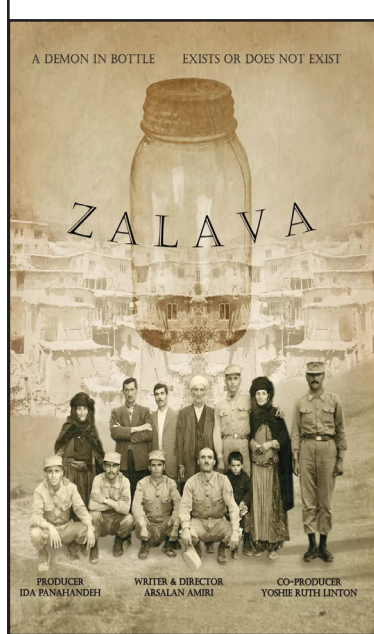


# Applauded Fiction Competes at Lisbon Horror Festival



TEHRAN (IFILM) -- The MOTELX - Lisbon International Horror Film Festival in Portugal has been hosting Iranian feature ‘Zalava’.

Directed by Arsalan Amiri, the movie narrates an imaginary story in an imaginary land with imaginary people in the 70s.

The inter-genre film narrates the tale of people’s fear of an unknown phenomenon and their efforts to bring back security to the region.

A synopsis for ‘Zalava’ reads, “When a village claims to be cursed by a demon, a gendarmerie sergeant attempts to denounce the exorcist in charge, whom he believes is nothing but a fraud.

In 1978, in a small village called Zalava, some inhabitants claim there is a demon among them. Masoud, a young gendarmerie sergeant, goes to investigate. He encounters an exorcist attempting to rid the village of the demon. He arrests the exorcist on charges of fraud, but he finds himself stuck in a cursed

house with his lover. The villagers, who believe they are both possessed by the demon, decided to burn down the house.”

Navid Pour-Faraj, Pouria Rahimi-Sam and Hoda Zeinolabedin have played the key roles.

‘Zalava’ was premiered at the 39th Fajr Film Festival in Iran, where it won two awards for Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Rahimi-Sam) and Best Screenplay (Amiri, Ida Panahandeh and Tahmineh Bahram).

The movie has also gone on screen at some global events, including the International Film Festival Rotterdam in the Netherland, the Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Film Festival in the US, the Karlovy Vary Film Festival in the Czech Republic, the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival in South Korea, the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival in Belgium, the Toronto International Film Festival in Canada, the Hong Kong Asian Film Financing Forum, the Fantastic Fest in the U.S., where it received the best film award, and the Venice International Film Critics’ Week in Italy, where it won the FIPRESCI International Award.

The 16th edition of the MOTELX opened on Tuesday and will run until September 12 with a program full of films, workshops, masterclasses and many activities for the younger audience.

The MOTELX is the only Portuguese festival member of the Méliès International Festivals Federation (MIFF) and of Europe For Festivals, Festivals For Europe (EFFE).

# Researchers Find Gut-Brain Connection



NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- Scientists have discovered a new connection between the gut and the brain that drives our desire for fat. Researchers at Columbia’s Zuckerman Institute studying mice, realized that fat sensors in the intestines that stimulate the brain and drive food desires. They found that glucose activates a specific gut-brain circuit that communicates to the brain in the presence of intestinal sugar. Calorie-free artificial sweeteners, on the other hand, do not have this effect, explaining why most probably diet sodas can leave us feeling unsatisfied. Dr Charles Zuker of Colum-

bia’s Zuckerman Institute says that the overconsumption of cheap, highly processed foods rich in sugar and fat is having a devastating impact on human health, especially among people of low income. He believes that if people better understand how these foods steal the biological machinery underlying taste and the gut-brain axis, the more opportunity they will have to intervene. The study raises the possibility of interfering with this gut-brain connection to help prevent unhealthy choices and address the growing global health crisis caused by overeating.

# Damascus Holds Iran Culture Week

TEHRAN (IRNA) - - Head of the Islamic Culture and Communications Organization (ICCO) in a meeting with the Syrian culture minister reached an agreement on holding Iran Culture Week in Syria in the near future and a Syria Culture Week in Iran to familiarize both nations with each other’s cultures.

Mohammad Mehdi Imanipour in a meeting with Lubanah Mshaweh elaborated on ICCO responsibilities, saying that the most important one of them is implementing the cultural agreements and organizing cultural events, such as introducing the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islam, and the Islamic Revolution, as well as holding religious and cultural dialogues in interactions and establishment of relations with other countries.

Imanipour who is also a member of the Supreme Cultural Revolu-

tion Council said that the Syrian government and nation are dear for the Iranian people, and the Supreme Leader believes Syria is the pillar of the resistance tent.

Imanipour said that Iran is willing to expand its cultural relations with the friend and brother country, Syria, while the frequenting of the cultural delegations can soften the existing atmosphere between Iran and Syria.

He said that Iran is among the distinguished countries in production of animations, theatrical works, feature films, and music, and today the Iranian artists are also designing images and patterns in books and other publications.

The ICCO head said that the best way to expand the two countries’ cultural relations is teaching the other nation’s language, and according to Iran Embassy cultural attaché in Syria the Farsi language



teaching has progressed satisfactorily. He also asked the Syrian culture minister to establish faculties of Farsi language in Syrian universities.

The Syrian culture minister, too, said that the history of the two countries’ cultural and historical relations is beyond the length of being described during a visit, as our history-old relations are as old

as the cultures and the civilizations of the two nations.

Mshaweh said it is an honor to be the guest of the ICCO, and this might be the best time for the expansion of cultural relations.

She said that Syria is now engaged in a number of cinematographic projects and is very interested in benefiting from the valuable experience of the Iranians in this field.

# Taiwan Welcomes Iranian War Animation



TEHRAN (IFILM) -- The Kaohsiung International Film Festival in Taiwan has been scheduled to host Iran’s ‘Where the Winds Die’.

Directed by Pejman Alipour, the animation will represent Iran at the 12th edition of the Taiwanese event.

‘Where the Winds Die’ is a 13-minute animation about the chemical attack by the Iraqi regime on the Iranian town of Sardasht, in West Azarbaijan Province, in 1987.

The former dictator of Iraq bombarded Sardasht with chemical weapons, killing more than 1,000 and injuring more than 8,000 civilians, many of whom

were permanently disabled.

The Iranian animation received the best human rights award at the Music Film Festival in France.

The animation went on screen at the MEDIAWAVE International Film and Music Gathering in Hungary, the Athens ANIMFEST in Greece, the World Festival of Animated Film (Animafest Zagreb) in Croatia, and the Fantastic Film Festival – Galactica in Spain, where it won the Best Short Animation Award.

The 12th edition of the Kaohsiung International Film Festival will be held on October 14-30, 2022.

# Ancient City Hosts Culture Minister

TEHRAN (Honaronline) - Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili made the statement at the opening ceremony of Masjid Soleiman Art House in the ancient city of Masjed Soleiman, southwestern Khuzestan Province, on Friday.

Iran’s Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry prioritizes the expansion of cultural justice, said the minister, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili.

He noted that the martyrs’ heritage in the fields of arts and culture should be used to convey the message of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, adding that Masjid Soleiman could be a pioneer due to its cultural history.

“We believe that all parts of Iran have the potential to achieve growth and excellence in culture, arts and media, given that we provide the right conditions,” Esmaeili said.

Speaking about the memories of martyrs in Khuzestan and Masjid Soleiman, the minister expressed hope that the art house would be a source of cultural growth and excellence in the area.

Human resources are to a large extent more important than infrastructure due to the fact that they should serve Islamic arts and culture through an exalted perspective, the minister said.

He added that today we must implement what the martyrs have left for us in various cultural sections.

With an infrastructure of 1,700 square meters, the art house has a meeting hall for 400 people, conference room, administrative and cultural rooms, prayer room, service and sanitary spaces.



Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili.

# Picture of the Day



The third season of the open house theatre Tanhatar az Masih (Lonelier Than Christ) produced and directed by Ali Esmaili, focusing on Ashura, is being performed for 30 nights at Boostan Velayat. Courtesy of Honaronline