



Persia Family Programme at the British Museum

21st and 22nd March 2009

Admission Free

Come to a weekend of free family activities inspired by Norouz, the Persian New Year, and find out more about this ancient festival in the prestigious setting of the Great Court at the British Museum. Celebrate the Persian New Year through a series of events sponsored by the London-based charity Magic of Persia. In conjunction with the Shah Abbas exhibition, the family weekend will offer a range of free activities and events that will engage with the collections at the British Museum.

Highlights:

- **A colourful weekend of performance, craft, music and art**
- **Tehran based Aran Puppet Theatre presents *Mobarak: Kheimh Shab Bazi***

The Aran Puppet Theatre Group, headed by playwright and director Behrooz Gharibpour, brings *Mobarak: Kheimh Shab Bazi* to the Great Court. The tradition of Iranian marionette puppet shows which continues the Persian verbal art of poetry and storytelling will be accompanied by live music. Suitable for all ages.

The weekend will offer a dynamic programme of activities for the whole family. Join in a celebration of spring, make Persian symbols of life and listen to traditional stories and music. There will be all-day storytelling - Xanthe Gresham and Zahra Rezai will narrate Persian tales and legends in the Stevenson theatre, accompanied by live traditional music. There will be an exciting trail that will weave its way through the galleries, children can meet King Cyrus and can take part in making tapestries inspired by the 'Haft Sin' symbols in the Great Court. Children can also watch *Babak & Friends: A First Norooz*, a fantastic feature-length animation about the rich traditions of Iran in the New Year.

Feature –length animation, approximately 75mins, colour. Not Rated, U/PG.

Persia Family Weekend is also an exclusive opportunity to attend performances from the critically acclaimed Sabah ensemble and Parvaz ensemble. The highlight of the weekend will be Behrooz Gharibpour's Aran Puppet Theatre: Kheimh Shab Bazi. This will be the first time that the Tehran-based puppet theatre will perform in London.

Notes to editors:

- Magic of Persia is a non-profit, non-political charity, registered in the UK and the USA, which educates young people on the value and unique contribution of Persian culture to society. Magic of Persia achieves its mission through the development and promotion of education and communication programmes, in partnership with world-class institutions. For further information contact www.magicofpersia.com / info@magicofpersia.com

- The first Magic of Persia Family Day was held in 2005 at the British Museum, attracting 15,000 people. The 2006 Family Weekend, held at the Victoria and Albert Museum, drew 40,000 people over the two days. Following the 'Family Days' past success, the British Museum has invited Magic of Persia to collaborate on a 3 year project that focused in the first year on the Achaemenid Dynasty (the legacy of Cyrus the Great). The ultimate aim of the Education Programme is to see ancient Persia taught more widely as part of the school curriculum.

For More information please contact:

Magic of Persia

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