

## Iconic Ashura Puppet Opera Returns to Tehran Stage



TEHRAN -- Iranian theater director Behrouz Gharibpour and Aran Theater Troupe are restaging the Ashura opera puppet show at Tehran's Ferdowsi Hall, marking the mourning month of Muharram.

The restaging of the show, one of the most renowned and widely acclaimed productions by the troupe, started on July 13 and will go on until August 3, IFilm reported.

The opera is about the battle of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions against the Umayyad dynasty during Ashura, the tenth day of the month of Muharram on the Islamic calendar.

The Ashura opera puppet show is a blend of music, puppetry, poetry and Tazieh (a traditional Iranian passion play).

Despite more than 17 years since its debut, the production continues to attract audiences annually, and recently, the opera was performed at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow during the "Chekhov" Theater Festival.

Written, designed and directed by Gharibpour in 2008, the opera features musical composition by Behzad Abdi, with Vladimir Sirenko conducting the orchestra.

The production also involved the National Ukrainian Choir and Orchestra, in collaboration with members of the Tehran Symphony Choir.

The cast includes prominent artists such as Muhammad Motamedi, Mustafa Mahmoudi, Mehdi Javar, Farshad Fouladvand, Muhammad-Reza Sadeqi, Ali Khodae, and Mehdi Emami.

## Seminar on Iranian-Islamic Identity Invites Global Scholars



**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**HYBRID ACADEMIC SEMINAR**  
**Iranian-Islamic Civilization Identity, Components, and Historical Splendor**

DATE: October 23, 2025 | FORMAT: Hybrid (Online & In-Person)  
LANGUAGE: English | SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Sept. 22, 2025

TEHRAN -- The Iranian House of Wisdom in Vienna, in partnership with the Written Heritage Research Institute and the Iranology Foundation, is organizing a landmark international seminar titled "Iranian-Islamic Civilization Identity, Components, and Historical Glory."

The symposium, set to take place both in person and online on October 23 offers an invaluable opportunity for scholars and intellectuals from around the globe to engage in a deep, multifaceted exploration of one of the most influential and enduring civilizations in human history.

In an age where the global conversation is increasingly shaped by the interwoven threads of history, culture, and identity, the seminar invites contributions that reflect on the profound historical, spiritual, and intellectual contributions of Iranian-Islamic civilization.

Topics for exploration include, but are not limited to, the civilizational identity of Iran, the role of the Persian language in cultural continuity, the dynamics of tradition and innovation, the unity fostered in ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity, and the tangible expressions of Iranian civilization found in its art, architecture, and literature.

The seminar will also touch on some of the most pressing questions of our time, such as: How has the concept of Iranshahr, or the idealized notion of a unified Iranian cultural realm, evolved throughout history? What unifying elements have allowed Iranian civilization to persist despite the ebb and flow of empires, dynasties, and political regimes? And perhaps most crucially, how do we

## Foreign Journalists in Tehran to Document Israeli Media Terrorism



TEHRAN — A delegation of 15 journalists from various countries is visiting Tehran as part of the "Condemning Terrorism Against Media" event organized by the Sobh Media Center.

The event, running from July 17 to July 20, aims to expose the crimes committed by the Israeli regime against Iranian media outlets and infrastructure during the recent aggression against Iran.

The program provides an opportunity for international and Iranian journalists to visit locations in Tehran that were targeted by Israeli attacks during the recent 12-day conflict. By witnessing the devastation firsthand, the visiting reporters will document the damage and produce independent narratives to inform global audiences about the reality on the ground.

Organized by the World Service of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), the initiative seeks to counter distorted Western media portrayals and highlight the resilience, unity, and determination of the Iranian people in the face of terrorism.

The delegation includes journalists from prominent media outlets representing countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Brazil, Algeria, Lebanon, and others.

Among the distinguished participants are Richard Medhurst, a Syrian-British independent journalist and political commentator; Diego Sequera, Venezuelan journalist, writer, translator, and geopolitical analyst; Rezwana Akhtar Matin, American social media activist and Palestine advocate; and Andreas Landeck, German filmmaker and director.

Other journalists in the group include Ricardo Garcia Vilanova, Jennifer Koonings, Radwan Mortada, Rajaa Ben Ayad, Calla Walsh, Sadia Hannan, and Mastapha Wehbi.

Ahmad Norouzi, Head of IRIB World Service, stated that nearly 100 international journalists had expressed interest in traveling to Iran to cover the Israeli attacks, with 15 journalists ultimately selected for the mission.

He emphasized that those selected have embraced this "exceptional opportunity" to report on the brutal aggression and its impact on Iranian media and society.

## Iran to Resume Honoring Patrons of Ancient Manuscripts



TEHRAN — Deep within the vaults of Iran's libraries lie centuries-old manuscripts—fragile yet enduring vessels of science, poetry, theology, and art.

Next February, two of the country's foremost cultural institutions, the National Library and Archives of Iran and the Library, Museum, and Document Center of the Iranian Parliament, will jointly host the 17th Commemoration of Patrons of Manuscripts, reviving an event paused for several years.

Held under the evocative theme "Yesterday's Heritage, Today's Wisdom," the ceremony will celebrate those who have dedicated themselves to the preservation, restoration, study, and dissemination of Persian and Islamic manuscripts—texts that represent one of the world's richest and most continuous literary traditions.

The organizers have issued a nationwide call to researchers, publishers, universities, and cultural organizations to submit their most important contributions from the past five years, ranging from the critical editing of ancient texts to the digital archiving of endangered volumes. The deadline for entries is September 21, 2025.

The event will recognize a wide spectrum of contributions to manuscript culture, from codicologists and conservators to digital archivists and private collectors. Among the areas to be recognized are:

- Textual criticism and scholarly editing
- Cataloguing and classification of rare manuscripts
- Binding, restoration, and preservation techniques
- Public access and education in manuscript literacy
- Digitization and database creation
- Donation of private manuscript collections
- Media programs and podcasts about manuscript heritage
- Literary and creative works—such as documentaries and screenplays—rooted in historical texts

Special attention will also be given to efforts in Islamic calligraphy and book arts, highlighting the visual dimension of this literary tradition—illuminated Qur'ans, miniature-rich epics, and scientific treatises penned in calligraphy as intricate as the ideas they contain.

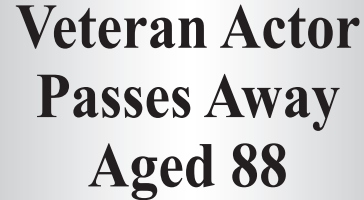
For centuries, Iran has been a heartland of knowledge, where scholars copied and preserved ancient texts long before the printing press arrived. From medicine and astronomy to Sufi metaphysics and classical poetry, these manuscripts form a thread that ties modern-day Iran to a vibrant intellectual past.

"In recognizing those who preserve and interpret this legacy," organizers say, "we reaffirm the enduring power of knowledge passed from hand to hand, across generations."

**How to Participate**

Individuals and institutions interested in submitting their works can visit the official website at [www.hamiankhati.ir](http://www.hamiankhati.ir), email the Secretariat at [hamian@nlai.ir](mailto:hamian@nlai.ir), or call +98 21 8162 2793 for more information.

## Veteran Actor Passes Away Aged 88



TEHRAN -- Muhammad Ali Tabrizian, one of the oldest actors in pre-Revolution Iranian cinema, known by his stage name Homaoun, has passed away. The actor, who had been struggling with illness due to old age for some time, passed away Friday at the age of 88.

Tabrizian began his acting career in 1962 and quickly became a known figure in Iranian cinema. He starred in several hit films, including the "Sultan of Hearts".

The veteran actor also featured in films such as "Pride of Honor," "Woman and Land," "The Fool," "The Man with the Moustache," and more.

## Picture of the Day



The second round of the 2025 university entrance exam for admission to higher education institutions, and Islamic Azad University began on Thursday morning.

Photo by Mehr News