

TEHRAN TIMES  
OCTOBER 5, 2004



## Children's theater needs to be taken more seriously: Austrian director

*Tehran Times Art Desk*

TEHRAN (MNA) — Children's theater needs to be taken more seriously, said Austrian director Cordula Nossek, adding that she likes to narrate interesting stories for children and perform the stories with them.

Nossek, who is participating in the Festival of European and Iranian Children's Literature currently underway in Tehran, also said, "I try to help children get involved in the concepts of the plays and gently ask them to participate. It ends up with very good results.

"Friendship is the major theme of the plays I choose, and animals are the main characters. Children like fantasy and can establish good relations with animals."

She also spoke about a play she directed and staged at the festival.

"I asked children several times to come on stage and help me perform the play. Some were asked to mimic the sound of wind, footsteps, and eating..."

"I was able to communicate with the children with the help of a translator. The play was about a donkey on which an evil spell was cast who seeks help in breaking the spell."

On the local theater productions, she said, "I had never seen an Iranian play before. The most interesting point in watching some of the plays staged during the festival was that Iranian plays are a combination of old and modern styles."

A number of European writers, illustrators, and scholars are participating in the festival. Several plays with the central theme of ancient legends and modern stories of Iran and European countries are being performed during the event.

The Festival of European and Iranian Children's Literature runs until October 8 at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IID-CYA), which is located on Hejab St., near Laleh Park.

