



مهرجان عمان السينمائي الدولي

Amman International Film Festival

أول فيلم Awal Film



23/8 - 2/9
2020

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



الهيئة الملكية الأردنية للأفلام
The ROYAL FILM COMMISSION
JORDAN

FESTIVAL PARTNERS

BLOCKBUSTER PARTNERS



FEATURE PARTNERS



FEATURETTE PARTNERS



مؤسسة غياث ونادية سختيان الخيرية
GHIATH & NADIA SUKHTIAN FOUNDATION



MEDIA PARTNERS



WITH THE SUPPORT OF



Table of Contents

About Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film (AIFF)	3
About the Amman Film Industry Days (AFID)	3
Welcome Note – Princess Rym Ali	4
Welcome Note – Nada Doumani	6
AIFF Board Members	7
The Black Iris Trophy and Mohanna Durra	10
Ennio Morricone Tribute	11
Jury Arab Feature Narrative Competition	13
Jury Arab Feature Documentary Competition	14
Jury Arab Short Film Competition	15
Opening Film	20
Arab Feature Narrative Competition	24
Arab Feature Documentary Competition	36
Arab Short Film Competition	47
International Section	55
Closing Film	68
First and Latest: Talk with Samir	70
AIFF Team	72
The AIFF Thanks	73

About Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film (AIFF)

Jordan's first international film festival that showcases Arab and international movies is long overdue. The Jordanian small, but vibrant, local film industry has begun to show what it can do, with talented directors winning international acclaim with features such as "Captain Abu Raed", "Theeb", "The Last Friday", "When Monaliza Smiled", "3000 Nights" and "Blessed Benefit".

On the other hand, Jordan is already firmly on the map as a filming location for foreign filmmakers, who choose to film in the Kingdom for its diverse landscapes, ancient heritage, urban mix, easy procedures, and government support. Movie-goers have been watching scenes filmed in Jordan at least since "Lawrence of Arabia" hit the big screen in 1962. In more recent years, the country has provided compelling locations for numerous international award-winning movies including "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade", "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story", "The Hurt Locker", "The Martian", "A Private War", "All the Money in the World", "Escape from Raqqa", "Aladdin" and "Star Wars: Episode IX" among others.

What it has arguably lacked is an exciting showcase for emerging Arab and Jordanian talents whose work is engaging a growing local and international audience.

The aim of **Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film**, according to its president Princess Rym Ali, is "developing and promoting an Arab cinema that reflects the creativity of the region and tackles the issues that are prevalent today."

The distinctive edge of this festival lies in its focus on first timers. The competitive section is reserved to Arab filmmakers and includes feature-length narratives and documentaries, as well as shorts. A non-competitive international section will showcase debut films from all over the world.

The line-up of this inaugural edition features 39 films – narratives and documentaries, Arab and international – including nine Shorts, from 31 countries. They have all been released in 2020 – 2019, showcased for the first time in Jordan, made by first-time directors or starring first-time lead actors or written by first-time screenwriters. 27 Arab movies will compete for the Black Iris Award for Best Arab Narrative, Best Arab Documentary, and Best Arab Short, delivered by an international Jury, while 10 international films will compete for the Audience Award.

The "First & Latest" section features the work of one veteran filmmaker, showcasing the process between his first and latest film. We are delighted to host this year Samir, the renowned Swiss filmmaker of Iraqi origin.

Whether you are a filmmaker, an actor or a critic, an industry insider or an enthusiastic consumer, **Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film** welcomes you!

About the Amman Film Industry Days (AFID)

An incubator that supports artistic and creative development, the inaugural edition of **Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film** is also the setting of the 1st edition of the Amman Film Industry Days (AFID), taking place between August 24th and 26th, 2020.

AFID hosts seminars, workshops and talks with industry professionals, which tackle challenging areas of the filmmaking process that Jordanian and Arab filmmakers face today in addition to sharing journeys and experiences by experts in the field.

Furthermore, and for its first edition, the Amman Film Industry Days showcase up-and-coming voices from Jordan and the Arab World through two pitching platforms for feature-length film projects: one for Jordanian and Arab resident filmmakers in Jordan whose projects are in development; the other for Arab filmmakers whose projects are in post-production; a total of 14 projects.

Selected participants will share their stories and pitch their film projects to an independent jury who will award the best projects to help bring their films to completion. AFID Award Announcement, concluding the Amman Film Industry Days, will take place on August 26th, 2020.

Welcome Note

It was never going to be a typical film festival. The pandemic made it even less so. So, it may seem a strange year to launch the first edition of a Film Festival anywhere in the world.

We, in Jordan, had already worked on many initiatives to encourage first-time filmmakers, mainly thanks to the efforts of the Royal Film Commission-Jordan (RFC), which continues to offer support with funding, capacity-building, and developing a film culture in our country. But we knew those first films and the artists who made them deserved more.

The **Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film (AIFF)** was established to respond to this need: to encourage first-time filmmakers and provide them with opportunities to engage both audiences and professionals.

The health crisis led us to postpone and rethink the festival that was scheduled in April 2020. Should we put everything on hold and wait for normal life to resume? Is another film festival what our country and region need in such dire and uncertain times?

After much pondering, we realized that the very filmmakers that the festival wanted to celebrate actually held the answer. Indeed, they all share one extraordinary trait: undeterrable resolve. The energy and determination they demonstrate in lifting their films off the ground boggle the mind. And we thought we should borrow this resolve from them and march on.

Audiences - in Jordan and elsewhere - also provided us with answers. As the public retreated within the confines of their homes, the need for stories to be told and films to be shared only grew. Not only as entertainment, but also as a way to connect with friends, family, community and the world. As a way to ponder on the human condition that was, yet again, challenged and as a way to travel while staying at home.

We, at the **AIFF**, believe that access to culture, no matter the medium, is worth having. We also believe that access to culture is not a luxury left for better days. Culture in general, and film in particular, is a constant need.

But, we also believe that for its full appreciation, cinema remains one of those art forms that demand a public and therefore a public space. A belief that the sanitary crisis has challenged but that we started working on actively as we decided to set the **AIFF** on its course for its first edition.

Not being able to use closed cinemas, we wanted to make certain that the first works of our Arab artists this year would still be seen on a large screen and by as large a number of people as possible: drive-in screening spaces seemed like the perfect solution; organised for the first time in Jordan, for our first international film festival, celebrating first-time filmmakers.

We also sought permission to screen some films at the open-air venue of the Royal Film Commission, cutting by half the number of seats to respect social distancing. Though not comparable with the majestic ancient amphitheatres in Umm Qays, Jerash, Amman and Petra, the RFC's open-air theatre was built specifically for film screenings, more than a decade ago. We like to think that, in some way, all these venues fall in line with our country's and our region's rich and ancient tradition of storytelling. Although we spared no effort to offer the best possible screening conditions, we believe the size of the space or the screen matter much less than the content they offer.

We all have a stake in the success of our filmmakers. Whether we worry about the global impact of competing cultures through film, or whether we merely want to see stories that reflect our concerns, hear our voices, and share them.

By supporting filmmakers, we support our right to remember our recent history, for generations to come, to reflect on it, and be the ones in charge of our narratives. More importantly, film is also a possibility to reflect on what shared future we want. And who, better than first-time filmmakers, to embody this future?

This festival offers us all an opportunity to act on that.

To the rather atypical way of telling stories, was added this year the atypical character of how the year has unfolded for the global film industry. While mostly online, the support, guidance, and possibilities for feedback did not entirely disappear, and we hope they will return in full force, along with in-person networking possibilities, next year.

But that is also where the audience steps in. Without a public, we cannot hope to develop film as an art form and as an industry in our country.

These films all need your critical eye, and that of the jury and, more than anything, they need to be shared and heard about. They need the support of everyone, specialists and amateurs alike.

We are grateful to all those participating in this event: the members of the jury, and experts who, wherever they are in the world, continued their support; to the film community; to the team that made this possible, despite the usual as well as the unforeseen challenges; and of course, to our sponsors, without whom this event would not take place. A special mention to the Royal Film Commission, and HRH Prince Ali, who founded it in 2003, with a vision to launch a proper film industry in our beloved country. The AIFF is part and parcel of that vision.

Thank you all for joining us for this first edition of the **Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film**, and for appreciating the magic of the silver screen.



Rym Ali
Festival President



مهرجان عمان السينمائي الدولي

Amman International Film Festival

أول فيلم Awal Film



23/8 - 31/8

2020

www.aiff.jo

Welcome Note

We started brainstorming about this festival a couple of years ago, and have been actively preparing for it for over ten months, shaping its presence and identity. It never occurred to us that events would unfold so dramatically, with an unprecedented global health crisis that brought life almost to a standstill, and forced us to postpone its first edition. We never thought either that the world, and the region in particular, would be facing so many uncertainties and ordeals, as we were approaching the festival's opening date.

A festival is by definition festive. One could rightfully ask in these unusual times: what are we celebrating? To that, we say: Cinema...as "cinema is life, and vice versa" (Sergio Leone). As we cannot stop life, we cannot stop cinema from mirroring it and narrating it in its various dimensions. And a film festival is a platform for stories to be told and shared. It is an occasion to laugh and be moved, to meet and discuss. It is an opportunity for talent to be discovered, acknowledged, and acclaimed. It is at the essence of the meaning of culture. It is what we need in this unstable period, helping us cope and heal if need be, giving us a sense of purpose and identity as humans, no matter where we live or where we are from.



"I don't think it is necessary to separate all the borders of divisions, if we pursue the beauty of cinema." This quote, by the multi-awarded South-Korean director Bong Joon-Ho, reminds us of the universal language of film and its ability to break down geographic, cultural, and social barriers. Our hope is that this Jordanian event will celebrate our differences as well as our commonalities, with a greater acceptance of the Other.

This festival was designed with a specific "edge", one that focuses on first timers. This makes sense more than ever, as so much hope lies in these new voices that can bring the changes needed for a better future.

Stories, be they real or fictional, are there to make us reflect and ponder. Support to filmmakers – whether by showcasing their work or helping them produce it – is essential to sustain these emerging talents in which we believe. In fact, some of the best Arab productions in the past couple of years have been the work of first-time filmmakers, which by itself is a positive and promising sign of our times.

This festival wouldn't have seen the light without the genuine and constant support of every single Board member, the commitment and trust of every sponsor and partner, the seriousness and flexibility of the Jurors, the indefectible assistance of all the friends and colleagues at the Royal Film Commission - Jordan and, above all, the dedication and enthusiasm of its working team (a very small team, might I add!). I would like to thank them for their efforts, their ideas, their resolve and professionalism.

The inaugural edition of **Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film** is happening against all odds, necessitating even more determination and resourcefulness than previously planned. It is our hope that, next year, we will celebrate the art of cinema in a more diverse gathering, with guests and colleagues from beyond our borders sharing this unique moment.

Until then, we trust that the film professionals will take advantage of the activities organized for their benefit and that the audience in Amman will enjoy this carefully selected line-up of Arab and international movies – 39 films produced, or co-produced, in 31 countries.

Wishing you all a wonderful festival experience!

Nada Doumani
Festival Director

AIFF Board Members



Princess Rym Ali



Raja Gargour



Kinan Jaradat



Omar Masri



Nadia Sukhtian

CREATIVE IS GOOD. CREATIVITY PAIRED WITH RELEVANCE IS GREAT.

We present to you our new advertising tools,
assuring the relevance of your digital out of home campaigns
based on the following triggers:



Location
Hand-pick
the location



Weather
Be in line
with the weather



Time of Day
Appear at the
right time



Special Days
Match the occasion



Multiple Messages
Say it all



Real Time
Be up to date



Promotions
State the good news



Live Broadcast
As if you were there

For a full presentation on **Pikasso Transformation** or for more details, please contact us at +962 6 583 3112/3

Pikasso's transformation marks the start of a new era in planning, booking and broadcasting your Digital Out-of-home (DOOH) campaign.

You can customize and personalize your content based on the most meaningful triggers that will deliver contextually relevant messages, to which your customers will relate, thus optimizing your R.O.I.

Pikasso is committed to make striking DOOH campaigns accessible to all budgets.

To learn more, visit pikasso.com, or contact us at: +962 6 583 3112/3
Jordan | Lebanon | Iraq | Algeria | Tunisia | Morocco | Senegal | Ivory Coast | Mali | Armenia

 **PIKASSO**



حمّل
التطبيق الآن!



افتح حساب من موبايك

بدون حدّ أدنى للرصيد
بدون أي عمولات
بدون ما توصل البنك
بطاقتك بتوصل لباب البيت



بنك الاتحاد
Bank al Etihad

bankaletihad.com

The Black Iris Trophy & Mohanna Durra



Jordan's foremost artist, Mohanna Durra designed the bronze trophy of Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film (AIFF) in the shape of the Black Iris, Jordan's national flower and AIFF's symbol.

The iris' beautiful and intricate shape parallels the creative complexity and inspiration that goes into the craft of filmmaking. Three trophies will be awarded to Arab movies during the festival for: Best Feature-Length Narrative, Best Feature-Length Documentary, and Best Short Film.

Durra, in his design of the trophy avoided photographic realism. He synthesized the complex outlines of the Iris into a simple form that inspires the beholder and carries him to a world of inspiration; all this without losing any of the dynamism or vitality of the Black Iris which blooms with its beauty in Jordan's countryside.

Mohanna Durra is regarded as Jordan's pioneer of modern art. He was the first to introduce Abstract Art and Cubism having mastered classical painting skills. His portraits and particularly those of the desert Bedouins, for which he is highly appreciated, are displayed at the National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jordan, in public and private collections and also appear on postage stamps.

At the young age of 17, Durra won a scholarship to study at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome. Following his graduation in 1958, he returned to Jordan and began a journey of self-discovery and artistic expression through painting. He founded the Institute of Fine Arts in 1970 which set the path for hundreds of young Jordanian talents. His paintings were exhibited worldwide, and he continued to paint while pursuing a diplomatic career with the Arab League as Ambassador in Rome and Moscow. His eightieth birthday was celebrated by Jordan in 2018 through a retrospective exhibition of his works at Jordan's National Gallery of Fine Arts showing works since the tender age of 10 when he first started painting.

Having paved the way for many firsts in the Jordanian Fine Art scene, Durra leaves his mark on the Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film that acknowledges first-time achievements and is the first of its kind in Jordan.





Tribute to

Ennio Morricone

Ennio Morricone, also known as *il maestro*, is one of the greatest and most versatile film composers and orchestrators of all times. With some 500 film scores that transcend cultural and artistic genres, he is quoted saying: "I'm not linked to one genre or another. I like to change, so there's no risk of getting bored."

From romance to action to western scores, Morricone's film scores went on to earn him multiple awards, including an Oscar for Best Achievement in Music, an honorary Oscar for his magnificent and multifaceted contributions to the art of film music, three Golden Globes, six BAFTA awards, two Grammy Awards, and several other international awards.

Morricone was born in Rome in 1928. He studied at Rome's Santa Cecilia Conservatory, where he specialized in trumpet. Working with a small budget, Morricone revolutionized film scoring by finding an alternative to the full orchestrated music of the Hollywood Westerns. While his earlier scores did not garner much attention, he rose to fame with the unique composition of music and sound effects for Sergio Leone's so-called Spaghetti Westerns in the 1960s: "A Fistful of Dollars" (1964), "For a Few Dollars More" (1965), "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" (1966) considered to be one of the most influential soundtracks in history, "Once Upon a Time in The West" (1968) one of the best-selling scores worldwide and "A Fistful of Dynamite" (1971), only to name a few.

In 1978, Morricone composed the music of "Days of Heaven", by Terrence Malick, for which he earned his first nomination at the Academy Awards for Best Original Score. In 1988, he worked with director Giuseppe Tornatore for the award-winning drama "Cinema Paradiso". Since then, they worked together on eight films including "The Legend of 1900" (1998) and "Malèna" (2000). Later on, his work with director Quentin Tarantino earned him the Academy Award for Best Original Score for "The Hateful Eight" (2016).

Although most of his work was made for Hollywood, Morricone never left his Italian hometown. He played his final tour dates in June 2019. He passed away last July, leaving behind a legacy of film scores and music, about which he once said: "They're all my children... every score I've done."

Morricone is a cultural icon. He mastered speaking to the international audiences' hearts and minds. He made all the right and clever choices, when composing a rhythm, a melody or a harmony; all with the aim to complement a movie and, at the same time, instill life into musical pieces for them to live by their own.

Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film pays tribute to *il maestro*, with the "Jordanian Ensemble" performing some of his most famous compositions at the opening ceremony of its inaugural edition. As Morricone's music lives on, his tunes will certainly continue to inspire generations to come all over the world.

شبكة زين فايبر

اشبك زين فايبر ابتداءً من

25 دينار

لسرعة 80 ميجابت/ثانية



Jury

Arab Feature Narrative Competition



Srdan Golubovic – Jury President

Srdan Golubovic (Belgrade, 1972) is a film director. His first feature film “Absolute Hundred” (2001) screened at festivals such as Toronto, San Sebastian, Pusan and Rotterdam, winning a great number of awards. His second film “The Trap” (2007) had its international premiere at the Berlinale Forum and was selected in several international film festivals, including Toronto and Karlovy Vary. It went on to win 22 international awards and made it to the final shortlist for the Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. His third film “Circles” (2013) premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, winning the World Cinema Dramatic Special Jury Award, and screened at the Berlinale Forum, winning the award of the Ecumenical Jury. His newest film “Father” (2020) premiered at the Berlinale Panorama, winning both the Audience award and the Ecumenical Jury award. Golubovic teaches film directing at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade.



Sarim Fassi-Fihri

Since October 2014, Sarim Fassi-Fihri is the CEO of the Centre Cinématographique Marocain (The Moroccan Film Authority). He began his film career in 1982 and more precisely in film production. He is the owner and founder of CINEDINA film studios. He was President of the Moroccan Association of Film Producers from 1996 to 2014, and President of the Foundation of the Higher Institute of Audio-visual and Cinema Professions since 2005. He also served in the Board of the Marrakech International Film Festival from 2001 until 2008, and then became its Executive Vice-President in 2015. Fassi-Fihri has produced or coproduced several Moroccan feature films directed by Hakim Noury, Jilali Ferhati, Nabil Ayouch, Ahmed Boulane and Farida Belyazid. He executive produced more than 40 foreign feature films and TV series shot in Morocco.



Saba Mubarak

Saba Mubarak is mostly known as an actress, whose repertoire includes many successful works regionally and internationally, such as: “Two Girls from Egypt”, “Transit Cities” and “Wedding Song”. She founded her own production house – Pan East Media – which produced the award-winning feature “The Guest: Aleppo-Istanbul” in which she had a lead role. In 2019, she produced “Obour” TV series, in which she also starred. Her most recent works include the Jordanian feature narrative “Daughters of Abdulrahman” by Zaid Abu Hamdan, which she co-produced; and “Amira” by Mohamed Diab, where she co-stars along with Ali Suleiman. She has been selected as jury member in many renowned festivals.



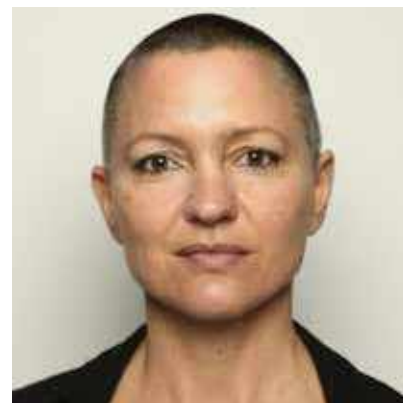
Jury

Arab Feature Documentary Competition



Andrea Luka Zimmerman – Jury President

Andrea Luka Zimmerman is a filmmaker and artist. Her work is concerned with marginalisation, co-existence, waywardness, social justice, and a search for radicalised re-relations, between people, place, and ecology. Her films include “Here for Life” (2019), which had its world premiere in the Cineasti Del Presente International Competition of the Locarno Film Festival, receiving a Special Mention; “Erase and Forget” (2017), which had its World Premiere at the Panorama section of the Berlin International Film Festival; “Estate, a Reverie” (2015) and “Taşkafa, Stories of the Street” (2013), written and voiced by the late John Berger.



Mahmoud Al Massad

Mahmoud Al Massad is a director and writer. He received international acclaim for his narrative and documentary feature films. His work was used in the curriculum of film academies in Europe. “Recycle” was awarded the World Cinema Cinematography Award Documentary at Sundance Film Festival in 2008 and was screened at over 130 international film festivals. His latest film “Blessed Benefit”, which premiered in 2016 at Toronto International Film Festival, won the NETPAC Jury Award for the Best Asian film as well as Best Acting Award at Warsaw Film Festival in 2016.



Nadia Kamel

Nadia Kamel is an Egyptian filmmaker, writer, and producer. She worked as an assistant director to leading independent filmmakers in Egypt including Ateyyat El-Abnoudy, Youssef Chahine and Yousry Nasrallah. When Kamel first began to work on her own projects in 2000, she found that little space was left for new directors and that unconventional topics were confined to the margins of mainstream Egyptian discourse. Her award-winning first documentary “Salata Baladi” (an Egyptian Salad) was produced in the spirit of indomitable independence. Later, she directed and produced “Green Mirage”, a documentary in Tunisia. Her most recent work, a novel “AlMawlouda” (Born), won the Sawiris prize for Best Novel in 2018. Kamel is currently working on a hybrid genre film about Egyptian youth in the early eighties.



Jury

Arab Short Film Competition



Maysoon Pachachi – Jury President

Maysoon Pachachi is a London-based filmmaker of Iraqi origin. She studied Philosophy and Filmmaking and worked for many years as a film editor for documentary films, TV dramas and feature films in the UK. Since 1994, she has worked as an independent documentary film director and is currently completing post-production on "Kulshi Makoo", a feature narrative film shot in Iraq in 2019. Pachachi has also taught film directing and editing in Britain and Palestine. In 2004, she co-founded Independent Film & Television College, a free-of-charge film-training centre in Baghdad, which ran for 10 years and whose students produced 18 short documentary films that were shown internationally and received 14 festival prizes. Her documentary films include "Voices from Gaza", "Iraqi Women – Voices from Exile", "Iranian Journey" and "Open Shutters in Iraq".



Brandt Andersen

Brandt Andersen is a writer, director, and producer. In 2019, Andersen wrote and directed the narrative short "Refugee", which was shortlisted for the Academy Awards. Andersen has produced films such as "Everest" starring Jake Gyllenhaal, "Lone Survivor" starring Mark Wahlberg, "2 Guns" starring Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg, Martin Scorsese's "Silence" starring Adam Driver and "American Made" starring Tom Cruise.

Andersen has worked on humanitarian efforts specifically focused on assisting refugees. In 2017, in association with CARE, Andersen took a group of filmmakers to the Azraq refugee camp in Jordan to teach filmmaking to Syrian teenagers. From 1998 to 2005, Andersen founded and was CEO of uSight, a technology company. In 2005, Andersen sold the company and returned to school where he graduated with a BA in Fine Arts.



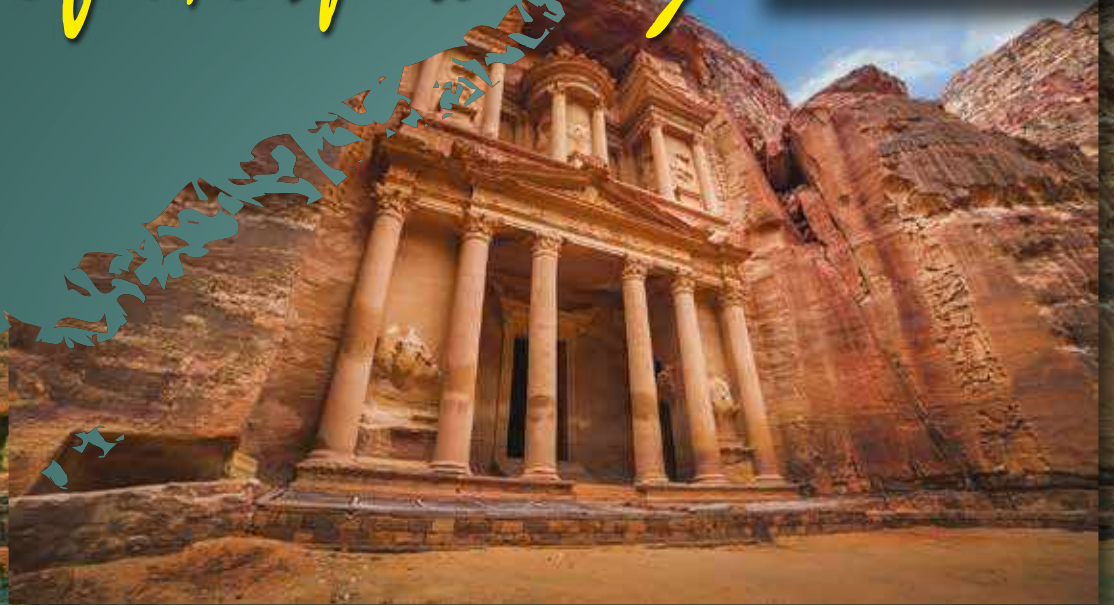
Najeh Hassan

Najeh Hassan is a film critic and researcher, who has published many cinematic studies in various Arab newspapers and magazines. He is a film critic in the daily Al-Rai newspaper published in Amman, and heads the cultural section of the Jordanian News Agency, Petra. He is also a member of the Jordanian Writers Society, the General Union of Arab Writers and the Cinema Committee of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Hassan participated in many Arab and international cinematic events, as a jury member in some. Among his books: "Cinema and Cinematic Culture in Jordan" (1991), "Selected Movies" (1996), "Screens of Light... Screens of Darkness" (2005), "Jordanian Cinema: Promises and Dreams" (2018).



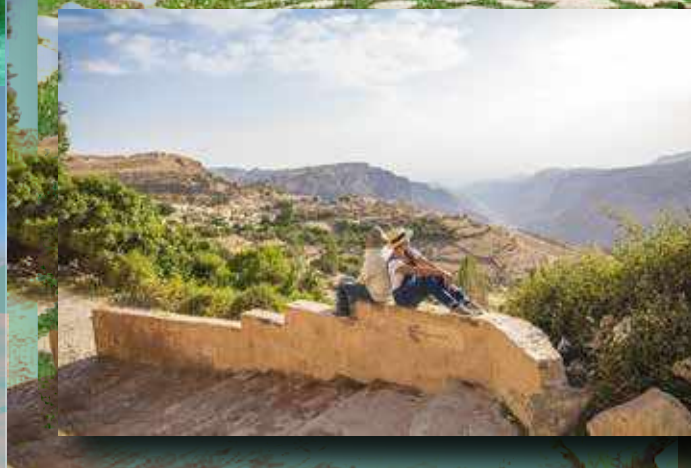
Jordan

Land of Hospitality



Jordan Tourism Board
visitjordan.com





عن الهيئة الملكية الأردنية للأفلام

تأسست الهيئة الملكية الأردنية للأفلام في تموز ٢٠٠٣، وهي هيئة عامة ذات استقلال اداري ومالي تهدف للمساهمة في تنمية وتطوير قطاع الإنتاج السينمائي والتلفزيوني في الأردن على مختلف أنواعه. تنظم الهيئة ورشات عمل وعروض أفلام وتقدم خدمات انتاج.

نؤمن بأن "السينما هي الكتابة العصرية، حبرها الضوء" كما قال جان كوكتو. ان السينما أداة ثقافية قوية وأساسية للتعبير عن الذات واىصال الرسائل.

للمزيد من المعلومات: زوروا موقعنا الالكتروني www.film.jo

f /filmjo

t /filmjordan

filmjordan

+962 6 4642266 +962 6 4613835

يمكنكم أيضا التواصل معنا على البريد الالكتروني: info@film.jo

About The Royal Film Commission – Jordan:

The Royal Film Commission – Jordan (RFC) is a public institution, with administrative and financial autonomy, established in 2003 with a mandate to promote for and contribute to the development of an internationally competitive Jordanian audio-visual industry. The RFC organizes training workshops, screenings and provides production support services.

We believe that "cinema is modern writing, whose ink is the light", as Jean Cocteau put it so well. Cinema is culture, modern culture, and an important means to express oneself and convey messages.

For more information, please visit our website: www.film.jo

f /filmjo

t /filmjordan

filmjordan

+962 6 4642266 +962 6 4613835

You can also write to: info@film.jo

www.film.jo

Film the JORDAN World in DAN

20

20



الهيئة الملكية للأفلام
The ROYAL FILM COMMISSION
JORDAN

The background is a complex, layered composition. It features a color gradient from deep purple at the top to a lighter, pinkish-purple at the bottom. Overlaid on this are several patterns: a film strip that winds across the frame, and various leaf-like or petal-like shapes that appear to be layered on top of each other, creating a sense of depth and texture. The overall effect is dreamlike and artistic.

Opening Film



Les Misérables

Director: Ladj Ly

Drama – 2019 – 105 minutes – +18

France

Language: French - subtitled in English & Arabic

Screenplay: Ladj Ly, Giordano Gederlini, Alexis Manenti

Cast: Damien Bonnard, Alexis Manenti, Djebri Zonga

Cinematography: Julien Poupard

Editing: Flora Volpelière

Producers: Toufik Ayadi, Christophe Barral

Awards: Jury Prize - Cannes Film Festival 2019; Best Film, Best Editing and Best

Promising Actor - César Awards 2020; Best Film - Athens International Film Festival 2019;

Cinema for Humanity Award – El Gouna Film Festival 2019; nominated by France for Best International Feature Film – Academy Awards 2020

Synopsis

In contemporary France, Stéphane recently joined the Anti-Crime Brigade in Montfermeil, the Paris suburbs where Victor Hugo had set his 1862 famed novel with the same title. Alongside his new colleagues Chris and Gwada, Stéphane quickly discovers tensions running high between neighbourhood gangs. When the trio find themselves overrun during an arrest, a drone captures every movement of the operation, setting in motion the events. Inspired by the 2005 Paris riots, “Les Misérables” exposes the tensions between the neighbourhood residents of the eastern suburb of Paris and the police department.

Director's Biography

Ladj Ly was born in Mali and grew up in Montfermeil, east of Paris. Best known for his attention-grabbing web documentaries that depict the realities of social and political life. He began his career as an actor and member of Kourtrajmé, an artist collective created in 1995 by his childhood friends, directors Kim Chapiron and Romain Gavras. Ly went on to direct his first short film, “Montfermeil Les Bosquets” in 1997. After the 2005 Paris riots, Ly was triggered by the death of two youths, and decided to film his neighbourhood for a year to make a documentary entitled “365 Days in Clichy-Montfermeil” (2007).



العمارة
العبدية



Explore A Dynamic Metropolis

Abdali is the new definition of modern urban life in Amman. This city within a city brings together business, retail, and residential elements; making it a regional business and tourist destination.





Arab Feature Narrative Competition

تعليم
ثقافة
تمكين.

الأردن وفلسطين

**Education
Culture
Empowerment.**

Jordan & Palestine

مؤسسة غياث ونادية سختيار الخيرية
GHIATH & NADIA SUKHTIAN FOUNDATION



- Gold certified green building offering commercial and retail space
- Advanced security systems including facial recognition building entry and license plate recognition technology in the car park
- Car parking over four basement floors
- SkyGarden open-air terrace with BBQ facilities

A LANDMARK PROPERTY OFFERING COMMERCIAL AND RETAIL SPACE IN THE HEART OF AMMAN

The Edgo Atrium is based in the heart of the Abdali district in Amman, Jordan. As one of the only buildings in Amman with a gold certification for its environmental sustainability from the LEED, the Edgo Atrium offers a tenant experience that is unsurpassed in the country. With frictionless tenant security, including facial recognition entry and a license plate recognition system for the

building's four floors of car parking, the Edgo Atrium offers seven floors of office and commercial space over 14,343m² serviced by five high speed passenger elevators. Along with functional, quality reception and communal areas, the property boasts the SkyGarden, an open-air roof terrace with panoramic views of the Amman skyline, fully equipped with lounge seating and BBQ facilities.



1982

Director: Oualid Mouaness

Drama – 2019 – 100 minutes – +16

Lebanon, USA, Norway, Qatar

Language: Arabic - subtitled in English

Screenplay: Oualid Mouaness

Cast: Nadine Labaki, Mohamad Dall, Rodrigue Sleiman

Cinematography: Brian Rigney Hubbard

Editing: Jad Dani Ali Hassan, Sabine El Gemayel

Producers: Oualid Mouaness, Alix Madigan-Yorkin, Georges Schoucair, Myriam Sassine, Christopher Tricarico

Awards: NETPAC award - Toronto International Film Festival 2019; Youth Audience Award - Montpellier Mediterranean Film Festival 2019; International Critics Prize - El Gouna Film Festival 2019; Golden Coconut- Hainan International Film Festival 2019; Jury Prize – Ajyal Youth Film Festival 2019; Audience Award - Asian World Film Festival 2019

Synopsis

In 1982, at a private school in the mountains of Lebanon, 11-year-old Wissam is intent on finding the courage to tell his classmate he loves her, as an air invasion reaches the capital Beirut and shatters the school's calm. Wissam finds it difficult to comprehend the gravity of the impending violence. But for his teachers, Yasmine and Joseph, the jets in the sky signal something much graver.

Director's Biography

Oualid Mouaness is a Lebanese producer, writer and director. He holds a Master's degree in Writing and Directing from Florida State University and has directed the short films "Saint in the Sun" (2002) and "The Rifle, the Jackal, the Wolf, and the Boy" (2016), which was shortlisted for an Oscar in 2017. He has also produced music videos for David Bowie, Annie Lennox, Lana Del Rey and Justin Timberlake, amongst others.





A Son

Director: Mehdi Barsaoui

Drama – 2019 – 96 minutes – +18

Tunisia, France, Lebanon, Qatar

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Mehdi Barsaoui

Cast: Sami Bouajila, Najla Ben Abdallah, Youssef Khemiri

Cinematography: Antoine Héberlé

Editing: Camille Toubkis

Producers: Habib Attia, Marc Irmer, Chantal Fischer

Awards: Special Jury Award; Best Arab Film; United Nations Award - Cairo International Film Festival 2019; Special Mention for Best First Work – Carthage Film Festival 2019; Golden Scorpion Best Film - Tozeur International Film Festival 2019

Synopsis

Less than a year after the fall of Ben Ali's regime, driving home from a family vacation in the summer of 2011, Fares, Meriem and their 10-year-old son Aziz - a wealthy and privileged Tunisian family - face a disaster when a stray bullet strikes their car during an armed group ambush. Aziz's liver is punctured, and he finds himself in a local hospital, with an urgent need for a blood transplant. As their world falls apart, the delicacies of the couple's shifting emotions are tested when a dark family secret is revealed.

Director's Biography

Born in 1984 and raised in Tunisia, Mehdi Barsaoui is a graduate of the Higher Institute of Multimedia Arts of Tunis and holds a degree in film direction from DAMS in Bologna, Italy. He has directed three short films to date. "We're Just Fine Like This" won the Golden Muhr for Best Film in Dubai in 2016. His international career begins with "A Son", his debut feature-length narrative, selected at the 76th Venice International Film Festival.





About Leila

Director: Amin Sidi-Boumédiène

Drama – 2019 – 135 minutes – +18

Algeria, France, Qatar

Language: Arabic and Tamasheq - subtitled in English & Arabic

Screenplay: Amin Sidi-Boumédiène

Cast: Slimane Benouari, Lyes Salem, Azouz Abdelkader

Cinematography: Kanamé Onoyama

Editing: Amin Sidi-Boumédiène

Producers: Claire Charles-Gervais, Louise Bellicaud

Awards: The Silver Méliès Award for Best European Film - Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival 2019; Critics Award - Montpellier Mediterranean Film Festival 2019; Best Actor - Carthage Film Festival 2019; Best Film - Seville European Film Festival 2019; Centenary Award for Best Film - International Film Festival of India 2019

Synopsis

In 1994, the Algerian civil war had been raging for years in the north of the country. Two police officers, S. and Lotfi, who are also childhood friends, travel through the desert looking for Abou Leila, a dangerous fugitive terrorist. In the immensity of the Sahara, their quest seems absurd. But, Lotfi has one priority: to keep S. far from the capital, knowing his friend is too fragile to face more bloodshed. The deeper they get into the desert, the more they are confronted with their own trauma.

Director's Biography

Amin Sidi-Boumédiène graduated in directing at the Conservatoire Libre du Cinéma Français (Free Conservatory of French Cinema) in Paris.

He returned to Algeria in 2008, worked as an assistant director, and at the end of 2010, directed his first short film "Demain, Alger?" (Tomorrow, Algeria?), which was selected at the Short Film Festival of Clermont-Ferrand amongst others. His second short "L'île" [The Island] won the Best Film Award at the Abu Dhabi International Film Festival in 2012. In 2014, he directed his third short film "Serial K". "Abou Leila", his first feature, premiered in Cannes International Film Festival - Critics' Week in 2019.





Between Heaven and Earth

Director: Najwa Najjar

Drama – 2019 – 92 minutes – +16

Palestine, Luxembourg, Iceland, Jordan

Language: Arabic, English, French, Hebrew – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Najwa Najjar

Cast: Mouna Hawa, Firas Nassar, Faris Husari

Cinematography: Tomas Tomasson

Editing: Elisabet Ronaldsdottir, Amine Jaber

Producer: Hani E. Kort

Awards: Naguib Mahfouz Award for Best Screenplay - Cairo International Film Festival 2019

Synopsis

Salma and Tamer, a Palestinian couple in their thirties, have been married for five years. Salma is from Nazareth, while Tamer is the son of a famous intellectual revolutionary who was killed in Beirut. The first time Tamer receives permission to cross the Israeli checkpoint is to file for divorce from his wife. In court, they make a shocking discovery about the past of Tamer's father and have 72 hours to find a needed document before his permit expires. As the story unfolds, the secret exposes a time when religion was not an issue and love could survive a destroyed landscape even in a war-torn country.

Director's Biography

Writer and director Najwa Najjar, is a member of the Academy for Arts and Sciences Writers and worked in both documentary and fiction since 2000. Her debut feature film was "Pomegranates and Myrrh" (2009). Her second award winning film "Eyes of a Thief" (2014) was the Palestinian submission to the 2015 Oscars. She has given numerous Director's Masterclasses and was an advisor for Rawi Screenwriter's Lab managed by the Royal Film Commission - Jordan.



First-time Lead Actress

Mouna Hawa is a Palestinian actress and singer, living in Haifa. She starred in the successful TV series "Mouna" created by Mira Awad. She won the "Best Actress" award in the Palestinian theater festival for her role as Asmahan in 'Who Killed Asmahan?' written and directed by Amir Nizar Zuabi. She held roles in various theater plays and TV shows. Her first role as lead actress in a feature-length movie was in "Between Heaven and Earth".



First-time Lead Actor

Firas Nassar was born in Nazareth and studied acting. He held one of the lead roles in the political satire stage hit "In the Tunnel", performing more than 215 times as well as making his US stage debut with the play for a number of international theatre festivals. He held various roles in international TV series. In "Between Heaven and Earth", he made his debut in a lead role in a cinema movie.





Haifa Street

Director: Mohanad Hayal

Drama – 2019 – 79 minutes – +18

Iraq, Qatar

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English & Arabic

Screenplay: Mohanad Hayal, Hala Alsaman

Cast: Ali Thamir, Asad Abdulmajeed, Yumna Marwan, Iman Abdulhassan

Cinematography: Salam Salman

Editing: Ali Raheem

Producers: Ali Raheem, Hala Alsaman

Awards: Best Film Award - Busan International Film Festival 2019; Best Film and Best Actor - Cairo International Film Festival 2019

Synopsis

Set in Baghdad in 2006, Haifa Street is one of the most dangerous places suffering from the civil war and violence that have plagued the city. When Ahmed is dropped off there on his way to his beloved Suad's house to ask for her hand in marriage, he gets shot by Salam, an anxious young sniper who is living his own personal hell on a rooftop above. Suad desperately tries to save Ahmed, but Salam prevents anyone from approaching him. All hell breaks loose under the ominous presence of the American occupation.

Director's Biography

Mohanad Hayal was born in Nasiriyah (Iraq) in 1985. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Baghdad in 2010. His short film "Happy Birthday" was selected for the 2013 Berlin International Film Festival and received the Rising Star Award at the Rhode International Film Festival in America. In addition to his work as a director, he co-produced a number of movies. He is one of the founders of the Iraqi Independent Film Centre. He currently heads the film production department at the Iraqi Ministry of Culture.





Last Visit

Director: Abdulmohsen Aldhabaan

Drama – 2019 – 75 minutes – +16

Saudi Arabia

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Fahad Alestaa, Abdulmohsen Aldhabaan

Cast: Osama Alqess, Abdullah Alfahad, Fahad Alghariri

Cinematography: Amine Messadi

Editing: Fakhreddine Amri

Producer: Mohammed Alhamoud

Awards: Jury Award - Marrakech International Film Festival 2019; Special Award Mannheim-Heidelberg International Film Festival 2019

Synopsis

On his way to attend a wedding with his adolescent son Waleed, a middle-aged father, Nasser, receives news of his father's serious illness. He turns in the direction of his rural hometown south of Riyadh. The relationship between father and son changes when they arrive in this isolated town, as the disappearance of a child under unknown conditions is overshadowed by Nasser's efforts to communicate with Waleed, even if it means imposing his own will on him. Waleed rebels against this guardianship and rejects it amidst the tense atmosphere of his dying grandfather in waiting.

Director's Biography

Abdulmohsen Aldhabaan is an independent Saudi writer-director who co-founded the Talashi Films in 2008, and directed several short films including: "Three Men and a Woman" (2009) and "The Incomplete Chronicles of a Folk Tale" (2010). He co-created and directed the critically acclaimed TV drama series "42 Days" in 2016.





The Unknown Saint

Director: Alaa Eddine Aljem

Drama, Comedy – 2019 – 100 minutes – +16
Morocco, France

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Alaa Eddine Aljem

Cast: Younes Bouab, Salah Bensalah

Cinematography: Amine Berrada

Editing: Lilian Corbeille

Producers: Francesca Duca, Alexa Rivero

Awards: Best First Feature and Best Sound – Tangier International Film Festival (2020);
Youth Jury Award - Valladolid International Film Festival (2019)

Synopsis

Moments before his capture by the Moroccan police, Amine digs a grave to hide his stolen bag of money and disguises it as a modest tomb. When he is released from prison years later, he returns to the same spot to retrieve the buried cash. He finds a shrine dedicated to an unknown saint built directly over the spot, and a new village subsists on the pilgrims who visit the mausoleum. Amine settles into the village and begins plotting. But with the loot now hidden in a holy place, retrieving it becomes much more complicated.

Director's Biography

Trained at ESAV Marrakech and INSAS in Brussels, Alaa Eddine Aljem directed several short films, among which "The Desert Fish" (2015), which gained the Critics, Screenwriting and Grand Prize at the Moroccan National Film Festival. In 2016, Alaa was named by "Screen International" as one of the Five Arab Stars of Tomorrow. "The Unknown Saint" is Aljem's debut feature and it premiered at Cannes International Film Festival, where it was nominated for the Critics' Week Grand Prize.





The Women in Block “J”

Director: Mohamed Nadif

Drama – 2019 – 97 minutes – +18

Morocco

Language: Arabic, French – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Mohamed Nadif, Assma El Hadrami

Cast: Assma El Hadrami, Jalila Talemsi, Imane Mechrafi

Cinematography: Kamal Derkaoui

Editing: Marie-Pierre Renaud

Producers: Mohamed Nadif, Rachida Saadi

Synopsis

Three young women from different ages and social backgrounds are hospitalized in the Block J of a psychiatric hospital in Casablanca. They have all been diagnosed with depression and are deemed to be in need of medical intervention. With the hospital's nurse, they confront their suffering and forge a strong friendship, escaping in occasional nocturnal escapades that slowly help to bring them back to life.

Director's Biography

Mohamed Nadif began his artistic career as a theatre actor and director. He initially worked as an actor in several films before directing his own projects. He has written and directed three short films: "The Young Lady and the Elevator" (2005), "The Young Lady and the Teacher" (2007) and "The Young Lady and the School" (2009). "The Women in Block J" is his second feature film after "Andalusia, My Love!", which was released in 2012.



First-time Lead Actress

Rim Fathi began theatre acting at the age of thirteen. In 2014, she had her first participation in a television series, followed by her cinematic debut in 2016 in the film "Volubilis" by Faouzi Bensaïdi, then another participation in the movie "Rahal" by French director Olivier Cosmak and produced by Mohamed Nadif. The latter trusted her high ability to perform her first major cinematic lead role in his film "Women in Block J".



First-time Screenwriter

Asmaa Al-Hadrami is a prominent actress in the Moroccan art scene. She graduated from the Higher Institute of Dramatic Art in Rabat, holds a diploma in Theater and Art Studies from Paris, and is one of the founders of the theater group "The Other Bank" (1996). She played key roles in dozens of theater creations and secondary roles in many cinematic and television films. "The Women in Block J" is her first experience as a screenwriter and she also performs one of the main characters in the movie (Amal).





You Will Die at Twenty

Director: Amjad Abu Alala

Drama – 2019 – 103 minutes – +18

Sudan, France, Egypt, Germany, Norway, Qatar

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Yousef Ibrahim, Amjad Abu Alala

Cast: Mustafa Shehata, Islam Mubarak, Mahmoud Elsaraj

Cinematography: Sébastien Goepfert

Editing: Heba Othman

Producers: Arnaud Dommerc, Hossam Elouan, Ingrid Lill Høgtun, Michael Henrichs

Awards: Luigi de Laurentiis Award - Venice Film Festival 2019; International Competition - Mumbai Film Festival 2019; Golden Star - El Gouna Film Festival 2019; Best Screenplay Carthage Film Festival 2019; Golden Unicorn Best Feature Film - Amiens Film Festival 2019; Audience Award - Ajyal Film Festival 2019; Best Feature Film - Rabat Film Festival 2019

Synopsis

When searching for a blessing on the day of her firstborn's naming ceremony, a mother is instead foretold a curse: her son, Muzamil, will die at the age of 20. Muzamil's father cannot stand the doom and travels away from home. Sakina raises her son alone with over protection. Growing up under the constant loom of death, Muzamil finds friends, enemies, love and tempters, though what he truly seeks is a sense of the present and a belief in the future.

Director's Biography

Film director Amjad Abu Alala studied media at the United Arab Emirates University and works as a producer and independent director at Twofour54 Abu Dhabi. He has many short narrative films, including "Teena", "Feathers of the Birds", "On the Pavement of the Soul" and "Studio", which was supervised by the Iranian international director Abbas Kiarostami. In 2012, he won the Best Arabic Play award from the Arab Authority for "Apple Pies". He currently works as a programmer for the Sudan Festival of Independent Cinema and producer of several cinematic projects.





Arab Feature Documentary Competition

YOUR PASSION
IS IN HIGH DEMAND!

FILM PRODUCTION

B.A & DIPLOMA

MEDIA PRODUCTION

B.A & DIPLOMA

AUDIO PRODUCTION

B.A & DIPLOMA

VISUAL EFFECTS ANIMATION

DIPLOMA

**VIRTUAL REALITY &
AUGMENTED REALITY**

B.A

CALL US :+962 6 4000 707

#STUDY_WHAT_YOU_LOVE!

الخدمات الإلكترونية لأمانة عمّان الكبرى



**استفد من خدماتنا إلكترونياً..
من خلال موقعنا الإلكتروني:**

www.amman.jo

**أومن خلال تطبيق أمانة عمّان الكبرى
GAM APP**

الدفع الإلكتروني من أي مكان..

دون الحاجة للمراجعة الشخصية من خلال:

- موقع أمانة عمّان الكبرى
- إي فواتيركم.
- البطاقات الائتمانية.
- محافظ الموبايل الإلكترونية.
- حسابك البنكي.

www.amman.jo

الخدمات الإلكترونية

تسجيل الدخول

دليل المستخدم

الخدمات الإلكترونية

التحقق من صحة الوثائق

الإلكترونية

خدمات الرسائل القصيرة

مخالفات السير بالسيارة

استعلام رقم رخصة

تأمينات السير





A Comedian in a Syrian Tragedy

Director: Rami Farah

Documentary – 2019 – 95 minutes – +16

Denmark, France, Norway, Qatar, Jordan

Language: Arabic and French – subtitled in English

Cinematography: Rami Farah

Editing: Gladys Joujou

Producer: Signe Byrge Sørensen, Lyana Saleh, Cindy Le Templier

Synopsis

This documentary is a chronicle of a revolution and war, experienced by the famous Syrian actor Fares Helou. Fares' life changed radically when he joined the people in the streets of Damascus calling for the fall of the Syrian regime. He immediately had to go underground, and director Rami Farah joined him in hiding with a camera. When Fares had to flee from Syria to France, Rami followed him. However, neither the actor nor the director had a script for the new chapter in their lives: exile. A chapter full of questions, disappointments and alienation, but also of absurdity and cultural confusion that calls for laughter. "A Comedian in a Syrian Tragedy" is an intimate observation of the psychological violence and the exiled existence experienced by the director and his favorite actor.

Director's Biography

Rami Farah is a Syrian filmmaker, actor and performer, born in 1980 and currently based in Paris. He first studied dance in Damascus at the High Institute for Dramatic Arts and has attended many training courses and workshops in contemporary film and dance. His first films and videos both use a blend of dance and audiovisual material. "ZamKan", made in 2004, unfolds as a dialogue between a ceiling fan and a chair in a silent room. It was followed by "Point", a short arts video that was screened in several exhibitions and festivals around the world.





Beirut Terminus

Director: Elie Kamal

Documentary, Experimental – 2019 – 82 minutes – +16
Lebanon

Language: Arabic - subtitled in English

Screenplay: Elie Kamal

Cinematography: Elie Kamal

Editing: Elie Kamal

Producer: Jana Wehbe

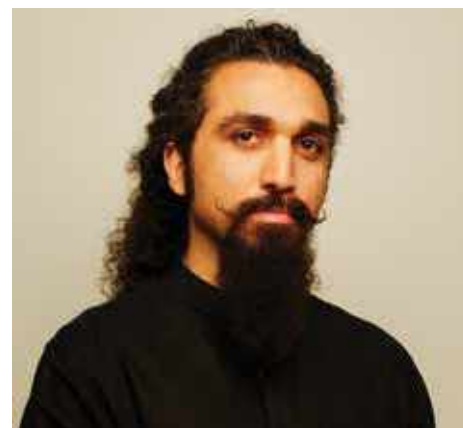
Awards: Best Non-Fiction Film Award - Cairo International Film Festival 2019

Synopsis

"Beirut Terminus" explores the notions of borders, identity, and belongingness, within a perpetually troubled region. Using Lebanon's discarded railway and what's left of its deserted infrastructure as its core scenery, the film interweaves personal and historical facts while taking a contemplative and geographical journey from the peripheral train stations of the country, towards the central station of Beirut, in an attempt to analyze, question and understand its past, present and uncertain future.

Director's Biography

Elie Kamal is a writer, director and cinematographer who lives between Beirut and Dubai. He started his career with his short film "2 1/2", which won the Critics' Award at the seventh edition of the Dubai Film Festival. He also directed his next two short films "ICE" and "Revoltango". "Beirut Terminus" is his debut feature documentary film, which won the award for Best Non-Fiction Film at the 41st edition of the Cairo Festival.





Fathallah TV, 10 Years and a Revolution Later

Director: Wided Zoghلامي

Documentary – 2019 – 75 minutes – +18
Tunisia

Language: Arabic and French – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Wided Zoghلامي

Cinematography: Hatem Nachi

Editing: Rawchen Mzouri, Wided Zoghلامي

Producer: Riadh Thabet

Awards: Zest Documentary - Tozeur International Film Festival 2019

Synopsis

Four destinies of young people, a district, a decade, embark us on a journey made of going and return between two eras: 2007-2017, from dictatorship to democracy. Following the path of three musicians and her own career as an artist, the director highlights the process of creation and the impact it can have on everyone's life. Through music, the film is a "voice" of a generation.

Director's Biography

Wided Zoghلامي has followed film studies at the School of the Arts of Cinema (EDAC) - Tunis. She then pursued her film courses at The International School of Audiovisual Creation and Realization (EICAR), in Paris. Zoghلامي has directed "Almost a pleasure", a short movie that took part in several festivals. In 2017, she resumed filming "Fathallah TV" her first feature-length documentary, ten years after the first clap.





Ibrahim, a Fate to Define

Director: Lina Alabed

Documentary – 2019 – 75 minutes – +15
Lebanon, Palestine, Denmark, Qatar, Slovenia

Language: Arabic - subtitled in English

Screenplay: Lina Alabed, Rami Nihawi

Cinematography: Rami Nihawi, Maya Bandak, Lina Alabed

Editing: Rami Nihawi, Nabil Muhshi

Producers: Rami Nihawi, Mohanad Yaqubi

Awards: Best Arab Documentary - El Gouna Film Festival 2019

Synopsis

In 1987, Lina Alabed's Palestinian father, Ibrahim, set off on a mission he never came back from. He was a member of the Abu Nidal group, also known as "The Revolutionary Council". His disappearance was not something that was talked about - until now. The filmmaker chose to create this work as a letter to a father she never really knew, but it is also a warm and personal family tale with temperament and character. The big question remains, how has the father's disappearance affected the filmmaker's own life choices.

Director's Biography

Lina Alabed is a Palestinian filmmaker, born in 1980, who graduated from the Faculty of Journalism at Damascus University. She worked with Danish directors on a documentary about Palestinian Refugees between Europe and the Middle East in 2009. Her short documentary "Noor Alhuda" was granted the DOX-BOX jury Award as Best Syrian film in 2010. Alabed produced and directed a short documentary film titled "Damascus my first kiss", which was broadcast on ARTE TV in 2013. "A Dream of Powerful Monster" is another short documentary by Alabed and was awarded the Jury Prize at the Arab Short Film Festival in Beirut in 2014.





In Mansourah, You Separated Us

Director: Dorothée-Myriam Kellou

Documentary – 2019 – 68 minutes – +15

Algeria, France

Language: French and Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Dorothée-Myriam Kellou

Cinematography: Hassan Ferhani

Editing: Mélanie Braux

Producer: Eugénie Michel Villette

Awards: 2nd Prize for Best Historical Film – Festival Beyond Borders; Prix Droits De L'Humain – Fidadoc Agadir 2019

Synopsis

Malek, the father of the filmmaker, told her nothing about his childhood in Algeria. Several years later, he revealed his story in a written script. The father and daughter finally made the journey to Mansourah, his home village: to see his house again, to meet other men who have experienced the same tearing. Little by little, the film reveals what Malek has experienced for a long time. During the war, more than two million people were displaced by the French Army and grouped in camps or villages. A distortion so far hidden from historical memory, for even if documented it remains largely ignored in France, but also in Algeria.

Director's Biography

Dorothée-Myriam Kellou is a journalist and filmmaker based in Paris. She uncovered in the French newspaper "Le Monde" in June 2016 the scandal of the French company Lafarge's indirect funding of the Islamic State during the war in Syria. Her work was rewarded with the TRACE International Prize for Investigative Reporting, which recognises reporting that uncovers bribery and transparency in the business world. She was also a finalist of Samir Kassir Award for the freedom of the press in the Arab world and of Albert Londres Award, one of the highest awards in French journalism.





In Their Prisons

Director: Azlarabe Alaoui

Documentary – 2019 – 75 minutes – +15
Morocco, Qatar

Language: Arabic and Italian – subtitled in Arabic

Screenplay: Azlarabe Alaoui

Cinematography: Gianni Bonardi

Editing: Ghizlane Assif

Producer: Anna Maria Gallone

Synopsis

The documentary takes viewers to explore the life of immigrants from North African countries in European prisons, and notably in a highly protected detention center in Verona - Italy. It is a journey through many inspirational stories of remorse, endurance of outlandish cells and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Director's Biography

Azlarabe Alaoui is a Moroccan film director, screenwriter, producer and a university professor holding a Ph.D. in the audio-visual and cinematic field. He has made films in a wide array of genres, yet focused more on human rights issues. He first directed short narrative films, as well as a number of documentaries for "Al Jazeera Documentary Channel". Then, he directed a feature narrative "Androman... Blood and Coal" in 2012, which has won 17 national and international awards, followed by another feature narrative "Kilikis...The Town of Owls" in 2018.





Madness in Aleppo

Director: Lina Sinjab

Documentary – 2019 – 83 minutes – +18

Syria, England, Turkey, Lebanon

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Lina Sinjab

Cinematography: Abd Alkader Habak, Meyar Roumi

Editing: Nabil Mehshi

Producers: Lina Sinjab, Rami Nihawi

Awards: Best Documentary - Buenos Aires International Film Festival 2020

Synopsis

Nurse Um Ibrahim, Dr. Hamza Al Khatib and photographer Abd AlKader Habak are close friends and endured months of siege in Aleppo vowing not to leave their city. Based in Al Quds Hospital, they were operating and treating hundreds of civilian casualties. Amidst the misery and death, they managed to find moments of love, fun and laughter. With them, we live the time of despair but also the moments of bonding together. But the moment comes where they are all forced to leave with no return... for now at least.

Director's Biography

LinaSinjab is an independent filmmaker and a correspondent for the BBC based in Beirut. Sinjab was the BBC's correspondent in Syria, Yemen and Libya. She directed a short TV documentary "Voices from Homs" in 2012 and, in 2013, another short TV documentary on Syrian Women named "Syrian Diaries: Suryiat", which was shortlisted for the One Media Award. She produced many films for the BBC and won the International Media Cutting Edge Award for her coverage in Syria in 2013.





Noum El Deek

Director: Seif Abdalla

Documentary – 2019– 85 minutes – +18
Egypt

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Seif Abdalla

Cinematography: Seif Abdalla

Editing: Ammar Nabil

Producers: Gasim Ameen, Seif Abdalla

Synopsis

The title of the film is a Sudanese phrase which translates literally into “the rooster’s sleep”; figuratively it refers to a person who tries to sleep standing, trapped between a state of slumber and wakefulness, limbo. Such is the reality of Sudanese refugees living in Cairo. The film is an ode to all refugees in the world, who are searching for a sense of identity and belonging, who are struggling to live with hope. Through multiple diverse and complex characters from Sudan, an intricate mosaic of their lives unfolds, painting a vivid reality of what it is like to be a refugee.

Director’s Biography

Seif Abdalla is an Egyptian-American filmmaker, born in Alexandria. He studied at the Los Angeles Film School. He made experimental short films that got him recognition in the festival circuit and won him a few awards. Upon his return to his home country, he traveled around Egypt filming and editing short films on his own. He made “Norhan”, a meditative journey into a decaying consciousness, which got accepted in the short film corner in Cannes 2016. Noum El Deek marks his feature documentary debut.





The Profession

Director: Ramez Youssef

Documentary – 2019 – 79 minutes – +18
Egypt

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Ramez Youssef, Belal Hosni

Cinematography: Laila Sami, Mohamed Siam

Editing: Islam Kamal

Producer: Mohamed Rashad

Synopsis

The movie is a journey to the dark side of the Egyptian traditional folk weddings, as it tells the story of the belly dancers who perform during these events, and their complicated relations with their husbands, who happen to also manage their business. It is a world where personal feelings are at odds with work, shaping their destinies.

Director's Biography

Ramez Youssef is an Egyptian filmmaker from Alexandria. He managed several projects, including a studio workshop for dramatic arts for children. He directed two short narrative movies "King Game" and "Let's talk". Youssef has received several grants to support his first feature-length unusual documentary "The Profession".



The background is a complex, abstract composition in shades of purple, magenta, and pink. It features a variety of geometric shapes, including circles, triangles, and polygons, some of which are filled with intricate patterns like plaid or floral motifs. A prominent film strip with sprocket holes is visible, winding across the upper and middle portions of the image. The overall effect is a layered, textured visual that suggests themes of cinema and art.

Arab Short Film Competition

رؤيا



CARAVAN PLUS

6:30

الأحد - الخميس



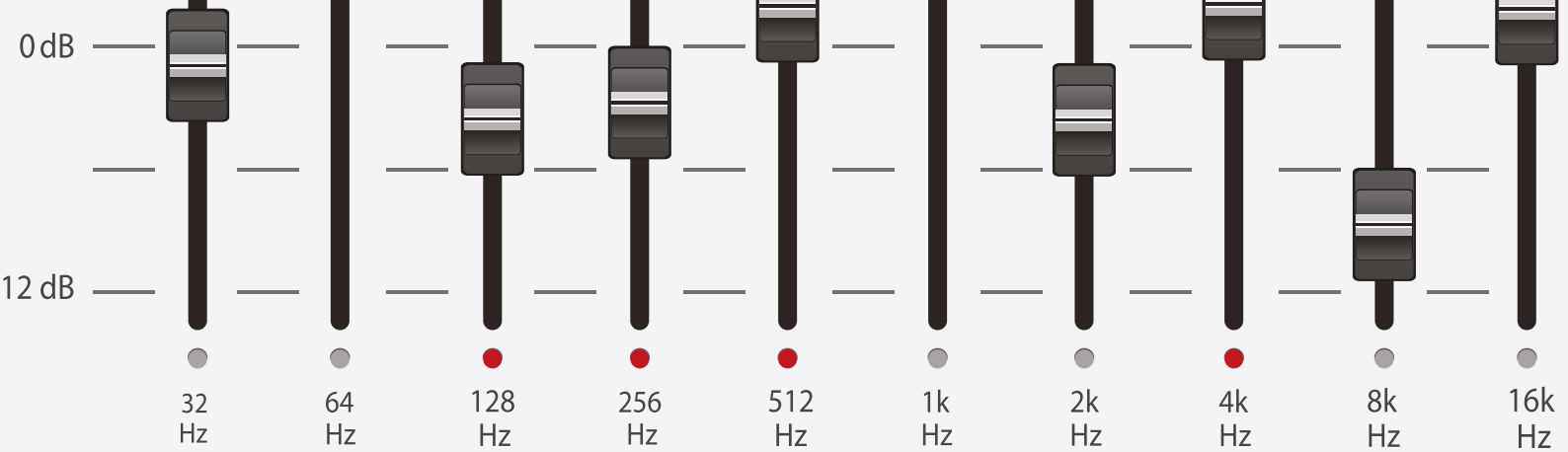
ROYA.TV

androidtv



SAMSUNG
Smart TV
TIZEN

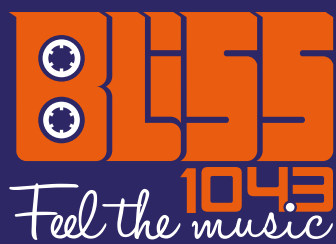
Roku



RADIOHALAJ0




Hala.jo



TUNE IN TO
104.3

RADIOBLISSJO






Adam

Director: Mohammed Al-Muradi

Drama – 2019 – 6 minutes – +18
Syria

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Mohammed Al-Muradi

Cast: Hasan Al-Kurdi, Hashem Khaddour and Kifah Alkhous

Cinematography: Nael Turkmani and Mohammed Al-Muradi

Editing: Ali Al-Moazen and Somar Jbawi

Awards: Special Jury Award - Youth Cinema and Short Films Festival (Syria) 2019; Bronze Award - Damascus Cinema Days 2019

Synopsis

A little boy named Adam tries his best to convince his friend that his father is not a liar.



Director's Biography

Born in Damascus, director Mohammed Al-Muradi completed his Cinematic Science and Arts diploma at the National Film Organization in Syria.



Exodus

Director: Yassine El Idrissi

Post-Apocalyptic Drama – 2020 – 20 minutes – +18
Morocco, Italy

Language: English, Arabic, Italian – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Yassine El Idrissi

Cast: Hamid Najah, Kazuma Glen Motomura, Hicham Mouhim

Cinematography: Matteo De Angelis

Editing: Yassine El Idrissi

Producer: Yassine El Idrissi

Synopsis

In a post-apocalyptic world, an old and a young man escape from slavery to set themselves on a journey through the desert. The former looks for truffles, and the latter searches for gold. Struggling with his new reality as a free person, the old man is tempted to go back to slavery, while the younger one is convinced that they can survive only if they stick together in freedom.



Director's Biography

Yassine El Idrissi explored different professions before becoming a storyteller in film. He worked several years as a successful photojournalist in national newspapers and international news agencies, until he found that, to satisfy his urge to tell the stories, he needed the power of cinema. He graduated from the Netherlands Film Academy in Amsterdam in 2013 with a Master's degree.



Huda

Director: May Al-Ghouti

Drama – 2020 – 12 minutes – +18
Jordan

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: May Al-Ghouti

Cast: Hayat Abu Samra, Naya Jamous, Luceen
Nsheiwat, Rasha Tabbalat, Maha Ayoub, Ayla Jamous

Cinematography: Omar Sawalha

Editing: Tamir Naber

Producer: Tamir Naber

Synopsis

"Huda" is a short social commentary, set in Jordan, on the idea of getting married, no matter what. The film opens with Huda, getting dressed for her wedding at home, helped by her sister, Mariam. Mariam notices bruises on Huda's body and is horrified by the realisation that Huda's fiancé beats her. Mariam immediately wants to call everything off, but Huda is adamant about going ahead with the wedding. The film deals with the moral dilemma of the younger sister, decisions we make and the reality of such situations in everyday life.



Director's Biography

May Al- Ghouti is from Amman, Jordan. She has a degree in English Literature from the University of Jordan and a Master's degree in Human Resources from Oxford. She worked as a recruitment consultant in the Greater Amman Municipality; during this time, she graduated from SAE institute in filmmaking studies. She lived and worked in Lebanon, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.



Ram

Director: Said Amer

Drama – 2019 – 19 minutes – +18
Oman

Language: Arabic - subtitled in English

Screenplay: Said Amer

Cast: Hayan Lamki, Nadia Akil, Dawod Alsiabi

Cinematography: Nuoman Ebrahim

Editing: Sameer Albloushi

Producer: Said Amer

Synopsis

A funeral raises many questions within a vague reality. The characters move realistically, but refer to symbolic meanings: an officer, a poet, an elder, a clown and a scientist. Everyone sees the death of his/her mentor; but there is a woman who, using an ancient spell, tries to conjure lives as a way to return the dead.



Director's Biography

Said Amer is a graduate of the Department of Psychology, Damascus University. He is the director of several theatrical works and a writer for two series that were shown on Oman TV.



Rhinocéros

Director: Yasmina Khatib

Drama – 2019 – 15 minutes – +18

Lebanon

Language: French and Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Yasmina Khatib

Cast: Marilyne Naaman, Haitham Mohtar and Dora Iskandar

Cinematography: Fouad Sakr

Editing: Vanessa Chawi

Producer: Gaëlle Akl

Synopsis

Camilia, a young woman in her twenties, lives in a parallel universe, in which all the inhabitants are on wheelchairs. Camilia is the only person who does not have a physical disability. She feels excluded and has difficulty accepting her physical otherness. Her passion for cinema and theatre fills her life, as well as her desire to become an actress. Because of the pressure put on her by society and the pain she feels, she is forced to break her own legs.



Director's Biography

Yasmina Khatib, is a Lebanese actress and filmmaker with a passion for theatre and acting; she grew up participating in multiple plays that led her to pursue an education in cinema. She chose filmmaking because she believes in the power of movies and the impact of a director on their audience.



Rubber Washer

Director: Hadi Shatat

Drama – 2019 – 11 minutes – +18

Jordan

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Hadi Shatat

Cast: Qutaiba Abdelhaq, Shamel Beno and Nibal Awad

Cinematography: Ali Zeidan

Editing: Majd Manaa

Producer: Luma Al-Hamarneh

Synopsis

Jamal is in his thirties, living a life of misery and routine. One night, while Jamal is trying to sleep, he starts hearing water droplets. He discovers that the kitchen faucet needs a new rubber washer. At first, Jamal believes he's the only one with this problem, only to find that all the shops have run out of rubber washers, and all the people in the city are lining up to get their hands on the last pieces available.



Director's Biography

Hadi Shatat is a Jordanian filmmaker, who started working in the film industry in 2017 in the camera department. In 2018, he enrolled in SAE Institute Amman to pursue a degree in filmmaking. After graduating, Hadi wrote and directed his debut short film "Rubber Washer".



Soul Return

Director: Muhannad Al-Tayeb

Drama – 2019 – 6 minutes – +18

Iraq

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Muhannad Al-Tayeb

Cast: Karar Fadhel, Marwaa Rayan and Ali Muhssen

Cinematography: Muhannad Hassan Alsudany

Editing: Hussain Khan

Producer: Muhannad Hussain

Synopsis

Rami, a 25-year-old soldier, is a lone survivor from a Mosul explosion. He was surprised to find a girl in front of him when he woke up. The girl leads him on a trip of realisations about the reality of war.



Director's Biography

Muhannad Al-Tayeb is an Iraqi filmmaker, he started his career as a Production Manager and has worked on more than five films, including "Mosul 980". He then went on to direct his first short documentary entitled "River of Ezz". He currently has three scripts in development.



The Ghosts We Left at Home

Director: Faris Rjoob

Drama – 2020 – 21 minutes – +18

Jordan, Germany

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Faris Rjoob

Cast: Nadeem Rimawi, Mohamed Nizar, Maisa Abdelhadi, Khaled Al Turaifi, Sameera El Asir

Cinematography: Laura Emma Hansen

Editing: Faris Rjoob, Rebana John

Producer: Faris Rjoob, Laura Emma Hansen

Synopsis

A raw and an intimate portrayal of a man and a city, doomed and in exile, sinking to hit rock bottom. It plays on the margin of reality, where forces of the masculine and the feminine alternate, merge, attract and repel.



Director's Biography

Faris Rjoob is an inter-disciplinary artist working in the fields of film, video art, and performance. Based in Cologne, where he is currently a postgraduate at the Academy of Media Arts, he aims to employ the cinematic language to explore the politics of identity.



The Trap

Director: Nada Riyadh

Drama – 2019 – 20 minutes – +18

Egypt, Germany

Language: Arabic – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Nada Riyadh

Cast: Shaza Moharam, Islam Alaa, Nabil Nour El Din

Cinematography: Ahmad Jalboush

Editing: Amir Ahmad

Producers: Ayman El Amir, Eva Schellenbeck,
Gregor Streiber

Synopsis

Away from prying eyes, a young unmarried couple retreats to the depth of a desolate run-down Egyptian seaside resort. The power dynamic between them is tested, when the girl reveals she wants their relationship to end.



Director's Biography

Nada Riyadh is a filmmaker based in Cairo, Egypt. Her début documentary film “Happily Ever After” premiered at the International Documentary Film of Amsterdam in 2016. She is a winner of The Film Prize of Robert Bosch Stiftung 2017 to support the production of her first short fiction film “The Trap”.



International Section

الأردن مبتدأ ونحن الخبر



#هنا_المملكة

المملكة

almamlakatv.com

OSN
HD
454

نايل سات
HD
11958 H

نايل سات
SD
12034 H

الترددات

95.3
أريـب 101.7

f i t s v
@MazajFM

مـذاـج أحـلى إذاعة



مـذاـج
FM





Gaza

Directors: Garry Keane & Andrew McConnell

Documentary – 2019 – 93 minutes – +15

Ireland, Canada, Germany

Language: Arabic and English - subtitled in English

Cinematography: Andrew McConnell

Editing: Mick Mahon

Producers: Brendan J. Byrne, Garry Keane, Andrew McConnell & Paul Cadieux

Awards: Pull Focus Award - Belfast Film Festival 2019; Human Rights & Social Justice Award - Disappear Here Film Festival 2019; Dublin Film Critics Award - Dublin International Film Festival 2019; Selected as the Irish Entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 92nd Academy Awards.

Synopsis

Gaza takes us to a unique place beyond the reach of television news reports to reveal a world rich with eloquent and resilient characters, offering us a cinematic and enriching portrait of a people attempting to lead meaningful lives against the rubble of perennial conflict.

Co-Director's Biography

Garry Keane studied Film at the London College of Communication and at the Irish National Film School. He worked as a director of photography in New York and London, before finally settling in Ireland, where he has been a documentary filmmaker for the last 25 years. In that time Garry has directed over 100 hours of TV documentaries for European and American broadcasters in over 20 countries worldwide.



First-time Co-Director's Biography

Based in Beirut, Andrew McConnell has worked throughout the Middle East for the past 8 years. He is an award-winning photographer who has been covering world events for over 15 years. His work often focuses on themes of conflict and displacement and has appeared in many of the world's top publications. "Gaza" is his first work as a filmmaker and follows on from his photographic projects in the besieged territory.



Little Star Rising

Director: Sladana Lucic
 Documentary – 75 – 2019 minutes – +15
 Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Language: Bosnian – subtitled in English
Screenplay: Sladana Lucic
Cinematography: Vjeran Hrpka
Editing: Ana Stulina
Producers: Tamara Babun, Sladana Lucic

Synopsis

Nudzi, a proofreader from Sarajevo, is determined to change her life and be the first hijab-wearing woman in Europe to finish a half Ironman triathlon. Nudzi lost her father, her childhood and her home during the war, but she is determined and optimistic. An empowering journey of redefining Nudzi's life, the obstacles that haters throw at her feet but also good people that are drawn by Nudzi's optimism and the help she gives others.

Director's Biography

Sladana Lucic has been in journalism for over 20 years. As a student in Croatia she was a contributor to daily newspapers and local TV stations. Soon she began working for the national broadcaster Croatian Television, later continuing at RTL News as a reporter and editor. In the past six years, she has been living in Sarajevo and working as a news editor for Al Jazeera Balkans.





Mickey and the Bear

Director: Annabelle Attanasio

Drama – 2019 – 89 minutes – +18

United States of America

Language: English

Screenplay: Annabelle Attanasio

Cast: Camila Morrone, James Badge Dale, Calvin Demba

Cinematography: Conor Murphy

Editing: Henry Hayes

Producers: Sabine Schenck, Anja Murmann

Awards: Best Narrative Feature- Independent Film Festival Boston 2019; Best Narrative Feature - New Hampshire Film Festival 2019

Synopsis

In Montana, a headstrong teenager Mickey Peck is doing what she can to keep her single veteran father afloat, navigating his mercurial moods, opioid addiction, and grief over the loss of his wife. Secretly, Mickey fantasises of going to college on the west coast and finally living life on her own terms. When her father's controlling, jealous behaviour turns destructive, Mickey must decide between familial obligation and personal fulfilment as she puts everything on the line to claim her own independence.

Director's Biography

Annabelle Attanasio makes her feature directorial debut with "Mickey and The Bear", which received critical acclaim at the 2019 SXSW Film Festival. Her most recent short film, "Safe Space", which she wrote and directed, made its world premiere at Palm Springs in June 2019. She currently resides in New York.





Once a Woman

Director: Jalil Akbarisehat

Drama – 2019 – 83 minutes – +15

Iran

Language: Persian – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Mohammad Rahmanian

Cast: Ghazal Shakeri, Pezhman Hadavi, Mohammad Shayesteh

Cinematography: Mohammad Aladpoush

Editing: Mohammad Hatami

Producer: Azita Mougouie

Synopsis

Homa Shaker is dealing with a fatal disease and her missing brother who moved to Kenya. Homa starts a bike trip and chases her brother's footsteps hoping to find a sign from him. She finds a new perception of life in this journey.

Director's Biography

Jalil Akbarisehat was born in 1970 in Iran where he received a degree in Communications. He was the Public Relations consultant in Fajr Film Festival. He is a member of the Iran Society of Film Critics and Writers.





River Silence

Director: Rogério Soares

Documentary – 2019 – 92 minutes – +15
Canada

Language: Portuguese – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Rogério Soares

Cinematography: Glauco Bermudez, Aldo Oviedo Tejo

Editing: Ryan Mullins

Producers: Bob Moore, Annette Clarke

Awards: Crystal Hornbill for Best Documentary - Rain International Nature Film Festival 2020

Synopsis

The Belo Monte Dam, one of the world's biggest and most controversial infrastructure projects, is causing massive ecological and social devastation along Brazil's Xingu River. The film covers this mythic and brutalised world to encounter some of its most vulnerable and inspiring inhabitants.

Director's Biography

For Montreal-based filmmaker Rogério Soares, the Amazon is his soul home. He first moved to the Amazon at the age of 18 after hearing his father's many tales of endless rivers as big as the sea. Rogério's deep love and understanding of the Amazon's fragility and complexity, as well as its people, is at the heart of his first feature documentary "River Silence".





Stray Eagles

Director: Gianni Aureli
Historical Drama – 2019 – 109 minutes – +15
Italy

Language: Italian - subtitled in English

Screenplay: Gianni Aureli

Cast: Teo Guarini, Alessandro Intini, Ralph Palka, Romeo Tofani

Cinematography: Giorgio Brancia

Editing: Francesco Giusiani

Producer: Francesco Losavio

Synopsis

During the Fascist era in 1940s Italy, all youth associations except the fascist ones are closed. A group defied this ban and founded the Stray Eagles group, continuing the activities of the boy-scout movement in secret, based on their promise: to help others in every circumstance. They discover a secret place in the mountains near Milan, where they resist the Fascist regime and collaborate with others to defend those persecuted.

Director's Biography

Gianni Aureli is an Italian director and filmmaker; he holds a PhD in Cinema and Digital Entertainment. In addition, he is a director and a video maker of video clips and promotional videos. His latest short film "Everything is Cinema!" won several awards in Italian festivals. "Stray Eagles" is his first feature-length film.





The End Will Be Spectacular

Director: Ersin Çelik

War Drama – 2019 – 112 minutes – +18

Syria, Iraq, Spain

Language: Kurdish, Turkish – subtitled in English and Arabic

Screenplay: Ersin Çelik, Aysun Genç

Cast: Delil Piran, Arjin Baysal, Cihan Sever

Cinematography: Cemil Kızıldağ

Editing: Sose Avakian, Xavi Carrasco

Producer: Diyar Hesso

Synopsis

"The End Will Be Spectacular" is an uncompromising war film about resistance fighters who were attempting in 2015 to break the Turkish siege of Sur, the historic heart of the Turkish-Kurdish city of Diyarbakir. The hundred-day battle claims many victims and Sur is almost entirely destroyed. The film tells the story of Zilan, a young woman who returns to her family and friends in Diyarbakir to honour the memory of her dead brother.

Director's Biography

Ersin Çelik was born in 1984 in Turkey. He worked as a reporter and regional news manager at Dicle News Agency until 2010. In 2010 -2013, he worked as an editor, cameraman and programme coordinator at Sim Production.





The Fever

Director: Maya Da-Rin

Drama – 2019 – 98 minutes – +18

Brazil, France, Germany

Language: Portuguese and Tukano – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Maya Da-Rin, Miguel Seabra Lopes, Pedro Cesarino

Cast: Regis Myrupu, Rosa Peixoto, Johnatan Sodre

Cinematography: Barbara Alvarez

Editing: Karen Akerman

Producers: Maya Da-Rin, Leonardo Mecchi, Juliette Lepoutre

Awards: Best Director - Chicago International Film Festival 2019; Best Actor, International Federation of Film Critics - Locarno International Film Festival 2019; Jury Prize- Portland International Film Festival 2020

Synopsis

Justino, a 45-year-old member of the indigenous Desana people, is a security guard at the harbour of Manaus, a Brazilian city surrounded by the rainforests of Amazon. As his daughter prepares to study medicine in Brasilia, Justino comes down with a mysterious fever. Meanwhile, his brother's visit makes Justino remember the life in the forest, from where he left twenty years ago. Between the oppression of the city and his remote native village in the forest, Justino can no longer endure an existence without place.

Director's Biography

Maya Da-Rin is a filmmaker and visual artist. She received her Master's degree in Cinema and Art History in France. Her work has been shown in film festivals and art institutions throughout the world. Her 2010 documentary "Terras" (Lands) was shown at over forty film festivals; her first feature film, "The Fever" was selected for the Cannes Film Festival Cinéfondation.





The Swallows of Kabul

Directors: Zabou Breitman, Eléa Gobbé-Mévellec

Animation – 2019 – 81 minutes – +18

France

Language: French – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Sebastien Tavel, Patricia Mortagne, Zabou Breitman

Cast: Hiam Abbass, Simon Abkarian, Zita Hanrot, Swann Arlaud

Editing: Françoise Bernard

Producers: Reginald de Guillebon, Stephan Roelants, Michel Merkt, Joëlle Bertossa

Awards: Gan Foundation Award for Distribution – Annecy International Animated Festival 2019

Synopsis

In the summer of 1998, Kabul under Taliban rule. Zunaira and Mohsen are young and in love. Despite the daily violence and misery, they hope for a better future. One day, a foolish gesture causes life to take an irrevocable turn. The film is adapted from the novel of the same name by the Algerian author Yasmina Khadra. It was screened in the Un Certain Regard section at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival.

Co-Director's Biography

Zabou Breitman studied cinema, modern Greek and English for her bachelor's degree. She was an Animator in the 1980s and made her film début in 1982. In 2001, she directed her first feature film, "Beautiful Memories", which was awarded three César's, including for Best First Feature film.



First-time Co-Director's Biography

In addition to her work as a graphic designer on television sets and advertising for luxury brands, Eléa Gobbé-Mévellec also worked as an animator on short films. She was nominated at the 2015 César Awards for the best animated film. She continued her career as a character animator for feature films. In 2016, she collaborated as a cartoonist on the animated series "Lastman". "The Swallows of Kabul" is her debut directorial feature film.



Valley of Souls

Director: Nicolas Rincon Gille

Drama – 2019 – 137 minutes – +16

Colombia, Belgium, Brazil, France

Language: Spanish – subtitled in English

Screenplay: Nicolas Rincon Gille

Cast: Arley de Jesús Carvallido Lobo

Cinematography: Juan Sarmiento G.

Editing: Cedric Zoenen

Producers: Hector Ulloque Franco, Manuel Ruiz Montealegre

Awards: Golden Star for Best Film - Marrakech International Film Festival 2019; Best Film - Nantes Three Continents Festival 2019; Feature Film (Spielfilm)- German Camera Award 2020


Synopsis

On the banks of Magdalena river, Colombia, in 2002. José returns home deep in the forest after a long fishing night to discover that paramilitary forces killed his two sons, Dionisio and Rafael, and threw their bodies into the river. José begins a lonely journey to retrieve and provide a proper burial for his boys, in order to prevent their tormented souls from being stuck in this world. Aboard his canoe, José discovers the magic of a country torn into pieces.

Director's Biography

After receiving a bachelor's degree in Economy in Bogotá, Nicolas Rincon Gille studied in Belgium. He worked as a cinematographer on a few films and directed three short films before embarking on his project dedicated to the richness of oral tradition in Colombia's countryside.



The background is a complex, layered composition. It features a prominent film strip that winds across the frame, with frames containing various abstract shapes and colors. Overlaid on this are large, stylized floral or leaf-like patterns in shades of purple, pink, and magenta. The overall effect is a dreamlike, artistic collage.

Closing Film



Luxor

Director: Zeina Durra

Drama – 2020 – 85 minutes – +18

Egypt, UK, UAE, Jordan

Language: English and Arabic - subtitled in English and Arabic

Screenplay: Zeina Durra

Cast: Andrea Riseborough, Karim Saleh, Michael Landes, Shereen Reda

Cinematography: Zelmira Gainza

Editing: Andrea Chignoli

Producers: Mohamed Hefzy, Gianluca Chakra, Mamdouh Saba, Zeina Durra

Synopsis

When British aid worker Hana returns to the ancient city of Luxor, she comes across Sultan, a talented archeologist and former lover. As she wanders, haunted by the familiar place, she struggles to reconcile the choices of the past with the uncertainty of the present.

Director's Biography

Zeina Durra is a London-based filmmaker of Jordanian descent. She received her BA in Oriental Studies from Oxford University and Master's degree in Film from New York University. Durra spent over a decade living in New York. Her directorial début "The Imperialists Are Still Alive!" premiered at Sundance in 2010. After making her first film, she took some time off to have a family. "Luxor" premiered at the same prestigious festival in 2020.





First and Latest: Talk with Samir

First and Latest: Talk with Samir

This non-competitive section presents accomplished and renowned filmmakers, offering a closer look at their work and at how their filmmaking style has evolved over the years.

Samir, the multi-awarded Swiss filmmaker of Iraqi origin, is our guest for this inaugural edition. He will deliver an online talk for filmmakers. He will take us on a journey starting with his very first film, visiting some of the experiences that influenced his cinematic language and ending with his latest production. The director will share his knowledge, expertise, and lessons learnt along the way, while analyzing how challenges have helped him mature as a director.

Samir's Biography

Born in 1955 in Baghdad, Samir migrated with his family to Switzerland in the 60's. He studied at the School of Arts in Zurich. He completed an apprenticeship as a typographer, and subsequently trained as a cameraman. He was an activist in the radical youth movement in the early 1980s in Zurich. Today, Samir is known for his unique fiction, documentary and experimental films, whose innovative characters drew attention at various festivals and won numerous awards. His 2019 film "Baghdad in My Shadow", won the Audience Award at the 2020 Solothurn Film Festival, as well as the Arabian Sights Audience Award at the 2019 Washington DC International Film Festival. In 2014, his documentary "Iraqi Odyssey", received the NETPAC Award at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival. While his 2002 documentary "Forget Baghdad", won him the Critics Week Award at the Locarno International Film Festival. His work to this day encompasses more than 40 short and feature-length films for cinema and television. Beside his own projects as an independent producer and director, he is also known for directing theatre plays and works in the field of visual arts.



AIFF Team



Nada Doumani – Festival Director



Hanna Atallah – Artistic Director



Deema Azar – Head of Industry



Shatha Bataineh – Festival Coordinator



Moeen Kiswani – Operations Manager



Mohamed Abdelhadi – Art Director



Rick Hindi – Communication Coordinator



Loay Awad – Coordinator Finance & Accounting



Dana Erekat – Partnerships Coordinator



Yousef Lafi – Technical Coordinator



Nabil Hadji – Programmer Short Films

Support Team

Dina Bataineh – Coordination

Mahmoud Dibajeh – Operations

George Isaac – Social Media

Raji Kandalaft – Finance

Marian Nakho – Media Relations



The AIFF Thanks

Mohannad Al Bakri

Radi Al Khas

Zain Awad

Yasar Durra

Mohannad Khamra (Festival's Jingle)

Massis Mardirossian (Festival's Jingle)

Issa Shahin (Festival's Jingle)

Ala'a Najjar for Filming Equipment

Desert Motion Pictures

HUE Advertising Agency

International Traders

Media Commission

Slate Film Services

Friends of the Festival

Aboud Abu Gharbieh

Andrea Atallah

Zahi Khoury

Wassim Salfiti

