

# Dr M to 'act' as film director

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will assume the role of film director when he opens the inaugural Kuala Lumpur World Film Festival here today.

The organisers said the Prime Minister would direct a film scene to mark the start of the three-day movie fest before hundreds of people, including festival delegates, at Dataran Merdeka.

The festival, held in conjunction with the 13th Non-Align Movement Summit, will see the participation of 38 countries with 40 movies vying for the coveted Perdana and Jury Merit Awards.

The public can view the films at Tanjung Golden Village cinemas at KLCC and Golden Screen cinemas at the Mid-valley Mega Mall on Monday and Tuesday.

National Film Corporation (Finas) director Zainal Abidin Abu Bakar said the film fest, which carries the theme *Towards A Peaceful Global Co-existence*, aimed to promote peace

and humanity, friendship and non-discrimination.

"It is about tolerance among multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religion people," he said.

Among those who will attend the festival is nine-year old Nithybani Kadasami, who won the Golden Butterfly Award at the Isfahan International Film Award in Iran for his role as a struggling child in a ravaging civil war in the award-winning film, *Punchi Suranganavi*. The film was also been screened at the Cairo International Film Festival last year.

Along with the screenings of the films, the organisers will also run a short message service (SMS) contest, where mobile phone users will have to answer two multiple-choice questions for a chance to win valuable prizes which included a grand prize of a Cellini Semanti sofa set worth RM8,000.

Among other prizes being offered are a Modenas Karisma scooter, a personal computer and printer and mobile phones.