

A musical documentary on the history of a hundred years of hits

Until we receive an accurate report of the documentary event on the history of a hundred years of hits from the Toos Foundation, we felt the necessity to gather a report of our own from a couple of our friends who had travelled from L.A. to attend the programme in London.

There was a detailed programming for this event arranged at the University of London. A large part of the programme was devoted to the celebration and commandment of the artists and singers who recently passed away. It was conducted with their visual display and playing of some of their music and songs.

Fakhri Nikzad talked about the history of a hundred years of hits and lyrics, since the constitutional revolution and celebrated the memories of Aref Qazvini and Sheyda. At the same time one of the lyrics composed by Sheyda and sung by Marziyya was played as background music while she was speaking, this made the programme very desirable and exciting for the audience. Nikzad further stressed out that other lyric writers and composers since the time of Aref also played important roles in preserving the history of lyrics in Iran, poets like Bahar, Jahed, Dastgiri and so on...

Later, there was a talk about Badi' Zada and his famous lyric "*Yeki Ye Pool e Khurus*"

together with projected slides of his picture. Next, Jamshid Sheybani came to the stage and gave a speech. He talked about his grandfather, mentioning that he used to compose lyrics. Sheybani further said: in those days there was no such thing as pre-recording, everything were recorded live. With the expansion of the institute of the fine arts a further branch was created under the name of Art Activities and Mrs. Lu'bat Vala was partly responsible for that. It was aired alongside with other programmes.

Azar Pazhuhesh continued and concluded the programme by talking about some of her own memories and various songs by singers such as Marziyya, Delkash, and Hayedeh



were played. There was then a talk about Muhammad Nuri who had a style of his own with his famous song of “*Jan-i Maryam*” which was also played.

Vigen, the famous jazz singer who passed away four years ago, was celebrated in that event he was referred to so rightfully, as the king of jazz. Some of his songs were played in forms of both audio and video. Later, Manuchehr Sakha’i, Aref and Ravanbakhsh spoke about him and the song of “*Sultan-i Qalbha*” was played as a video. There was a mention of the period after 1970 when some

young artists set up a recording studio in the basement of their homes in continuing their works. They were: Muhammad Ushal, Parviz Vakili, Ardalan Sarfaraz, Turaj Negahban, Shahyar Qanbari, Esfandiyar Munfaredzadeh, Iraj Janati Ata’i. Following this the song of “Pul” which was written by Iraj Janati Ata’i and sung

by Googoosh was played together with a

projected slide of Googoosh’s picture.

Munfaredzadeh, in a critical view pointed out the sad fact that all their artistic works are published in Iran, yet the only thing forbidden is their physical presence in their own country.

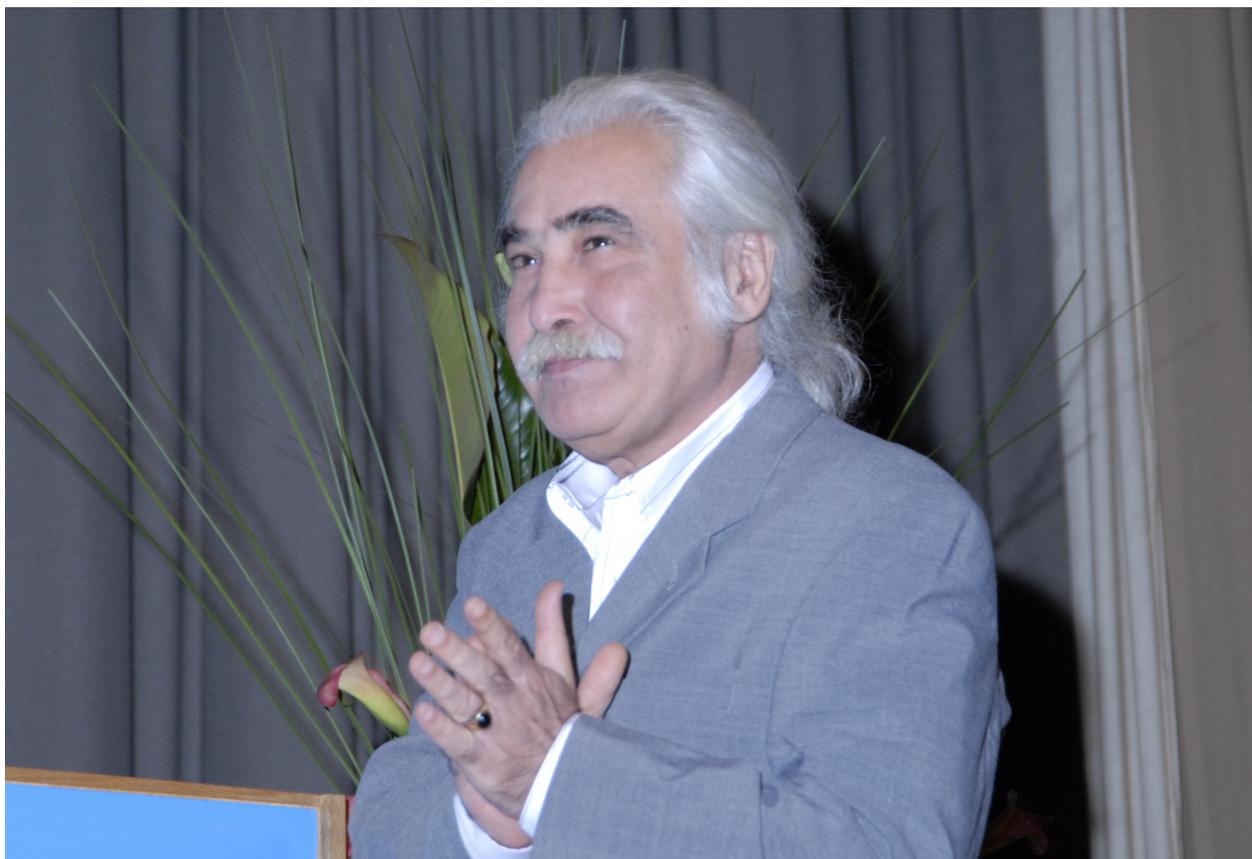
Fakhri Nikzad in continuation of the programme stressed out that with the expansion of short lyrics and the pop music



in Iran a different strength was given to the music in general, she thanked those responsible for such movement and expansion, singers such as Puran, Hayedeh, mahvash, Aqasi, Simin Ghanem, Mahasti, Parvin, Ahdiyyeh, Ramesh, Nushafarin, Shohreh, Leila Fruhar, Darush, Ebi and Fereydun Furughi.

Mrs. Nazanin Ansari, the managing director of the Society of Journalists in the U.K. and the new managing director of Keyhan newspaper gave speeches about the role of the press and media in celebrating and introducing the artists, she also thanked the founder of the Toos Foundation Miss. Kharrazi for her efforts in presenting such events.

After this message Miss. Kharrazi, the founder of the Toos Foundation went on the stage and in a short speech thanked those who helped gathering this programme and



stressed out the importance of such events, hoping for more and fruitful such cultural events in the near future, she later asked the singers and artist to the stage, giving them a statue of the famous Persian poet Firdawsi as a token of appreciation for all their artistic

efforts. These statues are specially made by the Toos Foundation and are not for sale.