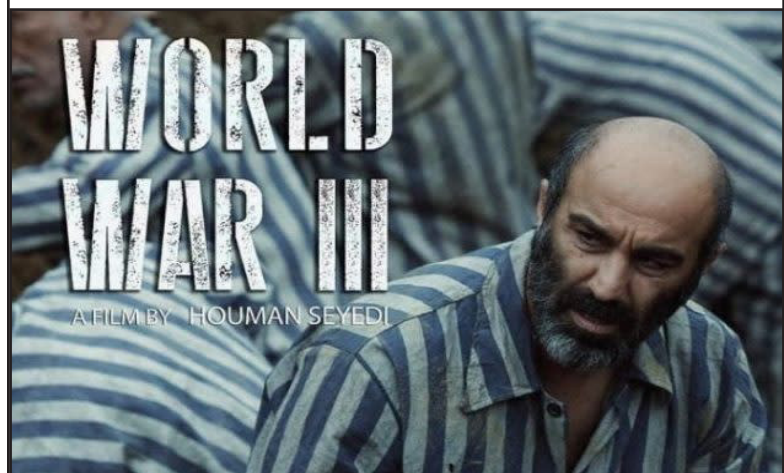


'World War III' to Participate in Istanbul Festival



TEHRAN -- The International Istanbul Film Festival (iKSV) in Turkey has been playing host to acclaimed Iranian feature film 'World War III'.

Directed and produced by Hooman Seyyedi, the film is on screen at the International Competition program of the Turkish event's 42nd edition, iFilm reported.

"World War III" depicts Shakib, a homeless day laborer who never got over the loss of his wife and son in an earthquake years ago.

He works in a place where a movie on the World War is being filmed, and when one of the actors collapses, Shakib has been chosen as his stand-in.

The man is allowed to stay in the actor's fake mansion, but on condition that he doesn't receive any visitors, but he makes a decision that endangers his fate.

The film is co-written by Seyyedi himself, Arian Vazir-Daftari, and Azad Jafarian.

The cast members of the film include Mohsen Tanabandeh, Neda Jembreli, Mahsa Hejazi, and Navid Nosrati.

The flick is the recipient of the Orizzonti Award for Best Film at the 79th Venice International Film Festival in Italy. Mohsen Tanabandeh also re-

ceived the award for best actor at the major international event for his portrayal of Shakib.

The film has already been screened at the 35th Tokyo International Film Festival where it won the second-place special jury prize of the event.

Two of the main awards of the 8th Asian World Film Festival- Los Angeles (AWFF) in the U.S. are also among the accolades grabbed by the flick.

The 20th Chennai International Film Festival (CIFF) in India, the 34th Palm Springs Film Festival in the U.S., the 4th Hainan Island Int'l Film Festival (HIIFF) in China and the 26th Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (POFF) in Estonia also hosted 'World War III'.

Recently, the flick grabbed a FIPRESCI Prize from the 34th Palm Springs International Film Festival (PSIFF) in the U.S.

The Istanbul Film Festival is organized by the non-profit cultural institution Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV).

The festival aims to promote and support artistic and cultural productions.

This year's edition of the event has been underway since April 7 and it is set to wrap up on April 18.

'Let's Make Peace' to Vie for Awards in India



TEHRAN -- Iranian animation 'Let's Make Peace' will participate in the CMS, International Children's Film Festival (ICFF) in India.

The Soureh Cinema Organization production will represent Iran at the 2023 edition of the festival, iFilm reported.

'Let's Make Peace' is about two neighbors who are in contact with each other. They sometimes become friends and sometimes fight with each other.

The animated piece previously bagged many awards such as the

best animation award at the Animur International Animated Film Festival in Russia.

The ICFF aims to provide "a common platform for the producers of Children films to project their views for proper development of children's potential through meaningful educational films, and also for promoting friendship and cooperation among people of the world", an online submission platform reads.

The 12th edition of the festival will take place on April 10-18.

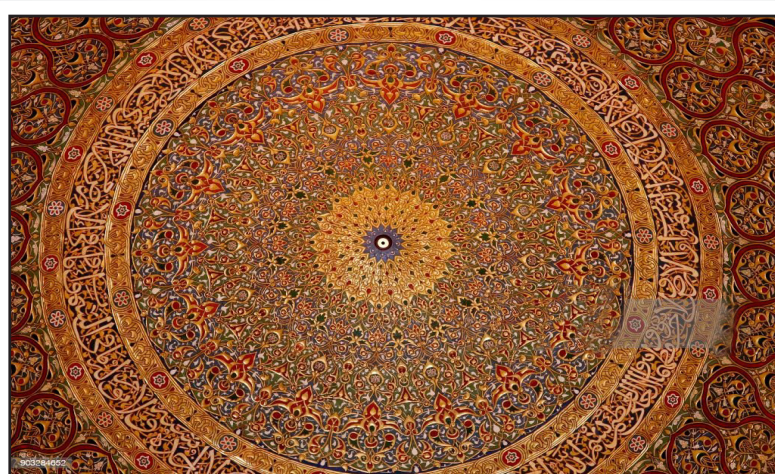
Why is Dome of the Rock So Important?

OCCUPIED AL-QUDS (Dispatches) -- The Al-Aqsa Mosque in Al-Quds is one of the most significant religious sites in Islam. The mosque holds immense importance for Muslims as it is believed to be the location of the Prophet Muhammad's journey to the heavens. The Dome of the Rock, located in the center of the al-Aqsa Mosque, is one of the earliest examples of Islamic architecture and art. The mosque, located in the Old City of Al-Quds, is the third holiest site in Islam after the Masjid al-Haram in Mecca and the Prophet's Mosque in Medina. The mosque was constructed in 705 CE, five years after the completion of the Dome of the Rock. It has undergone numerous renovations and expansions over the years, with the latest renovation being completed in 2007.

The Dome of the Rock, also known as Qubbat as-Sakhra in Arabic is an annular building located in the center of Al-Aqsa Mosque. It was built between 65 H/684 CA and 72 H/691 CA. It is one of the earliest existing examples of Islamic architecture and art. The dome is 20.44 meters in diameter, set on a high drum pierced with sixteen windows and resting on four piers and twelve columns placed in a circle just large enough to surround the Rock.

The Dome of the Rock is located on an artificial platform in the center of the Al-Haram al-Sharif or the original Al-Aqsa Mosque. The circle of supports is placed in the center of a large octagon averaging about 20.59 meters. The rock, which the Dome of the Rock shelters, is the highest point in the Al-Haram or the Al-Aqsa Noble Sanctuary.

The rock located beneath the Dome of the Rock is significant in as much as it constitutes a part of the original Al-Aqsa Mosque or Noble Sanctuary. In no way can the rock be more important and as such more revered



A picture taken on January 10, 2018, shows the decorated interior of the golden dome inside the Dome of the Rock mosque at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound, in Al-Quds' Old City, following renovation work carried out by the Waqf.

than the other parts of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Holy Qur'an and the Prophet have said about Al-Aqsa Mosque applied as much to the rock as to the rest of the sections of the mosque.

Al-Aqsa Mosque is the second mosque on earth established forty years after the construction of the Ka'bah or the Al-Masjid al-Haram. It was the first qiblah to which Muslims turned in prayer for about one year and a few months following the migration (Hijrah) to Medina. Al-Aqsa Mosque was a place where the Prophet (was taken "for a Journey by night from the Sacred Mosque (Al-Masjid al-Haram) to the Farthest (Al-Aqsa) Mosque whose precincts We did bless, - in order that We might show him some of Our signs..." (Qur'an al-Isra' 17:1), and thence, the Prophet ascended to the sky for his Al-Mi'raj Journey.

The city is considered to be a holy site for Muslims, Christians, and Jews, as it is home to many religious landmarks and significant historical events. The Dome of the Rock is an architectural masterpiece that was built in the 7th century CE during

the Umayyad Caliphate. The monument is a unique example of Islamic art and architecture and is regarded as one of the earliest and most significant achievements of Islamic civilization.

The city of Al-Quds is not only significant in religious and historical contexts, but also in terms of its geography. Located in the center of the world's three major monotheistic religions, Al-Quds is considered to be a significant city in the Abrahamic faiths. Al-Aqsa Mosque, situated within Al-Quds, is also of immense geographical significance.

Al-Quds has been the focus of political and religious strife throughout history due to its strategic location between Africa, Asia, and Europe. The city has been fought over by various empires, including the Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Muslims, Crusaders, Ottomans, and British, to name a few. This has resulted in the city being culturally diverse, with various religious and ethnic groups coexisting within the city's walls.

Al-Aqsa Mosque, as one of the most significant religious sites in the

world, draws visitors from all over the globe. Its importance is amplified by the fact that it is adjacent to the Western Wall, a significant site in Judaism, and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, a significant site in Christianity.

Furthermore, Al-Aqsa Mosque is situated on the Temple Mount, a site that is considered holy by both Jews and Muslims. The Temple Mount is believed to be the site of the First and Second Temples, which were destroyed by the Babylonians and Romans, respectively. The site is also believed to be the location of the Foundation Stone, where Abraham is said to have attempted to sacrifice his son Isaac, and where Prophet Muhammad is believed to have ascended to heaven during his Night Journey.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has a long and complicated history, and one of the ongoing flashpoints in this conflict is the status of Al-Quds, specifically the Al Aqsa Mosque compound. This compound is one of the holiest sites in Islam, and it is located in East Al-Quds, which is internationally recognized as Palestinian territory.

During the holy month of Ramadan, many Muslims travel to Al-Quds to pray at Al Aqsa Mosque, but in recent years, tensions have risen as Israeli police have used excessive force to disperse worshippers. There have been multiple instances of clashes between Palestinian worshippers and Israeli security forces during Ramadan, with many Palestinians feeling that their religious freedom is being violated.

The issue of Al Aqsa Mosque is just one of many in the larger Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which remains unresolved. The conflict is characterized by deep-rooted historical, political, and religious differences.

Box Office Haul for 'Fossil'

TEHRAN -- Iranian comedy film "Fossil" directed by Karim Amini has made 510 billion rials at the box office in 24 days.

Despite the fact that 17 days out of 24 days period has coincided with the holy month of Ramadan and five other days with the last days of the previous Iranian calendar year, "Fossil" has attracted about 1,100,000 moviegoers.

With a nostalgic atmosphere,

Fossil reminds of Tehran of the 1970s.

Basically, musical comedies and those which narrate past events are welcomed by the public.

Bahram Afshari, Elnaz Habibi, Javad Hashemi, Elahe Hesari, Babak Karimi, Hadi Kazemi, Amir-Hussein Mohabbat, Samaneh Moniri, Gholamreza Nik-Khah, Omid Rouhani, and Iman Safa have starred in the movie.



'A Poetess' Awarded in U.S.

TEHRAN -- Directed by Iranian filmmaker Saeed Dashti, the short film "A Poetess" was awarded at the World Music & Independent Film Festival in the United States. Amir Jafari, Sahra Fathi, Linda Kiani, and Nima Shaban Nejad are the cast of Saeed Dashti's short film, Mehr News reported.

The World Music & Independent Film Festival (WMIFF) is an international film festival that takes place annually in Washington D.C.

The WMIFF was established to celebrate and provide a platform of achievements for international cinema artists. Dedicated to building a global film community and supporting emerging filmmakers, the WMIFF offers all selected artists exceptional exposure with an inclusive vibe that has won over alumni, attendees, and industry members alike. WMIFF festivities are open to all, featuring some of the most talented artists in both film and music.

Picture of the Day



Worshippers hold prayers and vigil at the mausoleum of renowned Persian poet Hafez in Shiraz on the first night of Qadr coinciding with the assassination of Imam Ali (AS). Muslims believe that the Night of Qadr comes with blessings and mercy of God in abundance, sins are forgiven and supplications are accepted.

Photo by IRNA