

## Iranian Cineastes Review ‘The Last King of Scotland’



TEHRAN (Honaronline) – Kevin Macdonald’s acclaimed historical drama “The Last King of Scotland” will be reviewed at the cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum on Monday evening.

Starring Forest Whitaker and James McAvoy, the 2006 movie depicts the brutal Ugandan dictator Idi Amin’s regime as seen by a fictional Scottish physician during the 1970s.

The topic “The Lonely Totalitarian” will be discussed during the review session, which will be attended by sociologist Iman Vaeqfi.

Peter Morgan and Jeremy Brock co-wrote the screenplay based on Giles Foden’s 1998 novel of the same title, which refers to Amin’s claim of being the King of Scotland.

The British-German co-production was released in the United States in September 2006 and in the United Kingdom in January 2007.

It grossed \$48.4 million on a \$6 million budget and received positive reviews, with acclaim for Whitaker’s portrayal of Amin. He won an Academy Award for Best Actor and several other accolades.

While the character of Idi Amin and some of the events

surrounding him in the film are mostly based on fact, Garrigan, Amin’s doctor, is a fictional character.

Foden has acknowledged that one real-life figure who contributed to the character Garrigan was English-born Bob Astles, who worked with Amin.

Another real-life figure who has been mentioned in connection with Garrigan is Scottish doctor Wilson Carswell.

Like the novel on which it is based, the film mixes fiction with real events to give an impression of Amin and Uganda under his rule.

While the basic arc of Amin’s rule is followed, the events in the film depart from both actual history and the plot and characters in Foden’s novel.

In real life and in the book, Kay Amin, the youngest of Idi Amin’s three wives, was impregnated by her lover, who was a Ugandan physician, who was given a different name in the book than in real life.

She died during a botched abortion performed by him, who subsequently committed suicide. Astles said in a lengthy interview for The Times with the journalist Paul Vallely that her body was dismembered by her lover so it could be hidden and was then sewn back together on Amin’s orders. Amin never had a son named Campbell.

According to Foden, the film’s depiction of Amin is comparable with the Shakespearean character Macbeth, whom he had in mind when writing the novel.

The film received a 2007 BAFTA Award for Best British Film and the BAFTA award for Best Adapted Screenplay.

## Applauded ‘Kanpamenar’ Goes to South Africa



TEHRAN (MNA) – The Iranian film “Kanpamenar” by Ashkan Darvishi is scheduled to participate in the South African Joburg Film Festival.

The Joburg Film festival will run from Thursday, 31st January 2023 to Sunday, 5th February 2023 in South Africa.

“Kanpamenar” depicts the story of children in the poor neighborhoods of Tehran. It also supports the oppressed girls of Afghanistan.

Siamak Safari, Babak Nouri, Alireza Ostadi, Neda Hosseini, Sirius Hemmati, Mehdi Tarokh, and Fariba Kosari are among the cast members.

# Iran Restores World Heritage Shushtar Hydraulic System

TEHRAN (IRNA) – Iran has launched a major restoration project for the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System, an ancient irrigation network located in southwestern Iran that has been registered on the list of World Heritage Sites of the United Nations’ cultural agency UNESCO.

An official from Iran’s Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts (MCHT) said on Sunday that restoration project on Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System would cover maintenance and improvement works on its hanging wall, a partition located to the west of the site and a 1,700 year old tunnel, known as Boleiti.

Mohammad Hossein Arastouzadeh, who serves as head of MCHT’s local department in the province of Khuzestan, where the UNESCO site is located, said the launch of the restoration project is a dream come true for cultural heritage advocates in Iran.

Arastouzadeh said a contract worth 470 billion rials had been awarded to a local company to carry out the restoration project.



Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System became Iran’s 10th cultural heritage site to be registered on UNESCO’s list of World Heritage Sites in 2009.

The complex irrigation system, which is a combination of bridges, mills, dams, waterfalls, canals, and tunnels, was completed during the Sassanid in the third century AD.

## Ancient Tree, Wonder of Tehran

TEHRAN (IFILM) -- Odlanjan is one of the oldest and most historical neighborhoods of Tehran.

This neighborhood hosts many historical and natural attractions in its heart, such as Kazemi Palace and Nawab’s Bath.

One of the natural attractions is the plane tree, which has a life longer than the age of Odlanjan neighborhood.

This 900-year-old plane tree has been living in the courtyard



of Imamzadeh Yahya’s mausoleum for many years and is now called one of the oldest organisms in Tehran.

Mayflies live a day, and humans live a century, but the tree’s trunk is left after all these years.

It has been a witness to the city’s many changes over the centuries. Today, the tree is a popular spot for locals and visitors alike, who come to admire its beauty and reflect on the city’s rich history.

## Architecture Masterpiece Adorned With Outstanding Decorations

TEHRAN (IMNA) - Survived in excellent condition, the Jameh Mosque of Ushturjan is an amazing reminiscent of Il-khanid architecture in a town of the same name in Isfahan province.

The mosque was built with a mud brick core and fired brick siding. It was commissioned by an Il-Khanid administrator from Ushturjan and dates to 715 AH (1315-1316 CE) according to two different inscriptions.

The decoration is more significant than the main building, which consists of a small courtyard with a dome chamber in front of a vaulted iwan on one side and three arcade prayer halls on the other.

A compilation of decorative methods from all over the nation can be seen in the variety of patterns, materials, and material combinations used in the decoration of the mosque.

The tall stucco mihrab depicts an unusual proportion that reaches the transitional zone. Some decorations are formed by terracotta elements across the dome’s interior, and the gaps are filled with a variety of painted plaster patterns. Mosaic faience, glazed and unglazed terracotta and other materials are lavishly used to decorate the northern entrance portal.

Due to possible constraints imposed by pre-existing structures, the main entrance portal and its flanking cylindrical minarets are situated on the northern exterior façade, off-axis with the sanctuary.

The construction process appears to have been quick and completed in a few short phrases. According to Archnet, the dome chamber appears to have been erected slightly earlier, utilizing thick plaster over the mud brick core.

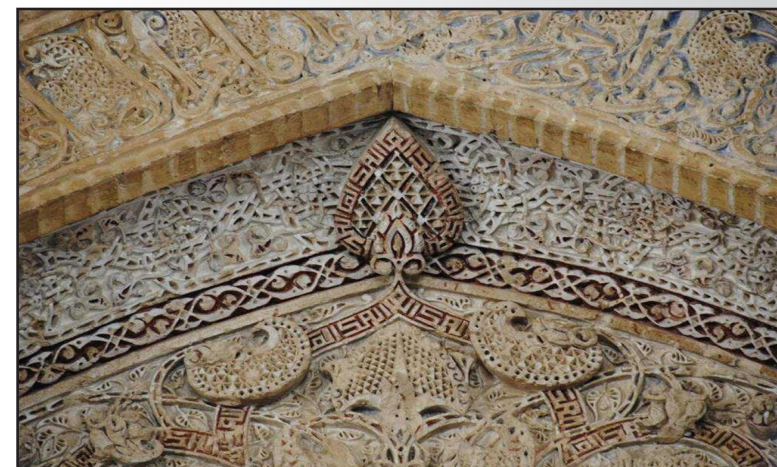
Experts say in the area around Isfahan, where fired brick predominates, the use of mud brick is

unusual.

Only the arcades have exposed brick, though it’s possible that the rest of the building used a plaster coating here as well. The plaster is decorated with a wide range of decorative carvings, such as geometric patterns, floral motifs in high relief, simulated brick bond, and brick end-plugs, which are in some places arranged to form rectangular Kufic inscriptions.

Repairs made in 1476 by a devout Ushturjani in the name of the Aq Qoyunlu ruler, Uzun Hasan, are noted in an inscription on the courtyard’s eastern pier.

The Ilkhanid dynasty, also called Il-Khanid, was a Mongol dynasty that ruled Iran from 1256 to 1335.



Il-Khan is Persian for “subordinate khan.”

The Il-Khanids consolidated their position in Iran and unified

the region as a political and territorial entity after several centuries of fragmented rule by small dynasties.

## Picture of the Day



As the snowfall blankets different cities of Iran, Qazvin province has been also covered with snow and ice in recent days.

Courtesy of Mehr News Agency