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CINEMAS, THEATRES AND MUSEUMS IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: Uzbekistan's artistic spirit dances to a rhythm woven from centuries of cultural exchange. From the echoes of Silk Road merchants traversing ancient trade routes to the indelible mark of the Soviet era, the country's artistic landscape is a vibrant tapestry of influences. Cinemas, theaters, and museums act as windows into this rich history and evolving cultural identity, showcasing a captivating blend of traditional art forms and contemporary artistic expressions. This article delves into the heart of Uzbekistan's cultural scene, exploring how its cinemas, theaters, and museums reflect the nation's journey through time. We will trace the threads of Silk Road influence woven into the architecture and decorative arts, witness the enduring legacy of Soviet-era realism, and discover how contemporary artists are pushing boundaries and forging new creative paths. Join us as we explore the diverse spaces where Uzbekistan's artistic spirit comes alive, revealing a nation that cherishes its past while embracing the possibilities of the future.

Key words: Ministry of Culture, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Republic of Karakalpakstan, Ilkhom Theatre, Akhunbabayev, Alisher Navoi, Republican puppet theater, Anton Chekhov.

Presently, there are 110 different museums in Uzbekistan, 98 of them, including branches of the state museums are under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The largest number of museums is located in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. Other interesting Uzbekistan museums are located in major tourist cities, such as Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. State Museum of Art named after I.V. Savitsky, located in Nukus, the capital and administrative center of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, is one of the most famous museums in Central Asia. The art galleries and craft centers that promulgate the



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Uzbek modern and classic art as well as folk crafts are gaining ever increasing popularity in Uzbekistan. Tashkent with about a dozen major art galleries, hosts regular exhibitions of fine art to display folk pieces of virtu, antiques and other items that compose the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan. Art studios and galleries, opened in other major cities of Uzbekistan such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, are enjoying great success both among Uzbekistan tourists and residents. The craft centers or centers of Uzbek arts and crafts showcase hereditary artisans' workshops, whose hand-made pottery as well as silk carpets and suzanne, jewelry and accessories, forged products and costumes make up the original national wealth of the Uzbek people. There you can not only buy the thing you like, but also attend a master class where you will be shown a process of creating unique gift items in ethnic style found only for the Central Asian region.

The theatrical life of Uzbekistan is quite different. There are 35 state theaters, including two opera and ballet in Tashkent and Samarkand, 10 music and drama theaters, as well as dolls theaters nationwide. Also, Russian music and drama theaters operate in Tashkent, Samarkand and Ferghana. Most of the theatres are located in capital city of Uzbekistan. Here is the list of most leading theatres in Uzbekistan:

Tashkent: Ilkhom Theatre, Academic Russian Drama Theatre of Uzbekistan, The State Academic Bolshoi Theatre named after Alisher Navoi, Uzbek National Academic Drama Theatre, National Theatre for Young People named Yu Akhunbabayev, Youth Theatre of Uzbekistan, Republican puppet theater, Operetta Theatre (Tashkent State Theater of Musical Comedy), Drama Theatre. Abror Khidoyatov, Uzbek Theater of Musical Drama and Comedy Mukimi, Theatre "Ofarin" dance

Samarkand: Samarkand Regional Theater of Music and Drama named after Hamid Alimdjan, Samarkand Russian Theater. Anton Chekhov,Regional Puppet Theater named A.Dzhuraeva

Andijan: State Theatre of Drama and Comedy. Akhunbabayev

Nukus: Karakalpak Music and Drama Theatre named after Stanislavsky, Karakalpak State Musical Theatre Berdakh

Fergana: Ferghana Regional State Russian Drama Theatre

In conclusion, Our journey through Uzbekistan's cinemas, theaters, and museums reveals a nation deeply connected to its artistic spirit. These cultural spaces are not merely repositories of artifacts or stages for entertainment; they are living testaments



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to Uzbekistan's rich history, evolving identity, and enduring creativity. We have witnessed the legacy of the Silk Road echo through the architectural grandeur of theaters like the Navoi Opera House and the intricate craftsmanship of historical artifacts displayed in museums. We have seen how Soviet-era influences shaped cinematic narratives and theatrical productions, while also observing how contemporary artists are breaking new ground and exploring diverse forms of expression. Uzbekistan's cultural scene is a dynamic tapestry, interwoven with threads of tradition and innovation. Cinemas provide a platform for both local filmmakers and international productions, offering audiences a diverse range of cinematic experiences. Theaters continue to be spaces where audiences can witness the magic of live performance, from traditional dance and music to contemporary plays that grapple with modern-day issues.

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