

Data: Cinemas Proliferate Under Raisi



TEHRAN — The number of cinemas in Iran has increased by 30 percent during the government of President Ebrahim Raisi, according to statistics cited by IRNA.

At the end of Iran's previous government in 2021, there were 277 multiplex cinemas with 541 cinemas in Iran, the news agency said Saturday.

The figure reached 352 multiplexes consisting of 710 cin-

emas by the end of July 2023. The Raisi administration targets to increase the number of cinemas to 1,000 at the end of its tenure in 2025.

In total, during the first two years of the government (2021-2023), 98 films were screened in Iran's cinemas, over 1.2 million shows.

During this time, the total number of moviegoers accounted for more than 30.4 million

Babies, Adults Alike Prefer Van Gogh's Paintings



LONDON (Dispatches) -- Adults and babies alike prefer the vibrant colors of van Gogh's paintings, a new study in the Journal of Vision found.

Infants between 18 and 40 weeks old and adults between 18 and 43 years old were given iPads with a selection of 10 van Gogh landscapes among 40 images. The paintings were presented in pairs with 45 possible combinations for each participant.

Though certain biases already begin in infancy, life experiences impact individual preferences as we age.

Infants were shown the painting pairs for five seconds at a time. Those who looked at one image longer than another were determined to have a visual preference for that image. Adults received the same test and visual pairings, but were asked to select the image they found most pleasant. The team then compiled the data from 25 adults to score each artwork on its average pleasantness. This data was compared with the average looking time of 25 infants.

They found that the infants generally looked longer at the artworks that the adult participants had rated more highly for pleasantness, with van Gogh's Green Corn Stalks achieving the highest shared preference.

The research suggests that infants look longer at colors that adults also preferred and showed an affinity for Picasso over Monet. A previous study, however, found no relationship between the length of time infants looked at paintings and adults' preferences. This early re-

search showed fewer paintings than the most recent study, but included a wider range of artists.

The team then tried to pinpoint what aspects of van Gogh's paintings most interested both infants and adults. They determined that babies looked longer at paintings with more variation in brightness and colors, and adults tended to rank those same paintings more highly.

High-contrast paintings are very likely easier for infants to see, as their vision is still developing.

Researchers also found differences between the two groups. Infants tended toward paintings with stretches of sky, for example, while adults preferred the unexpected. Additionally, infants looked longer at images with more curves and edges, while their adult counterparts didn't give them higher ratings.

Brain studies would be needed to determine more accurately whether infants derived more pleasure from the paintings they gazed at for longer periods, though the results suggest a link between infantile sensory bias and adults' aesthetic judgment.

Adults may also have experiential associations that contribute to their choices.

"Those 'top-down' factors can affect the aesthetic experience, whereas for babies, with less experience in the world ... they're responding more in a 'bottom-up' manner to these visual features," Philip McAdams, first author of the study from the University of Sussex, said.

Fascinating Way of Fortune Telling in Iran

TEHRAN — In the bustling streets and popular spots of Iran, an age-old tradition awaits those seeking a glimpse into their fate.

Fal-e Hafez or omen of Hafez, a divination art passed down through generations, has become a cherished practice for Iranians seeking answers and guidance in their lives.

In a country where poetry is revered a great deal, Hafez, a 14th-century Persian poet, holds a special place in the hearts of the people, iFilm reported.

The art of fal-e Hafez has become a way for Iranians to connect with the divine and seek solace in uncertain times.

Amidst residential areas and tourist hotspots, men with trained parrots charm seekers with Hafez's verse-cards, unlocking the secrets of destiny upon a small payment.

Anyone can pose a question, never to be divulged to others, and turn to a page in Hafez's Divan at random for the answer. Should I embark on that journey? Is my heart's desire true? Will destiny lead me to success? Only God and Hafez know, and the response lies in the first couplet that catches one's eye.

This tradition is not limited to specific locations; it can be performed anywhere as long as Hafez's Divan is at hand.

Iranians turn to Hafez for counsel whenever the need arises, but they hold major festivities, like Norowz and Yalda

Pakistan, Iran Discuss Improving Cultural Ties

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) -- Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami has met with President of Pakistan Arif Alvi here, where the two sides committed to improve cultural bonds between the two states, especially in the tourism sector.

Zarghami, in Islamabad to attend the Developing Eight (D8) tourism conference, and President Alvi expressed their shared desire to strengthen cultural and people-to-people ties between the two nations.

The two sides also called for measures to boost cooperation in the tourism sector.

President Alvi expressed his satisfaction with the meeting, stating that Pakistan highly values its relationship with Iran, based on historical, cultural, and religious ties.

Meanwhile, a Pakistani tourism brand called "Salaam Pakistan" was unveiled in a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif and Zarghami.

During the ceremony, Zarghami received a plaque of commemoration for the "Salaam Pakistan" brand from the Pakistani prime minister.



Night seeking prophecies on turning points in their lives.

In the Iranian film series 'The Innocent Ones', the brilliant actor Daryoush Farhand portrays the role of Jalal, a character caught in the labyrinth of fate.

In one touching scene attached to this story, Jalal finds himself

in a cemetery, where a young boy approaches him with a heartwarming offer - to buy an omen. The encounter with this innocent soul enriches the profound tradition of fal-e Hafez, showing how Iranians continue to seek wisdom and insight in the most unexpected places.

This ancient Persian tradition stands as a testament to the Iranian's deep-rooted reverence for art and the profound connection they share with their literary legacy.

In the hands of Hafez, destiny finds its voice, and seekers find the wisdom they seek.

Saeed Nikpour's Legacy in Iranian Cinema



Saeed Nikpour in Iranian series Sattar Khan

TEHRAN -- In the vast and alluring realm of Iranian cinema, there is one name that shines brilliantly, leaving an everlasting impression on the hearts of countless viewers - Saeed Nikpour.

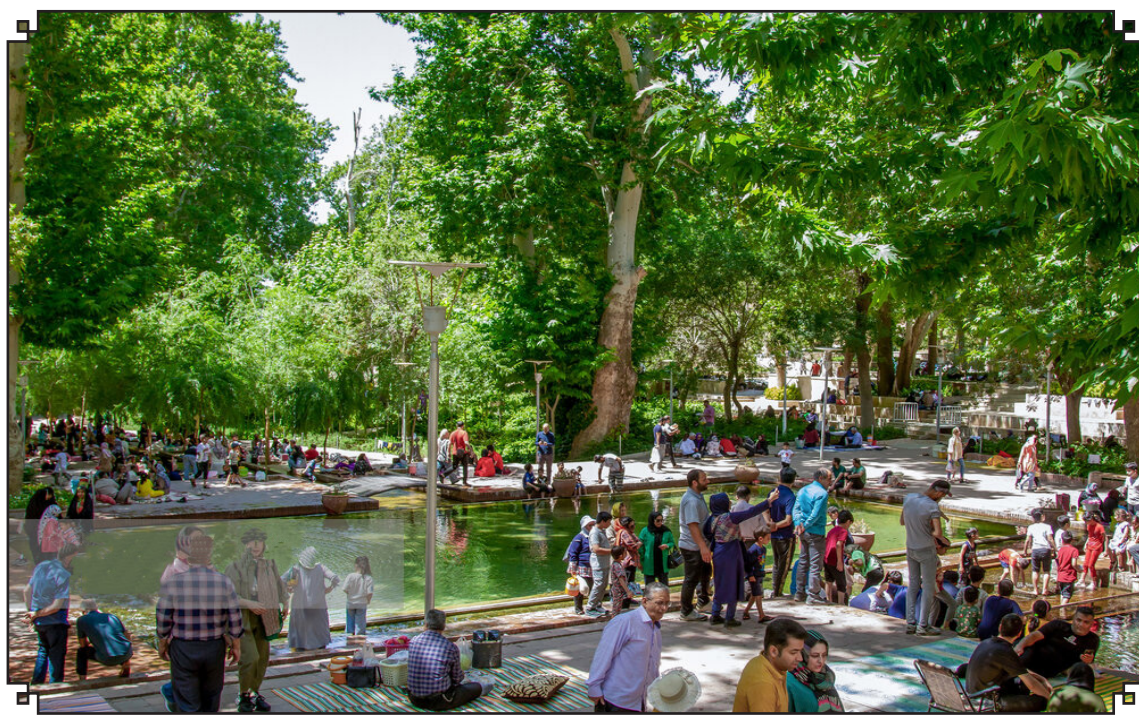
Born in 1945 in the ancient Iranian city of Shahr-e Rey, Nikpour's journey as an actor began amidst the pages of Shakespeare and the appeal of Schiller plays, back when he was a high school student.

A passionate flame for the dramatic arts burned fiercely within him, and in 1985, while still a student, he set forth on a collaboration with veteran Iranian actors Sorayya Qasemi and late Muhammad-Ali Keshavarz, marking his first professional performance in theater.

From that point on, there was no looking back. For nearly three decades, Nikpour's brilliance graced the TV screen, either in acting roles or in his skillful directorial ventures.

His list of achievements reads like a love letter to the world of entertainment - a virtuoso who morphed into Sattar Khan, stirring emotions as Malek o-Shoara Bahar in 'Shahriyar', embodying the soul of Mirza Hassan Irani in the unforgettable 'In the Eye of the Storm', and embracing the iconic Amir Kabir in the series that he himself directed.

Picture of the Day



Sarcheshme Park in Mahalat is known as one of the popular tourist destinations in the central Markazi province of Iran. The historical monuments found in this park date back to the Safavid period.