



The 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Theater Festival winners

Children and young Adults welcomed the show "A girl in Doll Shoes"

Iran Theater- The show "Girl in Doll Shoes" directed by Amir Afsar -Shaibani was staged on the eighth day of the Tehran-Mubarak Puppet Festival and welcomed by many children and teenagers at the Honar Hall.

The show took the audience to the fantasy world by creating a completely imaginary world and established a good relationship with the audience by aggrandizing everyday objects and various puppets, music and songs.

The director consciously turns physical disabilities into special powers and characteristics and



teaches them to accept and recognize each one's abilities in the adventure of the heroes.

The 19th International Puppet Festival is currently underway in Tehran with Hadi Hejazifar as artistic director.

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Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance on the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Theater Festival

Iran Theater- The Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance published a message on the occasion of holding the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Theater Festival and considered this artistic event as an opportunity for artists with their sublime and pure art, convey the deepest spiritual teachings and the most appropriate and comprehensive human messages in the simplest and the most expressive way to today's audience.

Ahmed Joulaie met with Alice Shahmoradian, director of Ardak Manoukian Museum (Museum of Anthropology Armenians), and a group of Armenian artists in order to provide conditions for joint cooperation in various sections of the festival.

Mohammad Mehdi Esmaili published a message on the eve of the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Theater Festival.

He wrote: Dramatic arts is a explicit and attractive medium to show the cultural power and artistic message of the people of any country, Therefore, the



most objective cultural elements of ancient Iran and the ritual messages of this artistic land can be observed in this kind of art, and there is no better opportunity than the wide and original world of puppet shows, especially at a time when the inhabitants of the earth seek peace after the increasing invasion of individualism and profiteering. And inner happiness, faith and hope are needed more than ever.

The art of puppet show is definitely the creative result of the creative thinking who, with their sublime and beautiful art, convey the deepest spiritual teachings and the most appropriate and comprehensive human messages in the simplest and the most expressive way to today's audience.

In the meantime, the figures and puppets come out of their small and refined but old, clean and beautiful world and with a new life, carry the heavy burden of beliefs, rituals and traditions on their delicate but powerful shoulders, in the best and most intimate way possible, to generations of today and tomorrow.

Concepts that are full of precious heritage and a heavy capital on the range of poems, stories and proverbs accumulated in the history of this region. These are the puppet shows that can be a rich and influential opportunity to showcase the individual talents and ethnic capabilities of Iranian artists, from the nearest cities to the farthest and most bordering parts of the country and in Tehran because of their cultural diversity and folklore history.

Also, in terms of cultural exchanges, puppet shows provide an attractive and effective platform for presenting valuable content to the guests and cultural ambassadors of other nations who are present at the "19th International Puppet Theater Festival."

ALEX HERRERA FROM MEXICO ON THE BIRDS ARE ETERNAL



Iran Theater-In the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Festival, a two-person troupe from Mexico staged a puppet show at the Tehran Honar Hall, which depicts the life of a person from childhood to old age, with de-

tails and a universal idea and in a childishly language.

It's a conversation with Alex Herrera about the show and International puppet Festival. Tell us about yourself.

I am Alex Herrera from Mexico and I am en-

gaged in performing puppet shows.

Does it have folklore and local stories? Or was it an idea from the playwright?

This contains a universal idea and is not folklore. We inspired by the Japanese Bunraku puppet show, which is one of the most common methods of puppetry in the world.

Can your show be performed only as a stage performance or can it be performed on the street?

This show has had more than 450 performances so far and

I can say that half of these performances were in the form of street performances.

Has it been performed in other puppet festivals in other countries?

This show has performed many times in festivals in Brazil, Colombia and Mexico.

Is it the first time you come to Iran? What do you think about International puppet festival?

Yes, this is the first time I have come to Iran. I have seen three shows from Iran and one from Turkey in this festival and I liked them very much.

Kazem Nazari on 2023 International Puppet Festival



Iran Theater- In a message to the 19th International Puppet Festival, the Director General of Dramatic Arts Center and ITI President of Iran, Kazem Nazari wrote: This artistic event presents the traditions, beliefs and messages of Iran's cultural identity.

The message of Kazem Nazari is as follows:

In the Name of Almighty

The handmade creations of any country are symbols and signs of the intellectual currents and mental and social life characteristics of the inhabitants and each one carries the traditions, beliefs and messages of the cultural identity of the people who have brought forward their history in that climate, generation. And they have established their traditional heritage.

Among these historical and cul-

tural symbolic creations are figurines and puppets whose appearance, face, their color and the type and extent of their clothes and even the choice of their name express and represent the lines of thought, wishes, hatreds, joys and in general the mental concerns of the people who create and maintain them.

The performance methods of these figures, which are generally performed in "puppet shows"; have the same background and function and convey different messages with different names and characters.

The character of "Mubarak" has a different identity among the performance methods and puppet characters of ancient and ritual Iran, such as "Khimehashbazi", "Glove", "Shadow game" and..., ".

And Mubarak, with blessing and happiness like its name, with fun and originality, frankness and elegance of expression, fulfills both its cultural and ritual role and also plans humorous social critiques, through the closest faces and names to folk literature and archetypes of this cultural land, and with a combination of movement, words and music, he takes the audience to the depths of the mental reserves and background

of these noble and emotional people and conveys his message with rhythmic words and songs originating from the music of the people of the mountains, plains, bazaars and alleys.

Such an origin and support has now become the place of new and modern creativity of young Iranian performers, with the presence and guidance of experienced veterans, who present themselves at the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Festival.

In another part of his message Kazem Nazari said: A festival that, after several years of delay, has emerged as a pure opportunity to observe and learn and synergize with all the activists and experts in this field. It deserves to be filled with critical interactions and discussions of critics, students, and audiences, full of different viewpoints and ideas that pave the way for utilizing the vast capacities of these puppets and their characters, in the matter of "playwriting" and "variety of presentation".

And in the movement and voice of the figures and puppeteers, the voice will reach the ears of those who are familiar with the subtleties and virtues hidden in the art of drama.

Mahmoud Salari:

International Puppet Theater Festival is going through a good period

Iran Theater- Mahmoud Salari, artistic deputy of the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, who went to City Theater Complex to participate in the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Festival emphasized that the Tehran Puppet Theater Festival is going well.

Mahmoud Salari attended the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Theater Festival and with cultural Minister and They watched the show "Mirza Muhammad" written by Aghil Jamati and directed by Qasim Tangsirejad from Bushehr in

City Theater Complex. The show competed in the adult section of the Puppet Theater Festival.

Mahmoud Salari said about the holding of the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Theater Festival: "Tehran-Mubarak Puppet Theater Festival is one of the prestigious festivals of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and If this festival is held bigger, it will be honorable."

He continued: "I have personally witnessed the reception of this festival by the audience and theater troupes, and thank God this festival is going through a good pe-



riod." After the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance told reporters that you can ask Mahmoud Salari for the details of the security plan for the theater complex, Salari explained: The security plan for City Theater Complex has been

sent to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, and consultations have also been done with the municipality. And we are waiting for the final approvals so that the executive operation of the security of the City Theater complex can be started.

The 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Theater Festival winners



Iran Theater- The 19th Tehran-Mobarak International Puppet Theater Festival has come to an end and the closing ceremony of the festival was held on July 8, 2023.

Many officials and artists were present in this ceremony, which was hosted by Mohammad Solooki: Mahmoud Salari (Deputy for Art Affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance), Kazem Nazari (Director General of Dramatic Arts Center), Hadi Hijazifar (Festival Director), Seyed Mohammad Hashemi (Legal Deputy, Parliament and Provincial Affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance), Marzieh Broumand, Adel Bezdode , Maryam Saadat, Homa Jedikar, Bahram Shahmohammadlou and....

The festival paid tribute to Hassan Dadshekar; Pioneer of puppet shows and theater for children and teenagers and Homa Jedikar , a puppeteer and a well known director of puppet shows. The 19th edition of the festival were held on June 29th to July 8th, 2023 in Tehran.

Full list of winners

The outdoor section:

Best music:

A special mention and a cash prize went to Hamed Torabi and Sobhan Torabi for A mustache hair.

The winner: Mohammad Naderi (Zadeh Ghos Falak Ast Isfahan).

The best space design:

Special mention to Razieh Pashaei and Hamed Torabi (A mustache hair), Ali Ghazi (Hel Hel Kooseh), and Laila Baigvand (Hunter).

No winner was selected in this section.

The Best Voiceover:

Special mention went to Hossein Rabiei (Adventurous marriage)

The best puppeteer:

special mention went to the group of puppeteers of Hele Kooseh.

The winner: The puppeteer group of the show Shiloh

The best Puppet ideas and making:

A special mention and a cash prize went to Atefeh Naghavi (Zadeh Qhos Falak ast Isfahan), Faramarz Gholamian (Shiloh) and Razieh Pashaei (A mustache hair).

The special award of this section was given to the young actress Aida Kianitabar for the show Shiloh.

The best play, design, performance idea:

A special mention and a cash prize went to Amir-Mohammad Enssafi for the show The Story of My Herd.

The winner: Faramarz Gholamian (Shiloh).

The Best Director:

Special mention: Faramarz Gholamian (Shiloh).

The winner: Atefeh Naghavi (Zadeh Qhos Falak ast Isfahan).

The Best Show:

Shiloh (Faramarz Gholamian)

mian)

Secretary's Award:

Hamed Zarean (Giant Robots)

Child and young adult section:

The Best music:

A special mention and a cash prize went to Fatemeh Mehrabi for the show Darkness.

The winner: Babak Niushadan for Little Black Fish

The Best Stage design:

Special mention went to Zahra Nazeri for Frog and Stranger.

The winner: Pouria Rahimi and Hossein Ghasemi -Honar for 12 minutes.

The Best voiceover:

Special mention: Hassan Falahzadeh (Cha chahe Cheleche Chehel Gees)

The winner: Seyyed Mehrdad Kavousi-Hosseini (third day of summer)

The Best Puppeteer:

Special mention went to Saeed Mousavi -Razi for Darkness.

The winner: Sajad Makhdomi (the dog and wolf)

The best Puppet ideas and making:

Special mention: Nasim Shirzadi (Cha chahe Cheleche Chehel Gees) and Qasim Rahmati (Little Black Fish).

The winner: Saba Qadimi (Darkness).

Special prize:

Reza Afshar for his performance in the show Little Prince.

Parastoo Samavat ,the designer of the poster and brochure of The little girl.

Best play:

Special mention: Aminreza Malek Mahmoudi (The Doll's Shoe Girl)

The winner: Ghazaleh Ebadi (Darkness)

The Best Director:

Special mention went to Hossein Ghasemi Honar for the 12-minute.

The winner: Hojat Hashemi (Little Black Fish)

Best Show:

Little Black Fish directed by Hojat Hashemi and Darkness directed by Ghazaleh

Ebadi

The adult section:

The Best music:

Special mention went to Pejmon Abdi and Mohammad Javad Karamati (moonlit night).

The winners: Hamed Salj Mahmoudi and Parsa Shomali (Maman)

The Best stage design:

Special mention:Zahra Sheikh Al-Hokmai (buried alive)

The winner: Roodabeh Kashani (280th Night)

The Best Voiceover:

Special mention went to Mahsa Rahsepar (Mirza Mohammad) and Malihe Shabani (Maman)

The winner: Mohammad Bahrani (Buried Alive) and Amir Zaghari (The Game)

The Best puppeteer:

Special mention: Mahnaz Khatibi (Buried alive) and the puppeteers of the show Maman.

The winner: Mohammad Javad Mahdian and Qais Yasaghi (The triangle)

The Best Puppet ideas and making:

Special mention to Roya Naseri (Maman) and Youssef Etesamizadeh (Mirza Mohammad)

The winner; Zahra Aziminia (The game)

special prize:

Sara Rezaei was honored for the magical Macbeth and the executive team of the 280th Night.

The Best play:

Special mention went to Sargol Eslamian for the show A shirt named War.

The winner: Elham Salj Mahmoudi (Maman)

The Best Director:

Special mention: Elham Salj Mahmoudi (Maman) and Sargol Eslamian (A shirt named War)

The winner: Qais Yasaghi (The triangle)

The Best Show:

Qais Yasaghi (The triangle) Elham Salj Mahmoudi (Maman) Sargol Eslamian (A shirt named War)

Marzieh Boroomand:

Puppet show is thought provoking

Iran Theater- Marzieh Boroomand, an actress, writer and theater director, believed that puppet shows are thought provoking, and emphasized the need to redefine the privacy of Tehran's City Theater Complex in order to maintain mental health and environmental safety in the open area of this complex.

Marzieh Boroomand, the well known puppet theater director, writer and actress, attended the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Theater Festival and watched the show "280th Night of the Year" written and directed by Marjan Poorgholamhosein in the Sayeh Hall.

After the performance, which narrated the life of one of the martyred divers in Operation Karbala-4 in a humane, tender and romantic atmosphere, she met with Kazem Nazari (General Director of Dramatic Arts Center,) and Hadi Hejazifar (Director of the 19th International Theater Puppet Festival).

Pointing to the importance of holding this great artistic event, she said: Theatre, and especially the puppet show, should be thought provoking before it causes excitement in the society.

The artist continued: The most of



theater audiences think that puppet shows are only for children and teenagers, and the establishment of the Tehran-Mubarak Puppet Theater Festival will definitely make them familiar with shows for adults and know that puppet shows are for all age groups. Referring to the removal of the banister of City Theater Complex in previous years, Broumand said: "It is a good idea for the theater hall to be in the heart of a park and in an open space. Definitely, the decision made in previous years to remove the protections of this complex was done with

the right intention.

She continued: When people's economic conditions are not good and there are many cultural problems, the open area of the City Theater Complex becomes a hangout for some people or for peddlers.

She explained: During the three years of being the secretary of the Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Theater Festival, I suffered a lot due to the conditions of open area of City Theater Complex, as well as visual, audio and unfortunately ugliness and pollution.

Hugo Suarez on The show Body Rhapsody

Iran Theater- Hugo Suarez, the director of the "Body Rhapsody" show, said that he and his wife initially started their acting with street performances, and their initial performances were pantomime shows, which became more perfect over time. And they reach this type of body puppet performance.

Acting in dramatic arts is a combination of body abilities, expression and feeling. But among the performing arts artists, there are also those who use one of these tools more than usual. Hugo Suarez is one of them.

Body Rhapsody by this Peruvian artist was performed on the stage on the sixth day of the 19th Tehran-Mubarak Puppet Theater Festival. He makes actors from his

body parts (hands, knees, etc.).

Tell us about yourself and your artistic background.

I am Hugo Suarez from Peru. In 1989, together with my wife Ines Pasic, we started making and performing puppet shows. Our work is designing puppets and performing puppet shows based on the use of different parts of the body such as hands, knees and stomach. We are still working on new creations of puppet show art. For example, the last performance technique we designed is a kind of mouth puppet that I performed on stage today. My wife and I direct together. Over the years of experience, new episodes have been added to our work and to this day it is still being added and perfected, and we are

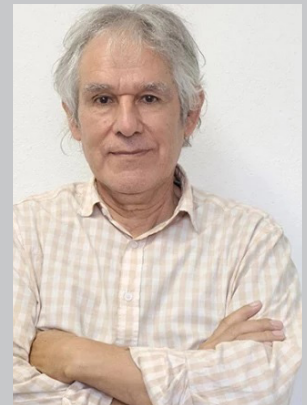
still creating and producing new puppets and performance techniques.

You use a box to carry stage props, so your performance is very similar to a street show. Is your main goal a stage performance or a street performance?

At first, my wife and I started performing with street performances. Our initial performances were pantomime shows, which were perfected over time and reached this type of body puppet performance. Our main expertise and performance method is the same, and we do not specialize in other performance styles and methods.

How do you evaluate Tehran puppet Theater Festival?

It is my first day in Iran, so I haven't managed to see any show yet, but i think



that this festival has been organized very well so far. I am very satisfied with the feedback from the audience in my first performance. They seemed to me to be very similar to the Latin American audience, who are very responsive and emotional towards the show. I am very much looking forward to seeing the performances in the coming days.

Kazem Nazari met with Armenian artists

Iran Theater-Kazem Nazari, the general director of Dramatic arts, met with the artists of the Armenian puppet show group, who performed a show at the 19th Tehran-Mubarak Puppet Festival.

The meeting was held in the office of the Director General of the Dramatic Arts Department, Kazem Nazari appreciated the professional performances of Armenian artists and emphasized the continuation of cultural exchanges in the field of education and the performance of puppet shows by the artists of the two countries in Iran and Armenia.

Nazari pointed out that the General Department of Performing Arts is always ready to provide the necessary facilities for establishing cultural exchanges throughout the year in Iran and in Armenia: "Making the necessary arrangements for the travel and performance of foreign groups in Iran and

also Iranian groups in foreign countries are possible through the international department of this general administration, and this cooperation is also provided in the field of education.

He continued: In the field of teaching the art of puppetry, there is always the possibility of holding courses and exchanging masters of this art between the two countries."

The general director of Dramatic Arts pointed out the large number of Armenian-people in the big cities of Iran, such as Tehran, Isfahan, Tabriz, Urmia, and expressed his interest in a special performance for these people, and expressed the readiness of this general administration to make the necessary arrangements for public performances of Armenian theater groups in Iran.

Further, Ruben Abrahamian, head of the Yerevan Marionette theater group, expressed his satisfac-



tion with his presence in Iran and said: "Tehran-Mubarak Puppet Theater Festival is held at a very high level. Fortunately, this festival was one of the few events where our group did not have any problems regarding the hall and the technical aspects of the performance."

The head of the Armenian theater troupe expressed hope for the coordination of public performances of Armenian artists in Iran and in other festivals and said: "The doors of the Armenian theater are always open to Iranians and we also welcome the performance of Iranian plays in Armenia."

Then, Mozhgan Vakili, the

Director of International Relation Department of Dramatic Arts Center of Iran, welcomed the Armenian troupe and said that pantomime festival will be held in the beautiful city of Zanzan soon, and Armenian artists, who are highly capable in puppetry, can attend the pantomime festival.

Vakili also mentioned the "Pantomime Festival and Traditional and Ritual Festival and " Fadjr Festival that will be held in the coming months, she presented the call for these festivals to the Armenian group and invited all the Armenian theater troupes to participate in these festivals.

Sergey Grigoryan:

Iran and Armenia's dramatic literature have had a mutual influence

Iran Theater- Sergey Grigoryan, Counsellor of Armenia in Iran, who watched the performance of "Swan Lake" in Qashghaie Hall on Monday, July 2, said that the dramatic literature of Iran and Armenia have had a mutual influence on each other from long time ago. The play "Swan Lake" from Armenia was performed on the fifth day of the International Puppet Festival. This play, written and directed by Samson Movsesyan, was staged in the Qashghai Hall, City Theater Complex.

Movsesyan is author of more than 20 performances in Armenian, Russian and English. Staged performances of different theatrical styles: puppet theater, plastic drama,. Twice Best Young Director AR-TAVAZD National Theater Award winner: in 2012 for THE NOSE (UP Theater)

and in 2013 for ALICE IN WONDERLAND (Yerevan State Puppet Theater). And The Best Theater Director in 2016 with Witch at State Puppet theatre.

After watching the show Swan Lake, Sergey Grigoryan spoke to Iran Theater reporter about the mutual influence and coexistence of Iranian and Armenian dramatic art and literature.

Are you familiar with Iranian theater festivals?

A few months ago, during the Fadjr International Theater Festival, there was a production from Armenia, "Hamlet", which I also watched it.

Are there theater festivals in Armenia? And have any shows from Iran participated in these festivals?

Golden Apricot" Film Festival is held in Armenia, which is considered a popular festival, and of course Iranian films also partici-

pates in this festival and is welcomed by the Armenian audience. Because the two countries of Iran and Armenia are two old nations with mutual understanding and have common ties. Therefore, Armenian people show a high understanding of Iranian films participating in Armenian film festivals.

The General Department of Dramatic Arts is planning educational courses and workshops to further educate and expand the art of puppetry between Iran and other countries of the world. Has Armenia taken a joint action in this regard?

I don't know, but in general, I can say that the foundation of the art of puppet show in Armenia is a very large and prominent structure and has good capacities, and according to these conditions, puppet artists are willing to expand

their activities, they will certainly interact with you.

Are you familiar with Iranian folk performances such as Takht-e-hozi, siyah bazi plays, marquee play?

I do not have deep studies in this field and I am not familiar with these kind of shows, but there are deep and historical cultural links between Iran and Armenia, and I am sure that these types of performances have had an impact on our literature. Since it is always said that in order to know any people, you have to know the literature of that people, because the life of those people is reflected in their literature, art and dramatic literature are also part of this literature. So I am sure that the dramatic art and literature of both countries have had mutual influence on each other.

Adel Bezdoudeh on “An incident in the city of puppets”

Iran Theater-Veteran director Adel Bezdoudeh is present at the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Festival with the show “An Incident in the City of puppets”.

“An Incident in the City of Dolls” which still delights young and child audiences of puppet shows and arouses their active participation, is a turning point in the history of Iranian puppet shows. This work was created in 1970 by Oscar Batek, an artist and teacher of puppet theater from Czechoslovakia, with a group consisting of Marzieh Borumand, Reza Babak, Bahram Shahmohammadlou, Sosan Farrokhnia, Alireza Hedaei, and accompanied by Ardeshir Keshavarzi as a translator, in Center for the Intellectual Development of Child and Adolescent went on stage and introduced Iranian theater artists to puppet show. Adel Bezdoudeh was also a member of this group.

What was the reaction



of the young audience and children to this show in the cities of Iran in those years?

This is very valuable to me. We staged this show in the most remote parts of Iran, where the children of farmers, shepherds, etc. families watched us and we got exactly the same feeling from them that you saw in our audience on first of July, 2023. In fact, this work does not demarcate its audience in any way, and it does not

matter which geographic point the audience lives in, it provides contribution for audience active participation.

Did you have a special challenge to attend the festival?

I am sorry that when I presented the idea of “An Incident in the City of puppets” to the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Festival, the selection committee of children’s section did not accept it until I spoke

with Hadi Hejazifar, the festival’s secretary, and he provided this opportunity and we brought it on stage in the guest section. I am happy that all those involved in the festival are puppet artists. This is one of the most important positive points of the festival, that the whole mechanism arranged by Hadi Hijazifar is being carried out by the puppet artists and those who are concerned about puppet shows.

Hope for the resumption of cultural and artistic activities between Iran and Egypt

Iran Theater-Kazem Nazari, The director general of Dramatic Arts met with the cultural expert of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Egypt and emphasized the resumption of cultural and artistic interaction between the two countries and expressed hope that by resolving some misunderstandings and problems, the cordial relationship between the two Muslim nations will be re-established at the highest level.

A meeting between Kazem Nazari (Director General of Performing Arts) and Davood Zarinpour (Cultural Expert at Office for the Protection of the Interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Egypt) was held on Saturday in the office of the Director General of Dramatic Arts.

Kazem Nazari and Davood Zarinpour pointed to the common religious and cultural points of the two nations of Iran and Egypt and also emphasized the continuity

and ancient historical, cultural and social history of the two important countries of the region, demanding the provision of conditions to establish the cultural relationship for the two countries and other countries in the region. In this meeting, it was also emphasized on the resumption of cultural and artistic activities of Iran and Egypt, which will be based on the diplomacy of art and dialogue among nations. The participation of

Egyptian theater groups in Zanjan pantomime Festival and the presence of Egyptian university professors and theater artists to hold a seminar and workshop in Iran were also discussed.

Mozhgan Vakili (Director of the International Department of the General Department of Dramatic Arts) and Mehdi Yousefikia (Director of Public Relations of the General Department of Dramatic Arts) were present in this meeting.

Elene Matskhonashvili on the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Festival

Iran Theater- Elene Matskhonashvili, a writer and director from Georgia, has performed two plays, Nikoladze and Pirosmeni, at the 19th Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Festival.

she said that Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Festival is a new discovery for me, "In these shows, I have directly and frankly narrated the way of life of two famous people from my hometown in the social and cultural fields."

The show "Pirosmeni" deals with the life of the self-taught and famous Georgian painter. "Niko Nikoladze" is about one of the innovative intellectuals of Georgia who has made many efforts in the transition of Georgia from tradition to modernity by carrying out many construction and development projects in his country and reaching the position of the municipality of one of the big cities of Georgia.

Tell us about yourself.

I am Elene Matskhonashvili from Georgia, and I am participating in the Tehran-Mubarak International Puppet Festival by directing two shows "Niko Nikoladze" and "Pirosmeni".

What are the subjects of your shows?

The stories of my shows are about two famous people of Georgia, "Niko Nikoladze" and "Pirosmeni", a famous Georgian painter, and Shows have straight and frank narrative of how they live.

How was the experience of performing the show in Iran?

This is the first time I come to Iran. I am very happy that the Tehran Puppet Festival and traveling to Iran will be a new discovery and a great experience for me.

Are these shows designed for children or do they have no age limit?

These shows have no age limit and are for all age groups. These shows have been staged in Georgia for all age groups.

An interview with Hassan Dadshekar, a theater teacher and veteran puppet theater artist

The Iranian shows at 2023 International Puppet Festival had a lot to say

Iran Theater- Hassan Dadshekar, a theater teacher and a veteran puppet show artist, said that theater should be viewed as a humanizing phenomenon: "The Iranian shows at 19th Tehran-Mubarak Puppet Festival had a lot to say.

The 19th Tehran-Mubarak Puppet Show Festival was held in Tehran from June 29 to July 9 with the competition of puppet shows from all over the world. Hassan Dadshekar, a pioneer of puppet shows, was honored in the closing ceremony of the festival.

Dadshekar is one of the veteran puppet theater artist and one of the most memorable artists who has a special place among several generations of teenagers and children of Iran due to his works.

About the state of puppetry education in Iran, he said: I think the state of academic education of puppet theater art in Iran is pathetic. One of the reasons is that there is no thought for the working conditions of the students who train and become educated. This veteran artist further explained: In many countries, theater centers hire students, and



so the student works in show they like.

He evaluated the current Iranian puppet shows: We are well established in the production of puppets. But in addition to updating the dolls and their movement and guidance tools, we must also update the necessary content. We must not forget that the basis of the puppet show is imagination, because a puppet moves in front of the viewer's eyes and takes him to the world of childhood. Our most important weakness in puppet theater is that we lack skilled and capable writers.

Hassan Dadshekar also commented on the quality of the works presented at the 19th Tehran-Mubarak Puppet Show Festival: Watching Iranian shows, I realized that they have a lot to say, although they have not done the work as they should. But the shows became better.

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