

Curtain Rises on 10th International Short Film Festival

Tehran 10th International and 22nd National Short Film Festival opened on today at, Felestin Cinema.

1063 foreign films from 70 countries and 1550 Iranian films submitted to the festival which will take place on 15- 20 November.

357 short films are selected to screen in competition and non-competition sections. The competition section comprises National, New Vision, International, and Spiritual films. In the non-competition section, the Cinema of Asia and films by the Qom branch of the Iranian Young Cinema Society (IYCS) will be screened. In Asian Cinema section, 27 short films by 9 Asian filmmakers will be screened, among them 7 are Iranians. Furthermore, the festival will pay tribute to young director Bijan Mirbaqeri and veteran cinematographer Morteza Poursamadi.

Writer and director Kianoush Ayyari, producer Habibollah Kasesaz, director Reza Mirkarimi, director Bijan Mirbaqeri, and cinematographer Hamid Khozouei Abyaneh are the members of the jury who will judge films competing in the National and New Vision sections which will present 105 and 97 short films, respectively.

The jury members of International competition section are as follow:

Montserrat Guiu, a board member of Huesca Film Festival from Spain, Maheen Zia, a Pakistani director and director of KaraFilm Festival, Mick Hannigan, director of Cork Film Festival from Ireland, Jukka-Pekka Laakso, director of Tampere Film Festival from Finland and Mohammad Mahdi Asgharpour, an Iranian director. In this section 69 short films from 40 countries will be screened.

Felicetta Ferraro, the Cultural Attaché of Italian Embassy to Iran, Karl Jacobi, a priest from Germany and Hassan Bolkhari, an Iranian philosopher and writer, are jury members of Spiritual section which will screen 29 short films from 16 countries.

Tehran 10th International and 22nd National Short Film Festival are organized by IYCS and Documentary & Experimental Film Center (DEFC) and Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

"This year's festival will focus on Iran's provincial films and films produced in neighboring countries", said Mojtaba Eqdami, the director of IYCS.

"Over 1000 foreign short films will be participating in this festival which is a great success", he added.

Several foreign filmmakers and directors of international festivals and film buyers have



been invited to participate in festival. As part of the program, issue of short film marketing will be discussed at several sessions. In addition, a one day session will be held in presence of Lars Henrik Gass, the festival director of Oberhausen International Short Film Festival, which is one of the oldest and most renowned film festivals in the world. Also, Abdollah Alimorad, a prominent Iranian animator will hold an animation workshop.

The festival will be held simultaneously in Sari, Mazandaran Province, Shahrud, Semnan Zahedan, and Sistan-Baluchestan Provinces.

The Guests of the Festival on the way to Tehran

Dr. Lars Henrick Gass, the director of Oberhausen International Short Film Festival will arrive in Tehran within the next two days. Other guests are:

Neil Bell- the English director, whose film "Here I Lie" selected at the Spiritual Competition Section, Christopher Steel by his film "Tunnel" which selected at the International Competition and Ali Zojaji, an Iranian filmmaker who lives in Germany, with the film "Three attempts to my father", selected at the International Competition Section.

Tribute to Morteza Poursamadi

Born on October 17, 1952, in Hamedan province, Morteza Poursamadi is director of photography cinematographer of Iran's cinema and television. He went on to study in college of Television and Cinema before making the move to T.V. to work as a cinematographer. After 25 years, Poursamadi was retired in 1997, and thereafter, he has been working as a freelance cinematographer.



With more than 100 documentary films and numerous awards, Poursamadi has collaborated with a number of well-known Iranian filmmakers such as Naser Taghvaei, Majid Majidi, Ebrahim Hatamikia, Farhad Mehranfar, Ebrahim Mokhtari, Mohammad Reza Aslani and Farzad Motamen in various Feature, short, documentary and television films.

His feature film credits include Identity (1986), Mirage (1986), Rose (1989), Seyyed's Garden (1370), Wild Deer (1992), They like Nobody (1993), Rebellion (1994), Paper Airplanes (1996), White Wings (1998), Tehran 7:00 a.m.(2002), The Elegy of Snow (2003-2004) and By Night (2004).

Recently, Poursamadi worked with Rakhshan Bani Etemad, the celebrated Iranian woman filmmaker in Gilane. That movie was an

interesting experience for him, because it had a documentary structure. "My career started out with documentary films, and I have always tried not to move far from this style", Poursamadi said in an interview with Iranian Student's News Agency (ISNA). "Bani Etemad's movies often are dealing with urban and social themes, but Gilane has a special setting", he added. "I have a special attitude about this movie. I think the urban cinema has no identity. What we are looking for, would be found in a pure and different setting like this".

"I love working with young generation, because they acts daringly", Poursamadi said about his collaboration with Iranian Young Cinema Society (IYCS).

He believes that every thing is changing rapidly. "We could not resist these changes. Basically I am not against that, but we should consider the situation'. A 55-year-old cinematographer has a confession to make: 'maybe it is strange, but I am really proud of all short and documentary films which I have been photographed. But not about my fiction works. However I can not forget feature films like Gilane and By Night.

In this year's festival, Poursamadi will be the object of a Retrospective which includes his 6 documentary films.



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Interview with Mick Hannigan
Director of Cork Film Festival

SHORT FILM IS A VERY SPECIAL ART WORK

Cork film Festival which has been running since 1965 in Ireland, celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. Short Film Competition is one of the international sections of festival. This year about 60 films selected, among them were three Iranian short films, The Hole by Vahid Naserian, The Free line by Naghi Nemati and Heydar, An Afghan in Tehran by Babak Jalali.

Most notable short film of festival was an animation, "Ryan" directed by Chris Landreth which won the best short animation Oscar prize, earlier this year. This year, a number of 100 short films which screened in important international film festivals; selected by the cinema critics and professionals. These selected short films screened in Cork Film Festival, and meanwhile an international short film symposium was held in which the following subjects discussed:

- The short film as a political tool
- Toward the selection of short films
- The variety of cultures in short filmmaking
- Narrating design in short film
- Death of short film

Among the most prominent participant of program was Jonathan Rosenbaum, the celebrated American film critic. It should be noted that recently the city of Cork has selected as European Capital of Culture.

Mick Hannigan, director of Cork Film Festival is in Iran to attend in 22nd National and 10th International Short Film Festival, as one of the jury members of International Competition.

When you started out, what was your idea about short film?

At the time, I chose to cooperate with Cork Film Festival, there were only a few awards for short film section. I intended to work in this area and I really believed that it should be an opportunity for filmmakers to make short films. I think it is a valuable and different work. Those filmmakers, who make short films, have potential abilities. Now, Cork Film Festival is supported by many renowned festivals, and these supports are spiritual not financial.

So, that's why you held a symposium for short films this year?

Yes, we have a good relation with other short film festivals. And you know, here, the competition is not like what we see in feature films. Every body likes to support. Short film is a very special art work. There is something that seems contradictory. In spite of this fact that there are a lot of financial and technical limitations, it is really a creative process and

there is enough room for thought and imagination. However, the economic perspective is not so good.

How do you deal with the financial problems?

The fact is, Cork Film Festival consists of two parts. We cover our costs with money which we earn through feature films.

Releasing short films in theater, should takes a long difficult way; how do you deal with it?

That is right. However in recent years, the situation has changed a little. Basically, there is a little room for short films to screen in cinema theatres. But we found a new way. We screen short films on DVDs, so every one could choose his or her favorite film. We did this in Cork Film Festival this year. In addition, we are intended to distribute DVDs of the Irish short films with low prices. I think it is the best way for short films to be released and reviewed.

Do you think there is any buyer?

If we could distribute these short films abroad, even by way of Internet; there would be a buyer.

Generally, how many films are submitted to Cork Film Festival?

It is about 2000 films.

What do you reply to the filmmakers whose films have not been selected?

It is really a good question. We always have this problem. Filmmakers want to know the reasons. But selection

is not always a scholarly and methodical process. It is rather a matter of taste.

Are you familiar with Tehran International Short Film Festival?

Not so familiar, but I am really interested in knowing how it goes. This is an international famous film festival, and Hassan (Hassan Dezvareh, head of international relations of Iranian Young Cinema Society) tries his best for this festival to be recognized internationally. I met him in Clermont - Ferrand Film Festival (France). Then I was invited and I accepted gratefully.

