

From Creating "The Alchemist" to Reviving the Zoetrope

Exclusive Interview with Mehdi Khorramian

By Parnia Hossein
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In this exclusive interview, Mehdi Khorramian, a distinguished stop-motion animator and director, speaks about his experiences, challenges, and advice for those interested in this art.

Q1. Hello Mr. Khorramian. I'm very pleased to speak with you today. Please tell us about yourself and your professional background.

Hello to you and the readers of "Iran Zehn" Journal. I am Mehdi Khorramian, an animation director and university instructor. I created my first animation in 1987, and along this long journey, I have gained a great deal of experience. I am currently the president of the Animation Filmmakers Association of Iran (ASIFA), and I mostly work professionally in the field of stop-motion animation.

Q2. Please tell us about the zoetrope you showcased at the Tehran Animation Festival.

The zoetrope is one of the early inventions of animation and cinema, which creates the illusion of movement through visual persistence. We presented a puppet-based zoetrope that has educational and exhibition value, and it is suitable for newcomers to the field of animation.

Q3. Tell us about the challenges stop-motion animators face.

One of the most important qualities a stop-motion animator must have is patience. Stop-motion is extremely time-consuming and precise, and producing a single shot may take hours. Therefore, one must remain tireless and maintain accuracy and patience throughout the process.

Q4. Which of your works do you like the most?

Among my works, I particularly like my short films such as "The Switchman" and "The Alchemist".

Q5. In your view, what is the most essential factor in producing stop-motion animation?

Selecting a script that suits the stop-motion technique is extremely important. Having a limited number of locations and characters is a key principle. For beginners, I recommend starting with short projects and then moving toward longer productions.

Q6. Do you currently have a project in production?

My project "The Traveler" is in the pre-production stage, and we hope it will be completed in the coming years.

Q7. What is your final advice to students interested in this field?

My advice is to focus deeply on one specific area and avoid jumping from one specialty to another. The world is a world of specialization, and success in stop-motion requires dedicated focus. If they commit to this path, they will certainly achieve results.