

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

Art & Culture

Iranian, Dutch festivals sign MoU on cultural cooperation

Iran's Shahr (Urban) International Film Festival and the Netherlands' Architecture Film Festival Rotterdam (AFFR) signed an MoU on cultural cooperation.



mehrnews.com

The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the ongoing 7th Shahr International Film Festival by the event's director, Hashem Mirzakhani, and the director of Architecture Film Festival Rotterdam, Jord den Hollander, Mehr News Agency reported.

Under the MoU, the Shahr International Film Festival will dedicate a section to Dutch cinema in its future editions. Likewise, the AFFR will devote a section to the screening of Iranian films.

The 7th Shahr International Film Festival, as Iran's most important cinematic event of urban management in the fields of setting and promoting appropriate urban and industrial life patterns, comes to an end in the Iranian capital of Tehran today.

More than 4,000 films from 114 countries were submitted for participation in the seventh edition of the fest, according to the event's public relations department.

Shahr Film Festival aims to identify creative and innovative cinematic works of urban life and create a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences.

AFFR is a biannual film festival screening features, short films, animated movies and documentaries about architecture, urban development and city culture.

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 » Managing Director: Sadreddin Mousavi
 » Editor-in-Chief: Kambakhsh Khalaji
 » Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 8875761-2
 » Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88761899
 » Subscription Dept. Tel: +98 21 88748900
 » ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548992, 5
 » Advertising Dept. Tel & Email: +98 21 88500617- irandaily@iranagahiha.com
 » Website: www.iran-daily.com
 » Email: newspaper@iran-daily.com
 » Printing House: irandaily@tiepi.ir
 Iran Cultural & Press Institute

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Iran's Bahrami wins 'Best Actress' award at Malaysian festival



namava.ir

Art & Culture Desk

Iranian actress Sara Bahrami won the Best Actress award at the 3rd Malaysia Golden Global Awards (MGGA 2019) for starring in the film titled 'Axing'.

Directed and produced by Behrouz Shoaibi and Mahmoud Razavi, respectively, the Iranian film was nominated in six categories

of Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress at the festival, IRNA wrote.

A few days ago, the flick had won the AAFCCJ Award at Armenia's Golden Apricot International Film Festival.

The cast include Mahnaz Afshar, Bahrami, Hadi Hejazifard, Negar Abedi, Jamshid Hashempour and

Amin Hayaei.

The film narrates the story of an addicted woman named Mahsa who thinks that her daughter is dead. She, however, finds out that her daughter is alive and is living with her father (Mahsa's ex-husband). She, then, decides to take her back, a decision that forces her to face her ex-husband and his new wife.

Mahershala Ali to star in Marvel's 'Blade' reboot



BILLY FARRELL/SHUTTERSTOCK

Marvel is rebooting the 'Blade' series, and has cast Mahershala Ali to star.

Marvel Studios chief, Kevin Feige, announced the news at San Diego Comic-Con on Saturday as the panel's big ending surprise, variety.com reported.

Ali also took the stage at the announcement to massive applause, donning the Blade baseball cap.

Wesley Snipes previously played the half-vampire superhero in 1998's 'Blade' and its two sequels, 'Blade II' and 'Blade: Trinity.' Coincidentally, Feige was a co-producer on 'Trinity.' The series focuses on the titular vigilante, a human who possesses vampire strengths and protect humans from vampires.

Ali has been on a hot streak as of late. He won his first Oscar, for best supporting actor, in 2016 for 'Moonlight,' and won the same prize this year for his portrayal of Don Shirley in 'Green Book.'

He most recently starred in the third season of HBO's drama series 'True Detective' and appeared in 'Alita: Battle Angel.'

It's not Ali's first foray in the superhero world. Last year, he voiced the Prowler in the animated hit 'Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse,' and also played the villain Cornell 'Cottonmouth' Stokes in the first season of the Netflix/Marvel series 'Luke Cage.'

Iran's 'Azar' to be screened in London

Art & Culture Desk

Iranian film titled 'Azar', directed by Mohammad Hamzeie, will be screened in the 20th Rainbow Film Festival in London today.

The festival, which opened on Sunday, will continue until July 28, IRNA reported.

Famous Iranian actress Niki Karimi is the producer of the flick. The Iranian film has so far participated in a number of international festivals, such as Vancouver International Film Festival, Sheed Persian Film Festival in Dallas, Iranian Film Festival in Canada, the Asian Film Festival Barcelona and the 17th Dhaka International Film Festival.

Produced in 2016, the film is about an Iranian couple, Amir and Azar, who sell their house to open a restaurant. Amir's cousin Saber also wants to in-



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vest in this project. While their partnership is going on well, Saber suddenly decides to use the money he intended to invest in the restaurant for other purposes. This leads to a disaster for Amir and Azar.

Artists withdraw from NYC's museum show over tear gas link

Seven artists asked New York City's Whitney Museum to remove their work from its biennial showcase of American art over a museum board member's ties to the sale of law enforcement supplies including tear gas.

The artists are protesting Warren Kanders' role as vice chairman of the Whitney's board, AP wrote.

Kanders is the owner of the Safariland Group, which sells body armor for police officers as well as tear gas. Critics of Safariland said the tear gas has been used against migrants at the US-Mexico border.

"The Museum's inertia has turned the screw, and we refuse further complicity with Kanders and his technologies of violence," four of the artists said

in a letter the showcase's curators published in Artforum on Friday.

Three additional artists said on Saturday that they were withdrawing their work in solidarity. Spinnello Projects, a gallery that represents two of the artists, said on Facebook that Safariland "manufactures tear gas and other weapons of repression."

Adam D. Weinberg, Alice Pratt Brown Director of the Whitney Museum of American Art, said in an emailed statement that the Whitney "respects the opinions of all the artists it exhibits and stands by their right to express themselves freely."

"While the Whitney is saddened by this decision, we will of course comply with the artists' request," he added.

An email seeking comment was also sent to Safariland on Saturday.

Removing the artwork would leave large empty spaces in the exhibit, which runs through September 22. One of the works, Nicole Eisenman's 'Procession,' takes up most of the museum's sixth-floor terrace.

Artists and the Whitney's own staff members have been speaking out against Kanders' presence on the board since November, when more than 100 staff signed a letter calling for his resignation.

Kanders defended Safariland in his own letter addressed to "the Whitney community."

"Safariland's role as a manufacturer is to ensure the products work, as ex-

pected, when needed," Kanders said, according to ARTnews.

"Safariland's role is not to determine when and how they are employed."

The Biennial, a survey of new American art that began as an annual show in 1932, typically featured politically charged art and has often sparked controversy.

The 2017 Biennial saw sustained protests over 'Open Casket,' a painting depicting the corpse of Emmett Till, a black teenager who was murdered in Mississippi in 1955 after facing a false accusation. Protesters said it was exploitative for white artist Dana Schutz to use Till's image in her work. The painting was not removed from the exhibit.



This April 30, 2015 photo shows an exterior view of the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the US. BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP

Weather

