

# First Film, First Love



الدورة الثالثة 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

20-27  
تموز July

2022

مهرجان عمان السينمائي الدولي  
Amman International Film Festival

أول فيلم Awal Film



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@ammanfilm



ضيف المهرجان  
Guest of the Festival







## 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	5
Welcome Note - Areeb Zuaiter	8
Welcome Note - Veronique Vouland Aneini	9
AIFF Board Members	12
A Festival Concerned about Environment	13
Jury Arab Feature Narrative Competition	14
Jury Arab Feature Documentary Competition	15
Jury Arab Short Film Competition	16
First and Latest: a discussion with Yousry Nasrallah	17
Opening Film	21
Arab Feature Narrative Competition	25
Arab Feature Documentary Competition	40
Arab Short Film Competition	52
International Section	61
Franco-Arab Rendez-Vous	75
AIFF Team	83





مهرجان عمان السينمائي الدولي

Amman International Film Festival

أول فيلم Awal Film

## About Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film (AIFF)

In its third edition, Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film (AIFF) continues to thrive and grow; an unprecedented event in the Kingdom that showcases Arab and international films. The aim of the AIFF, 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. An international Jury made up of industry professionals choose the winner of the Black Iris Award in each of the Arab film competitions; feature narrative, feature documentary, and short. While International narrative and documentary films compete for the Audience Award.

Moreover, the jury members may decide to grant a Special Mention to: first-time Lead Actor/Actress and/or first-time Scriptwriter in the Arab Feature-Length Narrative Competition; first-time Editor in the Arab Feature-Length Documentary Competition.

This year's line-up is filled with emotional, honest, heartwarming, and soul-searching stories. The line-up of the third edition features 49 films – narratives and documentaries, Arab and international – from 29 countries. They have all been released in 2021 – 2022, showcased for the first time in Jordan, and in some cases in the region and the world, made by first-time directors or starring first-time experiences.

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 Egyptian auteur and acclaimed director Yousry Nasrallah.

In this edition, the Festival continues with its commitment to present powerful and unique content and to initiate collaborations that reflect cultural and environmental awareness. For the second year in a row, the Festival hosts the special Franco-Arab Rendez-Vous section, adding to the diversity of the programming. In addition, the Festival persists in taking its “green steps” towards a sustainable and an environmentally friendly festival.

The Amman International Film Festival – AWAL Film aims to foster a creative buzz among directors, celebrities and film enthusiasts, by offering high-quality films, regardless of their box-office performance. Whether you are a budding Arab filmmaker or an international veteran, an actor or a critic, an industry insider or an enthusiastic consumer, Amman International Film Festival – Awal Film welcomes you!

## About Amman Film Industry Days

Amman Film Industry Days, aimed at the industry professionals and film students, will be held from 21st to 26th July 2022.

Amman Film Industry Days host workshops, seminars and sessions with industry professionals focusing on current issues in the industry.

For the second year, Amman Film Industry Days highlight environmental themes. This year, we host an inspiring day - “Climate Storytelling” - that brings environmental experts and filmmakers to collaborate and formulate priorities and develop a cinematic language integrating climate issues into their stories.

Amman Film Industry Days continues to develop its Pitching Platforms for the third year. This year, we added a third development platform dedicated to first-time Jordanian or Arab directors residing in Jordan, in addition to the existing development and post-production platforms open to all Arabs. We also launched the Amman Film Market. 18 projects are selected to compete at the platforms and the Market to receive cash and in-kind awards.

The Awards ceremony will be held at the Royal Film Commission on July 26.

# Welcome Note

Some of us may remember the first film we fell in love with, and, given the opportunity, we may have watched it again and again. But how many of us can identify what it was exactly about the film that made us walk out of the cinema feeling fulfilled somehow: was it the story? A particular actor? The backdrop? The music? How all these elements worked in harmony to create a work of art that was pleasing or provocative, educational or inspiring?

This year's artistic theme for the Amman International Film Festival - Awal Film (AIFF) is "First Film, First Love:" it is our hope that you will fall in love with someone's first film, while at the same time, we can't help but wonder with which of the first films in competition the jury will fall in love.

Looking back at the history of cinema, there are of course very famous first films that became huge successes- think of "Citizen Kane" by Orson Welles in 1941 in the US, or how Francois Truffaut's "400 Blows" took off around the world to the surprise of many in the industry. Here in Jordan, more recently, "Theeb" - a first film by a Jordanian film director - was our moment of pride when it received an Oscar nomination.



In this year's Arab narrative selection of the AIFF, family, children and mothers seem to be the main characters. They are seen struggling to maintain their livelihood, their dignity or to improve their lot in life. Personal relationships are laid bare by several young filmmakers, mainly between children and their parents, where the filmmakers at times explore how one generation's deeds unwittingly affect another generation. They include a number of stories from or related to Jordan. But we also have, for the first time at the AIFF, a contribution from Somalia.

Our documentary selection touches on varied topics and in many different styles: some intimate individual stories reflecting on big topics in a new daring cinematic language, or big stories told in a very personal manner.

As for the Shorts selection, family, displacement and identity are the themes put forward in this year's films in competition.

Among international films, the obtaining of freedom seems to dominate the narrative, directly or indirectly: freedom from others, freedom from want and fleeing one's circumstances. Stories of refugees that have marked this 21st century until now are never far from everyone's minds.

Transition toward adulthood is another prevailing topic for some filmmakers, and how the rite of passage, set in their specific worlds, is experienced by their characters within those worlds: a global theme explored through different eyes and a variety of angles.

For the second year running, we are delighted to present our Franco-Arab Rendez-Vous, a section that is born from the collaboration between the AIFF and the French Cultural Centre in Amman. Here again, migration and family seem to be starring as main characters throughout this selection.

So, sit back and feel free to experience all the venues where films will be screened during this third edition of our festival: be it the cinemas in Taj Mall, the Drive-In in Abdali or the amphitheatre at the Royal Film Commission. Enjoy the films and decide: with which of these stories might you be falling in love this year?!

**Rym Ali**  
Festival President



## Welcome Note

For the first time in three years, I am introducing the upcoming edition of our festival with a big smile as I am reflecting on the theme of this edition (first film, first love). One that conveys a message of freshness and renewal; one that happily mirrors the restored connection and proximity, linking first achievements in filmmaking to falling in love - for the first time or again - including falling in love with cinema.

Our love affair with the big screen continues, although some theaters have closed down, festivals have been postponed, box offices have receded and the cinema industry has been disrupted. Cinema is fighting back, as it always had. At one time, it was feared the TV would kill it. For the last few years, it has to deal with a newcomer largely reinforced by the pandemic: streaming. But moviegoing is proving again to be a unique immersive and entertaining experience.

Cinema is where we can go and experience another world. What cinema provides, no other medium or set-up does. And it is precisely these many different "worlds" that we would like to offer at the AIFF. We strongly believe in the power of cinema, its values of inclusion, as well as in its capacity to open-up viewers to new perspectives. Our focus remains on Arab cinema and its immense talents from the Maghreb to the Horn of Africa, via the Levant and the Gulf. We hope we can contribute to support these voices, precisely those who create images, sounds and stories that contribute – consciously or not - to defining the contours of their environment, their culture or that of others. We don't necessarily need to identify with the stories told, we just want to dream, reflect, be moved, provoked and... enjoy.

We conceived this festival as an open space for quality films and projects, an incubator for talents (young or less young), focusing above all on content, encounters and exchanges. Unlike what some believe, festivals are not there simply to showcase art house movies, which don't appeal to a large audience. Quality movies that push the boundaries of film are what we look for, and they are intended for all those who are eager to see, hear and feel.

On a different note, I am proud that our festival pursues its commitment to be as environmentally friendly as possible, taking concrete steps in that direction.

Last and not least, I would like to extend our immense gratitude to all those who believe in the value of such an event and are contributing to its perennity: its Board, our long-standing partners and the new ones, the Friends of the Festival and, last but not least, its incredibly committee, dynamic and dedicated team.



**Nada Doumani**  
Festival Director

The word "JORDAN" is rendered in a stylized, white, blocky font. Each letter contains a different symbol: the 'J' is a simple hook; the 'O' contains a stylized bird or wing; the 'R' is a simple vertical bar; the 'D' contains a seven-pointed star; the 'A' contains a stylized flame or flower; and the 'N' is a simple vertical bar.

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## Welcome Note

Filmmakers are passionate. And their passion is infectious. It funnels in streams of emotions that will stay with us for days if not forever. They are those magicians that will use film as their sentient enchanted wand to channel their magical powers and cast their spell on us; triggering our emotions. With film, we travel in space; we explore other people's lives; we take unexpected journeys; we have our senses occupied.

Because the finest emotions come from the freshest experiences, especially in a craft where reality is both reconstructed and explored, in our festival, we take on the hallowed duty of having our audience experience those finest emotions made by the filmmakers. In fact, this year, the challenge was fierce. It was painful to take decisions and let powerful productions go. In the lineup we're offering, nonetheless, we were determined to screen films that will mark their prints in our audience's heart.

For this edition, filmmakers went to sensitive areas; exploring the devastation of war, of broken families, and of community pressure. They were courageous enough to strip themselves before the camera and welcomed us to live and observe stories they personally lived or stories by which they were closely inspired.

When exploring our program, be ready to accompany unconventional families, to tour places that bare hidden worlds, to enter the vicinity of unconventional minds, to open personal diaries, to look at a transforming world from the cracks of a wall, to take on challenges as hard as climbing mount Everest, or walking arduous long dirt roads on bare feet for love.

Look for little girls, for women, for refugees, and for inmates taking matters into their own hands. Beware of a crocodile taking swimmers by storm, and of a gravedigger ready to face death for love. Search with young men for the value and the meaning of dignity and identity. Live the world of a writer, who while fetching for his dreams - finds refuge in cinema. Be prepared to explore the limits of liberty, and to bear the weight of love, and of commitment.

The ardor of filmmakers will invite us for a Franco-Arab rendezvous where soul-searching in foreign, and in mountainous desolate lands, is inevitable. There, we will face the river, live the worries of a mother, take on the ambitions of a sister, and cross the Mediterranean to write a filial love letter to a mother.

Aligning with the festival's theme for the year, our selection carries the power of emotions; in all their various shapes and forms. We encourage you to buckle up and ride with us throughout those coming eight days across the finest debut collection of the year and navigate myriad dimensions of time, space, will power and culture. We grant you that you'll find euphoria in dystopia, and that you'll come to see both: truth and love.



**Areeb Zuaiter**  
Head of Programming

## Film the World in Jordan!



The Royal Film Commission – Jordan (RFC) provides management and support services to foreign and local productions, including filming permits. It also offers financial incentives.

It is one-stop shop for the efficient and effective filming in Jordan, making sure productions enjoy an easy, safe, well-organized, and productive creative experience in Jordan.

## Hold a Camera Shoot and Tell your Story to the World!

The RFC organizes workshops all year round, all over Jordan. Our local workshops and training programs tackle all aspects of filmmaking from scriptwriting to camera, producing, acting, directing and editing.

Some target beginners, while others are designed for intermediate levels.



## Watch a Variety of Quality Movies all Year Long!



All year round, the RFC organizes film screenings open to the public and free of charge. We showcase films that are not usually screened in commercial theaters, all over Jordan.

We are keen on having as much as possible discussions after the screenings, as we truly believe in the power of debate and its social impact.



## Regional Training Programs for Arab Filmmakers!



RAWI Screenwriters Lab is one of the RFC's flagship training program, since 12 years. Independent Arab screenwriters are offered the chance to develop their work in a uniquely creative environment under the guidance of internationally acclaimed screenwriters.

Mosalsalat Screenwriters Lab is an annual four-day script development workshop aimed at independent Arab screenwriters working on their narrative TV series projects.

## The Jordan Film Fund

The Jordan Film Fund (JFF), established by the RFC, aims to support narrative films and documentaries in the development, production and post-production phases; as well as short and animated films in the production phase, and television series in the development phase.

The JFF aims to strengthen the capacities of the independent film industry and support its sustainability, particularly in Jordan.



## Our Film Centers in the Governorates Call for Talented Youth!



The RFC manages Film Centers in Irbid, Zarqa, Salt, Aqaba, Petra and Wadi Rum. They are easily accessible to the local community, providing space, equipment and learning opportunities.

Film Centers are edutainment places, where young people can learn the know-how of filmmaking and also watch and discuss movies.

## A Goldmine of Valuable Movies, and Books on Cinema!

Are you fond of movies of all genres? Are you a bookworm and also a film buff? Come and visit our Film Library!

Visitors of our library can watch movies using the private viewing stations and read books or consult periodicals in a calm and relaxed atmosphere. Members are allowed to borrow films and books.





## **AIFF Board Members**



Princess Rym Ali



Omar Masri



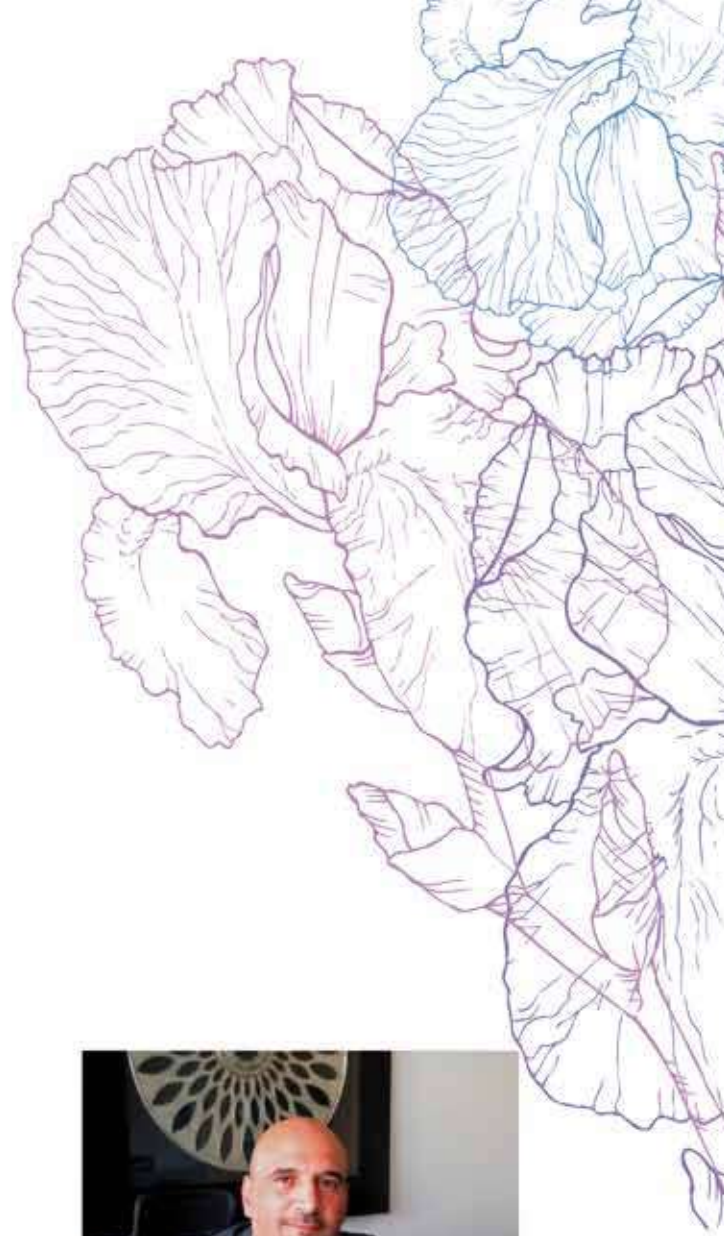
Kinan Jaradat



Nadia Sukhtian



Raja Gargour







## مهرجان عمان السينمائي الدولي Amman International Film Festival

أول فيلم Awal Film

### A FESTIVAL CONCERNED ABOUT ENVIRONMENT

We aim to lead by example and to create a positive impact by inspiring the Jordanian and the regional filmmaking industries. The AIFF is the first film festival of this scale in the region which places environmental advocacy as one of its core values.

**Here are the steps the Festival understood this year to ensure its compliance with principles of sustainability:**

- Offset the carbon footprint that might result from necessary actions, such as travelling and transportation, by giving a donation to the Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) in order to plant trees in Jordan. Last year, we planted 674 trees all over the Kingdom. This year, we will also offset the activities that we couldn't reduce and plant more trees with APN.
- In the framework of the "Amman Film Industry Days", a day-long event named "Storytelling for Climate" is dedicated to developing films which are concerned with climate change. "Storytelling for Climate" is in cooperation with Beirut DC and Greener Screen. It is an inspirational day for filmmakers, not necessarily working on environmental films, but on movies that can include environmental messages.
- Reduce the waste and printed material and upcycle the material used in branding and artwork.
- Use environmentally friendly packaging.
- Remove diesel generators as a main source of power at the Drive-in cinemas.
- Incentivise electric vehicles.
- The Festival curated a panel in partnership with Greener Screen during TEDinArabic Regional Event in Amman in June, about the importance of integration of Climate Fiction (Cli-Fi).
- Initiate #SustainableCinema on social media platforms, as a branding and awareness tool to connect filmmaking with environment and climate change.

# Jury

## Arab Feature Narrative Competition



### Nadine Khan

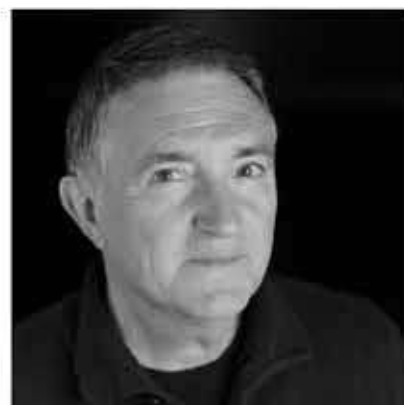
Nadine Khan is a filmmaker based in Cairo. She has directed several narrative films, commercials, TV series and music videos. Her début feature film *Chaos, Disorder* won the Jury Prize at the Dubai International Film Festival in 2012, the Best Film award at the Oran Arabic Film Festival in Algeria in 2013 and the Muscat International Film Festival in 2014. Khan's second feature *Abu Saddam* premiered at the 43rd Cairo International Film Festival in 2021. Khan was first noticed for her early short *One in a Million* (2006).



### Luciano Barisone

Luciano Barisone is a film-club host, journalist and film critic for specialist magazines and newspapers. He founded the magazine *Panoramiques*, which he directed for several years. Since 1997, he has collaborated at numerous international film festivals, including the Locarno International Film Festival and the Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica of Venice.

In 2002, he founded the Alba Infinity Festival, for which he has acted as Artistic Director until 2007. He was as tutor at the Master Documental of the Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona between 2008 and 2011. From 2008 to 2010 he has been the artistic director at the Festival dei Popoli in Florence. Between 2011 and 2017, he was the Director of *Visions du Réel*, in Nyon, Switzerland. He acted as member of the Juries at Cannes (*Caméra d'Or*), Hot Docs - Toronto, IDFA - Amsterdam, Sarajevo and many others.



### Samiha Khrais

Samiha Khrais is a Jordanian writer who worked as a journalist for many Jordanian and Arab newspapers. She is a member of the Jordanian Press Association, Jordanian Writers Society, Arab Writers Union and Pen International. In addition to being a scenarist and a playwright, Khrais had published 15 novels, including *The Panther's Tree*, *Poppy*, *Books of the Flood*, *Tree Stump*, *Slaves Peanut*, *Yahya* and *Blind Spot*. Khrais' work has been translated into Spanish, German, English, French, German, Russian and Serbian.

Khrais won Jordanian and Arab awards including the State Appreciation Award in Jordan, the Hussein Medal for Creative Excellence from Jordan, the Abu al-Qasim al-Shabi Award in Tunisia, the Literary Creativity Award from the Arab Thought Foundation and the Katara Award in Qatar.





# Jury

## Arab Feature Documentary Competition



### Irène Challand

Irène Challand is a member of the Executive Board of the International Documentary Film Festival - Visions du Réel in Nyon (Switzerland) she is the Head of Public Value at the Headquarters of the Swiss Broadcasting Society (SRG), the Public Media Broadcaster. From 2001 to 2018, she led the Documentary Film Unit at the French-Swiss Radio and Television. There, she set up new programming policies, national and international co-productions and sought to strengthen links with independent producers and filmmakers in Switzerland and abroad. She was committed to developing international co-productions, several of which have won awards at the Berlin, Locarno, Venice, Toronto, Amsterdam, Nyon and Sundance Film Festivals and have been nominated for Oscars.



### Phil Jandalay

Phil Jandalay has been a documentary editor for the last 20 years and has taken part in award-winning international productions like Nelly & Nadine, The Last Human and Killing Time. He now works as a rough-cut consultant on films like How To Save A Dead Friend, Home Games and How Big is the Galaxy. Working out of Sweden, his projects originated in places as far afield as Serbia, Kenya and Sierra Leone. He has travelled the world as a tutor with EDN and B2B Doc, as well as independently helping filmmakers develop their projects.



### Aseel Mansour

Aseel Mansour is a Jordanian writer, director and producer. He has written, produced, and directed several films including The Great Arab Revolt (docudrama), Line of Sight (fiction), Uncle Nashaat (documentary), in addition to numerous TV series. In 2010 he co-founded Shashat, a multimedia production company in Amman, through which he created many TV shows and series. In 2017, Mansour started working with Arab Telemedia Productions as a consulting producer and writer, where he participated in the development of several high-budget TV series. Today, Mansour is managing Digital Content Strategy at Al Jazeera Media Network.



# Jury

## Arab Short Film Competition



### Carmen Lebbos

Carmen Lebbos is a Lebanese actress. She started her acting career in Ziad Al-Rahbani's plays and developed her talent and skills in the Institute of Fine Arts and by attending many intensive cinematic workshops in Oxford and Paris.

She played important roles in Arab and international movies (West Beirut, Zozo, Whatever Lola Wants, Lila Dit ça). In 2015 she was a jury member in the acting talent show "Arab Casting", as well as in different Arab and international film festivals.



### Ameer Fakher Eldin

Ameer Fakher Eldin is a Syrian writer-director based in Germany, born in Kyiv in 1991 to Syrian parents from the occupied Golan Heights. His debut film *The Stranger* premiered at the 78th Venice International Film Festival, where it won the Edipo Re Award for Best Film, then garnered multiple prizes in international festivals and was selected as Palestine's Official Entry for Best International Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards.

Fakher Eldin is currently working on his second feature narrative "Yunan".



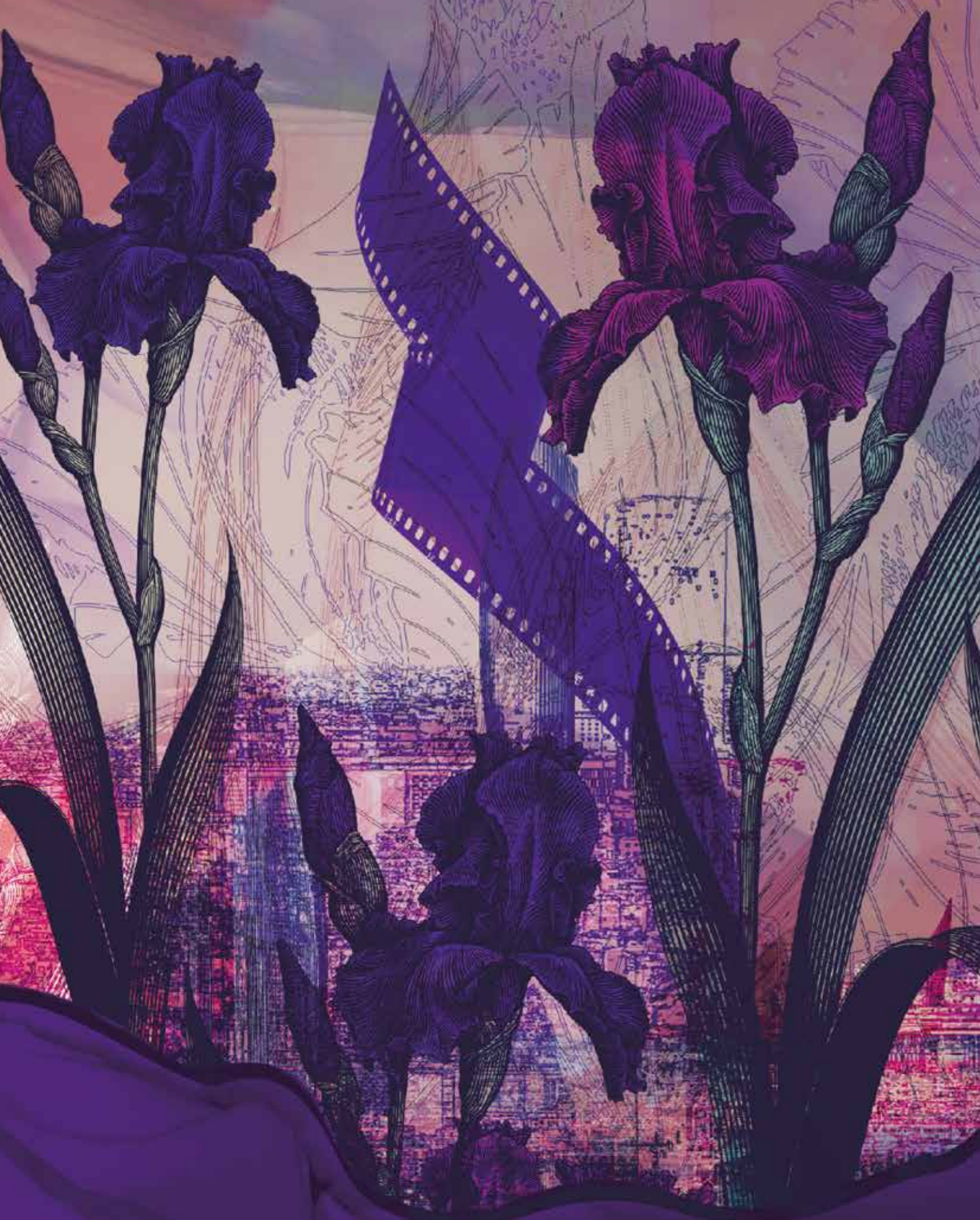
### Nadia Eliewat

Nadia Eliewat is a Jordanian producer, screenwriter and script editor. In 2015, she established Screen Project production company in Jordan, through which she handpicks stories from all over the Arab world to produce for the screen. Eliewat is best known for producing and co-writing the Lebanese box-office hit *Mahbas* (2016) by Sophie Boutros and the Jordanian film *When Monaliza Smiled* (2012) by Fadi Haddad. She recently produced the first OSN original feature *Yellow Bus*, by Wendy Bednarz; the film is currently in post-Production.

She holds the academic rank of Associate Professor after teaching filmmaking at the American University in Dubai from 2017-2010.







**First and Latest**  
**A discussion with Yousry Nasrallah**



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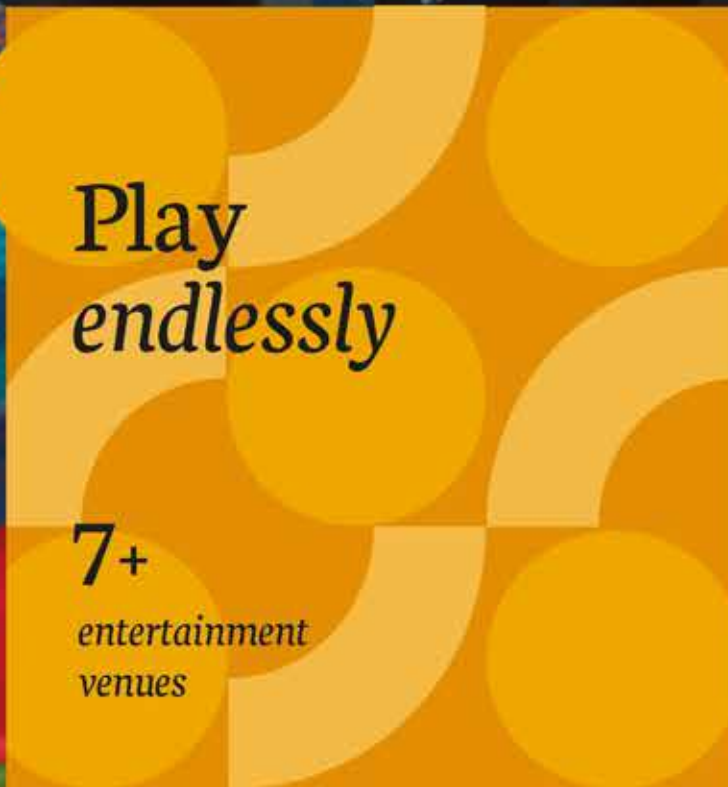


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## First and latest, a discussion with Yousry Nasrallah

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

Yousry Nasrallah, representative of Egyptian auteur cinema, is our guest for the third edition of the Amman International Film Festival (AIFF). Nasrallah 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 analysing how challenges have helped him mature as a director.

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### Yousry Nasrallah

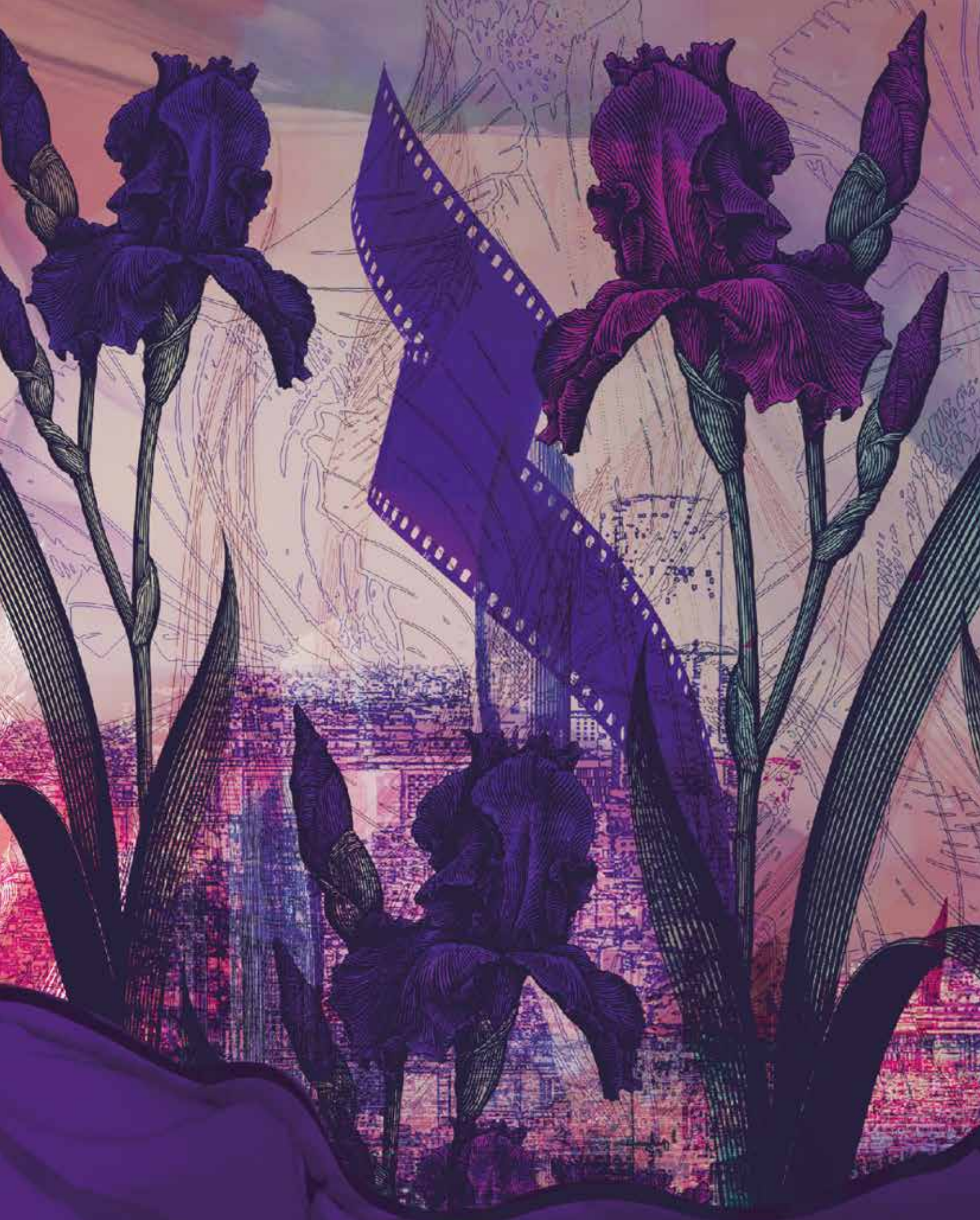
Acclaimed Egyptian filmmaker, Yousry Nasrallah, initially studied economics and political sciences at Cairo University. He then studied cinema at the Higher Institute of Cinema before becoming a film critic and an assistant director in Beirut. Upon returning to Cairo in 1982, he worked with Youssef Chahine on a number of films starting with *Adieu Bonaparte* (1985) before going on to produce his own films.

In 1988, he shot his first feature-length narrative film, *Summer Thefts*, which was selected in The Directors' Fortnight (or Quinzaine des Réalisateurs), an independent selection of the Cannes Film Festival that same year. His second feature-length narrative, *Mercedes* (1993), was selected at the Locarno Film Festival. He went on to produce other films, including *On Boys, Girls and the Veil* (1995), a documentary about Egypt's young people, and *The City* (1999), which was awarded Locarno's Special Jury Prize. His eponymous book-to-screen adaptation of Elias Khoury's novel *The Gate of Sun* (2004) was an Official Selection in Cannes.

Nasrallah then went on to film *The Aquarium* (2008) and *Scheherazade, Tell Me a Story* (2009) which was screened at the Venice Film Festival. In 2011, his film *Interior/Exterior* was included in an anthology of shorts, *18 Days*, and screened at the Festival de Cannes in honour of Egypt. The following year he was nominated for the Palm d'Or in Cannes with his film, *After the Battle* (2012). His latest film *Brooks, Meadows and Lovely Faces* was nominated for the Golden Leopard in the Official Competition at the Locarno Film Festival in 2016. This year, Yousry Nasrallah presided over the 75th Festival de Cannes' Short Film Jury and directed the TV programme *Welcome Home*.







## Opening Film





# Peace By Chocolate

**Director's Name:** Jonathan Keijser

**Genre:** Comedy/Drama

**Year:** 2022

**Duration:** 96 minutes

**Rating:** 13 +

**Country:** Canada

**Language:** English, Arabic (Syrian Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English, Arabic

**Screenplay:** Jonathan Keijser

**Cast:** Hatem Ali, Ayham Abou Ammar, Yara Sabri, Mark Camacho

**Cinematography:** Benoit Beaulieu

**Editing:** Jonathan Keijser, Mathieu Bélanger

**Production:** Magnetic North Pictures, Téléfilm Canada, Dali Entertainment, Jonathan Keijser,

Martin Paul-Hus, Catherine Léger, Kathy Wolf

**Awards:** Jury Award – Best Feature Drama – Sedona Film Festival – 2022, Best Editing – Fin

Atlantic Film Festival – 2022, Jury Award – Best Director – Cordillera Film Festival - 2021

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

**Category:** Opening Film



## Synopsis

After the bombing of his family's chocolate factory, Tareq Hadhad, a charming young Syrian refugee, struggles to settle into small-town life in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Despite moving to a new country, he's intent on pursuing his dream to become a doctor. But when his father, Issam, insists that he must focus on survival, Tareq and his family move towards a different, but familiar path: Rebuilding Issam's chocolate business. New challenges arise between a rival chocolatier while the heartbreak of Tareq's sister left behind in Syria weighs heavily on the family.

## Director's Biography

Originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Jonathan Keijser is an award-winning storyteller. As a film director, producer, screenwriter, and professionally-trained musician, Keijser is committed to sharing uplifting stories of progressive communities and people with the goal of encouraging positive social change.





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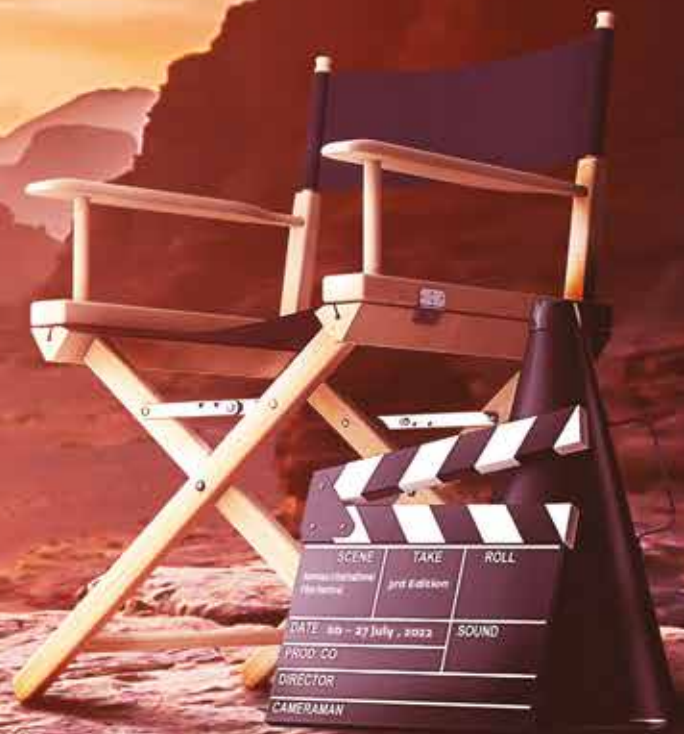
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## Arab Feature Narrative Competition





## Welcome to Education City

Qatar Foundation's flagship initiative, Education City, is redesigning learning opportunities for everyone – from six-month-olds learning about the world around them, to scientists and innovators tackling some of our biggest collective challenges. Its 12 square kilometer campus has innovative K12- schools and leading universities, alongside a science and technology park, global innovation forums, a modern art museum, start-up incubators, and so much more.

Learn more at [qf.org.qa](http://qf.org.qa)





# A Second Life

**Director's Name:** Anis Lassoued

**Genre:** Social Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 93 minutes

**Rating:** 16 +

**Country:** Tunisia

**Language:** Arabic (Tunisian dialect)

**Subtitling:** English and French

**Screenplay:** Chema Ben Chaabene, Anis Lassoued

**Cast:** Yassine Tormsi, Ahmad Zakaria Chiboub, Jamel Laroui, Chema BenChaabene

Dorsaf Ouertatani, Anissa Lotfi, Lilia Zaidi, Mohamed Marga, Ahmed Amri

**Cinematography:** Amine Messadi , Adonis Nadhem Ramadhan

**Editing:** Kahena Attia, Sofiene Charrad

**Production:** Chema Ben Chaabene & Anis Lassoued

**Awards:** Jury Price -Special Mention - Cairo International Film Festival; Best Script

Malmo Arab Film Festival; Best feature (Jerusalem Arab Film Festival)

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Chema Ben Chaabene, the film's producer*



## Synopsis

Gadeha happens to one day fall victim to a car accident and undergo a surgery. Penniless, his mother, receives help from Malika and Moez, a benevolent couple that offers to pay for the hospital fees and provides the destitute family with a roof.

## Director's Biography

Anis Lassoued obtained his director's diploma before he shot several documentary films for TV channels. In 2006, he made his first short fiction which won several international awards. In 2012, he shot a fiction Sabbat El Aïd, which won over 30 awards worldwide. Recently, he directed two documentaries Je suis ma République (2021) and Notre Semence (2022). A Second Life is his first feature narrative.



# Costa Brava, Lebanon

**Director's Name:** Mounia Akl

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 107 minutes

**Rating:** 18 +

**Country:** Lebanon

**Language:** Arabic (Lebanese Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Mounia Akl, Clara Roquet

**Cast:** Nadine Labaki, Saleh Bakri, Nadia Charbel, Ceana Restom & Geana Restom, Yumna Marwan, Liliane Chacar Khoury, François Nour

**Cinematography:** Joe Saade

**Editing:** Carlos Marques, Marcet, Cyril Aris

**Production:** Myriam Sassine, Georges Schoucair

**Awards:** The Collateral Award Honorable Mention of the Fondation Fai Persona Lavoro Ambiente at Venice Film Festival; The NETPAC Award at Toronto International Film Festival; BFI London Film Festival Audience Award; the FIPRESCI Award and Green Star Award at El Gouna Film Festival (Egypt); the Critic's Award and Best Music Award at Cinemed – Montpellier (France)

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Myriam Sassine, the film's producer*

## Synopsis

In *Costa Brava, Lebanon*, the free-spirited Badri family escapes the overwhelming pollution and social unrest of Beirut by seeking refuge in a utopic mountain home they built for themselves. Unexpectedly, an illegal garbage landfill begins construction right next door. With it, comes the very trash and corruption they were trying to escape. As the landfill rises, so do family tensions. The Badris are left with a choice: stay off the grid or leave their idyllic home and face the reality they fled, hoping to stay true to their ideals.



## Director's Biography

Mounia Akl is an award-winning Lebanese filmmaker. She holds a bachelor's degree in Architecture and a master's degree in Directing, her short film, *Submarine* (2016), was in the Official Selection of the 69th Cannes Film Festival, SXSW, TIFF and Dubai Film Festival where it won the Muhr Jury Prize. In 2017, Akl took part in the Lebanon Factory and co-directed a short film *El Gran Libano*, which opened Cannes Directors' Fortnight and screened at BFI London among others. *Costa Brava, Lebanon* is her first feature-length film.





# Daughters of Abdulrahman

**Director's Name:** Zaid Abu Hamdan

**Genre:** Drama/Comedy

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 112 minutes

**Rating:** 16 +

**Country:** Jordan

**Language:** Arabic (Jordanian Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Zaid Abu Hamdan

**Cast:** Saba Mubarak, Farah Bseiso, Hanan Hilo, Mariam Basha

**Cinematography:** Ahmad Jalboush

**Editing:** Dina Farouk

**Production:** Pan East Media: Aya Wuhoush, Saba Mubarak

**Awards:** Audience Award – Cairo International Film Festival (2021); Jury Mention – Beirut

International Women Film Festival (2022); Audience Award – San Diego Arab Film

Festival, Audience Award – New Directors New Films (FEST), Portugal

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Zaid Abu Hamdan, the film's director*

## Synopsis

Years after escaping a dictated life, four estranged and offbeat sisters are forced to come together to find their suddenly missing father. In their secret searching journey, secrets are revealed. Zainab wakes up to a shocking discovery that could defame her. The fiery Amal has her own secret struggle and doesn't get along with her sister Samah, who is too busy to be there. Meanwhile Khitam tries to focus on her own mission.



## Director's Biography

Zaid Abu Hamdan holds a master's degree in Fine Arts and a bachelor's degree in Communication Arts. In 2009, Abu Hamdan founded Zaha Productions, producing six award-winning short films to date. His film *Bahiya & Mahmoud* was the first Arab short film to qualify for an Oscar nomination in 2012, winning Best of Fest Award at the Palm Springs International Shortfest. *Daughters of Abdul-Rahman* is his first feature-length narrative.



# FARHA

**Director's Name:** Darin J. Sallam

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 92 minutes

**Rating:** 16 +

**Country:** Jordan, Sweden, Saudi Arabia

**Language:** Arabic (Palestinian Dialect), Hebrew, English

**Subtitling:** English, English/Arabic

**Screenplay:** Darin J. Sallam

**Cast:** Karam Taher, Ashraf Barhom, Tala Gammoh, Ali Suleiman, Sameera Al-Asir, Majd Eid and Firas Taybeh

**Cinematography:** Rachel Aoun

**Editing:** Pierre Laurent

**Production:** Talebox - Deema Azar, Ayah Jardaneh

**Awards:** Jury Award - Malmö Arab Film Festival (2022); Best Euro-Mediterranean Film dealing with Women Issues, Best Director Award, Best Actress Award – Aswan International Women Film Festival (2022); Special Mention – Red Sea International Film Festival (2021)

**Debut Status:** Jordanian Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Darin J. Sallam, the film's director*

## Synopsis

Farha is a 14-year-old girl who lives in a small village in Palestine in 1948. Girls her age are traditionally married off or spoken for, yet Farha wants to continue her education. Inseparable from her best friend Farida, who lives in the city but who spends weekends in the village, Farha dreams of joining her at a school in the city. Life in the village is threatened and aggressively changed by the looming danger. Just when Farha's father is finally convinced and Farha's dream is at last coming true, the danger comes closer to their village. As violence escalates, Farha is brutally separated from Farida. Terrorised for his daughter's safety and fearing for her life, Farha's father locks her up in a concealed, small food storage space by the house, promising to return. Over the course of the next few days, Farha undergoes a life-changing experience while buried in the tight dark space, her only connection to the outside world is a small hole in the wall and a few cracks in the wooden door.



## Director's Biography

Jordanian writer/director Darin J. Sallam has five award-winning shorts, including *The Dark Outside* (2012) and *The Parrot* (2016). A Berlinale Talent 2021 and a Robert Bosch 2015 Film Prize recipient, Sallam was selected to the 2017 La Cité Internationale des Arts residency and to the 2018 Global Media Makers fellowship. She was a jury member at international film festivals and is co-founder & managing partner at the Amman-based production company TaleBox. Her debut feature film *Farha* (2021) had its world premiere at the 46th Toronto International Film Festival.





# Tomorrow

**Director's Name:** Dhafer L'Abidine

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 96 minutes

**Country:** Tunisia

**Language:** Arabic (Tunisian Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Dhafer L'Abidine, Ahmed Amer

**Cast:** Dhafer L'Abidine, Ahmed Berrhouma, Najla Ben Abdallah, Rabeb Srairi, Bahri Rahali and Ghanem Zrelli

**Cinematography:** Ahmed Youssef

**Editing:** Hamed Laaridh

**Production:** Dhafer L'Abidine, Double A, Fatales, Dora Bouchouha, Lina Chaabane

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Dhafer L'Abidine, the film's director*

## Synopsis

After a bitter divorce, Habib and his 15-year-old son Ahmed, are brought together by Habib's worsening state of health. Habib's political past during the dictatorship in Tunisia is dangerously affecting his present. The roles are reversed, Ahmed has to protect his father and try to keep him safe. Habib and Ahmed find themselves in a chaotic position that neither is prepared for.



## Director's Biography

Before starting his acting career in the Arab world, Dhafer L'Abidine enjoyed a successful career in the West, appearing in numerous international film productions, such as *Children of Men*, *Sex and the City 2* and *Centurion*. In 2019, L'Abidine took part in the American TV series *The Looming Tower* which received four Emmy nominations. L'Abidine starred in MBC4's Lebanese hit TV series *Aroos Beirut*. Prior to this, he starred in the Egyptian series *Halawat AlDounia*, for which he won the Murex D'or for Best Arab Actor in a TV Series. Dhafer's acting journey started in 1999 when he moved to the UK to join the Birmingham School of Speech and Drama.

In 2019 he was presented with the Alumni of the Year in the field of 'Excellence in the Arts' from Birmingham City University for his achievements in the field of acting. L'Abidine is a UN Women's Champion. In 2021, he started his production company Double A Productions and moved behind the camera to direct his first feature film *Tomorrow* (Ghodwa).



# Life Suits Me Well

**Director's Name:** Al Hadi Ulad-Mohand

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 89 minutes

**Rating:** 16 +

**Country:** Morocco, France

**Language:** Arabic (Moroccan Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Al Hadi Ulad-Mohand

**Cast:** Samir Guesmi, Lubna Azabal, Sayyid El Alami

**Cinematography:** David Quesemand

**Editing:** Patricia Rommel, Magdalena

**Production:** Karim Debbagh

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Al Hadi Ulad Mohanad, the film's director*

## Synopsis

In the mid-1990s, in a small town north of Morocco, Fouad is the only employee of the local post office. When he is stricken from neurological disease, Fouad's life changes, a new life begins for him, his wife, and their children. Their home is now filled with love, sorrow, and memories. While he is slowly dying, Fouad's family rediscover themselves. As time goes by, the wounds begin to surface – but the desire to live prevails.



## Director's Biography

Al Hadi Ulad Mohand is a Moroccan filmmaker. He studied Directing at the Ateliers Varan in Paris and graduated from the International Film & Television School in Paris. After graduation, he took part in several Moroccan and foreign productions as an assistant director including several short films. His short film *Le Café des Pêcheurs* (2007) was selected for numerous festivals, among them the Locarno Festival. *Life Suits Me Well* is his first feature film.





# Our River, Our Sky

**Director's Name:** Maysoon Pachachi

**Genre:** drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 117 minutes

**Country:** UK, France, Germany, Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Iraq

**Language:** Arabic (Iraqi dialect)

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Maysoon Pachachi

**Cast:** Darina Al Joundi, Zainab Joda, Basim Hajar, Labwa Arab, Amed Hashimi, Meriam Abbas, Mahmoud Abo Al Abbas

**Cinematography:** Jonathan Bloom

**Editing:** Alexandre Donot

**Production:** Talal Al-Muhanna, Patrice Nezan, Laurent Versini, Alexander Ris, Maysoon Pachachi, Les Contes modernes, Lightburst Pictures, Linked Productions

**Début Status:** Jordanian Premiere

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Maysoon Pachachi, the film's director*



## Director's Biography

Maysoon Pachachi is a London-based filmmaker of an Iraqi background. She studied Philosophy at University College London and then filmmaking at the London Film School. She was for many years a documentary and drama film editor in the UK and has worked since 1994 as an independent documentary film director. She has also taught film directing and editing in Britain and Palestine. In 2004, with her colleague, Iraqi filmmaker, Kasim Abid, she co-founded d Independent Film & Television College, a free of charge film training centre in Baghdad, whose students produced 17 short documentary films showcased internationally.

## Synopsis

Sara is a single mother and novelist, shocked into silence, at a time of extreme sectarian violence and nightly curfews in Baghdad. She and her neighbours let us into their everyday lives, as they struggle to resist the fragmentation of their world and renew a fragile sense of hope and belief in a better future.



# Souad

**Director's Name:** Ayten Amin

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 96 minutes

**Rating:** 16 +

**Country:** Egypt, Tunisia, Germany

**Language:** Arabic (Egyptian dialect)

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Mahmoud Ezzat - Ayten Amin

**Cast:** Bassant Ahmed, Basmala Elghaiesh, Hussein Ghanem, Hager Mahmoud, Sarah Shedid, Carol Ackad, Mona Elnamoury, Islam Shalaby, Nayera El Dahshoury

**Cinematography:** Maged Nader

**Editing:** Khaled Moeit

**Production:** Sameh Awad, Dora Bouchoucha, Lina Chaabane, Mohamed Hefzy, Wim Wenders, Léa Germain, Ayten Amin, Mark Lofty, Vivid Reels, Nomadis Images, Film-Clinic

**Awards:** Best Actress Award for the two female leads - Tribeca Film Festival

**Début Status:** Arab Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Ayten Amin, the film's director*

## Synopsis

In Zagazig, a small city on the Nile Delta in Egypt, Souad, 19 year-old young woman, leads a double life. While remaining conservative and veiled among her family and society, Souad is obsessed with her image on social media, and goes in several secret virtual relationships with men. She constantly lies about her personal life, projecting wishfully images of a different desired life. Her ambitions are slowly crushed by the invasion of her true reality. A series of small incidents lead to a tragic event, that makes Rabab, her -13year-old little sister, embarks on a real-life journey looking for answers.



## Director's Biography

Ayten Amin has been working in the film industry for the past 12 years. Her first short film *Her Man* was selected at Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival. In 2013, her début feature film *Villa 69*, received the Special Jury Award for Arab Film at Abu Dhabi Film. Throughout her career, she received multiple prestigious awards and recognitions such as the Cairo Film Connection Award for Best Film or Hubert Bals Award at Durban FilmMart. She co-directed the documentary *Tahrir 2011* that was selected at Venice International Film Festival, TIFF Toronto International Film Festival and was nominated for Best Documentary in Cinema For Peace award Berlin 2012. In 2019 she directed 20 episodes of the hit drama *Sabe' Gaar* (The Seventh Neighbor), a -70episode TV series.

## Leading Actresses' Bio

Bassant Ahmed and Basmala Elghaiesh, are two young actresses, who debuted their career sharing the leading role in Ayten Amin's latest film *Souad*, 2021, which participated in renowned festivals including Festival de Cannes, Berlin International Film Festival and Tribeca Film Festival. Ahmed and Elghaiesh stole the show when they both shared the Best Actress award for their roles in the film *Souad*.





# Soula

**Director's Name:** Salah Issaad

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Rating:** 18 +

**Country:** Algeria, France

**Language:** Arabic (Algerian Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Soula Bahri, Issaad Salah

**Cast:** Soula Bahri, Idir Beinaibouche, Franck Yvari

**Cinematography:** Arthur Fanget

**Editing:** Salah Issaad

**Production:** Salah Issaad, Abdelghafour Issaad, Franck Sottiaux, Issaad Film Production

**Awards:** Best Feature Film at Beirut International Women Film Festival; Best Film and Best Actress at Malmo Arab Film Festival; Best Film at the African Asian Latin American Film Festival (Milano - Italy); Best Film and Best Actress at Festival Oriental du Film de Genève

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Salah Issaad, the film's director*

## Synopsis

Soula, a young single mother, is rejected by her family in the name of honour. Having nowhere to go when her father throws her out of her home, she calls upon many friends and relatives for help. As she embarks on a tumultuous -14hour long journey, Soula's sole goal is to spare her baby daughter her pain and struggles. But everything and everyone around her represents a potential threat and the line is often blurry between those who want to help her and those who pull her further into a spiral of violence. From Batna to Annaba, the young woman hops from one car to another swaying in between moments of exhilarating relief and banality with friends and moments of great angst and solitude. Against a backdrop of soothing landscapes, in a dystopic yet breath-taking road trip, Soula heads towards her inevitable destiny.



## Director's Biography

Salah Issaad is an Algerian director who was raised in a family of publishers. After receiving a bachelor's degree in Literature and Foreign languages in 2008, he joined the Law School of Batna in Algeria. He moved to France to complete his film studies for two years at the University of Paris VIII. Afterwards, he joined the ARFIS Audiovisual school in Lyon, then the Factory School in Villeurbanne where he obtained his Cinema director diploma. He has made several short films, where he deployed his passion for telling stories that appreciates human relationships. He likes to explore different narrative forms and film genres like drama, tragedy, stories inspired by real events, as well as comedies. Soula is his first feature, inspired by real events.



# Streams

**Director:** Mehdi Hmili  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Year:** 2021  
**Duration:** 122 minutes  
**Rating:** 18 +  
**Country:** Tunisia, Luxemburg, France, USA  
**Language:** Arabic (Tunisian Dialect)  
**Subtitles:** English  
**Screenplay:** Mehdi Hmili  
**Cast:** Slim Baccar, Afef Ben Mahmoud, Iheb Bouyahya  
**Cinematography:** Ikbal Arafa  
**Editing:** Ghalya Lacroix  
**Production:** Moufida Fedhila, Mehdi Hmili  
**Awards:** Best Director Award - Malmö Arab Film Festival, Special Jury Award - Kolkata International Film Festival, Best Director Award - Djerba International Film Festival, Best Screenplay Award - Institut Français – Tunis  
**Début Status:** Jordanian Première  
*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Mehdi Hmili, the film's director*

## Synopsis

Amel works in a factory in Tunis. She lives with her husband, Tahar, an alcoholic and a former local football player, and their only son, Moumen, a talented teenage football goalkeeper. To convince the boss of the factory to provide her with connections for her son, Amel betrays her fellow workers, who have been organising a strike. Amel meets the connection: Imed, a wealthy businessman, who takes advantage of the situation and sexually abuses Amel. She surrenders to offer her son the opportunity of a lifetime. They get arrested by the police. Accused of adultery and prostitution, Amel gets imprisoned. Moumen is destroyed by the scandal. He becomes violent, stops his football career, and starts drinking and taking drugs. After her release, Amel searches for Moumen in the violent streets of Tunis. In this long quest for the missing son, Amel must face the falling Tunisian society.



## Director's Biography

Mehdi Hmili is a Tunisian director, screenwriter, and producer. He studied cinema in Paris. He directed three short films in France about love and exile, X-Moment, Li-La and The Nuit of Badr. In 2016 he released his first feature film *Thala Mon Amour*, a love story that takes place during the Tunisian revolution. He co-founded Yol Film House with Moufida Fedhila in Tunis and produced several award-winning fiction films and documentaries in several international festivals. In 2019 he participated in La Fabrique de Les Cinémas du Monde at Cannes Film Festival with the feature documentary *Fouledh*. His second feature film *Streams* is in official selection and world premiere at the 74th Locarno Film Festival. Mehdi Hmili is part of the new wave of young Tunisian filmmakers, and he is a major figure in the current Tunisian cinematographic landscape. His production company "Yol Film House" plays an active role in supporting Tunisian talent and its productions have strong potential for co-production and international distribution. Mehdi Hmili is a Torino Film Lab Alumni. He lives and works between Tunis and Paris.

## Leading Actor's Bio

Iheb Bouyahia was born in Tunis. He played football until the age of 17 but stopped his career after an injury. He enrolled in theatre classes in Tunis and began a career as an actor. He entered the prestigious Conservatoire d'Art Dramatiques in Tunis the following year where he became passionate about Chekhov. He is one of the most talented young Tunisian actors of his generation. At 19 years old, Iheb played his first major role in the cinema in Mehdi Hmili's film *Streams*.





# The Gravedigger's Wife

**Director's Name:** Khader Ayderous Ahmad

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 82 minutes

**Country:** Somalia, Finland, Germany, France, Qatar

**Language:** Somali

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Khader Ayderous Ahmad

**Cast:** Omar Abdi / Yasmin Warsame

**Cinematography:** Arttu Peltomaa

**Editing:** Sebastian Thümler

**Production:** Robin Boespflug / Martin Hampel / Lula Ali Ismail / Misha Jaari / Thanassis Karathanos / Mark Lwoff / Oy Bufo Ab, Pyramide Productions, Twenty Twenty Vision Filmproduktion GmbH

**Awards:** Best Film, African Movie Academy Awards 2021, Special Mention from the FIPRESCI Jury, Carthage Film Festival 2021

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

**Category:** Arab Feature Length Narrative Competition

## Synopsis

Guled and Nasra are a loving couple, living in the outskirts of Djibouti city with their teenage son, Mahad. However, they are facing difficult times: Nasra urgently needs an expensive surgery to treat her chronic kidney disease. Guled is already working hard as a gravedigger to make ends meet: how can they find the money to save Nasra and keep the family together?



## Director's Biography

Khader Ayderous Ahmed, is a Finnish-Somali director and writer. At the age of 16, he moved to Finland as a refugee with his family. In 2008, he wrote the script of the short film *Citizens* where he also worked as the second assistant director. Then in 2014, he directed the first short *Me ei vietetä joulua* which received critics' acclaim. He later directed two more short films *Yövaras* (2017) and *The Killing of Cahceravga* (2018). He is best known for directing the feature film *The Gravedigger's Wife*, which premiered in July 2021 at the Cannes Film Festival in the *Semaine internationale de la critique*, and later the film became the first Academy Award submission from Somalia.





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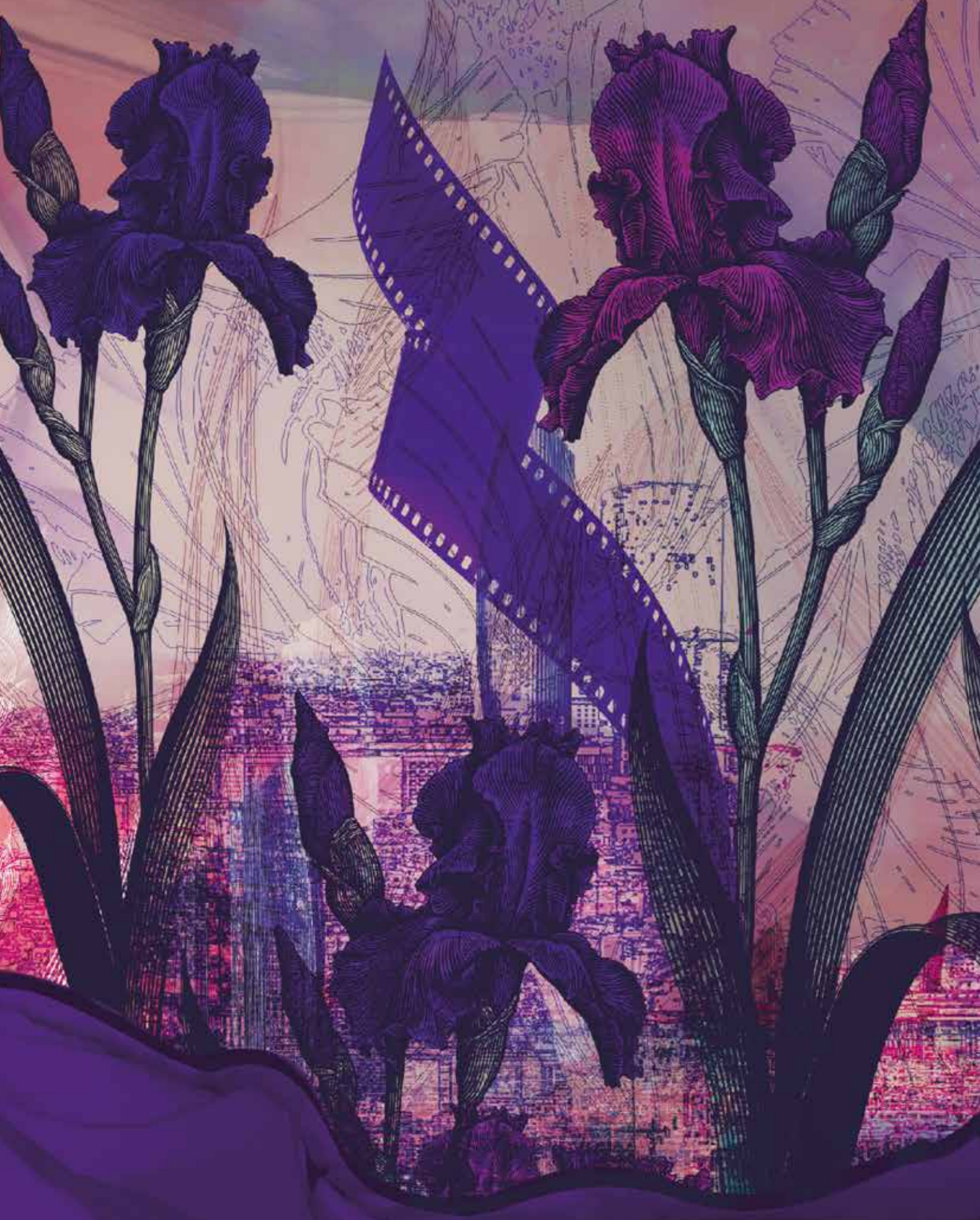
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## Arab Feature Documentary Competition





# Fiasco

**Directors:** Nicolas Khoury

**Genre:** Documentary

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 70 minutes

**Rating:** 18 +

**Country:** Lebanon, Netherlands

**Language:** Arabic (Lebanese Dialect), French and English

**Subtitling:** English and Arabic

**Cinematography:** Nicolas Khoury

**Editing:** Cherine Debs

**Production:** Nicolas Khoury, Yara Yuri Safadi and Sekak Films

**Awards:** Salah Abu Seif Award for Best Artistic Contribution in Horizons of Arab Cinema Competition and a Special Mention for Best Arab Film in Cairo International Film Festival.

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Nicolas Khoury, the film's director*

## Synopsis

For half of his life Nicolas, the director, used the camera as confidant to film his video diary. With candid humour, he embarks on a cinematic rebellion against his family and societal expectations of the "perfect life".



## Director's Biography

Nicolas Khoury graduated in film and audio-visual studies from the Lebanese Academy of Fine-Arts in 2010. He is an independent documentary filmmaker and film editor based in Beirut. *Fiasco* is his first feature-length documentary which won two awards in Cairo International Film Festival.



# Little Palestine, Diary of a Siege

**Directors:** Abdallah Al-Khatib

**Genre:** Documentary

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Rating:** 16 +

**Country:** Lebanon, Qatar, France

**Language:** Arabic (Lebanese Dialect), English

**Subtitling:** English

**Cinematography:** Abdallah Al-Khatib

**Editing:** Qutaiba Barhamji

**Production:** Mohammad Ali Atassi for Bidayyat for Audiovisual Arts, Jean-Laurent Csinidis for Films de Force Majeure

**Awards:** Interreligious Award at Visions du Réel 2021; Audience Award at Filmfest Hamburg 2021; Best Film at the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival 2021; Impact Audience Award at Vancouver International Film Festival 2021

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Abdallah Al-Khatib, the film's director*



## Director's Biography

Abdallah Al-Khatib was born in 1989 in Yarmouk. He studied sociology at the University of Damascus. Before the revolution he worked for the UN as Coordinator of Activities and Volunteers. He created the humanitarian aid association Watad, with several friends, which carried out dozens of projects in several regions of Syria, and in particular, Yarmouk. Al-Khatib currently lives in Germany, where he was recently granted refugee status.

## Synopsis

A filmed diary of the daily life in the biggest Palestinian refugee camp in Syria, Yarmouk, and its besieged inhabitants, who decided to face bombing, displacement and hunger with rallying, studying, music, love and joy.





# My Mohamed is Different

**Directors:** Inès Marzouk

**Genre:** Documentary

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 69 minutes

**Rating:** 16 +

**Country:** Egypt, Tunis, Italy

**Language:** Arabic (Egyptian Dialect), English, Dutch

**Subtitling:** English

**Cinematography:** Mahmoud Lotfi

**Editing:** Aya Tallah Yusuf

**Production:** Kesmat Elsayed, Dora Bouchoucha, Lina Chabane, Paulo Maria Spina, SEERA Films, Nomadis Images

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Ines Marzouk, the film's director.*



## Synopsis

Sarannah moves to Luxor at 50 where she meets Hamdy, a man in his 30s. Madly and happily in love, they get married. All she wants to do is spend time with him and enjoy life. Her friend Nerchia met and married Khaled and it was joyous... for a while. The film follows these women as they leave their lives behind to travel to an unknown new world; one that blurs the boundaries between business and romance.

## Director's Biography

Inès Marzouk is a Tunisian filmmaker living and working in Egypt. She started her career as an editor and worked on a number of feature films. She directed two short films. *My Mohamed is Different* is her first feature-length documentary.



# Nile Crocodile

**Directors:** Nabil Shazli  
**Genre:** Documentary  
**Year:** 2021  
**Duration:** 61 minutes  
**Country:** Egypt  
**Language:** Arabic (Egyptian Dialect), English, French  
**Subtitling:** English  
**Cinematography:** Zaki Aref  
**Editing:** Doaa Fadel  
**Production:** Gaby Khoury (Misr International Films)  
**Awards:** Winner of Best Documentary in Egyptian National Film Festival 2022  
**Début Status:** Jordanian Première  
*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Nabil Shazli, the film's director*

## Synopsis

An intimate portrait of Abdelatif Abou Heif, an Egyptian long-distance swimmer, seen through the eyes of his long-time friend Nabil Shazli. Based on testimonies and precious archives, the film depicts the journey of Abdelatif Abou Heif in the changing political landscapes of Egypt, starting from his hometown Alexandria and travelling around the world. Abdelatif was not only known for his superpowers as a swimmer but also for his humanity. A charismatic figure famous outside Egypt but mostly forgotten in his home country.



## Director's Biography

Nabil Shazli developed a passion for cinema; he joined Misr International Films as an executive producer in 1990 where he focused on foreign film and TV drama production in Egypt. Throughout his career he worked on important projects with world renowned filmmakers such as Youssef Chahine, Spike Lee, Michael Haneke, Michèle Gavras, Luc Besson, Radwan El Kashef and Ruba Nada.





# Suspended Wives

**Director's Name:** Merième Addou

**Genre:** Documentary

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 73 minutes

**Rating:** 13 +

**Country:** Morocco, France, Qatar

**Language:** Arabic (Moroccan Dialect)

**Subtitles:** French, English

**Cinematography:** Mohamed Ali Saghraoui, Az-eddine Idrissi

**Editing:** Mohamed Ikbal Benlahcen, Antoine Rodet

**Production:** Karim Aitouna, Merième Addou, 2M

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Merième Addou, the film's director*

## Synopsis

Suspended wives, are women left behind by their husbands, they are not married neither divorced. Ghita, Latifa and Saadia are seeking their freedom through an unfortunate long divorce process.



## Director's Biography

Born in Morocco, Merième Addou graduated from Mohammed V University with a degree in Law and a Master's degree in Documentary Film. She is also a freelance Producer for many international channels as well as a correspondent for Radio D-W.

## Editor's Biography:

Mohamed Ikbal Benlahcen is a Moroccan editor. He graduated from the Institute of Cinema and Audiovisuals (ISCA) with a degree in cinema and audiovisuals, he started his career in 2010 as an editor, a cameraman and a graphic designer. He worked for many national channels and production companies. He won the jury prize of National Personal Data Protection Control by CNDP.



# Take Me to the Cinema

**Directors:** Albaqer Jafeer

**Genre:** Documentary

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 61 minutes

**Rating:** 13 +

**Country:** Iraq, Egypt

**Language:** Arabic (Iraqi Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English

**Cinematography:** Karar Nassir, Mohannad Hasan, Safei Eldin, Ahmad Alzeidi, Haidar Alhusseiny and Laith De'ir

**Editing:** Akram Saadoun, Mohamed Mamdouh,

**Production:** Rasha Gawdat, Tamer Ashry, Safei Eldin Mahmoud, Alabqer Jafeer, Red star films, Bee Media Productions, Takween Film Media

**Awards:** IDFA Spotlight Award at Beirut Cinema Platform

**Status:** Jordanian Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Akram Saadoun, the film's editor*

## Synopsis

Director Al Baqer Jafeer realises that the story of -65year-old novelist, and once Iraqi soldier, Nassif Falak is taking a shape that very much resembles his own current story. Jafeer meets the writer who found his safe haven in cinema during the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s. Impacted by a particular film, Falak develops the dream of becoming an actor. When Jafeer meets Falak, they both try finding that film in post war Baghdad. This journey leaves Jafeer torn: should he stay in Baghdad, or should he leave to make his dream come true?



## Director's Biography

Albaqer Jafeer is an Iraqi director who studied filmmaking and participated in filmmaking workshops, where he learned script writing, directing, editing and production management. His début feature-length documentary is *Al-Ferqa*, *Take Me to the Cinema* is his second feature-length documentary.

## Editor's Biography (First-timer):

Akram Sadoon is an Iraqi film editor who started working in the documentary film industry since 2017, he worked in the production of some student films, commercials and documentary reports. *Take Me to the Cinema* is the first feature-length documentary he edited. He is one of the founders of the Najma Film Production Company.





# The Blue Inmates

**Directors:** Zeina Daccache

**Genre:** Documentary

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 75 minutes

**Rating:** 16 +

**Country:** Lebanon

**Language:** Arabic (Lebanese Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English

**Cinematography:** Karim Ghorayeb

**Editing:** Myriam Geagea

**Production:** Zeina Daccache (Catharsis Lebanon)

**Awards:** Final Cut Workshop at Venice International Film Festival 2020; The Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) Award.

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

**Category:** Arab Feature Documentary

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Zeina Daccache, the film's director*

## Synopsis

The film follows inmates in Roumieh Prison in Lebanon, who produced a theatrical play inside prison about their fellow inmates suffering from mental illness. The Lebanese Penal Code, enacted in 1943, stipulates that "Insane", "Mad" or "Possessed" offenders shall be incarcerated until evidence of "being cured". Therefore, mentally ill offenders receive sentences without psychological or medical care.



## Director's Biography

Zeina Daccache is a Lebanese actress, theatre and film director, as well as a psychologist and a drama therapist. She is the founder and Executive Director of the first Arab Centre for Drama Therapy: Catharsis. In 2009, she produced 12 Angry Lebanese with the inmates of Roumieh Prison. In 2021, her third feature documentary sees the light: The Blue Inmates conveying the voice of mentally ill offenders, accompanied by a draft law presented to the Lebanese Parliament. She is recipient of many awards given for her distinguished contributions to the field and her activism.

## Editor's Biography (First-time Editor)

Myriam Geagea participated in cinema workshops from the age of 16 in Lebanon and Spain, which led her to acquire a BA in audio-visual arts at Holy Spirit University of Kaslik in 2013. She has been working as a freelance editor for the past seven years. The Blue Inmates is her début film as a solo editor. Previously she was the associate editor on the Cannes jury prize winner, Capernaum (2018).



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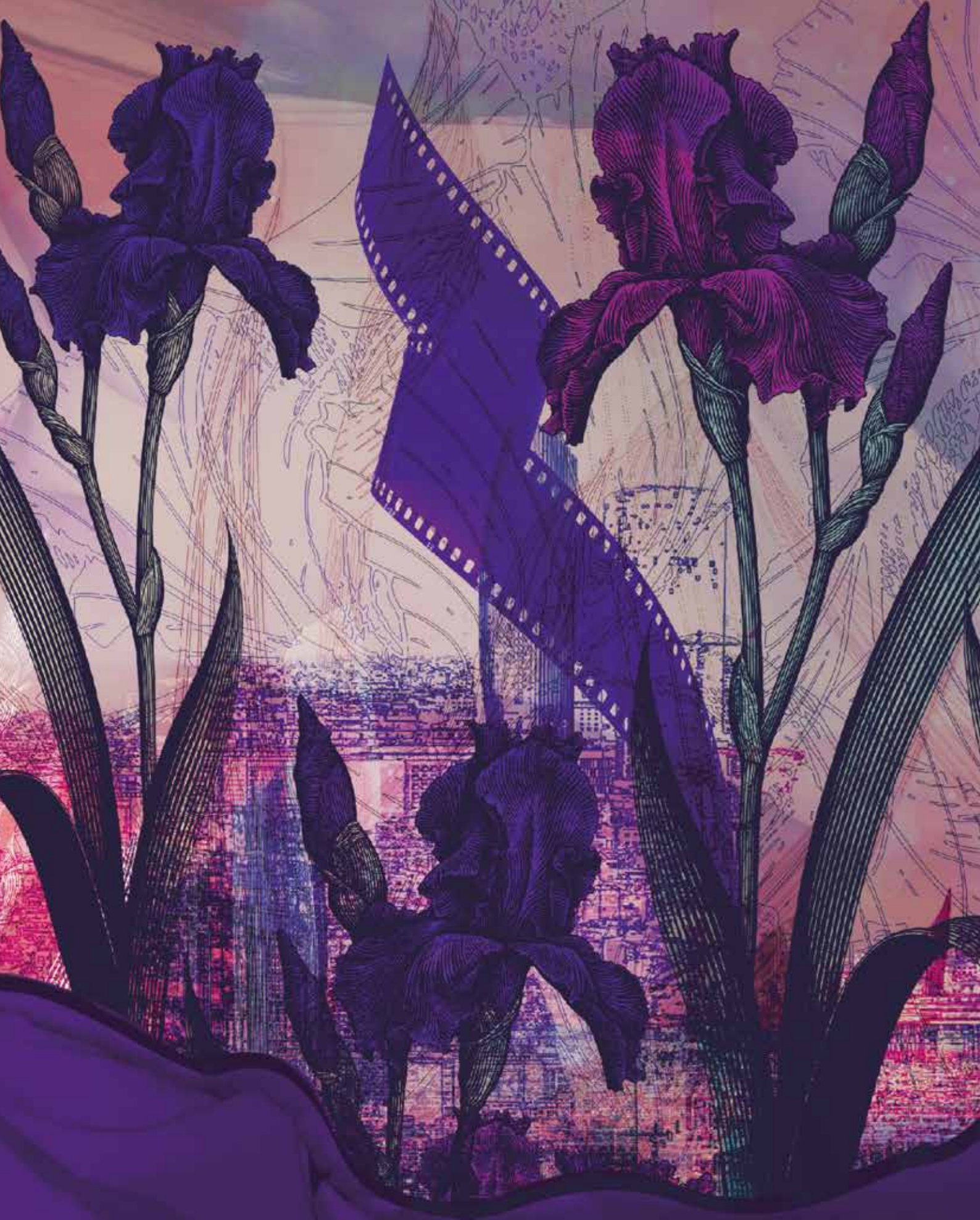
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## Arab Short Film Competition





# Arwa

**Director's Name:** Jumana Eldur  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Year:** 2021  
**Duration:** 11 minutes  
**Country:** Jordan  
**Language:** Arabic (Jordanian Dialect)  
**Subtitling:** English  
**Screenplay:** Jumana Eldur  
**Cast:** Emad Alshaer, Ban Algusseini  
**Cinematography:** Husam Kanani  
**Editing:** Husam Kanani  
**Production:** Husam Kanani  
**Début Status:** Arab Première

## Synopsis

The story begins in Arwa's house as she prepares to move to another house. During the transportation trip, many things begin to stir her memories up with her father as she remembers some of her beautiful and sometimes cruel personal moments with her father. Her memories lead us to reveal additional information about her father including his musical taste and his powerful philosophy towards his illness. These memories are enough to affect her outlook and the way she processes things.

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Jumana Eldur, the film's director*



## Director's Biography

Jumana Eldur is a Jordanian filmmaker, a writer, and a director who is passionate about human rights and women rights. She started her journey at SAE Dubai in 2017. Ever since, she discovered herself as a writer. Eldur then continued her studies at SAE Amman, Jordan in 2018 and graduate in 2021.



# Alternative Memory

**Director's Name:** Leen Abdo  
**Genre:** Animation  
**Year:** 2021  
**Duration:** 4 minutes  
**Country:** Jordan  
**Screenplay:** Leen Abdo  
**Cinematography:** Leen Abdo  
**Editing:** Leen Abdo  
**Production:** Leen Abdo  
**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

## Synopsis

Alternative Memory tackles Early-Onset Alzheimer's and how to make life easier for both patient and caregiver. The film revolves around a young man taking care of his mother, who has Early-Onset Alzheimer's. He makes a great effort to help his mother remember, using Technology and Music Therapy. Besides, he decided to create an alternative memory for her, by showing her some old memories and daily life videos of their beautiful moments together.

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Leen Abdo, the film's director*



## Director's Biography

Leen Abdo is a 23 years old ambitious animator. She studied Animation & Multimedia in Petra University in Amman-Jordan. Her first experience with filmmaking was her animated short film "Alternative Memory", which was also her 2021 graduation project for university.



# My Mother's Voice

**Director's Name:** Mourad Hamla

**Genre:** Experimental documentary

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 15 minutes

**Rating:** 13 +

**Country:** Algeria

**Language:** French

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Mourad Hamla

**Cast:** Nadir Moula

**Cinematography:** Mourad Hamla ,  
Borhane Cherbal

**Editing:** Yassine Azzli

**Production:** French Institute of Algeria

**Awards:** Best Short Film, 2nd Cinema

4 Screen festival in Mumbai India,

Honorable Mention in The Digital Gate

International Festival Algeria, Honorable

Mention in Festival del cinema Cefalù Italy

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

## Synopsis

I am not lost but I am angry at my mom. I lost it. Confused by my experience, my feelings mark a subtle inner turning point in which I find myself in a sort of interrogation with myself, having only the unconscious and absolute representation that has become my ultimate place of safety. Are my memories real? Or are they merely a movie that I made up for myself? Isn't what I have become just a multitude of mixed voices that are not mine and that shaped me? I am telling you about my constraint, the liberation of which is more and more difficult.



## Director's Biography

Mourad Hamla is a photographer and director. He seeks to represent the tension of the soul through the gaze of the other in time and in space. He uses the image and the cinema as a base for experimentation. During his career, Mourad Hamla worked as an assistant director and a camera assistant for the documentary film *Le marin des montagnes* and as co-director for the collaborative and experimental international film *V.I.T.A.L* directed by Thomas Castaing. Hamla made his first documentary *Les tissereuses de lien* then *Les enfants du feu* and *La voix de ma mère* and continued to explore around the image - movement through narrative conceptual videos where reality and fiction meet.



# Unspoken

**Director's Name:** Mohammed Alghadhban

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 9 minutes

**Rating:** 13 +

**Country:** Iraq, USA

**Language:** Arabic (Iraqi Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Mohammed Alghadhban

**Cast:** Asaad Abdulmajeed, Nayan Altalabani,  
Noor Alhuda

**Cinematography:** Mohannad ALSudani

**Editing:** Ali Raheem

**Production:** Mohammed Alghadhban, Ali  
Mohammed Saeed

**Awards:** Best film - Jury award from the 10th  
Mumbai shorts International Film Festival.

**Début Status:** Arab Première

## Synopsis

Salma, a -15year-old Iraqi countryside girl, is sexually assaulted by her father, she decides to defend herself but finds herself facing a very difficult choice that will change her life forever.



## Director's Biography

Artistic Producer & Film Director  
Born in IRAQ - Babylon 1996, Mohammed Alghadhban worked as an Art Director of 3 Minutes 3 Days Film Festival. She is the founder of Rola Productions company and of Kids and Films initiative. Alghadhban received her Master's degree in Cinema at Baghdad University - College of Fine Arts - Film & Tv Department.

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Mohammad Alghadhban, the film's director*





# 18/11

**Director's Name:** Medhat Maged  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Year:** 2021  
**Duration:** 22 minutes  
**Country:** Egypt  
**Language:** Arabic (Egyptian Dialect)  
**Subtitling:** English  
**Screenplay:** Medhat Maged  
**Cast:** Gehan Anwar , Lama Kutkut  
**Cinematography:** Mohamed Tarek Deraz  
**Editing:** Yasmine Hisham , Sondoss Haytham  
**Production:** Medhat Maged  
**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

## Synopsis

A story of a woman with sleepwalking disorder who was accused of murdering her unfaithful husband. Did she kill him while sleeping or was she conscious? Only the young servant could help in this case as she was the only witness.

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Medhat Maged, the film's director*



## Director's Biography

Medhat Maged is a young Egyptian filmmaker who graduated from the faculty of engineering. Now, Maged studies at the Higher Institute of Cinema and works as an assistant director. Maged is also working on his upcoming film, The Exile.



# Bantustan

**Director's Name:** Mohammad Rasheed Mansour  
**Genre:** Experimental-Short  
**Year:** 2021  
**Duration:** 9 minutes  
**Country:** Palestine  
**Screenplay:** Mohammad Rasheed Mansour  
**Cinematography:** Mohammad Rasheed Mansour  
**Editing:** Mohammad Rasheed Mansour  
**Production:** Dar al-Kalima University College  
**Début Status:** world Première

## Synopsis

Bantustan is an experimental exploration of the daily pressure experienced by the Palestinians because of the apartheid wall, and the Zoinist military checkpoints, and barriers.

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Mohammad Mansour, the film's director*



## Director's Biography

Mohammad Mansour, lives in Jenin city, Palestine. He is a filmmaker and a freelancer photographer. Mansour studied film production at Dar Al-Kalima University College in Bethlehem and specialized in the field of cinematography. He directed and shot an experimental, fiction and short documentary films.



# Paradis

**Director's Name:** Chris Akoury  
**Genre:** psychological drama  
**Year:** 2021  
**Duration:** 21 minutes  
**Rating:** 16 +  
**Country:** Lebanon  
**Language:** Arabic (Lebanese Dialect)  
**Subtitling:** English  
**Screenplay:** Chris Akoury  
**Cast:** Diamand Abou Abboud, Marilyne Naaman, Joseph Maroun  
**Cinematography:** Cedric Al Bacha  
**Editing:** Maroon Sayah  
**Production:** Colleen Yazbeck, Toni Abi khalil

**Awards:** Best film of the month in independent shorts awards Los Angeles 2022, Platinum award in independent shorts awards in Los Angeles 2022, Best foreign film in Cannes world film festival 2022, Best short film in Golden Wheat awards in Turkey 2022, Best cinematography in Golden Wheat awards in Turkey 2022  
**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

## Synopsis

Rym and Majd are siblings who live in their old village's house after both their parents abandoned them 8 years ago. Majd has been paralyzed for many years and in order to sustain their lives, Rym sells milk to the village. Conflicts between the siblings reach a point where Rym kills her brother's only companion, only to realize that Majd carries an anger inside of him way beyond Rym's imagination.

Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Chris Akoury, the film's director



## Director's Biography

Chris Akoury is a Lebanese freelance filmmaker and cinematographer. As a cinephile, he has been strongly influenced by the genius Andrei Tarkovsky and has been captivated since the age of 8 by the magical world of the seventh art. He has worked as a cinematographer and filmed more than 15 short films, 2 medium length films and he is currently working on his feature film. His directorial background is purely grounded by the European cinema and its approach. He is motivated by the human condition and the questioning of reality and existence.



# The Mission

**Director's Name:** Mohammad Khalil Al-Dabbas  
**Genre:** Thriller  
**Year:** 2021  
**Duration:** 23 minutes  
**Rating:** 13 +  
**Country:** Jordan  
**Language:** Arabic (Jordanian Dialect)  
**Subtitling:** English  
**Screenplay:** Mohammad Al-Dabbas  
**Cast:** Faisal Al-Adwan, Kareem Al-kurdi, Dargham Hussein, Ahmed Habib, Ghaith Hafez, Nawras Alwan, Abdul, Malik Ali Khalil

**Cinematography:** Sabir DK  
**Editing:** Mohammad Al-Dabbas  
**Production:** Ahmad Alwan  
**Début Status:** Arab Première

## Synopsis

The Mission is a thriller that tells the story of Rommel, who tries to steal a grocery store, but fails. Trying to escape and hide in a house, Rommel finds himself in the house of a terrorist cell; where he faces two options: death or jihad. Rommel is placed among a group of dangers that threaten his life. He constantly tries to hide his Christian faith from the terrorists and to preserve his life and that of civilians from a deadly terrorist operation.



## Director's Biography

Mohammad Khalil Al-Dabbas: A -22year-old film director from the city of Salt in Jordan. He started his journey in the field of art by acting in films, series and advertisements until he chose the profession in which he currently works. Mohamed's work in films is not limited to directing, he is a screenwriter, producer, music maker and editor.





# Ya Mejana

**Director's Name:** Mahdi Mousawi

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 14 minutes

**Country:** Lebanon

**Language:** Arabic (Lebanese Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Mahdi Mousawi

**Cast:** Anis Nasserredine, Issam Al Ashkar

**Cinematography:** Hasan ShamsEdine

**Editing:** Mahdi Mousawi

**Production:** Mahdi Mousawi

**Début Status:** Arab Première

## Synopsis

A short film carrying the Lebanese identity in both direct and indirect ways. The film sheds light on the Mawwal (Traditional Songs) and the relationship between the Lebanese citizen and his land. This relationship will be presented through Nader's story, a young man in his twenties, and Abu Melhem Al-Turathi, in his late sixties. The events between them take us and show us the difference between the old generation and the new generation

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Mahdi Mousawi, the film's director*

## Director's Biography

Mahdi Mousawi is a rising Lebanese film director. He holds a Bachelor's degree in "Radio & TV" and a Master's degree in "Cinema Directing". He aims to establish a Lebanese film school in the distant future, or at least a Lebanese cinema characterized by its own image and language.



# Traversing the Reimagined Palestinian Neighbourhood

**Director's Name:** Zain Al-Sharaf Wahbeh

**Genre:** Experimental

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 3 Minutes

**Country:** Jordan

**Editing:** Zain Al-Sharaf Wahbeh

**Production:** Zain Al-Sharaf Wahbeh

**Awards:** First Place Prize for The A.D. Gallery's Our Neighbourhood Juried Exhibition in March 2022.

**Début Status:** Arab Première

## Synopsis

The video presents a virtual historical journey through Al-Manshiyya; a Palestinian neighbourhood in Northern Jaffa, which was completely demolished in 1948. Home to my paternal great-grandparents, Al-Manshiyya contributed functional and stylistic Arabo-Islamic design principles that I found compelling to digitally reconstruct. These reconstructions were primarily achieved by cross-referencing scarce archival photographs and personal testimonies collected from interviews and schematic drawings. In doing so, this audio-visual experience aims to address my hometown's destruction from the regional to the material scale, by enabling its audience to experience the neighbourhood's vernacular past and real-estatised present through contemporary modes of visualisation.

## Director's Biography

Born in Jordan and raised in the United Arab Emirates, Zain Al-Sharaf is a London-based Palestinian researcher and designer. She obtained her Part I qualification in Architecture from the University of Edinburgh in 2019 and Part II qualification from the Royal College of Art in 2022. Through multidisciplinary archival practices, Zain Al-Sharaf has actively confronted the dissolution of the Palestinian vernacular under the Zionist occupation. To problematise the extinction of Jaffa's Arab urbanity, she conducts speculative reconstructions of its urban-communal-memories using digital modelling and rendering software. Her forensic and journalistic endeavours have since been invested in promoting social justice and cultural restoration.





# L'hiver

**Director's Name:** Karam Awadat  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Year:** 2022  
**Duration:** 19 minutes  
**Rating:** 13 +  
**Country:** Jordan  
**Language:** Arabic (Jordanian Dialect)  
**Subtitling:** English  
**Screenplay:** Karam Awadat  
**Cast:** Aseel Yaseen, Mahmoud Al-Mohammad, Anas Manaseer, Mohammad Okasheh, Mujahed  
**Cinematography:** Hamdi AL Aied  
**Editing:** D.O.Studio  
**Production:** Warsha Studio  
**Debut Status:** Arab Première

## Synopsis

L'hiver tells the story of a Syrian couple, who got married without the consent of their families due to their different religions, they flee the war in Syria to Jordan and live in very difficult conditions in a Neighborhoods in Amman

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Karam Awadat, the film's director*



## Director's Biography

karam Awadat started his director's career in Warsha Studio and did sketches and YouTube programs as writer and director. He also worked in music and video clip industry. In 2020, he started his own program on YouTube "The Theater" as a presenter and writer where he spoke about cinema industry and how to start your own film. In 2021 the royal Jordanian film commission granted him a great chance to start his first real project as a director and writer with the short "Sheta".



# Champollion Street .. Urban Reflections

**Director's Name:** Asmaa Ibrahim  
**Genre:** fiction, experimental, semi-biography, architecture.  
**Year:** 2022  
**Duration:** 14 minutes  
**Country:** Egypt  
**Language:** Arabic (Egyptian Dialect)  
**Subtitling:** English  
**Screenplay:** Asmaa Ibrahim  
**Cast:** Nahed Salah  
**Cinematography:** Abd El Rahman Mohamed  
**Editing:** Omar Badr Eldin  
**Production:** Asmaa Ibrahim  
**Debut Status:** Arab Première

## Synopsis

In her daily journey to her workplace, she explores the city and interrogates stone and people. Egyptian writer, journalist and critic Nahed Salah takes us on a journey through the landmarks of Champollion Street, and through its history that she investigates; starting from the origin of the name, its implications and the history of its activity and ending with what can be considered the most important historical event in the contemporary history of Egypt; the Revolution of January 2011, 25.

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Asmaa Ibrahim, the film's director*



## Director's Biography

Asmaa Ibrahim is an Egyptian filmmaker, director, writer, researcher and film critic. Lecturer and TV trainer in educational institutes. Ibrahim is a Consultant at the International Drama Without Borders Institute - Germany. She directed & wrote documentary films and TV reports for The Egyptian television. She holds a master's degree in television criticism from the Academy of Arts. She has an interest in heritage and architecture.





# Venus and the Mirror

**Director's Name:** Amin Ben Moussa  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Year:** 2021  
**Duration:** 11 minutes  
**Country:** Morocco  
**Language:** Arabic (Moroccan Dialect)  
**Subtitling:** English, French  
**Screenplay:** Amin Ben Moussa  
**Cast:** Mustafa Laalouani  
**Cinematography:** Mabsout Mustapha  
**Editing:** Drissi El Arbi  
**Production:** Amin Ben Moussa, Ali Boudra  
**Début Status:** Arab Première

## Synopsis

In Spleen de Paris, Charles Baudelaire offers an allegory of the poet who represents the condition of the character; in particular, the artist facing his loneliness and his identity. At the same time, however, the cursed poet idealizes nature. This man faces what he perceives as the incarnation of Beauty: the statue, immortal and superior. Before this fantastic apparition, the character implores the mercy of the goddess.

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Amin Ben Moussa, the film's director*

## Director's Biography

A Moroccan filmmaker, Cinematographer, and writer. He has worked on several projects as a first assistant director and Venus and the Mirror is his first film.



# A place once existed

**Director's Name:** Narjess Karim  
**Genre:** Romance  
**Year:** 2021  
**Duration:** 15 minutes  
**Country:** Lebanon  
**Language:** Arabic (Lebanese Dialect)  
**Subtitling:** English  
**Screenplay:** Nour Chami  
**Cast:** Wael Assaf, Ranim Abdelkhalek, Dolla Chidiac, Ali Sammuri, Dalal Mroueh  
**Cinematography:** Hussein Farhat  
**Editing:** Sarah Safeddine  
**Production:** Zeinab Karim  
**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

## Synopsis

Sama is a young lady who lives in a Lebanese village. She seeks winning one of the photography competitions in Beirut. She finds out that the deadline for submissions has approached, so she asks Hadi, her best friend and neighbor, for his help. He takes her on a tour in the old village's alleyways, and helps her in changing her perspective towards the village.

## Director's Biography

Narjess Karim, Lebanese, 22 years old, a fresh graduate from the Lebanese University (Cinema and Tv). She had participated in the making of some short film's students. In July 2021 A Place Once Existed was submitted as her senior project and first short film. She works now as a freelance filmmaker and participates as a second Assistant Director in a TV show



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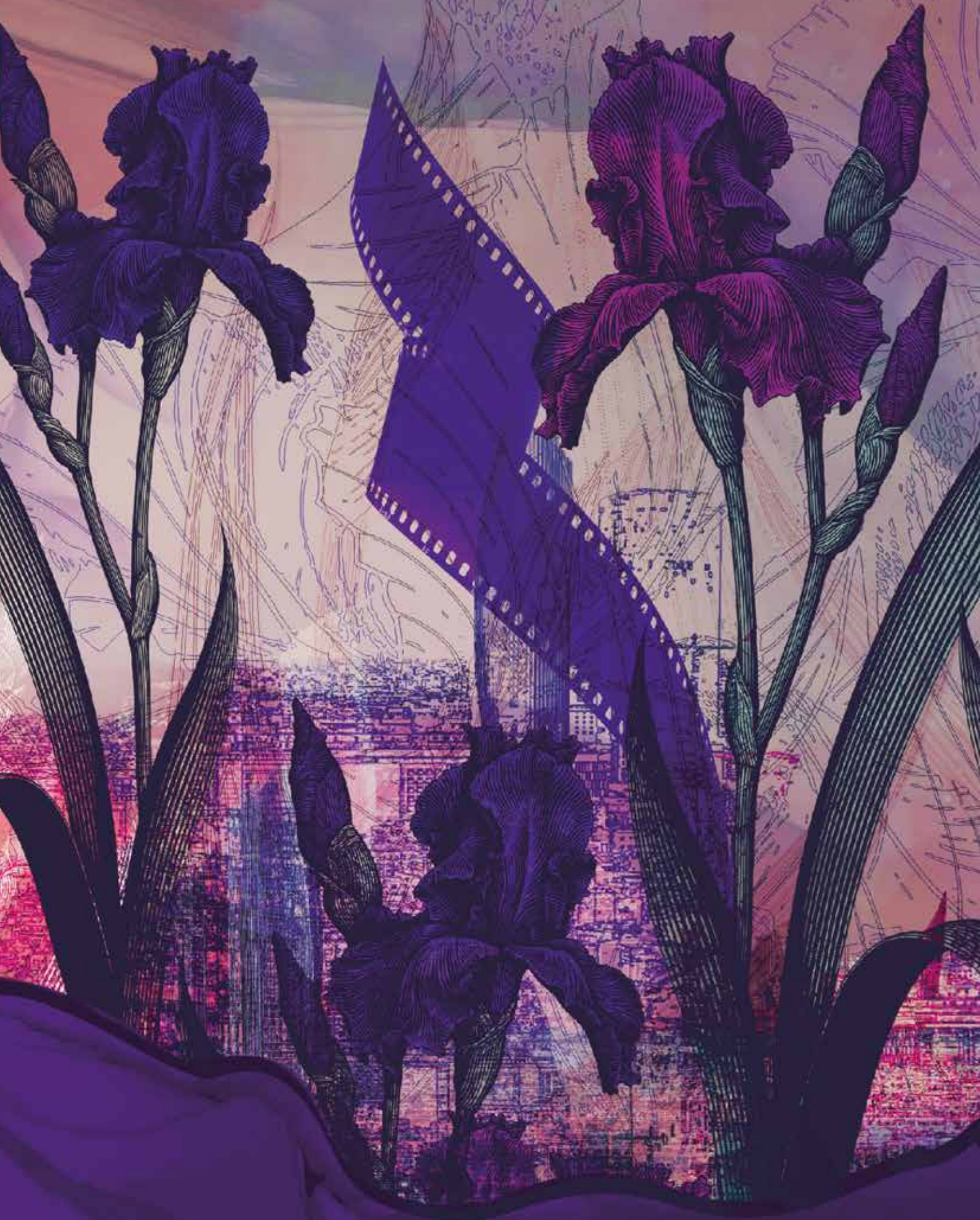


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## International Section





# Convenience Store

**Director:** Michael Borodin  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Year:** 2021  
**Duration:** 106 minutes  
**Rating:** 16 +  
**Country:** Russia, Slovenia, Turkey  
**Language:** Uzbek, Russian  
**Subtitling:** English  
**Screenplay:** Michael Borodin  
**Cast:** Zukhara Sanzysbay, Lyudmila Vasilyeva, Tolibzhon Suleimanov  
**Cinematography:** Ekaterina Smolina  
**Editing:** Alexandra Putsyato  
**Production:** Metra films, Perfo Production Ljubljana, Karma Films, Vladislav Ogay, Alexey Grishin, Diloy G'ul'n, Ales Pavlin  
**Awards:** CICA Award – Berlinale - Berlin International Film Festival 2022  
**Début Status:** Arab Première  
**Category:** International Section



## Director's Biography

Michael Borodin was born in Toytepa, a small town near Tashkent. He made his first film at the age of eighteen. In 2010, after graduating from the university, he moved to Moscow to study filmmaking where at first, he led the life of an illegal immigrant. He worked as a delivery guy and an odd-job worker, then had a chance to pursue his passion for movies by enrolling into the film school of Alexander Mitta.

In 2017 Borodin made a short fiction film on the annexation of Crimea. In 2018 his short Normal was a part of La Semaine de la Critique. Borodin works and lives in Uzbekistan and Russia, making films on pressing social issues.

## Synopsis

Mukhabbat, lives and toils in a typical convenience store on the outskirts of Moscow. Just like other illegal migrants in the store she does not get a single ruble for her work and is not allowed to take even a short break. Mukhabbat puts an end to this life when the owner of the store abducts her newborn son.





# Knocking

**Director's Name:** Frida Kempff

**Genre:** Thriller

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 78 minutes

**Rating:** 18 +

**Country:** Sweden

**Language:** Swedish

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Emma Broström

**Cast:** Cecilia Milocco, Albin Grenholm, Ville Virtanen, Krister Kern, Alexander Salzberger

**Cinematography:** Hannes Krantz

**Editing:** Erika Gonzales, Erik Andersson

**Production:** Läsk Sveriges Television (SVT), Swedish Film Institute, Erik Andersson

**Awards:** Swedish Guldbagge Award 2021: Best Actress in a Leading Role, Best Sound, Best Set Design

**Début Status:** Arab Première

**Category:** International section



## Director's Biography

Frida Kempff is a Swedish director and scriptwriter with a bachelor's degree from the Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts. Her films have been screened and awarded in renowned festivals, including Cannes, Sundance, Telluride, IDFA, London IFF, and Gothenburg. In 2010 she was the first Swede since 1957 to win an award with a short film at the main competition at Cannes with *Bathing Micky*. *Knocking* is Kempff's debut narrative feature film.

## Synopsis

Molly is moving into her new apartment after a tragic accident when a strange noise from the upper floor turns everything upside down. The ever-increasing knocking almost sounds like morse code, but when she confronts her neighbours, no one can hear what she is hearing. Everyone starts questioning Molly, and before she knows it, she is thrust into a quest for the truth.



# Life of Ivanna

**Director:** Renato Borrayo Serrano

**Genre:** Documentary

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 79 minutes

**Rating:** 18 +

**Country:** Guatemala, Russia, Norway, Estonia, Finland

**Language:** Russian, Nenets

**Subtitling:** English

**Cinematography:** Renato Borrayo Serrano, Daria Sidorova

**Editing:** Renato Borrayo Serrano, Inge-Lise Langfeldt

**Production:** Ethnofund, Baltic Film, Production Illume Oy, Vladislav Ketkovich, Mette Cheng Munthe Kaas, Marianna Kaat, Pertti Veijalainen

**Awards:** Golden Star El Gouna Film Festival 2021, Golden Eye Zurich Film Festival 2021

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

**Category:** International Section

## Synopsis

The film closely follows Ivanna, a -26year-old mother of five children, and depicts her dramatic life-changes, from the harsh life at the tundra to the modern life in the Siberian city of Dudinka. Ivanna lives a traditional nomadic life in the Arctic region in Northwest Siberia. Following in the footsteps of what her family has been doing for centuries, Ivana drives her herd of reindeer at the tundra. But due to the environmental side effects of climate change, most of her reindeers are dying. Ivana knows that soon she will be forced to make a dramatic decision.



## Director's Biography

Renato Borrayo Serrano is a Guatemalan film director, cinematographer and editor. In 2017, he graduated as a film director specialised in documentary film, from the All-Russian State University of Cinematography. His work has been featured and awarded in numerous international film festivals. Among many other awards, his short, Film for Carlos, received the honorary Price of the jury at Dok Leipzig (2017), an honorary mention from the jury at Art Dok Fest 2017 in Moscow and the Prize for Best Short Film at DocuDays UA 2018 in Kyiv. His feature-length directorial debut Life of Ivanna had its world premiere at CPH:DOX main competition and in Hotdocs (2021).





# Playground

**Director's Name:** Laura Wandel

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 72 minutes

**Rating:** 13 +

**Country:** Belgium

**Language:** French

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Laura Wandel

**Cast:** Maya Vanderbeque, Günter Duret, Karim Leklou

**Cinematography:** Frédéric Noirhomme

**Editing:** Nicolas Rumpf

**Production:** Dragons Films, Lunanime, Centre du Cinéma et de l'Audiovisuel de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Stéphane Lhoest, Jan De Clercq, Annemie Degryse

**Awards:** FIPRESCI Prize, Cannes Film Festival 2021, Prix du Jury Jeune, Amiens International Film Festival 2021, Crossing Europe Audience Award, Crossing Europe Filmfestival 2022

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

**Category:** International Section

## Synopsis

7 year-old Nora and her big brother Abel are back to school. When Nora witnesses Abel being bullied by other kids, she rushes to protect him by warning their father. But Abel forces her to remain silent. Caught in a conflict of loyalty, Nora will ultimately try to find her place, torn between children's and adults' worlds.



## Director's Biography

Laura Wandel was born in 1984 in Belgium where she studied filmmaking at the IAD school. Her school film, Murs, was selected in many festivals around the world. After her first short film, O négatif, she directed in 2014 Les corps étrangers, selected in competition at Cannes Film Festival. Playground (Un monde) is her first feature.



# Prayers for the stolen

**Director's Name:** Tatiana Huezo  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Year:** 2021  
**Duration:** 110 minutes  
**Rating:** 13 +  
**Country:** Mexico, Germany, Brazil, Argentina, Switzerland, United States  
**Language:** Spanish  
**Subtitling:** English  
**Screenplay:** Tatiana Huezo  
**Cast:** Ana Cristina Ordóñez González, Marya Membreño, Mayra Batalla  
**Cinematography:** Dariela Ludlow  
**Editing:** Miguel Schverdfinger  
**Production:** Pimienta Films, Match Factory Productions, Bord Cadre Films, Nicolás Celis, Jim Stark  
**Awards:** Special Mention & Prix de la Meilleure création sonore - Cannes FF 2021 - Un Certain Regard, Horizontes Award, RTVE-Another Look Award, Premio Cooperacion Espanola - San Sebastián IFF 2021 - Horizontes Latinos, The Golden Athena Award for Best Film and City OF Athens - Best Director Award - Athens IFF 2021 - International Competition  
**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

## Synopsis

In a solitary town nestled in the Mexican mountains, the girls wear boyish haircuts and have hiding places underground. Ana and her two best friends take over the houses of those who have fled and dress up as women when no one is watching. In their own impenetrable universe, magic and joy abound; meanwhile, their mothers train them to flee from those who turn them into slaves or ghosts. But one day, one of the girls doesn't make it to her hideout in time. Liberally adapted from Jennifer Clement's eponymous 2014 novel.



## Director's Biography

Tatiana Huezo is a Mexican-El Salvadoran filmmaker who graduated from the Centro de Capacitación Cinematográfica ("CCC") and has a Masters Degree in Documental de Creación from the Universidad Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. Huezo gained an international reputation with her first feature Documentary film *El lugar más pequeño* (The Tiniest Place), 2011, which was screened at more than 50 festivals and won numerous awards like the Ariel for Best Mexican Documentary (2012), and FIPRESCI Award at Mar del Plata (2011). Her First feature Narrative film *Prayers for the Stolen* won an Un Certain Regard Award - Special Mention in Cannes Film Festival 2021.





# Soy Libre

**Director's Name:** Laure Portier

**Genre:** documentary film

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 78 minutes

**Rating:** 13 +

**Country:** France, Belgium

**Language:** French

**Subtitling:** English

**Cinematography:** Laure Portier

**Editing:** Xavier Sirven

**Production:** Perspective Films, Need Productions, Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC), Gaëlle Jones

**Awards:** Special Jury Award - Brussels IFF, Special Mention - Zurich IFF, Agnès Award for the best first feature film - Festival En Ville, Premiers Plans Angers - Grand Prix du Jury, Best Film in Feature Doc Competition at Ismailia IFF, One World Romania - Best film in the International Competition

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première



## Synopsis

Arnaud is my little brother. One day, I realize that he had grown up. He was born where people have been deprived from their right to make choices, and he tries to be what he should have been free.

## Director's Biography

Laure Portier was born in 1983 in France. After getting her degree in Literature in Toulouse and a year at ESAV, she joins INSAS in Brussels (Image section). Upon graduation, she became a camera assistant and worked on feature films. She presented her first short film, Her first short film, The Dog's eye was awarded by the Cinéma du Réel festival in 2019. Soy Libre is her first feature film.



# The Crossing

**Director's Name:** Florence Mialhe

**Genre:** Drama, Animation

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 84 minutes

**Rating:** 18 +

**Country:** France, Czech Republic, Germany

**Language:** French

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Florence Mialhe

**Cast:** Emilie Lan Dürr, Emilie Lan Dürr, Maxime Gemin

**Cinematography:** Guillaume Hoenig

**Editing:** Julie Dupré, Nassim Gordji Tehrani

**Production:** Balance Film, Les Films de l'Arlequin, MAUR Film, Dora Benousilio Ralf Kukula Alena Vandasová Martin Vandas Luc Camilli

**Awards:** International Competition - Feature Film, Anima - Brussels Animation Film Festival 2022, Grand Prize and Audience Prize Bucheon International Animation Film Festival 2021

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

## Synopsis

A small village looted in darkness, a family forced to flee. The two oldest children, Kyona and Adriel, are quickly separated from their parents, facing the road of exile alone. They embark on a heroic journey which takes them from childhood to adolescence in search of shelter, peace, and the hope of finding refuge and their family. Crossing a continent torn apart by war and migrant persecution, these courageous siblings survive incredible challenges, before reaching a new world, free at last.



## Director's Biography

Florence Mialhe was Born in 1956. She graduated from the National School of Decorative Arts. She began as a layout artist for the press, exhibiting drawings and engravings. In 1991, she directed her first short film Hammam. She received a special mention at the Cannes Film Festival in 2006 for Conte de Quartier and a Cristal d'honneur in 2015 at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival for her work as a whole. The Crossing is her first feature film, which won the Free Spirit Award in Warsaw International Film Festival 2021, and Audience and Grand prizes in Bucheon International Animation Film Festival 2021.





# The Promise

**Director's Name:** Leonardo Antonio Avezzano

**Genre:** Documentary

**Year:** 2022

**Duration:** 84 minutes

**Country:** Italy, Netherlands, Jordan

**Language:** English, Arabic

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Leonardo Antonio Avezzano, Arwa Damon, Margaux Tjoeng

**Cast:** Alaa Aljuneidi, Mostafa Salameh, Leonardo Antonio Avezzano

**Cinematography:** Leonardo Antonio Avezzano

**Editing:** Leonardo Avezzano, Pierfrancesco Bigazzi, Giulio Dall'acqua

**Production:** Alaa Aljuneidi, Leonardo Antonio Avezzano

**Début Status:** World Première

**Category:** International Section

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Leonardo Antonio Avezzano, the film's director, and Alaa Aljuneidi, the film's producer*

## Synopsis

The Promise is the story of Alaa Aljuneidi, from Hebron Palestine. His father defied the odds as a Palestinian going from selling milk off the back of his bike to building a dairy empire. He looms larger than life for young Alaa. On his father's deathbed, Alaa makes a promise. It is a promise he is unable to share with anyone. One whose meaning he does not fully understand in the moment, but that will torment him until it sets him on a course; a course to summit Everest.



## Director's Biography

Leonardo Avezzano is an Adventure Filmmaker and Explorer. He lives, breathes and takes active roles in the variety of assignments and personal projects he undertakes. His projects have led him around the world, from mountains to deserts, where Leonardo is most comfortable, and where he thrives as both an image-maker and an explorer. He focuses his visual storytelling on matters linked to nature and personal challenges in an effort to advocate for positive change.



# Zalava

**Director's Name:** Arsalan Amiri

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 93 minutes

**Rating:** 13 +

**Country:** Iran

**Language:** Kurdish, Persian

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Arsalan Amiri, Tahmineh Bahram, Ida Panahandeh

**Cast:** Navid Pourfaraj, Pouria Rahimi Sam, Hoda Zeinolabedin

**Cinematography:** Mohammad Rasouli

**Editing:** Emad Khodabaksh

**Production:** Samira Baradari, Rouhollah Baradari, Ruth Yoshie Linton

**Awards:** Best Director (Arsalan Amiri) + Best Actor (Navid Farjzadeh) - Duhok International Film Festival, Best Film (Next Wave section) - Fantastic Fest Austin, Grand Prix + FIPRESCI - Venice Critics Week

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

**Category:** International Section

## Synopsis

In 1978, the inhabitants of a small village in Iran called Zalava claim there is a demon among them. Massoud, a young gendarmerie sergeant, who investigates this claim encounters an exorcist attempting to rid the village of the demon. When he arrests the exorcist on charges of fraud, the villagers fear and anger escalates. Massoud and his love interest, a government doctor, soon find themselves trapped in a cursed house, surrounded by villagers who believe they are both possessed by the demon.



## Director's Biography

Amiri was born on April 1975, 22 in Kurdistan, Iran. He holds a B.A. in Film Directing from the Art University of Tehran and a Masters in Dramatic Literature from the University of Tehran. In 2003, He began to write scripts, edit, and make documentaries. His first co-written feature script, Nahid (2015), directed by Ida Panahandeh, won the Promising Future Prize in Un Certain Regard at the 68th Cannes Film Festival. He continued his collaboration with Panahandeh in her last three films: Israfil (2017), The Nikaidos' Fall (-2018 Japan & Hong Kong), and TITI (2020) as co-writer, editor, and producer. He made his first feature film, Zalava in 2021 in Kurdistan of Iran.



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# Filmlab Palestine



Filmlab Palestine is one of the **only organizations in Palestine** that **protects and promotes our ability to tell** our stories through the art of filmmaking. **Keeping Palestinian cultural history alive** by supporting Palestinian film production and involving Palestinian society in film culture has been our main concern since 2014. In addition, to be a **hub for filmmakers**, and direct financial and infrastructural contributions to film projects, we focus on **our next generation** and care for their abilities to continue **to present their stories** and views strongly and impressively in words and images. An important component in enabling and **strengthening independent Palestinian narratives** is the establishment of a sustainable film production infrastructure, to which Filmlab is dedicated. Despite the great challenges of this endeavor, Filmlab managed to open Palestine's first professional color grading studio last year. An important step in the direction of supporting our filmmakers in their independent telling of Palestinian stories.

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## **Franco-Arab Rendez-Vous**



## Welcome Note

Cette année encore, nous célébrons le cinéma franco-arabe en nous associant au festival international du film d'Amman. Le « Rendez-vous franco-arabe » est ainsi de retour au cœur de la ville du 20 au 27 juillet 2022 avec des projections en drive-in, en salles et en plein air !

Comme précédemment, cette manifestation culturelle aura à cœur d'illustrer les liens qui unissent les cinématographies françaises et arabes à travers leur production, leur sujet ou leur financement. Notre sélection illustre une fois encore la diversité des sujets et des pays concernés puisque le public pourra découvrir la vie d'une famille dans les quartiers populaires de Marseille (avec le film « Bonne Mère »), se perdre dans les montagnes libanaises (« The River ») et algériennes (« Mariner of the Mountains »), ou bien encore suivre le destin de deux sœurs que la vie va finir par opposer violemment (« You resemble me »).

Les femmes auront par ailleurs une place particulièrement importante dans notre sélection et la diversité des genres sera aussi représentée : documentaire, fiction pure et film inspiré de faits réels se côtoieront.

Enfin et pour la 16ème année, la jeune production jordanienne sera aussi mise à l'honneur lors de ce « Rendez-vous franco-arabe » : la compétition de courts-métrages organisée par l'Institut français de Jordanie, en collaboration avec la Royal Film Commission, désignera le meilleur documentaire et la meilleure fiction et bénéficiera d'une soirée de projection dédiée sous le ciel étoilé d'Amman.

Je vous souhaite un très bon festival !



**Véronique VOULAND-ANEINI**  
Ambassadrice de France en Jordanie

Once again this year, we are celebrating Franco-Arab's cinema by joining forces with Amman's International Film Festival. The "Rendez-vous: Franco-Arab" is back in the heart of the city from the 20th to 27th of July 2022 with drive-in, indoor and outdoor screenings!

Since the beginning, this cultural event has always aimed to focus on illustrating the links that unite French and Arab cinematographies through their production, subject matter and financing. Our selection illustrates once again the diversity of subjects and countries concerned, as the public will be able to discover the life of a family in the working class neighbourhoods of Marseille (with the film "Bonne Mère"), get lost in the Lebanese mountains while watching ("The River") and sail through out Algeria with ("Mariner of the Mountains"), or follow the fate of two sisters that life will end up violently opposing in ("You resemble me").

Women will have a particularly important place in our selection where we will be able to follow them through out their journeys, nonetheless the diversity of genres will also be represented: documentary, pure fiction and films inspired by real-life events will rub shoulders.

And finally, in our 16th year of our short film competition, young Jordanian production will also be honoured during this "Rendez-vous: Franco-Arab" meeting, organised by the French Institute of Jordan, in collaboration with the Royal Film Commission, selected the best documentary and the best fiction that are going to be screened during an evening under the starry sky of Amman.

I wish you a very good festival!

**Véronique VOULAND-ANEINI**  
French Ambassador of Jordan





# Bonne Mère

**English Title:** Good Mother

**Director's Name:** Hafsia Herzi

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 99 min

**Rating:** 18 +

**Country:** France

**Language:** French

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Hafsia Herzi

**Cast:** Halima Benhamed, Sabrina Benhamed, Jawed Hannachi Herzi

**Cinematography:** Jérémie Attard

**Editing:** Eric Armbruster, Camille Toubkis

**Production:** SBS Productions, Arte France Cinéma, Canal+, Saïd Ben Saïd, Michel Merkt

**Awards:** Cannes Film Festival 2021 - Un Certain Regard Ensemble Prize, Best Feature Film

- Rome MedFilm Festival 2021

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

## Synopsis

Nora, a cleaning lady in her fifties, looks after her small family in a housing estate in the northern part of Marseille. She is worried about her grandson Ellyes, who has been in prison for several months for robbery and is awaiting his trial with a mixture of hope and anxiety. Nora does everything she can to make this wait as painless as possible...



## Director's Biography

Hafsia Herzi (born January 1987, 25 in Manosque, Alpes-Haute-Provence, France) is a French actress, director and writer of Algerian and Tunisian descent. She is best known for her debut role in the award-winning Franco-Tunisian feature *The Secret of the Grain* for which she won the award for most promising actress at the César Awards 2008, and the Marcello Mastroianni award, for best emerging actor or actress at the 64th Venice International Film Festival.



# Mariner of the Mountains

**Director's Name:** Karim Aïnouz

**Genre:** Documentary, Romance

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 95 min

**Rating:** 13 +

**Country:** France, Brazil, Germany, Algeria

**Language:** French, Arabic (Algerian Dialect), Portuguese, Tamashek

**Subtitling:** English

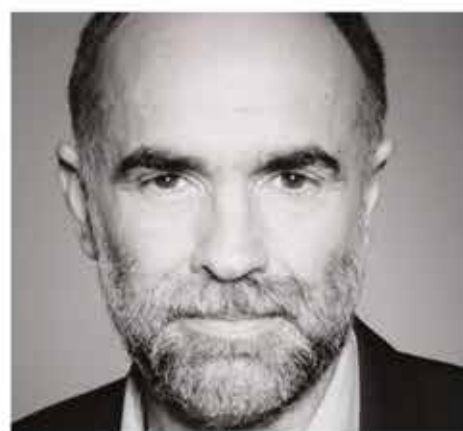
**Cinematography:** Juan Sarmiento G.

**Editing:** Ricardo Saraiva

**Production:** Video Filmes, Watchmen Productions, Marie-Pierre Macia, Christopher Zitterbart

**Awards:** Istanbul Film Festival 2022 / Winner: Special Jury Prize - International Competition

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première



## Director's Biography

Karim Aïnouz is an award-winning film director and screenwriter. He was born in 1966 in Brazil to a Brazilian mother and an Algerian father. Aïnouz debuted as feature director with *Madame Satâ* (Cannes Un Certain Regard 2002). Other works include *Nardjes A.* (Berlin Panorama 2020), *Central Airport THF* (Berlin Amnesty Prize 2018), *Futuro Beach* (Berlin Competition 2014), *The Silver Cliff* (Cannes Director's Fortnight 2011), and *Love for Sale* (Venice Horizons 2006). In 2008, Aïnouz has co-directed the TV series *Alice* for HBO Latin America.

His latest feature, *The Invisible Life*, premiered in Cannes Un Certain Regard in May 2019 where it received the Main Award and more than 50 prizes worldwide.

Aïnouz is also a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

## Synopsis

Filmmaker Karim Aïnouz decides to take a boat, cross the Mediterranean and embark on his first journey to Algeria. Accompanied by the memory of his mother, Iracema, and his camera, Aïnouz gives a detailed account of the journey to his father's homeland, interweaving present, past, and future.





# The River

**Director's Name:** Ghassan Salhab

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 101 min

**Rating:** 16 +

**Country:** Lebanon, France, Germany, Qatar

**Language:** Arabic (Lebanese Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Ghassan Salhab

**Cast:** Ali Suliman, Yumna Marwan

**Cinematography:** Bassem Fayad

**Editing:** Michele Tyan

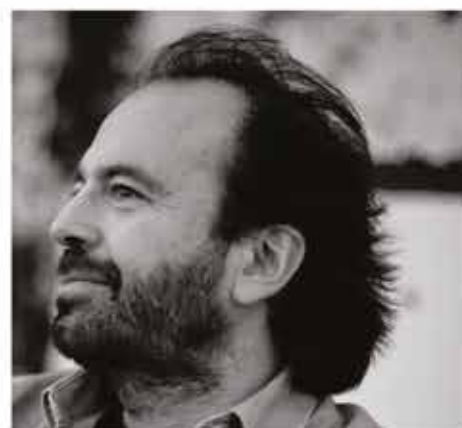
**Production:** Khamsin Films, Les Films de l'Atlaï, The Postoffice, Tania El Khoury, Titus Kreyenberg

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

*Screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Ghassan Salhab, the film's director*

## Synopsis

It's autumn. A young woman and an older man are having lunch on the terrace of a restaurant located in the midst of a mountainous landscape in Lebanon. Suddenly the sky darkens, followed by rumbling sounds. Fighter planes crisscross the sky. As the man heads to his car to leave the place, the woman disappears.



## Director's Biography

Ghassan Salhab (born 4 May 1958) is a Lebanese screenwriter and film director born in Dakar, Senegal. In addition to making his own films, he collaborates on various scenarios and teaches film in Lebanon. He has directed six feature films; Beyrouth Fantôme, Terra Incognita, The Last Man, 1958, The Mountain and The Valley. His films have been selected in various international film festivals. He has finished the shooting of *The River*, in addition to numerous "essays" and different "video works" including "Posthumous," "Chinese Ink," "Son Image," and *Le voyage Immobile*, on which he collaborated with Lebanese documentary filmmaker Mohamed Soueid. In 2016, he was a DAAD (Berlin) guest-resident. La Rochelle International Film Festival, JC Carthage and La Cinémathèque du Québec made a tribute to his work. He has also published different texts and articles in various magazines and a book, "fragments du Livre du naufrage".



# You Resemble Me

**Director's Name:** Dina Amer

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Time:** 91 min

**Rating:** 16 +

**Country:** Egypt, France, United States

**Language:** French, Arabic (Egyptian Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English

**Screenplay:** Dina Amer, Omar Mullick

**Cast:** Lorenza Grimaudo, Ilonna Grimaudo, Mouna Soualem, Sabrina Ouazani, Dina Amer, Alexandre Gonin, Sana Sri

**Cinematography:** Omar Mullick

**Editing:** Keiko Deguchi, Jake Roberts

**Production:** The Othrs, Artemis Rising Foundation, D'Artagnan, Dina Amer, Karim Amer, Elizabeth Woodward, Kelsey Falter, Sol Guy, Hind Meddeb,

**Awards:** Special Jury Mention - Atlanta Film Festival 2022, Best Feature Film - Hot Springs International Women's Film Festival 2022, FIPRESCI Prize for International Film - Kerala International Film Festival 2022, Jury Special Mention - Luxembourg City Film Festival 2022, Best Picture - World Cinema - Phoenix Film Festival 2022, Best Film in the Main Competition and Amnesty International Award - Prague International Film Festival 2022, Best Screenplay of a Narrative Feature - RiverRun International Film Festival 2022, Best Narrative Feature - San Luis Obispo International Film Festival 2022, Audience Award - Red Sea Festival 2022, Best Middle Eastern Film - Santa Barbara International Film Festival 2022, First Feature Award - Miami International Film Festival 2022, Jury Prize and Audience Award - REC Tarragona 2021,

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

## Synopsis

Cultural and intergenerational trauma erupt in this story about two sisters on the outskirts of Paris. After the siblings are torn apart, the eldest, Hasna, struggles to find her identity, leading to a choice that shocks the world. Director Dina Amer takes on one of the darkest issues of our time and deconstructs it in an intimate story about family, love, sisterhood, and belonging.



## Director's Biography

Dina Amer is an Egyptian-American film director, writer, producer and journalist.

She helped produce the Oscar-nominated and Emmy award-winning documentary "The Square", which chronicled the Egyptian Revolution from the frontlines. Growing up between the U.S. and Egypt, her work has focused on sharing nuanced, human stories with a global audience. Previous to her film work, Amer was a journalist and her written work has been published in The New York Times, CNN, and the Huffington Post.



**Franco-Arab Short Film Competition** The 16th Jordanian Short Film Festival part of the Franco-Arab Section "Rendez-Vous: Franco-Arab", organised by the French Institute of Jordan in cooperation with the French Embassy in Jordan, in partnership with the Royal Film Commission-Jordan (RFC). This year three awards (falcon sculptures created and sculpted by Jordanian artist Hazem Alzoubi) will be presented to the winning directors of the following categories: Jury Award for Best Fiction, Public Award for Best Fiction, Public Award for Best Documentary.

This year, Tamer Al Karrain, Jordanian entrepreneur, director, producer and musician, will preside over a jury also comprised of Mona Shehabi, winner of the Jury Prize for Best Documentary in 2019, and Hisham Gaith a director of Drama, documentary film, video clip, producer, program director and instructor courses in photography and television lighting.

As part of this occasion, one film "Kol Youm" that received the Jury Prize for Best Documentary at the Franco-Arab film Festival in Noisy-le-Sec will be screened.



## From the Mountain

Jury Award for Best Fiction

**Director's Name:** Faisal Attrache

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 20 minutes

**Country:** Jordan, Syria, United States

**Language:** Arabic

**Subtitling:** English subtitles

**Screenplay:** Faisal Attrache

**Cast:** Ramzi Choukair, Yumna Marwan,

Jamal Awar, Yazan Al-Hakim

**Cinematography:** Nikolai Galitzine

**Editing:** Abdallah Sada

**Production:** Deema Dabis, Nikolai Galitzine

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

### Synopsis

The leader of the Great Syrian Revolt of 1925 strives to keep the flame of revolution alive from exile.



### Director's Biography

Faisal Attrache is a Syrian-American writer, director and producer who tells stories about universal human experiences with a socially conscious message. His short docu-fiction film *HASTA SIEMPRE, COMANDANTE* (2016), made under the tutelage of Abbas Kiarostami, won a Mention Speciale du Jury at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival in France. His short documentary *GROWING HOME* (2014) premiered at the Sheffield DocFest, UK (2015) and won Best Documentary Short at the Newport Beach Film Festival, US. *FROM THE MOUNTAIN* (2021), his latest short is based on his great-grandfather's life. He received an MFA in Film Production from the USC School of Cinematic Arts, Los Angeles.



## Kol Youm – Tous les jours

Jury Prize for Best Documentary, Franco-Arab Festival in Noisy-le-Sec 2021

**Director's Name:** Zoulikha Tahar

**Genre:** Short Documentary

**Year:** 2021

**Duration:** 8 min

**Country:** France

**Language:** Arabic (Algerian Dialect)

**Subtitling:** French subtitles

**Screenplay:** Zoulikha Tahar

**Cast:** Kheira Lila Bouaksa, Zoulikha Tahar

**Cinematography:** Zoulikha Tahar, Samuel

Cyrus Chalom

**Editing:** Zoulikha Tahar

**Production:** Zoulikha Tahar

**Awards:** Jury Prize for the best documentary & Public prize for the best documentary - Festival d Film franco-arabe de Noisy-le-sec (France) 2021

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

### Synopsis

Since her retirement, Kheira has been doing housework and video calls with her immigrant daughter. To this, Kheira recounts, tirelessly, her daily life and her regrets.



### Director's Biography

After a master's degree in mechanics, Zoulikha Tahar devoted herself, from 2015, to her passion for writing and film making. In 2017, in Algeria, she co-founded the AWAL collective with which she directed her short film *The Street*, a prose against street harassment. The same year, she was presented by France 24 as one of the five women who are most committed to change in Africa. In 2018 she began training in documentary cinema at the Film School "La Femis" in Paris. There, she directed her first documentary, *A Life of Essays*, a short documentary about the representations made, on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea, of Algerian immigrant women. The film was selected, in 2020, in the favorite category of Festival Panorama des cinémas du maghreb et du moyen-orient. In 2021, she made *L'hiver qui ne meurt jamais* a movie about windows, covid and borders. And *Kol Youm* a short documentary about women mental load. This film was made about her mom who since her retirement, has been doing all the household chores without getting any help from the rest of the family. Zoulikha is now working on her first long documentary about mental load. And righting a podcast where she talks about her experience with professional reorientation and the long-term impact of the choices parents make for their kids.



**Franco-Arab Short Film Competition** The 16th Jordanian Short Film Festival part of the Franco-Arab Section "Rendez-Vous: Franco-Arab", organised by the French Institute of Jordan in cooperation with the French Embassy in Jordan, in partnership with the Royal Film Commission-Jordan (RFC). This year three awards (falcon sculptures created and sculpted by Jordanian artist Hazem Alzoubi) will be presented to the winning directors of the following categories: Jury Award for Best Fiction, Public Award for Best Fiction, Public Award for Best Documentary.

This year, Tamer Al Karrain, Jordanian entrepreneur, director, producer and musician, will preside over a jury also comprised of Mona Shehawi, winner of the Jury Prize for Best Documentary in 2019, and Hisham Gaith a director of Drama, documentary film, video clip, producer, program director and instructor courses in photography and television lighting.

As part of this occasion, one film "Kol Youm" that received the Jury Prize for Best Documentary at the Franco-Arab film Festival in Noisy-le-Sec will be screened.



# Rumman

Public Award for Best Fiction

**Director's Name:** Abdelhadi Al Rakeb

**Genre:** Drama

**Year:** 2022

**Duration:** 8 minutes

**Country:** Jordan, Syria

**Language:** Arabic (Jordanian, Syrian Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English subtitles

**Screenplay:** Abdelhadi Al Rakeb

**Cast:** Nibal Al Awadani, Rasha Bilal, Mohammad Al Hariri, Adam Al Hariri

**Cinematography:** Omar Jadallah

**Editing:** Amjad Izz Eldeen

**Production:** Hamza Issa

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

## Synopsis

The film raises a humanitarian issue that imposes itself on the reality of children in the world, through the story of "Umm Abed", a Syrian mother who lost her child during the war in Syria, after being involved in an armed conflict there, using Abed's favourite pomegranate fruit as a symbol of blood and passing the curse of death to other children.



## Director's Biography

Journalist and filmmaker, Bachelor's degree in translation from American University in Madaba. Journalist and editor in several local and Arab locations with six years' experience. On the balance of seven short documentary and feature films, most of which dealt with human rights issues, the most recent being On the Brink of Oblivion, which was nominated for the Al Jazeera Documentary Award for Best Short Documentary Film 2021. Screenwriter of five short films.



# Third Eye on Madaba

Public Award for Best Documentary

**Director's Name:** Muhannad Lafi

**Genre:** Short Documentary

**Year:** 2022

**Duration:** 20 minutes

**Country:** Jordan

**Language:** Arabic (Jordanian Dialect)

**Subtitling:** English and Arabic subtitles

**Screenplay:** Muhannad Lafi

**Cast:** Muhannad Lafi, Skeleton

Hammoudeh, Hana Showaikeh, Farahnaz Abu Tayeh

**Cinematography:** Mohammad "Skeleton" Hammoudeh

**Editing:** Abdelrahman Ma'ali

**Production:** Muhannad Lafi

**Début Status:** Jordanian Première

## Synopsis

A documentary showing the highlights of the city of Madaba (the Arab tourism capital of 2022)

The documentary researchers stayed in Madaba for two days on their trip to a banquet for unique moments by visiting the most important religious and archaeological monuments and learning about the rare crafts therein, conveying the details of the theoretical framework of the target places and telling the details of the story through personal interviews of the four working participants all of Jordanian nationality. The film tends to perform where the director participates in the work as a main character and available in both Arabic and an English translation.



## Director's Biography

Muhannad Jamal Lafi: A student at the University of the Middle East - Faculty of Media - Director of radio and television interviews with a Diploma in Film and Television from "Al-Khawazmi College" and two diplomas attended in "Research in Documentary and Filmmaking Documentation" by Al Jazeera Electronic Media Institute.



# Friends of the Festival

## Zahi W. Khouri

Zahi W. Khouri is a Palestinian-American businessman and Chair of the Board of Dar al-Kalima University. He holds and has previously held several executive positions and board memberships in Palestine, including PADICO Holding and Palestine Telecommunications Company (PALTEL), and is currently Chairman of the Board of the NGO Development Center in Jerusalem.

Khouri supports philanthropic causes and social enterprises, particularly in the areas of art, education and vocational training. Khouri received the Oslo Business for Peace Award in 2015, honourees of which are selected by an independent committee of Nobel Prize laureates.



## Zina N. Jardaneh

Over the past 30 years, Zina N. Jardaneh has been involved in philanthropy, with an interest in culture, the arts and education.

Her chairmanship of the Palestinian Museum in Birzeit and her role in establishing it have earned her an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Jardaneh serves as a member of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the Children's Museum in Amman, and sits on the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Palestine Studies in Beirut. She is also an advisor to Visualising Palestine.

Jardaneh pursued a career in the pharmaceutical industry and banking. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of InvestBank Jordan and heads its Corporate Social Responsibility.



## Dr. Omar N. Abdulhadi

Dr. Omar N. Abdulhadi is the Founder and Director of Arab Centre for Engineering Studies (ACES), considered the biggest company in its field in the Middle East, with 20 offices across seven Arab countries.

Dr. Abdulhadi earned his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley in 1978. He worked in the United Arab Emirates and the United States before founding ACES in Jordan in 1983.

In 2019, Birzeit University awarded Dr. Abdulhadi an honorary doctorate for his contributions to economic development in Palestine and his generous support for Birzeit University. He also received the prestigious "Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of The Year 2019 Jordan" that same year.

Dr. Abdulhadi is a member of the Board of Trustees of several organizations including: INJAZ, the Institute for Palestine Studies and the National University College of Technology. Dr. Abdulhadi has several publications in the Geotechnical and Civil Engineering fields.



## Saeed A. Saeed

Saeed A. Saeed is the CEO, Chairman and co-founder of the Board of National Talents Company in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He leads a team that designs and operates innovative and creative learning experiences that have enabled thousands of children to engage in interactive science and technology-based learning spaces at museums, science centers, Fab Labs, festivals and exhibitions. Saeed has worked with clients across the Gulf including: Saudi Aramco Energy Exhibit, Mishkat Interactive Center at King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy, the Etihad Museum in Dubai, and the Abu Dhabi Education Council.

Saeed holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tulsa and a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University. He recently completed the Owner/President Management Program (OPM) at Harvard Business School.

Saeed is also the Chairman of the Board for Said Group, a family business established by his late father Atef Saeed, and is a member of Young Presidents' Organization (YPO).



# THE AIFF TEAM

## Director

Nada Doumani – Festival Director – ندى دومانى  
Hamzah Abaza – Assistant Festival Director – حمزة أباطة

## Programming

Areeb Zuaiter – Head of Programming – عريب زعيتّر  
Ahmad Maaliki – Programming Assistant – أحمد معاليقي  
Saleem Al Beik – Programmer – سليم البيك  
Ramy Abdelrazek – Programmer – رامي عبدالرازق

## Amman Film Industry Days

Bassam Alasad – Head of Industry – بسام الأسعد  
Samer Battikhi – Industry & Outreach Coordinator – سامر البطيخي  
Yasmeen El-Moje – Industry Officer – ياسمين الموج  
Elias Khatat – Projects Reader – إلياس خلاط  
Mariam Shahin – Projects Reader – مريم شاهين

## Venue & Logistics

Moeen Al Kiswani – Venue Manager – معين الكسواني  
Ihsan Al Khleifat – Assistant Venue & Logistics – إحسان الخليفات  
Fares Rawas – Transportation – فارس رواس

## Design & Production

Mohammed Abdelhadi – Art Director – محمد عبدالهادي  
Salim Samawi – Graphic Designer – سليم سماوي

## Media

Rick W. Hindi – Communications Coordinator – ريك و. هندي  
Marian Nakho – Media Relations – مريان ناخو  
Abdallah Al Nssour – Social Media Officer – عبدالرحمن النصور

## Partnerships

Leanne Katkhuda – Accounts Manager – ليان كتحدا

## Guest Relations

Najwan AlKhatib – نجوان الخطيب  
Zara Naber – زارا نبر  
Alex Turjman – اليكس ترجمان

## Finance

Loay Awad – Financial Supervisor – لؤي عوض  
Haya Kilani – Accountant – هيا الكيلاني

## Technical Support

Mohammed Salem – AV technical support – محمد السالم  
Yousef Lafi – IT Specialist – يوسف لافي  
Rawan Al-Zubi – Web developer, kindly seconded by EDGO – روان الزعبي

The AIFF extends its immense gratitude to the Royal Film Commission – Jordan, its Managing Director Mohannad Al Bakri, and all the staff who have enthusiastically supported the preparations for the Festival in so many different ways.