

Sobh Int'l Media Festival Calls for Entries



TEHRAN -- The second Sobh International Media Festival is currently accepting submissions for participation, with the registration deadline set for April 8, 2024.

Directed by Mohsen Yazdi, the festival's closing ceremony is scheduled to take place at the end of May, iFilm reported.

The Sobh International Media Festival, established in Iran in 2023, serves as a platform for introducing a diverse array of television producers within the IRIB World Service.

It also provides both local and international artists with an opportunity to showcase their talents, fostering positive interactions and cultural transformations.

The primary objective of this festival is to promote artistic creativity and build a global media platform.

Organized by the IRIB World Service, this marks the second edition of the Sobh International Media Festival, featuring competitions for local and international artists in Fiction, Documentary, TV, Radio, Cyberspace, and New Ideas categories.

A noteworthy inclusion is the "Palestine" category, with a dedicated evaluation process for all works submitted under this theme.

Media activists still have time to submit their entries and be a part of this festival dedicated to celebrating and advancing excellence in the field of media. For more information and submission guidelines, please visit sobhfestival.com.

Shahab Husseini Releases Film



TEHRAN -- Iranian actor Shahab Husseini on Wednesday unveiled his latest directorial effort in an online release.

The film marks Husseini's second directorial project following his 2013 debut, 'Resident of the Middle Floor', iFilm reported.

The 'Resident of Nowhere' tells the story of a young man who wakes up in a mysterious guest house. Not knowing where he is, he navigates the ambiguous space between life and death.

The film promises an exploration of existential

themes and builds on Husseini's proven talent for poignant storytelling.

A talented cast joins Husseini on screen, including Parinaz Izadyar, Arman Darvish and Nahid Moslemi.

The film is based on the play "Between the Worlds" by Belgian playwright Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt.

Husseini played the lead in the Oscar-winning Iranian film 'The Salesman', directed by Asghar Farhadi. His performance in the film was awarded the Best Actor prize at the Cannes Film Festival in France.

Winners of Iran's Int'l Qur'an Competition Announced

TEHRAN -- The 40th edition of the Islamic Republic of Iran's International Qur'an Competition wrapped up on Wednesday as winners were awarded.

The closing ceremony of the international competition was held at the Tehran Summit Hall with the participation of contestants, organizers, and top Iranian officials, including President Ebrahim Raisi.

The panel of arbiters named Iran's Hadi Esfidani as the winner of the men's recitation category. Mustafa Branun from Thailand and Mustafa Ali from the Netherlands stood next.

In the men's Tarteel recitation category, the top prize went to Muhammad Pour-sina from Iran while Bilal al-Shaikh Khalid from Syria and Muhammad Mahdi Ezzeddin from Lebanon ranked next.

In the men's memorization category, Omidreza Rahimi from Iran won the first rank. Burhaneddin Rahimov from Russia and Khuzaifa Qurashi from Algeria were awarded as the next two top ranks.

In the women's category of Qur'an memorization, Roya Fazaeli from Iran was awarded the top prize. Maimonah Badeqi from Nigeria and Nouria Jurian Erqa from Indonesia stood next.

Iran's Adeleh Sheikhi was



named the top winner in the women's category of Tarteel recitation. Atiqeh Sahimi from Singapore and Doa al-Saeed from Iraq ranked next.

The prestigious competition began on Thursday and attracted Qur'an enthusiasts from around the world.

Representatives from more than 110 countries registered for Iran's 40th International Qur'an Competition, but only 69 contestants from 40 countries made it to the final round after a rigorous screening process.

The annual event, organized by the Awqaf and Charity Affairs Organization, aims to promote the Qur'anic culture and values among Muslims and showcase the talents of Qur'an reciters and memorizers.

The representative of Saudi Arabia in the competition hailed the quality of the event.

"I found this competition full of spirituality," Abdul Qadir bin Marwan Saqaa

told IQNA on the sidelines of the competition.

"Putting efforts to learn, recite and memorize the Holy Qur'an shows how much we value God's words and how much this sacred book means to us as young people and all Muslims," he said.

Talking about the key role of the Qur'an in finding the right path, he recited verse 9 of Surah Al-Isra which reads: "This Qur'an shows the way to that which is the most upright and gives to the righteous believers the glad news of a great reward."

The Saudi memorizer added, "When we show how much we care about this Quran as Muslims, other people respect it more because the Quran helps us live in the best way."

He also praised the high level and quality of contestants and the competition in general.

Saudi Arabia had sent a representative to the Iranian contest for the first time. On Saturday, Saudi Ambas-

sador to Tehran Abdullah bin Saud al-Anzi visited the venue of the competitions and saw the performance of his country's representative.

A prominent Qur'an expert from Bangladesh underscored the need for taking recourse to the Holy Qur'an in order for new Islamic civilization making.

"All of us must resort to the Qur'an and follow its teachings," Ahmed bin Yusuf al-Azhari, who was a member of the panel of judges, told IQNA in an interview.

"We should teach the Qur'an to kids from an early age and begin familiarizing the society with the Islamic culture from schools," he added.

"That is how we can essentially make the future society Islamic and establish the new Qur'anic and Islamic civilization."

Al-Azhari serves as the chairman of the Quran Recitation Society known as IQRA international Institute.

'Poker' Unveils New Cast Members

TEHRAN -- New cast has been announced for Iranian VOD series 'Poker'.

Amin Hayaee and Niki Karimi are to collaborate in this eagerly awaited Iranian VOD series, bringing an added layer of anticipation to the series.

Directed by Reza Dadouee and produced by Majid Molaei, 'Poker' is currently in the final stages of pre-production.

Pending the necessary approvals, the filming is scheduled to begin in the coming days.

Building on these additions are the previously confirmed cast members Shahab Husseini, Laleh Marzban, and Mir Saeed Molavian, making 'Poker' one of the most highly anticipated home market series in the near future.

Picture of the Day



The 4th National Mugham Music Festival is held at Al-Ghadir Cultural Center in Tabriz through Feb. 19-23. Photo by Mehr News