

The 21st International Tehran–Mobarak Puppet Festival 2026

Open Call for 21st Tehran–Mobarak International Puppet Theater Festival

Dramatic Arts Center of Iran (DAC) is pleased to inform you that the 21st International Puppet Theater Festival, Tehran–Mobarak will take place from October 18th to 23rd, 2026, in Tehran, Iran. The festival is non-competitive and serves as a platform for artistic exchange and cultural dialogue. This edition embraces the full spectrum of puppetry from traditional forms to contemporary frontiers. Special attention will be given to works exploring:

- Puppetry and Technology
- Puppetry and Artificial Intelligence
- Puppetry and Multimedia

The festival regards tradition and innovation as two hands of the same art. We would highly appreciate it if you could send the production of your company.

A Message from the Artistic Director:

The 21st Tehran–Mobarak International Puppet Theater Festival once again opens a stage for imagination, creativity, and human narratives from across Iran and the world. Puppet theater one of humanity's most authentic art forms transcends boundaries of language, time, and culture, serving as a bridge between generations and a mirror to truth.

The 21st edition aims to introduce, promote, and expand puppetry among practitioners and audiences, while sustaining the creative visions that shape the identity of this art. In addition to professionals, we welcome student works and emerging voices across all sections and intend to present puppet theater as a serious, effective form of artistic expression through convergence with other disciplines and contemporary technologies.

Our hearts are filled with grief for the precious young lives lost the innocent children, whose dreams were extinguished under the shadow of war. We are committed to transforming this stage into a place of tribute to life, peace, and their unfinished dreams. This festival gives special attention to works that engage with the dimensions of war through the poetic and symbolic language of puppetry.

Submission Categories of the Festival:

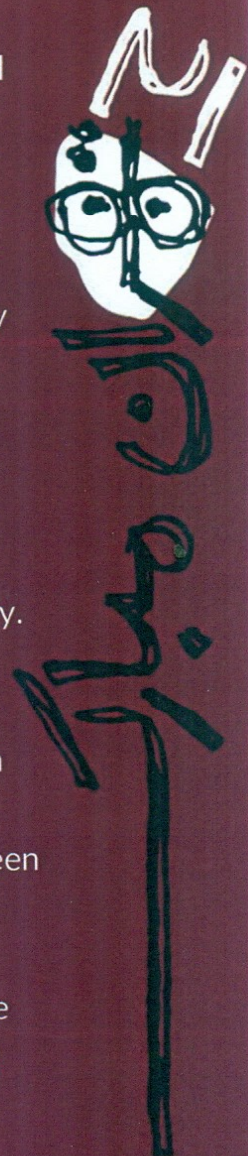
A) Stage Productions

- A1) Adult Productions
- A2) Children and Youth Productions

Tel: +98 21 66708861
www.tehranmobarak.theater.ir/en
www.theater.ir/en

ITI Center of Iran:
dramatic.artcenter.iran@gmail.com
iti.iran@theater.ir

Vahdat hall, Ostad Shahryar Str, Hafez Ave, Tehran, 1133914934, Iran.



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B) Outdoor & Site-Specific Productions

Works created for non-conventional spaces (public squares, streets, historical sites). The puppet must be clearly central to the work, not ornamental.

C) Special Section: Mināb Dreams

Throughout history, puppet theater has endured in times of war, offering profound metaphors for the human condition. In light of the painful experiences of the recent war in Iran, this call invites artists worldwide to respond to war and violence through puppetry, harnessing its power to rebuild hope, peace, and solidarity.

Submission Requirements

- Completed Application Form (attached & also available at <https://tehranmobarak.theater.ir>)
- Video Documentation (full recording, streaming link or downloadable file)
- Artistic Statement (maximum 500 words)
- Technical Rider (stage, lighting, sound, installation needs)
- Company Profile (maximum 300 words with links)
- Photographs (minimum 5 high-resolution images, 300 dpi+)

Submission Deadline: The application should be submitted by the deadline of **August 1st, 2026.**

Conditions and Hospitality: The festival will provide full accommodation, 3 meals per day, airport pick up services and local transportation for accepted individual guests. Other issues will be discussed and agreed by mutual negotiations.

The Maximum number of Troup (including performers, technicians, etc.) for accommodation is 6 people. More can be negotiated.

The selection Committee will announce the invited troupes through the international affairs of the Dramatic Arts Center of Iran. The information (completed application) should be mailed to the following address:

dramatic.artcenter.iran@gmail.com

Atabak PoorNaderi

General Director

President of Festival

Poupak Azimpour Tabrizi

Festival Artistic Director

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