

## Shanghai Festival to Screen Five Iranian Films



TEHRAN – Five Iranian films namely ‘The Annoyed’, ‘Cause Of Death: Unknown’, ‘1.5 Horsepower’, ‘Dolphin Boy’ and ‘The Passion Of Mahmoud’ will be screened at different sections of the 25th Shanghai Film Festival in China.

Written and directed by Mehdi Fard Ghaderi, the Iranian movie ‘The Annoyed’ will compete with films from Japan, India, the UK, Spain, Georgia, Belgium and Italy in the competition section of the festival, Mehr news reported on Monday.

‘1.5 Horsepower’ by Rasoul Kahani and ‘Cause Of Death: Unknown’ by Ali Zarnegar will be

screened in the Asian New Talent section of the Shanghai Film Festival which will be held on June 9-18.

The Iranian animation ‘Dolphin Boy’ directed by Muhammad Kheirandish will go on screen in the animated features section.

‘The Passion Of Mahmoud’, an Iranian documentary by Davoud Abdolmaleki will take part in the documentary features section of the Shanghai Film Festival.

Shanghai International Film Festival is the largest film festival in Asia and was also China’s longest-running international cinema event.

## Women Mapping New York’s Halal Food



Left to right: Tahirah Baksh, Jiniya Azad, and Sameen Choudhry

NEW YORK (Atlas Obscura) -- When Jiniya Azad, Sameen Choudhry, and Tahirah Baksh searched Google for “halal restaurants in New York” a few years ago, they had trouble finding anything besides the “halal carts” that slung shawarma and falafel. So they made it their mission to seek out what lay beyond these limited search results. And what they found was a world brimming with everything from Pakistani hot chicken and Uzbek dumplings to Turkish flatbreads and roast brisket on rye.

“There’s this multiculturalism of different kinds of restaurants and people just wanting to try other people’s food,” says Azad, one-third of the team of food bloggers known collectively as Muslim Foodies.

Since 2017, Azad, Choudhry, and Baksh have reviewed around 370 New York area halal restaurants for their blog and gained an international following for their mouth-watering depictions of halal food.

For a food to be considered halal, it must adhere to Islamic laws dictating how animals are slaughtered and prohibiting the eating of certain animals, such as pork. For Muslims intent on following halal dietary rules, choosing a new restaurant can be challenging.

Muslim Foodies began when Azad, Choudhry, and Baksh were

members of the Muslim Students Association at Manhattan’s City College. Growing up in the Bronx and Queens, they’d eaten mostly the halal cooking of their families and nearby restaurants. In a new borough with different culinary offerings, they bonded over a shared interest in trying new cuisines while following halal guidelines. But back then, few resources were available for intrepid foodies set on eating halal meat.

Muslim Foodies’ posts help people navigate the cuisines of what some people call the most diverse Muslim community of any metropolitan area in the world. New York City’s approximately 770,000 Muslims hail from over 75 countries, and their food—from the prune-dotted tagines of Morocco to the chili-slicked beef dumplings of Muslim Chinese cuisine—reflects this diversity.

Today, Muslim Foodies counts about 86,900 followers on Instagram and 90,400 followers on TikTok, in addition to those who read their blog.

By day, Azad is a graphic designer and photographer, Baksh is a medical scribe, and Choudhry is a physician assistant. They still manage to post halal guides to everything from pizza to Black-owned restaurants, and their blog hosts a halal restaurant map that eaters can use to find new restaurants near them.

# Imam’s Zarih Decorated With Flowers

TEHRAN -- The forthcoming birth of Imam Reza (AS) is celebrated and commemorated in many ways, and one of the most mesmerizing is the decoration of the Imam’s Zarih with flowers.

This year, the Zarih has been adorned with colorful flowers, ranging from delicate roses to vibrant lilies and chrysanthemums.

The floral arrangement is meant as a tribute to the revered Imam, a symbol of the love and devotion felt by his followers.

Visiting Imam Reza (AS)’s shrine is a transformative experience combining spiritual and aesthetic elements.

The intricate architecture, stunning tile work, and ornate details create a visually striking environment that truly is a feast for the eyes.

The impact of this sacred place, howev-



er, goes far beyond its stunning physical appearance. For many believers, it serves as a constant reminder of the profound influence that Imam Reza (as) has had on their lives, and his enduring legacy continues to inspire Muslims.

## Red Deer Gives Birth at Gorgan Forest Park

TEHRAN -- The birth of a red deer in Ghorogh Forest Park, in Gorgan, in northeast Iran, has raised hopes that efforts meant to protect the rare species, which is under threat due to habitat destruction and overhunting, have paid off.

Speaking to the IRNA on Monday, head of Gorgan’s branch of the Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization



Rasoul Moghasem said that the red deer calf born a day earlier in the region was in good condition and under direct supervision of the rangers.

He added the population of red deer had increased to nine in the Ghorogh forest which has hosted Iran’s main center for protection of red deer for nearly half a century.

## Italian Festival Awards ‘Play’

TEHRAN -- Iranian film ‘Play’ has won an award at the Corti a Ponte Film Festival in Italy.

The film directed by Ali Giti-navard the film grabbed the Best Short Film Award at the 2023 edition of the event.

“Janan is a 6-year-old girl who plays parts of Shakespeare’s Hamlet with her mother,” a short synopsis of the film reads.

Janan Zand-Akbari, Neshat Mirmahdi and Kazem Sayyahi star in the film.

According to the official website of Corti a Ponte, “the festival is unique in Italy for the presence of a large international section dedicated to children and young people, with projections of short films made by children and young people from all over the world selected for quality and cultural value.”

There is a special section of the festival for the films that are made by children and youth that is called “Piccolo Festival”.

The 16th edition of the event was held on May 8-20, 2023.

## ‘Beyro’ to Debut at KINOLUB in Poland

TEHRAN -- The eighth edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth – KINOLUB in Poland will screen Iranian movie ‘Beyro’.

Directed by Morteza Aliab-bas-Mirzaee, the movie will compete at the feature film category.

The biopic tells the story of Alireza Beyranvand, the goalkeeper of Iran’s national football team, from his childhood until his entry into professional football.

It depicts the journey teenager

Beiranvand went through from his birthplace Sarab-e Yas, a small village in Lorestan Province, to Tehran in 2011 when he made his debut in Naft Tehran FC.

The director talked about his strong desire to make a sports movie in praise of hope and social responsibility.

In his massive study on several sports personalities, he came to the conclusion that Beiranvand is the most appropriate one.

Mirzaee said “Because, he is a

living sports personality... and in addition, he had neither money nor a friend at court, and he does not blame anyone else for his problems”.

‘Beyro’ was premiered at and opened the 40th edition of the Fajr Film Festival in Iran, where it received an award by the Football Federation of Iran.

The 2023 edition of the KINOLUB will be held on June 12-26 in the southern cities and villages of Poland.

## Picture of the Day



The Africa Day, the annual commemoration of the foundation of the Organization of African Unity on May 25, 1963, was celebrated at the Diplomatic Club of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran on Monday.

Photo by IRNA