



Tirgan Festival Announces 2015 Iranian Arts & Culture Programme ***co-produced in partnership with Harbourfront Centre: August 20-23, 2015***

TORONTO - Tuesday July 28, 2015 - Tirgan announces its 2015 programme reflecting the tremendous ethnic diversity within Iran through music, dance, theatre, cinema, literature, visual arts and cuisine. The central theme of "**Homeland**", the anchor with which we settle in the diverse ocean of humanity, unites the festival programme which runs from August 20-23.

Tirgan 2015 continues the cultural dialogue between the Iranian community and the global community at large with new and returning artists. We're also excited to shine a spotlight on **Scarlet Stone**, a new multidisciplinary and collaborative music/dance/animation work told in the language of dance---theatre.

The festival opens with a performance by singer and multi-instrumentalist **Hamed Nikpay and Ensemble** featuring flamenco dancer **Karine Gonzalez** on Thursday August 20. Nikpay's music is an artful transformation of classical Persian melodies to soulful Flamenco, mystical fusion of transcendental Sufi sounds with smooth jazz and masterly transition of folkloric Persian ballads to Latin beats.

See highlights below with both ticketed and free events, with the full programme available at <http://www.tirgan.ca/allevnts>

COOKING - SOMETHING FOR THE TASTE BUDS

For those who are interested in expanding their culinary skills, American---Iranian celebrity TV chef and cookbook author of 'Pomegranates & Roses, Ariana Bundy, will show how to cut corners while sharing some of her top recipes in the **Cooking Demonstration - Recipes from Persia**.

DANCE

More than the dancers in the play, **Scarlet Stone**, visitors can enjoy the dance performances by **Les Ballet Persans** produced in collaboration with the National Ballet of Kyrgyzstan and choreographed by Nima Kiann. The four dance sequences each represent a different genre of choreography with classical and contemporary ballet as well as a blend of folkloric dances of Azerbaijan and Lorestan.

IRANIAN CINEMA

Co-presented with [TIFF](#), the contemporary Iranian cinema schedule features **Abbas Kiarostami, A Report** (in Persian with Eng. subtitles) by director Bahman Ghobadi, a documentary not to be missed as it features cinema historians and critics explaining the particularities and importance of Kiarostami's movies. In the cinema schedule, there is also a pre---view and panel discussion of the work in progress, **Window Horses**, an animated feature by Ann Marie Fleming. With a lead character voiced by Sandra Oh, the film uses the medium of poetry to explore ideas of cross---cultural exchange in this coming---of---age story. Rosie Ming, a young Canadian poet of mixed descent, is invited to perform at a Poetry Festival in Shiraz, Iran, while she'd rather be in Paris. Other titles in the feature lineup are **One.Two.One; Exilic Trilogy; Melbourne; From Tehran to London** and **Stop-Over** with most of them being accompanied with a Q&A. All screenings are free, so be sure to be there early to get a seat!



MUSIC THAT SPEAKS TO YOU

Music has the power of crossing borders with performances by, amongst others, the two virtuoso musicians **Kayhan Kalhor** (Iran) on spike fiddle and **Erdal Erzincan** (Turkey) on lute, whose purely instrumental and modern composition is a deviation from the traditional ancient modal system known as *maqam*. Singer **Darya Dadvar and Ensemble's** performance reflect and unify different cultures, historical periods, languages and dialects. **Raghs** (meaning 'dance'), is a performance that promises to make everyone do exactly that, where **Shanbehzadeh Ensemble** featuring **DJ Michael Red** create a unique encounter between electronic music and traditional music of southern Iran. If pop--rock with a touch of jazz is more to your liking, then come and listen to Iranian--Canadian duo **Babak Amini & Housman Javid**.

TALKS, CHILDREN/YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND BAZAAR

Talks over the weekend let visitors discover more about Iranian literature and culture. Gain more insight about one of the most important and well--loved works of Iranian fiction, *My Uncle Napoleon* by Iraj Pezeshkzad in the lecture on Saturday August 22 **The Pleasures and Problems of Translating Iraj Pezeshkzad's Dai Jan Napol'on into English** presented by Professor emeritus of Persian at Ohio State University Dick Davis. **In the Lion's Shadow - The Iranian Schindler and His Homeland in the Second World War**, is a talk and book presentation also on Saturday August 22 by author Dr. Fariborz Mokhtari about an Iranian diplomat in Paris during WWII who used his diplomatic influence, legal skill and creative wit to save hundreds of Jewish families during the German occupation of France.

The online schedule has information about further talks taking place. There are also children and youth activities to take part in; a bazaar to browse for Iranian crafts and sweets; Iranian food at the world café to satisfy your taste buds and the opportunity to experience a traditional Iranian teahouse.

Visit us on the [web](#) for more information and tickets!

ABOUT TIRGAN

The fifth edition of Tirgan runs from August 20-23, 2015. The festival presents a collection of arts and culture programmes that include guest lectures, youth activities, a traditional Iranian teahouse where visitors can socialise and a variety of food offerings at the World Cafe. Tirgan 2015 has the support from honorary chair Ms. Homa Sarshar, award--winning journalist and writer, as well as many more esteemed and accomplished individuals. Tirgan has received the deserving acknowledgement and endorsement from all three levels of government. Over the years, the Festival has continued to enjoy hosting the Premier, MPs, MPPs, and councilors along with many other dignitaries and stakeholders at its ceremonial events, performances and exhibitions.

ABOUT HARBOURFRONT CENTRE

Harbourfront Centre is a Canadian charity operating the 10 prime acres of Toronto's central waterfront as a free and open public site. We celebrate the multiplicities of cultures that comprise Canada and enliven the city through the creative imaginations of artists from across the country and around the globe.

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS: [Web & Tickets](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) #tirgan2015

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