village ruler, but the main character of the story saves the village from foreigners by uniting the people.

Before the performance, a friendly meeting was held in the Vahdat Hall with the presence of Ibrahim Almuaini ,Ambassador of Oman in Iran, Kazem Nazari ,General Director of Dramatic Arts Center of Iran President of Festival and Youssef Al Balushi , Director of the show.

There was a discussion about bilateral cultural interactions between Iran and Oman and the development and expansion of cultural and artistic relations between the two countries was emphasized.

Then, Kazem Nazari went to the backstage of the "Henna Pestle "with the Omani ambassador and wished the Omani theatrical troupe success.

Youssef Al Balushi on Henna Pestle

I have introduced some Iranian accent in my work

Youssef Al Balushi brings Madagh Al-Henna (Henna Pestle) to the 2023 FITF. It went on stage in International section at Vahdat Hall, Saturday, January 28th. Madgh Al-Henna (Henna Pestle) is a folk drama about a village that is attacked by foreigners and collapses occur in the absence of the village ruler, but the main character of the story saves the village from foreigners by uniting the people.

Youssef Al Balushi stated that he had done a lot of work in the field of theater, cinema and television and his emphasis was mostly on television drama and theater. He said: "The first similarity I have seen between Iranian and Omani filmmakers is makeup, and at the same time there are many common features. There is a relationship between Iranian and Omani cinema and I hope that a great joint work will be done between Iranian and Omani cinemas."

He clarified: Iranian cinema is widely followed in Oman, and Iranians have won numerous awards in prestigious international festivals, which shows Iran's cinematic strength.

The director of the theater, television and cinema from Oman continued: Iran and Oman have many geographical and natural similarities, such as the sea coast, and the name of our group is Mezon, which was chosen by the Iranians in ancient times for Oman, which means the land of water.

Stating that the relationship between Iranians and Omanis is deep rooted and historical, he added: "I like Iranian cinema very much because it is a very powerful cinema that depicts nature, history, Iranian stories and the identity of Iranians. One of the Iranian directors whose work I am very fond of is Majid Majidi, who made the enduring film Children



of Heaven, and among Iranian actors, I also like Shahab Hosseini's performance".

Referring to the differences between Iran and other countries, Al-Balushi emphasized: "My concern in the show that I have brought to Iran is the language of my show, because my audience was Arab countries, but this relationship with the Iranian audience may not develop as I would like. And another difference is that Fajr Festival is an old, famous and prestigious festival and I have never attended a festival with such an age. He stated that they were very happy to be in this festival and I participated in this festival with all their love and interest, adding: "I have introduced some Iranian accent in my work, which is the difference between this work and my other works."

Director of Madagh Al-Henna continued: "From the moment I arrived in Iran, I saw nothing but goodness from Iranians, and I thank Dr. Mansoori, the secretary of the international department of the festival, who cooperated very well with us. We are very satisfied with the rehearsal place and I am very happy that the Oman Theater is performing in the Vahdat Hall, which is the venue of the Iranian National theatre hall.

Referring to Iran's history and culture, he emphasized: "The solidarity between Iran and Oman was formed by translating Iranian narratives, texts and stories, and I read Iranian texts. Iran has the richest culture and history in the world and also has scientists. It has been in all fields and we read this culture and history in our textbooks.



Ali Al-Sudani on the 2023 FITF

Communication with the world begins and ends through cultural communication

The show "Amal" from Iraq competes in the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival, it has a bold and truthful approach to the issue of identity and human security in Iraq.

Iran Theater had a conversation with Dr. Ali Al-Sudani, Director of Theater, Cinema and Theater Department in Iraq, director of the Baghdad International Theater Festival and head of the theater troupe, about the show "Amal", the experience of attending FITF.

Considering the facilities, you had at the FITF in Iran, are you satisfied with the experience of performing the show in Iran?

It was a wonderful experience. For our performance, the organizers of the festival chose Molavi Hall, where everything is done very orderly, accurate and professionally. Definitely, all the facilities we needed for this performance were provided to us. This is a proof of the correct choice of the selection board of the festival theaters, which chose that hall for our show.

Are you familiar with performing

arts in Iran? How do you evaluate the status and quality of performing arts in Iran?

I have seen very few shows from Iran. I saw very few plays this year, but in 2022 when fifty Iranian plays were submitted to the Baghdad International Theater Festival, I saw both strong and weak ones. I saw shows that were really beautiful. In my opinion, there are two kinds of shows, dependent and independent. Sometimes independent shows are stronger than dependent shows and sometimes public shows are stronger than independent ones. Our two shows that were performed at the 2023 FITF, although they were introduced by the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Arts, are actually independent shows. The weak point that I see is that, in my opinion, the show should not be in competition and under the microscope of a festival and the festivals should not recognize the value of the shows, but the people themselves should have the microscope and recognize the quality of the shows. This is how it should be and this is very important to me.

What do you think about FITF? What achievements do you consider for holding this festival?

Fajr International Theater Festival has been held for 41 years and I am only one year older than FITF, because I am 42 years old. I had never heard anything about Iran's Fajr

Theater Festival in my entire life. When I met Morteza Mansouri in Iraq, I got to know the Fajr Theater Festival. It should also be kept in mind that the festival is not the only place where the show is performed in a country; the festival means exporting culture and truth and changing the world's opinion towards the country. We have to be careful even in choosing theater critics. In this festival, there are guests from Arab countries and the world. We, the foreign participants in this festival, differ only in the regional situation, but we all agree about the love for Iran against its foreign enemy, and this is the secret of the victory of FITF. In order to win, we must find each other's mistakes and complete each other. FITF has started with strength and is still trying to continue with strength. FITF is not just an event for performing plays; I see that what festival is doing today is actually one of the tasks and goals of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Communication with the world begins and ends through cultural communication. It is the duty of all Iranian artists to support theater directors of Iran nowadays. After the end of the festival, a meeting should be held and talk about the shows and past editions of festivals. This was one of the secrets of the success of the Baghdad Theater Festival. We may have disagreements, but we all agree on theater.

The message of Dr. Kazem Nazari on the 2023 FITF

In the Name of Almighty Persian Poem: Your face charms the world, yes together we can conquer the world

The supreme and hopeful scope of theater art, as it is considered the closest aesthetic and thought-oriented type to human life; can reflect human's intellectual existence and social behavior.

Art accurately and delicately observes the inner concerns and outer actions of today's human, especially those facing the waves of destruction and the invading masses of distress, via reproducing and playing a role in an artistic presentation, and presents it to the audience honestly and broadly and invite them to watch and reflect and return to one's spiritual capacities and capabilities.

From this point of view, the "41st Fajr International Theater Festival" is the closest artistic event that presents itself to committed and broad-minded

artists to show the explanatory approaches of the art of the revolution and the values arising from the ancient Iranian culture with an original but comprehensive, universal and modern source, in the form of theater and other types of performances and to show Iranian cultural proudly above other converging territories in today's world. Undoubtedly, the artistic works that have reached this festival are signs of maturity and wisdom in the context of the concepts and components of the Islamic revolution of these people and the values and virtues present in the heart of the social beliefs of this nation of Imam Hossein, so it shows that it is a huge amount of values resulting from the deep and effective cooperation of the performing arts associations across the country and the general administrations of culture and Islamic guidance of the provinces with the dramatic arts center that reflect the evolution and development of city, provin-

cial and regional festivals, which, like an eye-catching stream, has reached the bright and promising place of the national and international part of this transformative art from the young efforts and experiences.

We appreciate this synergy based on trust and sympathetic achievements and we hope that this rare experience on the stage of great Iran will be able to shine prosperously and highly eternal lights on the theater and its discerning audience.

This goal is not certainly a far-fetched ideal from the capabilities of this expressive, modern, ancient and extensive art, as well as the experience and thought of the old and young activists in this field.

I hope the world of all of us get enlightened by the favors of God and we see more effective and extensive events which take their light from the heavenly borders of the culture and art of this country.

A meeting of Omani artists was held to recognize the art of nations



Iran Theater- Omani guests of the 2023 FITF met with Mahmoud Farhang and Dr. Ahmad Julaie in order to further cooperation for the recognition of the Theater of Nations at the Secretariat of 12th National and 1st International Mystics (Sahebdelan) Theater Festival.

The meeting was attended by Mahmoud Farhang (Festival Artistic Director of the 12th National and 1st International Mystics (Sahebdelan) Theater Festival) and Dr. Ahmad Julaie (Festival Artistic Director of the International Ritual and Traditional Festival) with Yousef Al-Balushi, the director, and Abbas Al-Hakim, the actor of the Omani theater group, who came to Iran to participate in the FITF in the place of the secretariat of Sahebdelan theater Festival.

Omani artists presented their plays in the 2023 FITF and mentioned their other activities such as participating in international festivals of Islamic countries in the region, Asia and Africa and the awards they received in these festivals.

As they said, the number of theater activists and graduates in Oman is now limited, but they have had a good reception for plays based on religious and the Quran.

Dr. Ahmed Julaie, the head of the webinar committee of the 12th National and 1st International Mystics (Sahebdelan) Theater Festival, spoke about the translation and exchange of theater works and literature between the two countries. And Omani artists also promised to cooperate with this researcher to produce and write the book "Oman Theater History".

Mahmoud Farhang, Festival Artistic Director of the 12th National and 1st International Mystics (Sahebdelan) Theater Festival, introduced the different section of this theatrical event and explained about its capacities.

Considering the quality level of works produced by Iranian artists and in order to recognize the artistic works of nations, it was decided that Omani artists should provide photos and books about the history of Omani theater for translation and printing to the secretary of Sahebdelan Theater Festival.

At the end of this meeting, the book "Modern History of the West" by Dr. Ahmad Julaie, the list of Sahebdelan Theater Festival and some plays from the publications of the DAC were given to the guests.

Meeting of the General Director of Dramatic Arts Center of Iran with Iranian new cultural advisor in South Africa



Iran Theater- Kazem Nazari, General Director of Dramatic Arts Center of Iran had a meeting with Seyed Mostafa Daryabari, Cultural advisor in South Africa, on the third day of the FITF at the Office of the General Director's office of Dramatic Arts Center of Iran and they examined ways to expand cultural and artistic interactions between Iran and South Africa.

Seyed Mostafa Daryabari, Iran's new cultural attaché in South Africa, pointed out the Population diversity of South Africa and emphasized that South Africa has good political relations with all the countries of the world. He added: Iran and South Africa have been in contact with each other since before the victory of Nelson Mandela's movement, and Iran has a good position for cultural activities in South Africa and there are almost no restrictions.

Daryabari said: A long-term contract between Iran and the Humanities Institute of South Africa is being finalized, which will be signed during Mr. Ebrahim Raisi's visit to South Africa next year.

Kazem Nazari also stated that the DAC has the capacity to produce, support, and hold all of the country's plays: Unfortunately, no play from South Africa is participating in the FITF. It is better to take advantage of South African art and culture in next year's festival by evaluating and inviting performances from South Africa."

The general director of DAC pointed out the position of puppet theater in this African country: Due to South Africa's high ability in puppet show, south African puppet show can be invite in the Iranian puppet theater festival. The Festival of Ritual-Traditional Performing Arts can also host South African shows in this type of performance.



Mohammad Moayyed on FITF

Performing theater in Iran has excited me

Iran Theater- Iraqi director Mohammad Moayyed said that his presence in the Fajr International Theater Festival makes him proud.

"Mercy Shot" is a show that depicts the story of human pain and suffering in the battlefield of today's world by performing physical movements of the actors accompanied by music. After the first performance of the show, Iran Theater had a conversation with Mohammad Moayyed about the Fajr International Theater Festival, performance in Iran and "Mercy Shot".

The show "Mercy Shot" has been on stage at Fajr International Theater Festival of Iran; How did you find the reaction of your Iranian audience?

I can say that participating in FITF makes me proud and I am so full of happiness that I am over the moon. I also thank all the Iranian artists and audiences for standing ovation.

Can you explain the process of the initial idea to the performance? What format and genre did you choose to perform your desired content and concept? And did you achieve your goal in performing the show?

I must say that I was engaged in writing the play for about five years. Also, due to the successive wars in my country and the fact that I myself have lost several of my relatives during the wars, and these issues have annoyed me, and made me think of bringing my purpose to the stage without using words and only using the body movements of the cast, in a way that is understandable to all people. So that this wordless theater, only in the form of actors' bodies, can convey its content about the painful condition of humans in today's world to the audience, and I can reach my goal. I believe that by performing the show, I have been able to get very close to my main purpose and the audience can identify with it.

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Has "Mercy Shot" been performed before in your hometown or in other countries? What has been the audience's feedback?

It was performed at a theater festival in Baghdad two months ago and won the award for the best group performance. It is the second performance in the 41st FITF. The show was well received in Iraq.

How did you find performing arts in Iran?

I must say that I regret the condition of performing arts in Iran. Iran has very outstanding facilities.

How did you choose the cast and the crew and what was your plan for them?

Since the physical ability of the performers is considered the most important feature for such performances, I have formed a group for years and have prepared my performers through training courses and sports, gymnastics and yoga.; But I needed cooperation from the organizers of the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival for decor and accessories and They fully cooperated with me in the preparation and performance of the show.

What's your idea about holding and participating in art events such as FITF? What do you think this festival will achieve?

I had no performance in Iran until before, but after a few days of staying in Iran and rehearsal and just one day after the festival, I can say that this festival is one of the most prominent festivals in the field of theater art. And the presence of artists from different countries along with Iranian artists in this artistic event will lead to interaction and companionship and cultural association and exchange of experiences between them. In my opinion, this festival has advantages that will benefit the culture and art of the region.

In general, how do you evaluate the enthusiasm of the Iranian audience for the shows in the Fajr International Theater Festival?

Although only one day has passed since the beginning of the Fajr International Theater Festival and our play was performed on the first day of festival, but during our several days of rehearsals and when I got feedback, I realized that the enthusiasm and interest of Iranian artists and audiences is very high towards the performing arts.

Ivana Vujić Kominac on FITF

Iran Theater- Ivana Vujić Kominac was a jury member of 41st FITF. This Serbian artist has worked in theater for many years and in various positions.

She was secretary of the Department of Theater Directing, member of the Faculty of Dramatic Arts, University of Arts Council member and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Arts (2008 to 2010). In 2012 she founded the Studio of Performing Arts Laboratory at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts. She was artistic director of Bitef theater from 1990 to 1997., As well as the artistic director of FIAT - International Festival of Alternative Theater in Podgorica from 1994 to 1996. He is the founder and artistic director of the urban fringe festival Aerpolan without engine from 1994-1997. She was artistic director of the festival Belef 1997-2001. For several years she was Director of International summer school of the University of Arts (in cities - Novi Pazar, Subotica, Negotin, Sremski Karlovci). She won the silver plaque of the University of Arts in 1995 and for contribution to the development of education and culture has gained high recognition of the Ministry of Science and obrazovna France - Order of Academic Palms - do commander knight of the order of 2010. She actively wrote for newspapers Scene literary word, Teatron. She is a member of the editorial board of the journal Interdisciplinary, Novi Sad.

How did you see FITF? Do you have any suggestions for the variety of works participating in the festival?



Some of the shows had subtitle, which made me understand the content when I saw the show, but some shows did not and we were not given their text; So I had to look carefully and understand the content and event on stage from the energy and feeling of the performers; Therefore, it is better that all shows have subtitle.

How do you evaluate the quality level of the works in terms of international section or national sections?

They had subjects that represented current problems, such as immigration. Some shows dealt with classical theater and showed it with their own point of view, like Hamlet and Macbeth, or the show from the country of Oman, which was a mystical show based on music and about the war between good and evil. Some shows also recounted a story; like the mourning story of one thousand and one nights; Fajr Theater Festival is a big festival and people from different regions of Iran participated in it, and it had various sections, such

as nations, international, street, etc. Even the shows that were held in the street section were very good shows. It is important to support the performances of small towns, because theater is formed by supporting the artists of these small towns. The festival is a way that you can educate the viewer, the audience, etc., and this is how you can create everything together. Also, by performing the show, you can build art schools. All this is formed through the festival. You can find an audience.

How was the judging process? Did it go according to plan?

In my opinion, all the jury members were competent and had good taste. For example, South Korea is a country that takes a serious look at culture. Our Iranian colleagues were also very competent and all of them were professionals and knew what events were happening in the world in their work. They did not deal with the issue in a biased way. They had good intentions.

The presence of the 91 Performances in 41st Fadjr International Theatre Festival in Tehran (2023)

Iran Theater- The 41st Fadjr International Theater Festival take place in Tehran from 15th to 31st of January , 2023 .The Festival was organized by Kooroush Zareie Artistic Director, Dr. Kazem Nazari president of FITF.

The first section of the festival was the radio drama section, where 13 works competed in this section and it was held from 15th to 20th of January. Festival hosted the audience for stage and street shows sections from 21st through 31st of January as well.

In this edition, stage shows were performed in the Vahdat Hall, City Theater Complex, Sangelaj Theater Complex, Molavi Hall, Iranshahr Theater and Hafez Hall. And area of Vahdat Hall and Ivan-Entezar of Valiaser metro station hosted the street shows of festival. 31 street shows were performed in the festival and 23 male directors and 7 female directors competed with

their works in this section. 37 shows went on stage in the grand stage competition sec-



tion of 41st FITF. 23 works were introduced to compete in the international competition section. Mr. Jeung Woo Son from South Korea, Ms. Ivana Vujic Kominaj from Serbia, Mr. Ahmed Hasan Mousa from Iraq and Tajbakhsh Fanaian, and Mehdi Hamed Saghaian from Iran were the jury members of the international section. 10 shows from 8 different countries of the world competed in this section: Brazil, Russia, Oman, Spain, Iraq, Armenia, Tunisia and Jordan.

In the playwriting section, 320 plays were registered in the secretariat, and finally 24 works were accepted. In the research section of the festival, 30 articles were sent to the Secretariat, and 9 works were selected for publication. The meeting of the Islamic World Theater Union was held Sunday morning, Jan.29, on the 10th day of the 41st FITF for the first time with the presence of artistic directors from 30 countries and the presence of the Director General of Performing Arts Center and the Secretary of the 41st FITF with the aim of establishing the "World Theater Union" in the Mashahir Hall of City Theater Complex.

The closing ceremony of the 41st Fadjr Theater Festival was held in Vahdat Hall with the presence of Culture Minister, officials and artists on January 31st , the winners of different sections were announced.

The 41st FITF crowns the winners

Iran Theater-The closing ceremony of the 41st Fadjr Theater Festival was held in Vahdat Hall with the presence of Culture Minister, officials and artists on January 31st.

International Competition:

Best light Design

Manouchehr Rahimi for "Iranians"

Special mention to Reza Khazaraï for the show "Corner under oaks" (Iran)

Best Make-up Design

Alaleh Bigdeli for "Iranians"

Best Costume Design

Mahbobeh Soltani for "Iranians"

Special mention to Farzad He-



dayat for "Macbethian"(Iran)

Best Production Design

Ahmed Aljabri for "Henna Pestle" (Oman)

Special mention to Ali Al-Soudani for the show "Amal"(Iraq)

Best Music

Behrang Abbasi for Farzad Hedayat for "Macbethian"(Iran)

Special mention to Youssef Al Haresi for "Henna Pestle"

(Oman)

Best playwright

Asghar Khalili for "Corner under oaks " (Iran)

Special mention to Masoud Biglari and Amirreza Maleki for "Red Hat" (Iran)

Best play

"Amal" directed by Javad Al-Asadi (Iraq)

Special mention to Ebrahim Poshtkahi for the show "Macbethian" (Iran)

Best Actress

Marjan Aghanouri for "Alaa"(Iran)

Special mention to Tarzab Ahmad Hasan al-Karkhi for "Amal"(Iraq)

Best Actor

Haider Juma for "Amal"(Iraq)

Ara Yernjakyan from Armenia: Iranian shows have modern language

A new adaptation of Hamlet from Armenia was performed on the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival on Sunday, Jan.29, at the main Hall of City Theater Complex. Iran Theater had a talk with Ara Yernjakyan on the avant-garde performance of Shakespeare's Hamlet.

Tell us about yourself.

I am Ara Yernjakyan, the founder and artistic director of Kamerayin Theater in Yerevan. Kamerayin Theater is not only a theater troupe, but also a theater complex with all the features of education, production and performance. Apart from directing, I also write. We have performed in many festivals around the world from America to Europe. Our play is based on the play "Hamlet" by William Shakespeare, but I have rewritten it. In fact, the setting of the play is Hamlet. Of course, it is changed. Therefore, the performance is not classical. The audiences of many festivals thought that the performance was energetic and youthful.

Are all of the members of your troupe from the "Kamerayin" theater?

Our theater is a public theater funded by the government. All the members of this theater are theater graduates and are employed by Kamerayin Theater. We have performed Hamlet in different parts of the world for about two years and it has always been well received by the audience. We won two awards for Hamlet: the best performance of the year and the "Artavazd" award, which is given to the best artists. We have participated in the Yerevan Shakespearean Festival as well, and we still have many invitations from other festivals like St. Petersburg and Poland.

Did you expect the good reception from the audience at FITF?

We participated in past Fajr International Theater Festival in Iran a few years ago, although our performance play was not a well-known play but the play was well received and both of our shows were performed with full audiences; Therefore, I somehow knew that Iranian audience would come to watch our show with enthusiasm and that our work would be welcomed.

Are you familiar with performing arts in Iran? Have you seen performances from Iran?

Yes, Iranian shows have participated in the "High Fest" theater festival, which is held every year in Armenia, I have also watched Iranian works. I like Iranian theater because it is modern and Iranian shows have modern language.

Lenerson Polonini from Brazil:

Theater can be a symbol of our inner being

Lenerson Polonini, a Brazilian artist lives in a country full of immigrants and is very familiar with this subject. He narrates the issue of stateless in a play of the same name that is written by his actress, Carina Casuscelli. It had staged at the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival.

Tell us about your background in the performing arts.

I'm glad to stage my show in Iran. I am Lenerson Polonini, a stage director. I have been working for almost twenty years. I am from Sao Paulo, Brazil. We have an art company in which we produce visual products and all kind of performances. It is important for us to be able to stage all kind of the arts, including image, video and performers. It is also very important for us that players with high physical and expressive abilities appear on stage and express their dialogues and monologues in a way that reflects our views on the world, because theater can be a symbol of ourselves and our inner being.

How do you hire the cast and crew?

Carina has been working with me for almost 20 years, as we direct shows together, but the rest of the cast has worked with us for about three to four years. We have a lot of cooperation with other art centers. There are approximately eight theater Centers in Brazil.

In the show, there were



many references to the defenselessness of people who have no citizenship. Which issue do you aim to blame more? Political or social issues?

All of them. For example, in São Paulo where we live, we have many immigrants from all over the world ; Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe,... In my opinion, the task of theater is to discuss these social problems. I think we can solve these problems through poetry and artistic performances.

Are you familiar with performing arts in Iran?

Four years ago in Greece, I saw a play by the Iranian director Abbas Abdullahzadeh. We became familiar with each other and it was amazing. I like Iranian artists and movies very much. I have also seen shows from Iran in Sao Paulo, but I don't remember their names now.

Did you watch any shows at FITF?

Yes. I saw the show "Girls", which was very good. I also watched the show I saw "Mazhakeh Ajaieebol-Makhlughat" which had a great music. It also had good calligraphy. It was really beautiful.

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