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TIRGAN FESTIVAL

Bringing Iran to Toronto

Jul 17, 2008 04:30 AM

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More than 100,000 people are expected to attend a mostly free four-day festival celebrating the culture of Iran at Harbourfront this weekend .

The city's first Tirgan Festival, which starts tonight, showcases Persian artists in music, dance, theatre, film, visual arts and literature, including filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, and composer and setar player Mohammad Reza Lotfi.

"This is the biggest Iranian cultural show ever to exist outside of Iran," says festival CEO Mehrdad Ariannejad. Tirgan is organized by the Iranian Canadian Centre for Art and Culture.

Besides more than 50 performances by more than 100 artists, more than 90 per cent of them free, the fest features food and merchants selling Iranian artifacts.

"Toronto has a growing Iranian community as well as people who have a Persian background from various central Asian countries such as Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Republic of Azerbaijan," said Kerri MacDonald, community and education programmer at Harbourfront.

"We don't know a lot about Persian culture in the mainstream, and it's really important to have such a festival to share the culture and history with Toronto."

The Iranian Canadian community in Toronto numbers 121,505, according to the 2006 census.

For more information, see the Night & Day listings, page E7, and harbourfrontcentre.com.

Shabnam Janet Janani, special to the Star

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Iranian are completely different the way people think about them

I appreciate Toronto star for it's recent article, Bring Iran to Toronto. After reading this article I decided to go to Iranian Festival. I saw how Iranian culture is different with the Idea I had. Even this is a short article but it encouraged me to go to Festival. Please, ask the writer to write more articles about ancient people specially ancient Iranian and their civilization. Why all middle east speak Arabic but Iranian speak Persian. I love Canada because I can learn about various cultures. Thank you again to Shabnam Janet and Toronto star for it's article. I look forward to see more similar article in Toronto star. Best Regard, Peter White

Posted by Tirgan at 5:19 PM Friday, July 18 2008

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Iranian Festival

Thanks for the article. I only wish you had some interviews with the artists who perform in this Festival. There was no names or introductions of the old Musicians like Soley who have been experimenting fantastic music in the last 30 years, or music group called Lion Ensemble who

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moved to Los Angeles many yrs ago and have presented tens of great performances all around the world. They are going to perform with Soley on Saturday July 19 at 9.30 in the main stage in Harbor Front. The story of the Iranian musicians who came to North America just because they were allowed to practice music is very interesting. As you know they could not play music in Iran after the Islamic Revolution. I wish at least you could send couple of your reporters to the Festival to be able to write about it with some pictures. This is a big event that is happening in the city of Toronto. Shouldn't we treat it the right way? Thanks for listening.

Posted by Guity at 12:33 PM Thursday, July 17 2008

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Read about it on a Blog?

Did you see the headline that Iranian bloggers might be subjected to the death penalty for blogging? It's a new proposal, unlikely to pass but it's up for consideration. Google search "Broadcasters of Tomorrow" for details.

Posted by UAE Students at 11:27 AM Thursday, July 17 2008

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Tirgan Festival in Harbourfront

So many people have worked hard to make this festival happen. We all wish to share and celebrate the ancient culture and history of Iran with others around the world and Tirgan made this come true. Thank you all. Here is the link to the event: <http://www.tirgan.ca/>

Posted by Farrah at 10:31 AM Thursday, July 17 2008

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SPECIAL



Toronto After Dark

Anyone driven to experience dark and alternative film will be lining up at the Bloor Cinema this week for The Toronto After Dark Film ...



October activities for kids

From farm adventures to art exhibitions, here are our picks for family fun in the GTA this month.



Malene Arpe's blog

Once a week wasn't enough - so now Malene Arpe snarks about pop culture and celebrity on her Stargazing blog.



This week's movies

Josh Brolin stars in Oliver Stone's sympathetic portrait of George W. Bush. Read the review on our Movies page.

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