



The Society for Cinema Critics and Screenwriters of Iran gave its top motion picture honor to “Punishment” at its fourth annual ceremony Friday night.

The annual awards that also honored several others, were held this year at the Arasbaran Cultural Center and were attended by a group of cineastes, writers, critics and the media.

The awards were presented to the winners amidst long applause and ovations from the audience. Produced by Saeid Sadi, the brief synopsis of “Punishment” by director Hassan Fat’hi reveals the story of a middle-aged man waiting for his death penalty to be carried out. His family tries to pay the blood money, but the money is stolen while carrying it from the bank.

Thirty-seven year-old actor Shahab Hosseini scooped the best actor award this year for his role in “Walking in the Fog” by Bahram Tavakkoli. The best actress award went to Negar Javaherian for “Gold and Copper” (Homayun As’adian), which is the second prize for Javaherian for her role in the movie where she grabbed a Crystal Simorgh at the 28th Fajr film festival. The jury also selected actor Hamid Farrokhnejad to receive the creativity award for his diverse roles in the movies.

Farrokhnejad was crowned the best leading actor at the 54th Asia-Pacific Film Festival in Taipei in December 2010. “Adam’s Son, Eve’s Daughter” producer Saeid Hajimiri was next honored with the best professional producer award. Afterwards, director Ebrahim Hatamikia was called on stage to receive first prize for his “In the Color of Purple” where he made a brief remark on what the critics had said about his productions. “Sometimes, some of the critics made me angry, but I could not resist reading the articles. I must admit that we need to read their remarks despite that sometimes, they are filled with vitriol.” “In the present situation where not much respect is given to the cinema, we have grown weary and expect the writers to observe more and write more creatively, since the life of Iranian cinema is dependent upon their remarks,” he added.

The following is a list of the main winners: \* Best Supporting Actor: Mehran Ahmadi for “Nothing” \* Best Supporting Actress: Mehraveh Sharifinia for “There Is No One at the Door”

## Iranian film critics awards

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\* Best Screenwriter: Bahram Tavakkoli for "Walking in Fog"

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