

A discussion with Jamileh Kharrazi in connection with another exceptional programme by “The Toos Foundation”

Poetry, Dance and Lyrics In the land of Harp and Mandolins

A journey into the ever green fields of Mazandaran and the hot-thirsty sandy regions of Baluchestan



The Toos foundation whose several outstanding arts and culture programmes have appeared on the scene; creating a warm reception by the music and arts enthusiasts, once more has prepared another outstanding programme which will be shown on Sunday the 24th October 2010, in Logan Hall.

The programme’s title will be: “Poetry, Dance, and Lyrics in the land of Harp and Mandolins” thus, as the title clearly presents it entails collections of dances and lyrics from various districts of Iran; and as the coordinators say: it is a journey into the ever green fields of Mazandaran and the hot-thirsty sandy regions of Baluchestan.

The programme presents numerous artists, ballerinas, dancers, musicians and singers, folkloric, country dances and lyrics of Iran will be shown and put on display. Farzaneh Kaboli a

famous ballerina and Edward Djololian an expert in ballet are the guests of this programme; while Fakhri Nikzad and Clifford Alison appear as presenters.

We have conducted an interview with Ms Jamileh Kharrazi the founder

Dof the Toos foundation in relation with this programme, details of which are as follows:

Ms Jamileh Kharrazi who benefits from a shiny portfolio and considerable experience in various fields of art, during the past number of years she has devoted her financial and moral abilities to promote and expand the arts and culture of Iran. In addition to organizing tens of art events, she has also provided help to many students, and thus, has registered her name as an honourable and faithful servant of the Iranian culture.

Q. Ms Kharrazi, it has been a long time since our last interview. Let us start from the beginning, first tell us about you, from the beginning, in its literal sense, I mean from the time you were born. Where were you born? Briefly tell us about the surroundings in which you grew up. Were you involved in any other forms of art apart from ballet in which you were deeply focused? Apparently, you had some involvements with Ministry of culture at some point; please tell us about that too.

Although the blooming of a flower even though it would be from a pot presents the





Edward Djololian



Clifford Alison

Q. Did you have any other activities prior to the establishment of the Toos Foundation in London? Tell us about those.

Various cultural foundations whose aims have always been to promote and introduce the arts and culture of Iran, and even the philharmonic orchestras of various European and Eastern countries, aiding some musical and art gallery events, providing aids for publications of

glad tiding of the spring; nevertheless, the display of an orchard is somewhat something else, I and others like me, like the drops of rain can only have a positive impact by consistency, continuity and togetherness. Therefore, it is not fair at all that I only speak about myself or even you speak purely about me. I have been in this city for many years, your city, and your Iranian atmosphere and side by side with you. I have been with you in all the ups and downs of life. The fact that where I have come from, and that where my final destination will lead to has never been an important issue. However, what is important is that today, many scholars and men of letter with different school of thoughts and interests have provided assistance to us for the love of the culture and literature of Iran.

Naturally, I have been attracted to arts and literature since my youth and within this area I have experienced other arts and subjects alongside my academic studies, such as: Story-writings, declamation, ballet, group or solo singing, acting and stage design. Of course, I was employed by the ministry of arts and culture for many years and still, I have maintained contacts with my teachers and tutors. I hope in our next programme of the 24th of October 2010, in Logan Hall, we are able to imagine the tale of such love and passion.

numerous books by Iranian writers and others, providing scholarships for the top students at the postgraduate level through the known U.K. and U.S universities, humanitarian aids in needed areas of the glob from Bam to Bosnia, the establishment of an Orphanage for the children between ages 3-7. I have provided useful aids in different areas and for a period of five years supported the Cultural House of Iran in London.

Q. Does the name “Toos” have any connections with your personal interest towards the great Iranian poet and scholar “Firdawsi,” or perhaps, his place of birth?

I have always been a supporter of the idea of fighting for one’s belief. I hate wandering aimlessly. I have always been in touch with the reality in my life. However, I always feel as if my head is touching the clouds; dreaming about the love and passion towards arts. Firdawsi is my creator in presenting the history and its heroes.

Q. All your previous programmes were highly successful and almost all the audience left the hall with great satisfaction. What in your opinion is the key for such success?

As the satisfaction of the audience increased my embarrassment towards our efforts increased too. Although as you just

kindly mentioned, all of the programmes were highly successful; however, I must disagree. The road to success is long and we too, are still very young.

It is not fair for us to take all the credits for the success of the programmes, for the satisfaction is derived from the great works of art and culture of our country by our great masters. All the personnel in the Toos Foundation and I share the tears and laughter of the audience alongside with them for we are all travellers of the same journey.

Q. This humbleness and modesty has always been one of your virtues. However, please tell us of all the programmes you have so far presented, which one has been more successful?

I must proudly announce that the only aim in all our programmes has been to promote the arts and culture of our country, therefore, it's difficult to ask a gardener what his favourite flower is, for they are all special in their own ways.

Q. What and when is your next programme?

The name of our next programme which is being presented at Logan Hall in London, on the 24th of October 2010, is: "Poetry, Dance and Lyrics in the land of Harps and Mandolins," which is a journey into the ever green fields of Mazandaran, and the hot-thirsty sandy regions of Baluchestan, we will get acquainted with different provinces of Iran, their ways and customs and we also pay tribute to Mr. Robert Du Warren the former head of the folkloric institute of Iran.

Q. You never sold any tickets for your programmes except for the last one, and even that was only a small amount, still, the talks were plenty. What do you have to say about this? All these complaints have broken your heart, is it true that your love for Iran outweighs the agony of all these complaints?

One cannot compare a soldier who fights for money with another who fights for his beliefs. What we do is purely for the love of our country, nothing else. Therefore, we bear all these complaints with great love and compassion. We always ask our friends for advice and guidance, so that we can learn. This issue will always be there, for as long as we face the problems of obtaining a larger hall and it is only to avoid the irresponsible act of those friends who make reservations and then do not attend leaving us embarrassed before those who are left without seats.

Q. All the previous programmes were presented in London. Is this always going to be the case, or the issue of costs won't allow the presentations of such extraordinary programmes to take place in other countries? What can you tell us about this?

I must say with outmost pride that after each programme we receive many requests to repeat the same programme in another country. Such intents and aims cannot be measured by money and currencies. However, because I am currently thinking about future fundamental changes, I am optimistic that this year and next year will be fruitful for the foundation.

Q. Do you have any messages for the readers of Keyhan?

My message after many thanks to the dear readers who spend their time reading these articles is that although, with love and justice one cannot move mountains, yet still, we can create a rose garden in the minds of our foes and those evil minded enemies so that even their polluted minds can be filled with beautiful scent of flowers. Let's think about the miracle of love. In this important journey we should be united. This however, is the global peace that we all desire and may it one day be within our reach.

Ms. Kharrazi, we thank you for your kindness.