Imam Ali (AS):
When a community is composed of honest and virtuous people, developing a bad opinion about any of its members when nothing wicked has been seen of him, is a great injustice to him.

News in Brief

'Ashura' Puppet Opera Heading to Isfahan

Noted Iranian theater director Behrouz Gharibpour will stage 'Ashura' Puppet Opera in Isfahan.

Announcing this, the director told Fars News Agency that following well-received performances in Tehran, 'Aran' troupe will be heading to Isfahan province in mid January.

The Tehran performances were held at Ferdowsi Hall from December 7 to 29.

"A large number of spectators were first time theater goers, which shows our theater is prospering," Gharibpour said.

He added that 'Aran' will be participating in Dimondi Festival in Italy this summer.

Ashura is the tenth day of the lunar month of Muharram marking the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS)--the third Shiite Imam--his family members, and his 72 companions in Karbala plains, Iraq.

Known for his extensive research on Qajar puppetry, Gharibpour has staged plays in numerous domestic and foreign festivals, including the 11th World Festival of Puppet Art in Prague and the 2008 International Incanti Figure Theater Festival in Italy.

Gharibpour has received the Italian Sirene d' Oro Prize from Arrivano dal Mare Puppet Festival in 2009.

Goya Prints on View in Valladolid

The Municipal Exhibition Hall of the Museum of Passion in Valladolid, is hosting through 16 January 2011, 200 prints by Francisco de Goya, belonging to the complete series of 'Los Caprichos', 'The Disasters of War' and 'Bullfight', in an exhibition titled 'Goya, The genius of a writer'.

The show delves into the particular interpretation of Spain that the great Francisco de Goya (1746-1828) made at the time, according to Art Daily.

Throughout his career his expertise was evident in all genres ranging from portrait to landscape without missing the traditional themes that dictated his time and, of course, not forgetting the war and social issues.

Besides numerous techniques mastered, not just drawing or oil but his ability as an engraver took him to keep company with the great masters of this technique.

In 1799 Goya published a series of 80 prints titled 'Caprichos' depicting what he called "...the innumerable foibles and follies to be found in any civilized society, and from the common prejudices and deceitful practices which custom, ignorance, or self-interest have made usual."

The dark visions depicted in these prints are partly explained by his caption, "The sleep of reason produces monsters". Yet these are not solely bleak in nature and demonstrate the artist's sharp satirical wit, particularly evident in etchings such as 'Hunting for Teeth'.

In the 1810s, Goya created a set of aquatint prints titled 'The Disasters of War' which depict scenes from the Peninsular War. The scenes are singularly disturbing, sometimes macabre in their depiction of battlefield horror, and represent an outraged conscience in the face of death and destruction. The prints were not published until 1863, 35 years after Goya's death.

'Grit' Tops Friday Box Office

Paramount's 'True Grit' rang in the New Year at the top of the domestic Box office, grossing roughly $8.2 million on Friday from 3,083 theaters to overtake Universal's 'Little Fockers' for the first time.

'True Grit's' cumulative is $70.4 million. It's been the only major studio Christmas title to over perform.

'Little Fockers' grossed an estimated $7.8 million Friday from 3,554 locations for a cumulative of $84.4 million, Variety said.

The holiday take reps a fine start for 'True Grit' since Universal's 'Little Fockers' was expected to win the weekend. 'Fockers' could still wind up on top with Disney's 'Tron' gaining some steam, but positive reviews and strong word of mouth for the Par Western is good news for 'True Grit'.

Warner Bros.' 'Yogi Bear', with $4.1 million, beat a crop of other 3D family-targeted films, including 20th Century Fox's 'The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Trader' and Disney's 'Tangled', which followed in standing with a respective $3.5 million and $3.3 million.

Fox's 3D Jack Black starrer 'Gulliver's Travels' fared with slightly less, taking in $3 million on Friday.

New Year's totals, which typically benefit from increased movie going, should transfer through the weekend. Though without a similarly performing picture like 2009's 'Avatar', most box office experts predict 2010 totals to be down from 2009.

The weekend tally from Dec. 31 through Sunday are included in 2010's gross.

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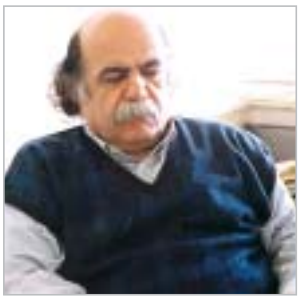
The first winter snow of mountains near Tehran (Photo by Ehsan Naderipour)

Kazzazi's Trilogy On Hafez Hits Market



Distinguished Iranian literary figure Mir-Jalaleddin Kazzazi has published the third book of his trilogy on Hafez poems.

The book provides an analysis of Hafez sonnets from an aesthetic point of view, ISNA said.

The first two volumes titled 'Pir-e Moghan' and 'Anecdote and Affinity' were published around 14 years ago. They have been republished recently by Qatreh Publishing House along with the third volume 'A Light in the Wind'.

Kazzazi, a researcher on the works of the renowned Persian poet Abolqasem Ferdowsi recently compared Ferdowsi's 'Shahnameh' (Grand Book) with Virgil's 'The Aeneid', a Latin epic poem.

Kazzazi has translated the French classic 'Lancelot, le Chevalier de la Charrette' (Lancelot, the Knight of the Cart) into Persian. The book is among the four Arthurian Romances.

Translation of 'The Metamorphoses' by the Roman poet Ovid from French to Persian is also among his latest works.

Shams Al-e Ahmad To Be Commemorated

The late Iranian writer Shams Al-e Ahmad will be commemorated at Tehran's Art Bureau on January 11.

According to ISNA, the event will be attended by Al-e Ahmad's family and friends as well as cultural personalities and officials.

The author's last interview will also be featured on the sidelines.

Author, researcher and journalist Shams Al-e Ahmad died of cardiac arrest in Tehran in December 2010.

The son of Ayatollah Seyyed Ahmad Taleqani and the younger brother of famous Iranian writer Jalal Al-e Ahmad, Shams Al-e Ahmad studied literature, philosophy and educational sciences at the University of Tehran.

He also took photography classes in Germany and got his cinematography diploma from the Syracuse University in the US.

Al-e Ahmad was appointed as a member of Iran's Cultural Revolution Council by the founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini in 1981.

'Narrative of Revolution', 'Ancient Stories' and 'Cradle' are among Al-e Ahmad's better-known works. He also edited 'Javaher-Al-Asmar' written by Emad ibn Mohammad Saghari in the 14th century. The book, which is a collection of stories told by a parrot, was originally translated from Sanskrit to Pahlavi during the Sassanid era.

France to Host Persian Paintings

France will hold an exhibition of works by Iranian artist Pari Zangeneh at the Jean Gagnant Municipal Cultural Center in the city of Limoges.

The event will be held from January 5 to 26, 2011, displaying fifty paintings and illustrations by the 33-year-old artist, ISNA reported.

"These works are inspired by my personal experiences and therefore present various forms of images," Zangeneh said.

"I have used different painting materials and tools such as pencils, ink and acrylic," she added saying "I have created my work in abstract expressionism style."

Zangeneh--not to be mistaken with Pari Zangeneh, the country singer--was invited to exhibit her works in France after an artist French couple visited her workshop in Isfahan about ten years ago.

Her works reflect the artistic forms and styles of Isfahan's historical architecture, exquisite handicrafts and scenery.

"Isfahan is where my first thoughts and artistic experiences were formed," Zangeneh said. "The golden-turquoise tile works, the green color of its trees and the vast blue area of the Naqsh-e Jahan Square can all be seen in my works."

Zangeneh has participated in many group exhibitions and art biennials in Iran.

Weather

Ahvaz | Bandar Anzali | Chabahar | Hamedan | Mashhad | Tabriz | Tehran 10 ^ v 2 | Baghdad | Buenos Aires | London | Moscow | Tokyo | Yemen