



## Kazem Nazari on 4.5 times increase in theater audience

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance:  
"Lonelier than Christ" was an original show



Iran Theater-The Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance said on the sidelines of watching the street show "Lonelier than Christ" that he had witnessed an original and well-documented theater that properly narrated the events of the early days of Islam.

Mohammad Mahdi Esmaeili (Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance), watched the "Lonelier than Christ" which is a story from Ghadir to Ashura 61

SH.

He said: I had the chance to watch the novel and real show with people. Establishing such a tent is a kind of initiative that the theater troupe "Lonelier than Christ" has done properly and they hosts thousands of lovers of Seyyed al-Shohada every night and they convey devotion to the Prophet's family.

He also emphasized the combined war that the enemy has started against Iran today and the necessity of holding such events: The combined war that the enemy has started against us today is mostly on the cultural front, Therefore such gatherings, which cause more and more bonding, should continue.

The fourth season of the show "Lonelier than Christ" is performed every night in the Velayat Park.

Those interested can go to the NAMATICKET.IR and reserve the tickets.

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Mahomud Salari :

## It took a lot of effort to promote the theater

**Iran Theater-Mahmoud Salari, Deputy Minister in Art Affairs, announced that in the last two years, a lot of efforts were made to revive the theater.**

**Salari explained the most important the government in the field of art. He has listed the efforts to implement cultural justice and art education as one of the most important actions of the deputy minister in Art Affairs.**

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**One of the most important slogans of the 13th government was cultural justice. What measures have been taken to achieve this goal in the last two years?**

- We put some basic tasks on the agenda to implement this slogan. The first was the project of art education in deprived areas, which started with the cooperation of prominent native artists and professors and gradually expanded in these two years. Currently, more than 72,000 people participated in this plan and were able to pass elementary or secondary courses. We also held excellent courses. This movement based on justice was undoubtedly an important thing and, it was welcomed by people from deprived areas and continues. The local artists also became active because we invite them for teaching. The remarkable thing about holding these courses was that some artists did not know that there was a famous art profes-

sor in their city and when the classes started, his presence was very valuable for them. At the same time, some professors approached us and said that we did not believe that such talents existed in our region, and after these courses, some promising talents were recognized.

Our second step was the revival of regional festivals; For example, the regional theater festival was closed for 8 or 9 years. Many artists welcomed the regional theater festival because it made them recognized. Some of them even attended in the Fajr Theater Festival and won prizes. Decentralization in holding festivals was another plan; For example, we held the opening ceremony of the Fajr Festival in Yazd, or the young visual Festival was held in Sanandaj city.

**The discussion of infrastructure is undoubtedly important in the promotion of art, especially in deprived areas. What services are provided in this field?**

- A part of the infrastructure is operational. Like the construction of halls or the completion of half-finished projects, many of which were put into operation in these two years.

We had half-finished projects in many cities. A very good thing happened. A lot of money was spent and many projects were opened. In software section, We have negotiated with knowledge enterprise to design a model so that the products reach the audience



more easily or provide better information for advertising. A very good software has been prepared thanks to the efforts of our friends in the cinema organization, so that in the discussion of cultural subsidies, proper distribution can take place. For example, if cultural and artistic privileges are to be given to an audience or a group of audiences, it can be targeted and reach the real audience. The non-government company has also had activities in this field. Of course, it is certainly not enough and needs to be expanded.

**What do you consider to be the most important action in the field of culture and art in these two years?**

- We were able to compile art strategic document. The music document and the vis-

ual document were compiled and a series of infrastructure works were done, and these are our strengths. Let's not forget that last year the enemy was waiting for the failure of culture and art. We held the festivals in a situation where many people tried to make art festivals fail and they tried hard. It really took a lot of effort to revive the theater, to bring music back to the stage, to activate visual works and biennials, festivals were held with high quality with the planning and efforts of our colleagues. In licensing, the figures and statistics are clear. The numbers are real. These are comparable with the previous periods. Definitely, this activity in the art department is not enough and it can be done better and more.

## "A Woman With Dark Glasses" was performed in Germany

**Iran Theater- The play "A woman with dark glasses" directed by Mohammad Reza Gholipour and played by Fereshte Farshad and Mohammad Reza Gholipour was staged in Germany.**

"A Woman with Dark Glasses" which is written and directed by Mohammad Reza Gholipour and translated into German by Fereshte

Farshad, went on stage on Friday, August 26, 2023, in two sessions at 18:00 in German and 19:30 in Persian at Johannes Hagen.

"A woman with dark glasses" is about a man and a woman from two unknown lands who are forced to emigrate from their homeland. This play deals with two different narratives of the migration

of a man and a woman. Each time, a different form of the identity of the characters is revealed and the story process surprises the audience. This theater is a story from the suffering of small people to revenge and shelter for the homeless.

Fereshte Farshad and Mohammad Reza Gholipour acted in the German ver-

sion of "A Woman With Dark Glasses".

Fereshte Farshad and Sadroddin Zahed, a well-known Iranian and French actor, performed in the Persian version of the show.

With the remarkable reception of the German audience and some offers, it is possible to extend the performance in other theaters in Germany.



## Kazem Nazari on 4.5 times increase in theater audience



**Iran Theater- Kazem Nazari, Director General of Dramatic Arts Center, explained the performance of the center during the last 12 months at the same time as the government week.**

Kazem Nazari congratulated the government week and spoke about the cultural poli-

cies of the 13th government and the efforts of the General Department of Dramatic Arts Center in the last twelve months and announced the increase of theater audiences by 4.5 times.

Kazem Nazari pointed to the statements of the Supreme Leader about the government

Week: "According to Ayatollah Khamenei's statement, the government Week is a great opportunity to criticize and correct the practices in the right way." we tried to improve our performance during last 12 months, and in this way, we have accepted the suggestions and criticisms of artists.

He presented the statistics of the last 12 months' performances: the quantitative and qualitative growth and promotion of performances has been only part of the main programs of the General Department of Dramatic Arts with the support of the Dramatic Arts Association of Iran. According to statistics, theatrical works have reached 4480 performances from 1931 shows, which is the result of the efforts of artists all over the country.

This artistic director added: In order to achieve a acceptable result, all officials, evaluation and supervision council of the show, as well as the dramatic arts association of Iran, along with the artists, tried to pay special attention to the quality and standardization of the

plays. Since the issue of education, especially playwriting, has a significant impact on the quality of theater, we paid special attention to the field of education for free and by sending well-known theater veterans and artists to 15 provinces of the country. Because surely, the more our stage artists and writers acquire skills, we will witness more powerful performances. Nazari said: We suggested to the evaluation and supervision council of the play that they should emphasize the observance of the principles of playwriting, conveying the concept, and maintaining the rules of the drama, of course, without imposing any restrictions on the creation to the cast and director.

He continued: "Theatre is a cultural product that the audience pays for and definitely expects to see high-quality works as well as the right to choose in different types of performances, that's why we advise groups to strengthen their views in the field of audience analysis. And pay attention to the needs of the audience.



## Florian Zeller's The Father to restage at City Theater Complex

**Iran Theater- The play "Father" directed by Arvand Dashtaray, which was performed last year for a short time in the City Theater complex, restages after about a year.**

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With 9,272 viewers, "The Father" recorded sales of 1,244,625,000 Tomans as the best-selling and most watched show in the main hall of City Theater Complex in 2022.

The play was considered as "the most acclaimed new play of the last decade" and won several awards and nominations in Paris, London and New York. The play was translated into English by Christopher Hampton.

It was made into the French film *Floride* (2015). Zeller directed the 2020 film *The Father*, starring Anthony Hopkins and Olivia Colman, which won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay, while Hopkins won the Academy Award for Best Actor. Reza Kianian, returns as the main character. They show will be staged on October. Arvand Dashtaray is a director and actor, known for *The Absent Director* (2021).



## Mehdi Hamed -Saghaian on 2024 FITF

**Iran Theater- Mehdi Hamed -Saghaian, the artistic director of 2024 Fadjr International Theater Festival talked about the international section of next edition and emphasized that people should be sure that we will not accept any weak or low qualified foreign play at the festival.**

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Mehdi Hamed -Saghaian, the artistic director of the 42nd Fadjr International Theater Festival, gave some explanations about foreign groups applying to participate in the international section of FITF. He said: Contrary to my im-

agination, good and great foreign groups and artists have been welcomed to participate in the 42nd Fadjr International Theater Festival. Because there is time to submit a request to participate in the international section of the festival until the end of November, we still cannot provide accurate statistics of groups, artists and applicant countries.

He continued: Our goal is that the contemporary artists of the world theater will be present in the festival so that in addition to performing prominent works, we can also hold specialized theater workshops with them.

He reminded: We are trying to accept big and good foreign works in 2024 FITF with the lowest budget compared to the budget of the festival. Iranian theater artists should be sure that we will not accept any weak or low qualified foreign play at the festival. The budget Festival is a national capital, and neither I nor anyone else has the right to waste this budget.

He expressed his interest in East Asian modern theater to participate in Fadjr Theater Festival: We are consulting to host a repertoire of several East Asian modern theat-

ers. I do not mean the ritual and traditional shows of East Asian countries, because these works are suitable for ritual and traditional Theater festival. If it is not possible to perform the repertoire, we will try to present a modern theater from East Asia, especially China.

In the end, Mehdi Hamed -Saghaian revealed that they have talked with some great theater masters so that they can host them in the festival. Consultations are underway and they will do their best to hold the Fadjr International Theater Festival as well as possible.

## Maziar Lorestani's staging of Beckett's "Waiting for Godot"

**Iran Theater- By sharing a photo on Instagram, Maziar Lorestani announced that he plans to stage the play "Waiting for Godot" by Samuel Beckett.**

Maziar Lorestani, a veteran actor and director of theater and television, plans to return to theater after a long time.

Lorestani announced that he plans to stage the play "Waiting for Godot" by Samuel Beckett in one of the halls.

Waiting for Godot is a play by Irish playwright Samuel Beckett in which two characters, Vladimir and Estragon, engage in a variety of discussions

and encounters while awaiting the titular Godot.

He's directed some plays such as "The Miser of Rugaford Village", "Gallery", "Curtain Removal", "Eagle", "Dash Akol", "Theatrical Company", "Sultan Mar", "Double Life", "Picnic" On the battlefield" and etc.





## The seminar section of the Traditional and Ritual Theater Festival will be held in Tabriz

Iran Theater- A memorandum of understanding was signed for holding the seminar section of the Traditional and Ritual Theater Festival in Tabriz at the meeting of the General Director of Dramatic Arts, the General Director of Culture and Guidance of East Azerbaijan and the artistic director of the Traditional and Ritual Theater Festival.

Ahmad Joulaie (artistic director of the 21st International Traditional and Ritual Theater Festival) appointed Seyyed Mohammad Hossein Balaghimobin as the deputy manager in this department.

Kazem Nazari said at the beginning of this meeting: "We are very happy that the city of Tabriz will host the seminar section of the Festival. The city of Tabriz has a very long history in the field of dramatic arts, and this province is an honor for Iranian theater. He continued: "In these webinars, international professors from Iran and foreign countries have been invited to attend online."

Nazari emphasized: We hope that with the help of our friends at the General Department of Culture and Islamic Guidance in Tabriz, the researchers of Nabi Akram University (PBUH)



and I.R.I.B will also come to work so that these seminars will be held in the best way.

Seyyed Mohammad Hossein Balaghimobin also said: The field of drama is one of the most

important artistic parts of the province, which is very important to all artists. Tabriz theater students have a lot to say.

He added: Research is also one of the important issues that

if it does not exist or is not valued, art may become weak and lose its quality and effectiveness.

The 21st International Traditional and Ritual Theater Festival will be held in October.

## Ebrahim Poshtkoochi 's"Macbeth Zar" to take the stage at Baghdad International Theater Festival



Iran Theater- Written and directed by Ebrahim Poshtkoochi, "Macbeth Zar" had been on stage in April and May at City Theater Complex.

The play "Macbeth Zar" will be represent Iran at the Baghdad International Theater Festival.

This show, which is the 20th production of

"T-Took" theater group, has been the selected work in Moscow Nights Festival and appreciated in the Munich Festival. This play has also gone to stage at the Avignon Festival and GITIS International Institute of Russia as well as other festivals in Armenia, Azerbaijan and India.

The fourth edition of Baghdad Interna-

tional Theater Festival will be held in October 2023 for ten days with plays from 24 countries: Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Italy, France, Russia, Belgium, Turkey, Germany, Brazil, Angola and Iran.

The play "Macbeth Zar" written and directed by Ebrahim Poshtkoochi is a combination of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" with "Zar" ritual and it has inspired by methods of Kabuki (Japan), Kathakali (India), Butoh (Japan) and Commedia dell'arte (Italy).

The cast "Makbeth Zar" consists of Shahrooz Delafkar, Gata Abedi, Yashar Naderi, Shobair Parastar, Saeed Borjali, Fahime Mousavi, Sahar Abdulmaleki, Matin Makari, Ali Dolatyar and Saber Rezaei. Ebrahim Poshtkoochi works as stage, light and costume designer. Shaghayegh Barhamti as make-up designer and Mohammad Hassan Azadgan as designer of posters and brochures and Behrang Abbaspour as composer, Peyman Garzam and Kianoush Soltani as photographer join the team.

## City Theater Complex draws 23 thousand audiences to theaters

Iran Theater- City Theater Complex, by performing six shows, drew 23 thousand spectators to the main hall, Chaharsoo hall, Sayeh and Qashghai hall and sold tickets in the total of 3 billion and 330 million tomans.

The box office Report of Tehran City Theater Complex were announced until the end of Friday, September 8, 2023.

"Back to Black" by Sajad Afsharian has tallied 2 billion 844 million 650 thousand tomans. It has started its performance since August 17 in the main hall with 579 seats and ticket prices of 200, 150 and 100 thousand tomans. The play attracted 17 thousand 714 audiences (by full-price, half-price, discounted and guest tickets) and 31 performances.

The show "Chakhfate" directed by Ashkan Pirdelzende, had been performed from July 14 to August 4 in Sayeh Hall and it restaged from August 31 in Chaharsoo Hall with 132 seats and a ticket price of 110 thou-

sand tomans. The show warped with 30 performances, attracted 2 thousand and 776 audiences and sold 263 million and 923 thousand tomans in general.

Rahmat Amini's "Crocodile", which started its performance in Chaharsoo Hall on August 23, with 132 seat and a ticket price of 120 thousand Tomans, has made 97 million and 200 thousand tomans with 9 performances and 958 spectators.

The show "Shabieh Khoon (like Blood)" directed by Mohammad Hatami has been performed since August 28 in Qashghai Hall with 96 seats, the ticket price is 130 thousand tomans, and the show has managed to attract 316 spectators with 9 performances (including full price, half price, discounted and guest) and made 23 million and 114 thousand tomans.

The play "No one does anything for a sad gorilla" directed by Majid Shokri has been staged since Friday, August 25, in the Sayeh Hall with 72 seats and ticket price of 100 thousand Tomans.



This show sold 27 million and 520 thousand tomans and will make more money in the coming days.

Hasan Moini's "Avignon" has performed on stage since Friday August 25 in Sayeh Hall with 72 seats and a ticket price of 110 thousand tomans. And with 11 performances, it has attracted 644 spectators and made 54 million and 406 thousand tomans.

## Famed Iranian Director to bring Federico García Lorca's Blood Wedding to Iranshahr Hall

Iran Theater-Ghotbedin Sadeghi will direct Federico García Lorca's Blood Wedding at Iranshahr Theater Hall.

Ghotbedin Sadeghi is an Iranian theatre director, playwright, stage and film actor, and arts instructor. He is also known as a prominent scholar of Iranian arts and culture

Blood Wedding is a tragedy by Spanish dramatist Federico García Lorca. It was written in 1932 and first performed at Teatro Beatriz in Madrid in March 1933, then later that year in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Theatre critics often group Blood Wedding with García Lorca's Yerma and The House of Bernarda Alba as the



"rural trilogy". García Lorca's planned "trilogy of the Spanish earth" remained unfinished at the time of his death, as he did not include The House of Bernarda Alba in this group of works.

Blood Wedding praises purity, love and freedom and emphasizes that the life force can always rise and persist against the onslaught of death and cumbersome traditions. Translated and directed

by Ghotbedin Sadeghi, it will be performed every night at 20:00 in the hall of Ostad Saarigian from September 26 to October 2.

The cast are Hana Stifai, Raha Asghari, Zahid Barzgar, Danesh Khorshidi, Hamed Dalirian, Elaha Ranjbari, Armin Rezainia, Ali Faghani, Peyman Falahi, Emad Tahanzadeh, Forozan Mohammadzadeh and Sadegh Moradi. Kaivan Esmaili as assistant director, graphic and sound designer, Farshid Heydari as set designer, Niuosha Sadeghkhan as costume designer, Zahid Barzegar, Sina Pahlavani as sound and image operator and Raha Asghari as play supervisor join the crew.



## People's support for the theater should be appreciated

**Iran Theater-** The jury members of the stage and street sections of the 16th Arasbaran National Short Theater Festival stated that people's support of this artistic event should be appreciated, and attention to creativity in production is needed and They believed cultural managers must pay more attention to artists, and to equip infrastructure in order to develop the festival with better quality.

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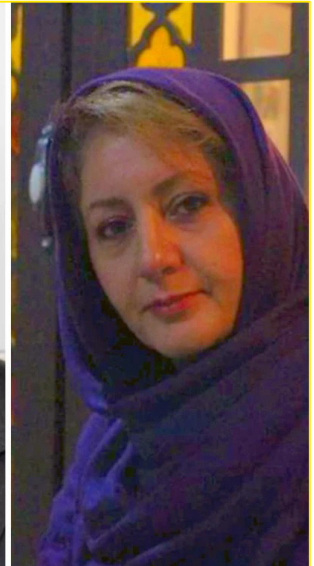
Azadeh Ansari is director, puppeteer and a jury member of the stage section of festival, she pointed out the need to pay more attention to the young generation in the theater: If we give young people who have cultural and social concerns a suitable space to express their opinions and needs, better things will definitely happen



because of their art and artistic taste. Babak Nahrain is an actor and theater director who was one of the jury member of stage section at Arasbaran festival. He said about the necessity of holding a short theater festival: Ahar national short theater festival is a cultural-artistic event



that has an impact on the public culture of the people. And young and old participate in the festival. Mehdi Laziri, the jury member of the street section of the festival, talked about the importance of paying attention to short theater in society: Current theater



audiences live in the era of speed and social media. They are looking for the best content in the shortest time. Now speed determines the course of people's lives. The 16th Arasbaran National Short Theater Festival had been held from 19 to 22 September, 2023.

## Shiva Dinarvand on Three Night with Maddox and the story of contemporary man

**Iran Theater- Shiva Dinarvand, a stage director, said that she will direct Matei Visniec's "Three Nights with Maddox" soon.**

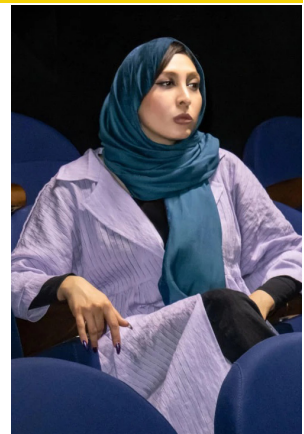
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Shiva Dinarvand explained about the theme of this play: it tells the story of a contemporary man who is looking for happiness. Born in Romania in 1956. From an early age, Matei Visniec discovered literature as a space dedicated to freedom. He draws his strengths from Kafka, Dostoevsky, Poe, Lautréamont. He loves the Surrealists, the Dada-

ists, absurd and grotesque theatre, surrealist poetry, fantastic literature, magical realism, even the realist Anglo-Saxon theatre. He loves everything except Socialist Realism. Shiva Dinarvand is a young theater actress and director, who previously directed the shows "Steel does not rust" and "Parts of several lives" and She is busy with rehearsals for "Three Nights with Maddox". "Three Nights with Maddox" is the story of a contemporary lonely man who is looking for a savior, a friend, and

someone who can experience a pleasant feeling with him, Dinarvand said about this show.

She continued : Maddox literally means happiness, and all the people in the story are actually looking for happiness. They are waiting for someone to come and bring them happiness from outside. The five characters dream more than they pursue happiness. In fact, they live in a fantasy world to escape from loneliness. Dinarvand explains that this play is a philosophical-enigmatic work: I always like to experience



a new atmosphere and direct different works. My two previous works were Iranian shows in a completely realistic atmosphere, but this time I decided to direct Three Nights with Maddox, which I have been very interested in since I was a student, in a different atmosphere.

## The closing ceremony of the 7th Ta'zieh Festival took place in Jam County

Iran Theater-The 7th mourning Ta'zieh Festival of Iran came to the end with the presence of the Director General of Dramatic Arts and the artistic director of the 21st International Traditional and Ritual Festival in Jam County. The 180-year-old Ta'zieh Committee of Jam county from Bushehr province hosted the 7th National Mourning Ta'zieh Festival in the last ten days of the month of Safar, which was held from September 6 at the same time as Arbāeen to September 15.

The closing ceremony was held with the presence of Kazem Nazari (Director General of Dramatic Arts) and Ahmad Joulaie (Tazia expert and artistic director of the 21st International Traditional and Ritual Theater Festival) with the honoring of Pir Gholaman and the selected Ta'zieh performers and the performance of two Wahb and Abdullah Hasan Majles by the Shah Neshin Board of Jam from Bushehr province.

The 7th mourning Ta'zieh Festival was held with Ali Afshin-parishan as artistic director. The festival hosts the artists of ten Ta'zieh groups from different cities and provinces, including Minab city (Hormozgan), Cheliche city (Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari), Kerman city (Kerman province), Shushtar city (Khuzestan), Tafaresh (Markazi province), Shahroud city (Semnan), Deh Qaid (Dashtestan Bushehr), Qazvin city (Qazvin province) and Mehr city (Fars province).

## Zanjan International Pantomime Festival 2023: Who's coming, what's showing

Iran Theater-The 2nd Zanjan International Pantomime Festival announced 18 works to participate in three main sections.

The selection committee of the second national Pantomime Festival in, consisting of Alireza Nashehi, Hamid Azatkouli, and Hamidreza Roshtamkhani, has chosen 18 out of 46 entries received from all over the country to participate in various sections of this event.

Here is the list of accepted works in various sections of the Zanjan International Pantomime Festival:

### Section: Stage performances

- 1- "King Lear" directed by Akbar Sadeghi from Ardabil province, Ardabil city.
  - 2- "pursuit of happiness" directed by Javed Esmaeeli from East Azarbaijan province, Tabriz city.
  - 3- "Macbeth" directed by Azadeh Sarabi from Tehran province, Tehran city.
  - 4- "Aros Qanat/Bride of Qanat" directed by Amin Delpazir from Yazd province, Yazd city.
  - 5- "The Mourning of Fereydoun in the Land of king lear" directed by Ali Abbasi from Zanjan province, Zanjan city.
  - 6- "Tears and Smiles" directed by Moslem Keyhan from Alborz province, Karaj city.
  - 7- "We Are Not Clowns" directed by Pouria Rezaei from Markazi province, Arak city.
- Adam, Faustus, Eve" directed by Mobina Farh-



mand Aria from Tehran province, Tehran city.

### Section: Workshops of Iran pantomime house

- 1- "Rahde Dobal", an Iran pantomime workshop production under the supervision of Hamidreza Qazalbash from Zanjan province, Zanjan city.
- 2- "Sword" an Iran pantomime workshop production under the supervision of Keivan Azarakhsh from Kurdistan province, Sanandaj city.
- 3- "Root", an Iran pantomime workshop production under the supervision of Hamidreza Qazalbash from Zanjan province, Zanjan city.

### Section: Dynamic experiences

- A-Stage performances
1. "Dirty Paper" directed by Salman Shafiei from Ardabil province, Khalkhal city.
  2. "The Lonely Girl" directed by Elisa Kazemi from West Azerbaijan province, Urmia city.
  3. "Why is life like this?" directed by Mohammad

Bahadori and Sara Javanbakht from West Azerbaijan province, Urmia city.

"Flight of My Dream" directed by Mohsen Masoudifar from Razavi Khorasan province, Neyshabur city.

### B-Street performances

- 1- "Emperor" directed by Marjan Khorsandi from Tehran province, Tehran city.
- 2- "Waiting for garbage" directed by Zari Karmi from Zanjan province, Zanjan city.
- 3- "Mandala" co-directed by Fereshte Jafari and Mehdi Rozbahani from Zanjan province, Zanjan city.

The 2d Zanjan pantomime festival will be held in Zanjan from October 9 through 12 with the participation of the General Directorate of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the province, the General Directorate of Dramatic Arts, the Pantomime House, the Iranian Dramatic Arts Association and the provincial institutions.

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