

Regulations of the 28th Fajr International Theatre Festival

Introduction

Fajr International theatre festival, as the most important display of theatre annual activities in Iran, is held by the Dramatic Arts Centre of the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry on the occasion of the anniversary of Islamic Revolution's victory, during Fajr ten-day period with the following purposes:

1. Improving the art of theatre in Iran
2. Introducing the annual theatre activities in the country
3. Developing the Islamic-Iranian culture
4. Discovering the creative talents in the area of theatre
5. Interchanging the knowledge and techniques of theatre in today's world
6. Presenting the latest dramatic achievements of the world prominent and well-known theatre groups



The experience of holding twenty seven rounds of this festival helps to design and perform it in a way that is appropriate to the present conditions of producing and performing theatre in Iran, and with more cooperation between the education and research section with the professional section, and also considering the variety in the area of theatre production.

According to the idea that this festival is an occasion for presenting the annual productions of the country, since the twenty fourth round most of the works were chosen from the theatres that had been performed for the public, except a few which were mainly made for the festival. But this lasted until the twenty sixth round since when a combination of the two procedures was used, so that part of the works were those which were performed during the year, and part of them were particularly prepared to take part in the festival. This procedure which continues until the present round (the 28th) is considered a more inclusive way of holding the festival. The division of different sections will be expanded on in the Sections of the Festival.

The Holding Organs

A. The Policymaker Council:

This council will implement the general policies of holding the festival and determines the purposes and plans, and also supervises the quality of the festival. It will consist of the associate director of artistic affair of the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry, the general manager of Dramatic Arts, the secretary of the festival, and two or three artists or experts in the area of dramatic arts, suggested by the manager of dramatic arts and authorized by the associate director of artistic affair.

B. The Secretary of the Festival

All the festival affair will be conducted under the full supervision of the secretary and with his responsibility.

*Apart from the members of the policymaker council, the secretary can use a person or some people as his deputy, executive manager, or personal assistant.

C. The Holding Council

This council consists of authorities of holding committees of the festival which is almost according to the administrative structure of the Dramatic Arts Centre. (See more on page 4)

Sections of the festival

As mentioned in the introduction, according to previous experiences of holding this festival, the division of different sections is as follows:

1. Iranian works which are prepares only for the festival. The topics presented in this round are as follows:

- a. The prospect of Iran's theatre in the following year (1389)
In order to produce new works and fulfill the need of public performance in the following year
- b. New experiences
In order to provide an opportunity for creativities in the content and structure of plays

- c. Special or thematic
According to the important social-political events of the year or according to necessities and at the secretary's discretion

2. Iranian works that were made and performed before the festival

- a. Review of Iran's theatre
Including works which were publically performed in Tehran and other cities
Plays of other cities are often chosen according to whether or not they have attended provincial or regional festivals.
- b. The festival of festivals
Including the works that have been performed in the reliable festivals of the year and have been selected in some aspect as the best

3. Foreign works

- a. Works related to the international section which centers around Latin America in this year's festival
- b. Other works

4. A section that can be considered as a non-performing or side section and is introduced in the invitation of each round at the discretion of the secretary of that round, and the topics of the twenty eighth round are as follows:

- Play writing contest (Producing dramatic scripts)
- Play reciting
- Photo and poster contest
- Research section
- Training workshops and specialized seminars
- Photo and poster exhibition
- The first market of Iran's theatre
- Radio and television plays contest
- Public award

5. Street plays the selection method of which is introduced in the invitation

*the twenty eighth round will hold a competitive section in the area of stage plays named as international contest. The works will be selected from all the plays which have entered the festival.

The Holding Council

1. Secretary office
 2. Assessment and selection of works
 3. Research and publishing
 4. Public relations and advertising
 5. International affairs
 6. Backing and finance
 7. Technical
 8. Street
 9. Security
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The Duties of the Holding Council

1. Secretary office

- a. Recording and registering the sent works
- b. Coordinating and registering all the meetings of the Holding Council
- c. Preparing and organizing the charts of plays attending in the festival
- d. Coordinating with theatre groups in all cases

2. Assessment and selection of works

- a. Selecting the members of different selection panels
- b. Selecting foreign works coordinated by international affairs
- c. Supervising the quality of performance of festival plays coordinated by the Supervising and Evaluating Council of the Dramatic Arts Center

3. Research and publishing

- a. Planning and coordinating in holding the sections with researching approach such as play reciting, training workshops and specialized seminars
- b. Supervising and planning for the publication of researching works of the festival

4. Public relations and advertising

- a. Publicizing the process of holding the festival
- b. Pursuing and supervising the designing and printing of advertisements including posters, tickets, plaques, etc.
- c. Holding press meetings
- d. Making documentaries of the festival (photo, video, bulletin, catalogue)
- e. Cooperating with the reporters and the media and creating suitable conditions for press coverage of the festival

5. International affairs

- a. Sending invitations and receiving works
- b. Pursuing the affairs of foreign groups attending the festival (visa, ticket, customs circumstances, etc)
- c. presenting the technical needs of theatre groups to the technical committee and supervising the quality in this area

6. Backing and finance

- a. Pursuing providing the financial needs of different units of the festival
- b. Preparing an appropriate hotel for Iranian and foreign guests
- c. Providing the foreign groups with construction and commuting facilities

7. Technical

- a. Coordinating and supervising the equipment of theatre halls (light, sound, stage make-up, etc.)
- b. Coordinating with the international affairs and backing about the technical needs of foreign groups

8. Coordinating the theatre of other provinces

- a. Coordinating with the secretary about the time of regional festivals as a passageway for regional works to the festival
- b. Presenting the list of selected works of the regional festivals in order for them to attend Fadjr festival

9. Street

- a. Planning and coordinating performance areas for street plays
- b. Connecting the street theatre groups of the festival

10. Security

- a. Coordinating with the police force and other related organs for the performance of street plays
- b. Controlling the order of theatre halls
- c. Creating a condition of suitable behavior with artists and audiences
- d. Providing the security of performance for the artists