

Fajr Festival Announces International Winners



TEHRAN -- The closing ceremony of the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival was held on Sunday evening at Tehran's Milad Tower Convention Center and the winners of different categories in the International section were announced as follows.

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Cinema Salvation:

- Angelos Rallis received the Best Artistic Achievement Crystal Simorgh for 'Mighty Afrin in the Time of Floods'.

- Alessandro Bardani was honored with the Best Screenplay Crystal Simorgh for 'The Best Century of My Life'.

-The Crystal Simorgh for Best Director was awarded to Alejandro Rojas and Juan Sebastián Vázquez for 'Upon Entry' from Spain.

-The Crystal Simorgh Special Jury award was granted to Mahmoud Kalari for 'Summer of the Same Year' from Iran.

-The Crystal Simorgh for Best Film was awarded to Stefan Komandarev for 'Bлага's Lessons' from Bulgaria and Germany.

Throughout the ceremony, clips from acclaimed Iranian films and historical archival footage were screened, captivating the audience with the richness of Iranian cinema's legacy.

In a poignant display of solidarity, the audience rose to their feet, honoring the Gazans with a minute-long standing ovation.

The event was moved by the screening of harrowing footage, showcasing the stark realities faced by people in Gaza, alongside Israel's atrocities.

Interfaith:

- Mahmoud Kalari was granted a Diploma of Honor for 'Summer of the Same Year'.

- Daryoush Yari received a Crystal Simorgh for 'Love Passion'.

Resistance:

- 'Flight 175' by Muhammad Hussein Haqiqat was awarded a Diploma of Honor.

- Khairallah Taqianipour's 'The Heart of Raqqah' received a Crystal Simorgh.

Eastern Vista:

- Tasnia Farin, the actress from Bangladesh, was awarded the Crystal Simorgh for her performance in the film 'Fatima'.

- Nasim Bastani received the Best Screenplay Crystal Simorgh for 'Appearance'.

- Muhammad Asgari won the Best Director Crystal Simorgh for 'The West Sky'.

- An Honorary Crystal Simorgh was presented to Askat Kuchinchirekov for 'Bauryna Salu'.

- The Best Film award was given

'About Majnoon' Wins Top Prize at Fajr Festival

TEHRAN -- The closing ceremony of the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival (FIFF) was held in Tehran's Milad Tower on Sunday.

It was attended by Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Muhammad Mahdi Esmaili as well as a number of filmmakers, actors, actresses, directors of the festival and media figures.

Mojtaba Amini, the director of the 42nd FIFF, expressed his satisfaction with the festival's success, highlighting the outstanding films showcased during the event.

He also paid tribute to national heroes and martyrs and emphasized the festival's significant role in commemorating their legacy.

Here is the list of the award winners in the national section of the gala:

New Outlook Section:

Crystal Simorgh for Best First-Film Director: Ali Taherfar for 'Projectionist'

Crystal Simorgh for Best Director: Javad Ezzati for 'Blood Alligator'

Crystal Simorgh for Best First Film: 'Parviz Khan' produced by Ata Panahi

Crystal Simorgh for Outstanding Artistic Contribution: Reza Kes-havarz for 'Kianoush's Garden'

Best Visual Effects:

Crystal Simorgh awarded to Muhammad Baradaran for 'Ahmad'

Best Makeup:

Crystal Simorgh awarded to Morteza Kahzadi for 'Ahmad'

Best Set Design:



Crystal Simorgh awarded to Majid Entezami for 'About Majnoon'

Crystal Simorgh awarded to Hassan Hassandoust for 'Parviz Khan'

Crystal Simorgh awarded to Kouhyar Kalari for 'Summer of the Same Year'

Crystal Simorgh awarded to Amir Ashegh-Husseini for 'The Heart of Raqqah'

Crystal Simorgh awarded to Behzad Khalaj for 'About Majnoon'

Crystal Simorgh awarded to Shabnam Qorbani for 'About

Majnoon' Diploma of Honor granted to Mahroo Nonahali for 'Summer of the Same Year'

Best Leading Actor: Arastou Khoshrazm for 'Morning of Execution'

Best Leading Actress: Crystal Simorgh awarded to Maral Baniadam for 'Parvin' Diploma of Honor granted to Sara Rashidi for 'Ahmad'

Best Animation: Diploma of Honor granted to Muhammad Mehdi Mashhour for 'Babaei Wish to Fly'

Best Script: Diploma of Honor granted to Ali Saqafi for 'Parviz Khan'

Best First Film: Crystal Simorgh awarded to 'Parviz Khan' produced by Ata Panahi

Best Director: Crystal Simorgh awarded to Behrouz Afkhami for 'Morning of Execution'

Best Film: Crystal Simorgh awarded to 'About Majnoon' produced by Abbas Naderan

Best Technical and Artistic Contribution: Crystal Simorgh and Diploma of Honor awarded to Ata Panahi for 'Parviz Khan'

Best Film from National Perspective: Special award given to 'The West Sky'

Goharshad Crystal Simorgh: Special award given to Habibollah Valinejad for 'Ahmad'

Court Sentences Man to Death Over Killing of Mehrjui, Wife



Dariush Mehrjui and his wife were stabbed to death in October.

TEHRAN -- An Iranian court has sentenced a man to death over the killing of renowned filmmaker Dariush Mehrjui and his wife months ago at their home near Tehran, the judiciary said Monday.

Mehrjui, an 83-year-old director associated with the Iranian new wave of cinema, was stabbed to death along with his wife Vahideh Muhammadifar in October at their home in Karaj, west of the Iranian capital.

The convicted killer, who

was arrested days after the attack, was a former employee of Mehrjui who "had a grudge against the deceased due to financial issues," the chief justice of Alborz province, Hussein Fazeli-Harikandi, said previously.

Three others were charged in the case over their roles in planning and assisting the murder, he added.

On Monday, the Judiciary's Mizan Online website said the court sentenced the killer to death in accordance with

the Islamic law of retribution, known as the "qisas" law.

He was found guilty of the "premeditated murder of Mehrjui and Muhammadifar", Mizan quoted Fazeli-Harikandi as saying.

He added that the application of the retribution law came at the request of Mehrjui's family.

The other defendants received sentences ranging from eight to 36 years in prison, according to Fazeli-Harikandi.

The verdicts, however, are not final and can be appealed before the Supreme Court, Mizan added.

Following Mehrjui's death, tributes poured in to celebrate the works of the pioneer director, producer and screenwriter.

The director was best known for his 1969 metaphorical drama "The Cow" as well as his 1990 dark comedy "Hamoun" showing 24 hours in the life of an intellectual tormented by divorce and psychological anxieties.

Picture of the Day



Foreign guests of the Fajr International Film Festival visited the production workshops of stage props and tools as well as the location of the Salman Farsi series at the Ghazzali Cinema Town west of Tehran.

Photo by ISNA