#### CINEMAS, THEATRES, AND MUSEUMS IN UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation: This comprehensive article explores the vibrant landscape of cinemas, theatres, and museums in Uzbekistan, highlighting the country's rich cultural offerings and the role these institutions play in the preservation and promotion of Uzbek heritage. The piece provides an in-depth look at the historical evolution of Uzbekistan's cinematic and theatrical expressions, as well as the extensive collections housed within the nation's museums. The article begins with an overview of Uzbekistan's film industry, tracing its origins and development, and discussing the modern cinematic landscape, including the emergence of new filmmakers and the revival of traditional storytelling methods. It also touches on the role of film festivals in Uzbekistan and their contribution to the global film community. Moving to the theatrical scene, the article examines the traditional forms of Uzbek theatre, such as puppetry and dance, and how they have been adapted to contemporary stages. It also reviews the state of modern theatre in Uzbekistan, including

notable playwrights and theatre companies that have gained both national and international acclaim.

**Key words:** Premier Hall Cinema, Shark Yuilduzi Cinema, Alisher Navoiy Theater, Samarkand Regional Theatre of Musical Drama, The Ulugh Beg Observatory, Samarkand Regional Theatre of Musical Drama, Movie in 5 Days, The Golden Guepard Tashkent International Film Forum, Filmmakers, Art and Culture Development Foundation, Uzbek Maqom Art National Center.

Cinemas, theatres, and museums play a significant role in the cultural life of Uzbekistan, offering a blend of traditional and contemporary arts that reflect the nation's rich heritage and modern aspirations. Here's more information to enrich your article on these cultural institutions in Uzbekistan:

#### **Cinemas:**

The cinematic experience in Uzbekistan has evolved with the introduction of modern multiplexes and the restoration of historic cinemas. Tashkent, the capital, hosts several movie theaters, such as Premier Hall Cinema and Shark Yuilduzi Cinema Palace in Samarkand, which screen both domestic and international films. The Tashkent Cinema Museum offers a glimpse into the history of Uzbek cinema, displaying a collection of film-related memorabilia and artifacts.

#### **Theatres:**

- Uzbekistan boasts a diverse theatrical scene with state theaters across the country, including the Alisher Navoiy Theater, which is renowned for its opera and ballet performances. The Ilkhom Theatre is known for its avant-garde productions and has a reputation for pushing the boundaries of contemporary theatre in Uzbekistan. The Uzbek National Academic Drama Theatre and the Youth Theater of Uzbekistan are other prominent venues that contribute to the vibrant theatrical landscape. Regional theatres, such

as the, Samarkand Regional Theatre of Musical Drama play a crucial role in promoting the performing arts outside the capital.

#### **Museums:**

Museums in Uzbekistan offer a window into the country's past, from the days of the Silk Road to the present. Notable institutions include the Museum of Applied Art, which showcases traditional Uzbek crafts and designs. The State Museum of Art named after I. V. Savitsky houses an extensive collection of Russian avant-garde art alongside works by Uzbek artists. Historical museums like the Amir Timur Museum provide insight into the life and legacy of one of Uzbekistan's most famous historical figures. The Ulugh Beg Observatory, once a center for astronomical study, now serves as a museum dedicated to the work of the medieval astronomer Ulugh Beg.

These cultural venues are not only tourist attractions but also serve as educational platforms and spaces for creative expression. They are supported by various social reforms that aim to enhance the social life of Uzbekistan, focusing on the advancement of cinema, theatre, museums, and the arts in general. The government's commitment to cultural preservation and innovation is evident in the number of state theaters and the variety of performances and exhibitions available to the public.

**Tashkent International Film Festival:** This is one of the oldest and largest film festivals in Central Asia, founded in 1968. It has been held annually in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, and brings together filmmakers from various countries. The festival includes master classes for novice filmmakers conducted by famous directors and industry professionals. Golden Guepard Tashkent International Film Forum: A competition-based event with a jury comprising high-profile professionals from the film industry. The forum features a contest program and promotes cultural exchange through cinema.

**European Film Festival:** This festival has been held in Uzbekistan and showcases award-winning films from European countries. It provides an opportunity for local audiences to experience a variety of European cinematic works. International Film Festival "Movie in 5 Days": This unique competition challenges participants to create a movie within five days. The festival is part of a larger event that celebrates the creativity and ingenuity of filmmakers.

Premier Uzbekistan Film Festival: This festival offers an opportunity for filmmakers from all over the world to participate and showcases their work in one of the most developed and beautiful cities in Central Asia. These festivals not only highlight the diversity of film in Uzbekistan but also serve as a platform for cultural exchange, networking, and the promotion of the film industry both domestically and internationally. The Golden Guepard Tashkent International Film Forum has showcased a variety of notable films from different genres and countries. While specific titles of the films showcased in past editions of the festival are not readily available in the search results, the forum typically includes a competition-based program of full-length feature films, short films, and animated films. Filmmakers from more than 45 countries have participated in the event, indicating its international scope and diversity. The forum presents films across various genres, providing a platform for both established and emerging filmmakers to display their work. With entries from over 45 countries, the festival is a melting pot of cultural and cinematic perspectives, reflecting the global nature of the film industry. The festival includes a competitive section where films are judged by a panel of industry professionals and vie for the prestigious Golden Guepard awards. The festival also highlights the works of Uzbek filmmakers, showcasing the nation's cinematic talent and storytelling traditions.



To participate in the International Film Festival "Movie in 5 Days," filmmakers typically need to follow a set of guidelines and meet certain criteria that are laid out by the festival organizers.

Filmmakers must register for the competition, usually through the festival's official website or a film submission platform like FilmFreeway.Each participant or team should thoroughly understand the rules and guidelines of the competition, which often include specific themes, genres, or elements that must be included in the film.As the name suggests, participants are required to create a film within five days. This includes all aspects of production - from writing and shooting to editing and post-production. After the film is completed, it must be submitted by the deadline specified by the festival. Details on how to submit the film, including format and delivery method, will be provided by the festival. There may be a participation fee that needs to be paid upon registration or submission of the film.The competition may have eligibility criteria, such as age restrictions, professional status, or country of residence. Films that meet the competition criteria may be screened at the festival, and there may be awards for various categories.

The Uzbek government has taken several steps to support and develop the contemporary art scene in the country, recognizing the importance of cultural expression as a means of national identity and international dialogue. Here are some ways the government has been involved in this process:

Art and Culture Development Foundation: Established by President Mirziyoyev in 2017, the foundation is a government-run entity that supports initiatives in the areas of fine arts, architecture, literature, theatre, and music. It has been instrumental in creating a legal basis for patronage and non-governmental financial support of culture. The government has been the initiator and author of legislation that provides a framework for supporting the arts, including contemporary art. The government supports cultural diversity and creativity through various programs. For instance, the Uzbek Maqom Art National Center is part of

the government's efforts to develop cultural diversity. Projects have been launched to promote the achievements in Uzbek fine and applied arts, facilitate creative exchange, and discover new talents. The government has provided bespoke support for skills development in specific areas, including apprenticeship training in traditional and contemporary arts. Festivals and events have been organized to foster community relationships and address common issues through contemporary art, aiming to engage both local and international audiences.

International Collaboration: Efforts have been made to collaborate with international organizations and countries to enhance the global presence of Uzbek contemporary art. E-Commerce for Traditional Arts: The government supports initiatives that connect local artists and craftsmen with broader markets through e-commerce, helping to keep national traditions and artistic techniques alive. These initiatives demonstrate the Uzbek government's commitment to nurturing a vibrant contemporary art scene that honors traditional roots while embracing modern artistic expression. The government's support has been essential in providing artists with the resources and platforms necessary to create and showcase their work, both domestically and internationally.

**In conclusion**: The cinemas, theatres, and museums of Uzbekistan stand as proud testaments to the nation's flourishing cultural scene. These institutions serve as beacons of artistry and history, bridging the past with the present and opening up dialogues for the future. The government's commitment to the arts is evident in the careful preservation of historic theatres, the modernization of cinemas, and the curation of museums that celebrate the nation's rich heritage.Cinemas in Uzbekistan, with their blend of local and international films, provide a window to the world and a mirror of society, fostering a culture of cinematic appreciation and critical discourse. Theatres, with their diverse performances ranging from traditional puppetry to contemporary drama, continue to captivate audiences and nurture the talents of actors, directors, and playwrights. Museums, with their vast

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collections of artifacts, artworks, and exhibits, serve as custodians of Uzbekistan's multifaceted history and identity.

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