



OCTOBER 5-9, 2018
8th Malmö
Arab Film Festival



MAFF
MAFF MARKET FORUM

MAFF MARKET FORUM

OCTOBER 6-8, 2018

Presented by Malmö Arab Film Festival

**FUNDING
PLATFORM**



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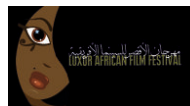


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About

MAFF Funding consists of MAFF Development Funding that is targeted to Arab-Swedish co-productions and Post Production Platform that aims to help the completion of Arab feature films. Representatives of the projects are invited to MAFF Market Forum to pitch their projects, in total 16 projects are pitched during MAFF Market Forum.

MAFF Development Funding (MDF) is available for feature, short and documentary projects. The initiative is aiming to create a platform for new international partnerships and thereby lay the basis for a wider diversity in film production. MDF provides support to projects in development with innovative stories that concern issues of identity, exile, and diversity.

Post Production Platform is established with the intention of supporting and encouraging Arab feature narrative and documentary filmmakers to professionalize the finalization of their feature productions and to promote it at an international forum.

MAFF DEVELOPMENT FUND



Awards

MAFF Development Fund Feature

- 150 000 SEK (approx. 15000€, presented in collaboration with the Swedish Film Institute.

MAFF Development Fund Documentary

- 50 000 SEK (approx. 5000€), presented in collaboration with the Swedish Film Institute.

MAFF Development Fund Short

- 30 000 SEK (approx. 3000€), presented in collaboration with Film i Skane.

- Etisal film fund, a main part of Luxor African Film Festival will grant two awards for two young filmmakers to participate in the next international filmmaking workshop. During the two week long workshop, held in the beautiful city of Luxor as a main part of the Eighth Luxor African Film Festival, each participant get a chance to make a short film (SHOOT, EDIT, FINISH).

DEVELOPMENT FEATURE JURY



Chiraz Latiri

Born in 1974 in Sousse, Chiraz Latiri is a lecturer in computer science at the Superior Institute of Multimedia Arts of Manouba (ISAMM). Director of the ISAMM from 2006 to 2011, she became the Director of the Tunisian National Cinema and Image Center (CNCI) in spring 2017.

She wants to register the CNCI as a major player in the cultural and creative industries in Tunisia and seeks to bring the cinema sector closer to the technology sector of artistic engineering and video games. Upon her arrival at the head of the establishment, she managed to double the budget while the Franco-Tunisian cooperation has registered a sharp acceleration since her appointment and the exchanges with the CNC have become permanent.



Shivani Pandya

In 2004 Shivani was part of the team that launched the Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF). After 2 years, she was appointed Managing Director. Under her leadership she spearheaded the industry engagement, audience development and enhanced the profile of the Festival to become recognized as the principal cultural event in the region and listed in the top 10 must attend film festivals in the world.

Prior to DIFF, Shivani was an integral part of the team that launched Dubai Media City and headed the broadcast division. She started her career in advertising and at an early age became branch head for United Studios Limited a subsidiary of the UTV Group in India, she subsequently went on to lead several projects from concept to reality. Listed by The National newspaper in 2018 as one of the most influential women in the region who are evolving the cultural landscape in the Middle East, She now brings her exceptional resume of experience to launch her own company NearEast Entertainment.



Hani Osama

Hani Osama is the Founder and Managing Partner of “The Producers”. Osama is the decision-maker, the man behind the company's vision and the strategic designer who picks the creative content that the company presents. Recently, Osama focused on acquiring rights to successful Arab literary works. He took part in turning Mohamed Sadek's best-selling novel Hepta into the film “Hepta: The Last Lecture” which won more than 20 awards and made more than EGP 27 million in the Egyptian box-office. The film became the highest-grossing romantic film in the history of the Egyptian cinema. Osama's most recent and exciting project is adapting Nabil Farouk's series of books Adham Sabry into the first Arabic franchise spy action movies with director Marwan Hamed.

Through The Producers, Osama co-produced many films among them, “Before the Summer Crowds”, the last film by the great Egyptian director Mohamed Khan and Sheikh Jackson by director Amr Salama, Egypt's official submission to the 2018 Academy Award for Best Foreign-Language Film. The company's productions include TV series, among which “Seventh Neighbor”, airing now on TV and directed by three young female directors for the first time in the Arab world. In addition to films and TV series, Osama also produced a number of TV commercials for some of the most famous trademarks in the Arab world.

MAFF DEVELOPMENT FUND FEATURE

A RESPECTABLE FAMILY

Credits

Director: Ismahane Lahmar
Producer: Rashid Abdelhamid
Production Company: (MIPP)
Made in Palestine Project
Swedish Co-producer: Linda Mutawi
Production Company: Fikra
Country: Palestine, Tunisia, Sweden

Synopsis

Houda and Achraf are getting married; they are expected to achieve the supreme status of a “respectable family”. While their mothers watch, the precious old couple of gurus, Sidna and Sitna, respectively guarantors of the religious and moral order, help them down the path of social victory. In a society where divorced women are outcast, Houda must not disappoint. She does her utmost... Until the unbearable happens.

Ismahane Lahmar



Born in France, Ismahane spent her earlier years in Tunisia before rejoining her parents in Paris. Her passion for filmmaking struck during her university days when Lahmar shifted from majoring in Economy to studying at ESRA, a school for audio-visual production. She later graduated with a master's degree in Filmmaking in New York. She started her professional career with a series of short projects; video clips, ads and pilots.

In 2010, she decided to move to Tunisia where, during the revolution's days, Ismahane worked as political reporter after directing 2 institutional documentaries about the Tunisian revolution “MON 14” and “Enti Essout”. It is not until 2013 that she went back to her first love: fiction. Ismahane directed 2 shorts films “Get Married” and “Rainbow” that made it into several international festivals. Ismahane is now working on two features projects “I'll go to Hell” and “a Respectable Family”.

Rashid Abdelhamid



Rashid Abdelhamid, is a Palestinian architect/designer and producer. In early 2013, he founded “Made in Palestine Project”, an independent arts initiative to create and promote contemporary visual art with a focus on Palestine. Rashid produced and acted in the short film “Condom Lead”, which made the official selection of the Cannes Film Festival (first time a Palestinian short film

was ever selected in this category). In 2015, “Made in Palestine Project”'s first feature film “Dégradé”, was selected at “La Semaine de la Critique” at the Cannes Film Festival. Rashid is currently working on several cultural projects that aim to promote film, art and culture in Palestine. He is also the co-founder of the newly founded “Palestine Film Institute”

Linda Mutawi



Linda is a film producer with a multicultural background; she has lived and worked in the UK, Jordan, Dubai and now Sweden. Throughout her career, she has worked on various types of projects ranging from Hollywood features to current affairs documentaries. She has served as a film commissioner in Jordan, managed the Jordan Film Fund, and participated in the PGA's

diversity workshop, as well mentoring an EU cultural programme. She is currently involved in various international projects as producer and co-producer. Strong themes in Linda's work include search for identity and the concept of home.

AND SOME LAND OF 'MA'

Credits

Director: Leopold Ajami
Arab producer: Zeina Merheb
Production Company: Notabene Productions
Swedish Co-producer: Jonas Kollagher
Production Company: CommonGround Pictures
Country: Lebanon, Sweden

Synopsis

Abu Amine is an illiterate eighty-year-old man who is about to discover a fundamental law that has kept the whole of mankind perplexed. After being exiled from Palestine and now Syria, after facing death, destruction and the shattering of his family into different corners of the earth, Abu Amine is now on the verge of identifying the 'Ma' in his hope – a hope that is unspecified, undefined, unknown and unknowable - that only he could have thought of. Can an illiterate man discover such a law?

Leopold Ajami



Leopold's artistic and philosophical tendencies started at the early age of 10, through the films he used to watch, he would question the status of a true hero. To him, heroes should be immortal and yet fighting for one's ideal had only one consequence: death. Throughout his life, everything he did somehow revolved around the notion of the HERO; be it through his 10 years as a creative director in advertising or through his continuous search for answers. To project his own heroes and to give them a premise to exist in reality, Leopold started studying philosophy and while he always believed that filmmaking is a concretization of any artist's philosophy, he is turning to filmmaking. Today, Leopold travels the world lecturing and coaching students and professionals based on his unpublished book "Novel Philosophy", about the need to have a proper systematic philosophy in our life and in our work, especially the work of art. Yet, his passion remains to direct his own films, to project that moral heroism is possible, that it does exist, and it is ours to live by.

Zeina Merheb



After receiving a BA in Finance, Zeina found passion in the arithmetic of production. She spent 4 years with TV production in Lebanon. She then moved to Dubai to work in commercial film productions. Throughout her career, she produced various TV Commercials, Documentaries, animation work and Digital Content for local and international brands, and built a portfolio with international producers from all over the world.

Jonas Kellagher



Producer and co-founder of "CommonGround Pictures". Jonas has produced a string of award-winning documentaries and fiction films that have been screened at festivals around the world. Among his prior films, "Sundance" premiering "Sepideh" directed by Berit Madsen (2013), Silver Bear winner at "Berlinale"; "United States of love" by Tomasz Wasilewski (2016) and "Fugue" directed by Agnieszka Smoczynska premiering at "La Semaine de la critique" in Cannes" 2018.

BLOOD AND HONEY

Credits

Director: Mohamed Siam
Arab Producer: Mohamed Siam
Production Company: ArtKhana
Swedish Co-producer: Christer Nelson
Production Company: GotaFilm AB
Country: Egypt, Sweden

Synopsis

An Absurd dark satire about Adham, a low ranking jaded cop who is suffering from panic attacks. He was ordered to save and protect Tanya, the teenage daughter of his boss from a burned down zoo where they have to cross together the chaotic lawless Cairo streets in turmoil of the 2011 Egyptian Revolution. It is an apocalyptic set where Adham and Tanya have to escape from animals running in the middle of the road, cars flipped over and Burned, and deserted government buildings. Adham is only trying to survive all this chaos while maintaining his sanity and controlling his panic disorder. Additionally, he is under extreme pressure to ensure, the safety of the daughter of his boss, Tanya, who is having the time of her life, missing school and finally being out of her protective bubble for the 1st time escaping the boundaries of her bourgeois life, while she grows out of being a child and becomes a revolutionary teen

Mohamed Siam



Siam is a Member of The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences. He is a fiction and documentary filmmaker and a fellow of Sundance, IDFA and Fabrique des Cinémas du Monde. His films were in NYFF, Karlovy Vary and Journées Cinématographiques de Carthage where he won Best Cinematography. His recent film AMAL was 2017 IDFA Opening Film and won the Sheffield Jury Prize and the FidaDoc Award.

Siam is a Berlinale, Durban and Beirut Talent Alumnus and has won Robert Bosch Film Prize and Thessaloniki award. He is a reader, a jury member in Karlovy Vary Film Festival, Göteborg Film Festival and IDFA Bertha Fund and Hot Docs among many others. He is a fellow scholar and a filmmaker resident in the American University in Paris.

Christer Nelson



With 15 years as a freelancer in the film and theatre, Nelson founded "GotaFilm" in 1989. Since then Nelson has produced and co-producer more than 20 Swedish features, 15 international co-productions, 30 hours of prime -time drama-series, more than 20 hours of documentaries and 15 short films. Nelson is also a member of the Swedish Producers Union, ACE (Ateliers du Cinéma Européen) and

European Film Academy. Finally, Nelson is a visiting Professor in "The Production of Film" at University West in Sweden and a guest-lecturer at University of Gothenburg and Norwegian Filmschool in Lillehammer.

COSTA BRAVA LEBANON

Credits

Director: Mounia Akl
Arab Producer: Myriam Sassine
Production Company: About Productions
Swedish Co-producer: Olivier Guerpillon
Country: Lebanon, Sweden

Synopsis

The Badri family live in the Lebanese mountains away from the rest of the country that is drowning in garbage and pollution. When the government decides to build a landfill right outside their house, they are devastated. As Lebanon's trash piles up at their doorstep, the hidden tensions among the family members arise.

Mounia Akl



Mounia Akl is a Lebanese director and writer living between Beirut and New York. Holder of a bachelor's degree in architecture from ALBA and an MFA in Directing from Columbia University. Mounia has taught film directing and Screenwriting at Northwestern University and Columbia University. Her previous work includes four short films, two web series and recently Lights, a feature made of 6 chapters by 6 directors.

Her awarded short film, Submarine (2016), was, among others, in the official selection of the 69th Cannes FF, Toronto IFF and Dubai IFF. Submarine was awarded the James Bridges and the Kodak Motion Picture grants. In 2017, Mounia co-directed a short film El Gran Libano that opened the Directors' Fortnight at the 70th Cannes FF and will screen at Sarajevo FF and BFI London among others.

Mounia completed the Cannes' Cinéfondation Residency in Paris with her first feature, Costa Brava Lebanon. The project was also selected to participate in the Torino Film Lab and the Ateliers D'Angers, Premiers Plans.

Myriam Sassine



Myriam Sassine majored in cinema studies at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts and received a M.A. in cinema research. In 2012, she became a Producer at About Productions working on several features such as Tramontane by Vatche Boulghourjian (Cannes Critic's Week 2016), Panoptic by Rana Eid (Locarno 2017) and Amal by Mohamed Siam (Idfa 2017). Myriam is the COO of Schortcut

Films, dedicated to coproducing international features and the Executive Director of Maskoon Fantastic Film Festival, the first fantastic film festival in the Middle East.

Olivier Guerpillon



Is a French-born Swedish producer, writer and director. He has produced acclaimed feature films and shorts, such as the Swedish debut features ÖMHETEN (Broken Hill Blues) by Sofia Norlin (Berlinale, Tribeca 2014), and SOUND OF NOISE by Ola Simonsson and Johannes Stjärne Nilsson (Cannes 2010), and French co-productions as LES GRANDES PERSONNES by Anna Novion (Cannes 2008) and BEYROUTH HOTEL by Danielle Arbid (Locarno 2011).

FARHA

Credits

Director: Darin J. Sallam
Arab Producer: Deema Azar,
Ayah Jardaneh
Production Company: TaleBox
Swedish Co-producer: William Johansson
Production Company: Laika Film
& Television AB
Country: Jordan, Sweden

Synopsis

As 12-year-old FARHA is confronted by a life changing experience, she is forced to abandon her dreams and cling to her own survival as a new state is created over her village.

Darin J. Sallam



Jordanian director and writer Darin J. Sallam holds a BA in Graphic Design and an MFA in Cinematic Arts from the Red Sea Institute for Cinematic Arts.

To her credit are five award-winning short films including STILL ALIVE (2010) and THE DARK OUTSIDE (2012). Her latest short fiction film THE PARROT (2016), a joint writing/directing project, received the 2015 Film Prize of the Robert Bosch Stiftung as well as two jury awards from Twin Cities and Malmo Arab Film Festivals 2017.

She is currently working on her debut feature fiction film FARHA, selected to multiple film markets and labs (Carthage, Dubai, Beirut and Sud Ecrisure) and recipient of the ART, the Emirati Ministry of Interior and the Halo Post-Production Awards as well as the Artist in Residency Program of La Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris.

Sallam has been a jury member at several international film festivals and is co-founder and managing partner of the Jordanian Production Company TaleBox.

Deema Azar



Deema Azar is a Jordanian film producer and script consultant. She is also co-founder and managing partner at TaleBox, a Jordanian production and training company based in Amman. Azar occupied the position of Regional Training Manager at the Royal Film Commission – Jordan between 2012 and 2016. She produced the German/Jordanian co-production THE PARROT (2016), recipient of the 2015 Film

Prize of the Robert Bosch Stiftung. Her next project is Darin J. Sallam's debut feature film FARHA. Azar is also an independent script consultant and is a Torino Film Lab's 2017 Story Editing program alumna.

William Johansson



Johansson has been a Director, DOP, and film editor since 2006. He started working as a film producer in 2015 when he also became a shareholder of Laika Film & Television AB, Sweden. William has been working with a number of documentaries and documentary series.

Ayah Jardaneh



Ayah Jardaneh is a producer based in Jordan, holder of a B.A. in Interactive Multimedia and Design from Carleton University and Algonquin College, Canada. Jardaneh worked on numerous productions including UNDER THE SHADOW (2016), winner of BAFTA for Outstanding Debut; THE PARROT (2016) and THE GREAT ARAB REVOLT.

Jardaneh is currently producing her first feature film in addition to co-producing FARHA, Darin J. Sallam's debut fiction feature film.

MAFF DEVELOPMENT FUND FEATURE

DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENTARY JURY



Amir Ramses

Egyptian film director, born in 1979, Ramses studied filmmaking in Egypt at the higher institute of cinema, academy of arts in 2000. For 5 years, he was the assistant director of the Egyptian internationally acclaimed director Youssef Chahine in “silence we are shooting”, “11 09 01” and “Alexandria Newyork”.

Ramses directed many short films, documentaries, and features. For 2 years, he was the artistic director for Cinemobile Film Festival Egypt. In addition, was a jury member at many national and international film festivals such as: Youssef Chahine Film Festival (Jury president 2012), Short Film Festival (Jury president 2016), Luxor African Film Festival (Jury member 2014), Tripoli International Film Festival (Jury member 2016), and NDU short Film Festival, Lebanon (Jury president 2017).

Ramses' films have been screened and awarded at national and international film festivals. He is currently the artistic director of El Gouna Film Festival in Egypt.



Karolina Lidin

Karolina Lidin is a documentary consultant primarily engaged at Nordisk Film & TV Fond as Documentary Advisor and at Sheffield Doc/Fest as Executive Producer, Marketplace & Talent. In addition, Karolina Lidin is continuously involved in mentoring/training schemes, developing projects with international potential, lately with DocsPort Incheon, Docs by the Sea, DocEdge Kolkata and Dhaka DocLab. Karolina has previous experience as producer, film commissioner, distributor and as CEO of Nordisk Panorama and Nordisk Forum. Karolina's activities also include moderating the IDFA FORUM and numerous other film festival and market events - in addition to festival jury duty, panel & selection committee participation and tutoring worldwide.



Nadim Cheikhrouha

Nadim Cheikhrouha is a film producer with a track record of award winning productions. With his former company, Screen Runner, Nadim had produced three feature films:

“Benda Bilili!” (Cannes festival 2010 - 42nd Directors Fortnight; Opening film); “The Dis-integration”, by Philippe Faucon (Venice Film Festival official selection) and “Would you have sex with an Arab?” by Yolande Zauberman (Venice Film Festival (Orrizonti)).

Nadim founded TANIT FILMS in April 2014, which produced Kaouther ben Hania's “BEAUTY AND THE DOGS” (Cannes Official selection, Un Certain Regard; 2017). Nadim is also the associate producer of “FATIMA” by Philippe Faucon (Cannes festival 2015 - Directors Fortnight and winner of three César one of which as Best movie) and “AMIN” also by Philippe Faucon (Cannes 2018 - Directors Fortnight).

Nadim has also co-producer “HEDI” by Mohamed ben Attia (Official Competition Berlinale 2016 and winner of Silver Bear for Best actor and best First Movie) and “WELDI” by Mohamed Ben Attia (Cannes 2018 - Directors Fortnight) and last but not least, “BURNING HOPE” by Lotfi Achour.

MAFF DEVELOPMENT FUND DOCUMENTARY

BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY

Credits

Director: Hassanein Khazaal

Arab Producer: Hassanein Khazaal

Swedish Co-producer: Peter Krupenin

Production Company: Kalbjerga AB

Country: Iraq, Sweden

Synopsis

In 2015, Hassanein Khazaal directed a short film “Last Seen” in Baghdad - Iraq with the help of eight of his friends. The film depicts the Iraqi youth and their choices of staying home or participating in demonstrations or furthermore; immigration in the hopes of starting a new life. Three years later, Hassanein found himself and the majority of the makers of this short film outside Iraq, spread between Europe and America; the short film suddenly became a reality. Hassanein begins his journey in search of his friends as he tries to reach and meet them again.

Hassanein Khazaal



Hassanein Khazaal is an Iraqi director, screenwriter and editor. Holder of a bachelor of French Language from the University of Baghdad, he has participated in Film Festival around the region where he received many local and Arab Awards. Khazaal Lives in Paris now where he is a political refugee.

Peter Krupenin



Krupenin began his career as sound engineer for a radio station onboard a ship sailing the Baltic Sea. After a Masters Degree in Business Administration 1972 from The Stockholm School of Economics, he received a grant to study film production at the University of Southern California.

Krupenin has been in the industry since 1972, he has worked with Ingmar Bergman and in

close cooperation with most of the Swedish and Nordic production companies, distributors and Film institutes.

Since 1982, Krupenin has produced more than 35 features primarily for Kalbjerga AB. In 1991, Krupenin participated in the Media 92 EAVE producers training program.

Besides producing full-length feature films, Krupenin has initiated and produced a number of prizewinning short films and documentaries.

OMAR SHARIF

Credits

Director: Axel Petersen
Arab Co-Producer: Mark Lotfy
Production Company: Fig Leaf Studios
Swedish Producer: Sigrid Helleday
Production Company: Flybridge
Country: Sweden

Synopsis

A feature-length documentary about the life and times of the most famous Arab movie star Omar Sharif. The hundreds of characters he played in film and in real life via glitz, glamour, gambling, playboy ideals and post-colonial ideas, through the changing political landscapes of Egypt and Hollywood, the east and the west, local and global waves of nationalism and religious extremism. All reflected on and in Omar's enigmatic persona, all questioning his inconceivable destiny; once the most famous Egyptians outside of Egypt, now suppressed from the Egyptian consciousness.

Axel Petersén



Axel Petersen is a visual artist & filmmaker who has made a variety of fiction features & documentaries, video & photo installations; exhibiting in galleries, institutions, film festivals & cinemas worldwide. Axel's latest feature "The Real Estate", co-directed with Måns Månsson, had its world premiere in Berlinale Competition 2018.

Mark Lotfy



Mark Lotfy is an Alexandrian filmmaker and producer from Egypt, who's work includes officially selected feature films, short films, documentaries and visual arts in international festivals like Berlinale, São Paulo, Karlovy Vary and Dubai Film Festivals among others. Lotfy is the founder of the production house Fig Leaf Studios

Sigrid Helleday



Sigrid Helleday is Swedish producer based in Stockholm. Sigrid's first fiction feature as main producer gained great recognition premiering in competition at Berlinale 2018. Her experiences include several international fiction & documentary co-productions with countries as the US, UK, France, Holland & Egypt.

SEARCHING FOR KIKHIA

Credits

Director: Jiji Kikhia

Arab Producer: Jiji Kikhia,
Mohammed Soueid

Production Company: Desert Power

Swedish Co-producer:
Andreas Rocksén, William Johansson

Production Company:

Laika Film & Television

Country: Libya, Sweden

Synopsis

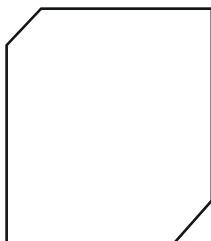
Jihan was 6 years old when her father was abducted. Widely considered one of Muammar Qaddafi's biggest threats, Mansur Rashid Kikhia was a peaceful opposition leader and unofficially crowned the next leader of Libya. As former Libyan Foreign Minister and human rights lawyer, Kikhia's obsessive loyalty to Libya and determination to reason with his "brother" Qaddafi led to his disappearance. For 19 years, Jihan witnessed her mother, Baha Omary Kikhia, search for her father, as they moved between France and the United States. While providing Jihan and her siblings with a joyful childhood, Baha, a Syrian-American artist, was navigating conflicting, complex, and often suspicious political agendas of five countries (the United States, Syria, Libya, France, and Egypt). Using a combination of creative instinct and quick wit, she became an unexpected player in a dangerous political game with some of the most powerful people in the world. Baha's perilous search eventually led her to a face-to-face encounter with Qaddafi, negotiating her husband's release.

Jihan "Jiji" Kikhia



Kikhia received her BA in International and Comparative Politics with a concentration in Human Rights, Development, Philosophy, and International Law at the American University of Paris. She obtained her MA at New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study with a focus on art education, body ornamentation, and healing arts. In 2015, Jihan's body painting project & exhibit "Painted Stories, Spirited Bodies" was recognized as excellent student work in NYU's Confluence online magazine. In 2012, her article "Libya, My father, and I" was published in Kalimat Magazine: Arab Thought and Culture. Kikhia is currently working on her first film "Searching for Kikhia"; She is committed to discovering and nurturing the different ways in which humanitarian aid and the healing arts merge, and how the creative process can be a vehicle for freedom and empowerment.

Mohammed Soueid



Mohamed Soueid is a Lebanese writer, director and producer. Born in Beirut 1959. He is currently the Head of the Documentary department at Al Arabiya News Channel. Soueid has directed several films, including the award-winning documentary "Tango of Yearning" (1998) Mohamed Soueid is a published author who wrote about the film industry in Lebanon alongside his novel "Cabaret Souad", published in 2004.

Andreas Rocksén



Producer Andreas Rocksén Co-founded Laika Film in 2003, and is now Managing Director of the company. He has produced numerous short and feature length documentaries while the expanding Laika portfolio now includes fiction projects and international co-productions. His current slate encompasses a range of co-productions including Cold Case Hammerskjöld with Mads Brügger and productions for Swedish TV.

William Johansson



Johansson has been a Director, DOP, and film editor since 2006. He started working as a film producer in 2015 when he also became a shareholder of Laika Film & Television AB, Sweden. William has been working with a number of documentaries and documentary series.

DEVELOPMENT SHORT JURY



Azza El Hosseiny

Azza received a degree in Business Administration from the University of Cairo in 1988 and a degree from The High Institute of Cinema, in 1991. She started as an actress and assistant editor but later focused on directing. Azza directed a number of documentaries for Egyptian TV, and became active in the independent cultural movement in theatre and cinema working with NGOs and cultural spaces. She is the director of the Independent Cultural Coalition. In addition, has founded the Nawafez project for cinema clubs in Egypt. She has been the director of LAFF during the past 6 years, where she created Etisal film fund, in 2014. Azza has also been a jury member in film festivals in Africa and the Arab world, and has participated in many discussions concerning Theater and Films issues in the Arab world And Europe.



Jad Abi Khalil

Born in Beirut Lebanon, Jad Abi Khalil completed his cinema studies at IESAV – Saint Joseph University in 1998. He has directed several short films and feature documentaries. Since 2007, he has been producing feature documentaries, including The One Man Village by Simon El Habre and Diaries of a Flying Dog by Bassem Fayad. Abi Khalil is a founding member of Beirut DC, the cultural association for Arab Cinema. He was the chairman of its board of directors from 2009 till 2013, head of its DOCmed training program 2011-2013 and head of its Beirut Cinema Platform (BCP) since 2015.



Kaouther ben Hania

Tunisian director Kaouther Ben Hania studied cinema in Tunisia and in Paris (Femis and la Sorbonne). "Challat of Tunis," her first feature film, was selected to open the ACID section at the Cannes Film Festival in 2014. Her film "Zineb Hates the Snow" premiered as an official selection at the Locarno Film Festival in 2016, and then in Hot Docs, Toronto. Her last film, "Beauty and the Dogs," was selected for the Cannes Film Festival "Un Certain Regard" in 2017 where it was awarded for Best Sound Creation.

EVERYDAY AT 6 AM

Credits

Director: Yasser Shafiey
Arab Producer: Yasser Shafiey
Production Company: Papion Art Production
Swedish Co-producer: William Johansson and Andreas Rocksen
Production Company: Laika Film
Country: Egypt, Sweden

Synopsis

“Karima” and “Ali” are no longer able to live in this insecure society, so they decided to create a world of their own to live in. Yet the fears of the real world continue to haunt them, leaving them wandering between two worlds.

Yasser Shafiey



Yasser Shafiey is a Filmmaker who started his life as a jewelery Designer after he finished his studies in Faculty of applied arts before he shifted to his dream career. He studied Cinema in Jesuit Cinema School in Cairo and has become an experienced filmmaker, scriptwriter, producer, editor and D.O.P. For more than 5 years, he has written, produced, directed, edited and marketed many documentaries. He was also the assistant director in Feature films like the awarded “The Gate of departure”. He was also the Casting Director of the awarded “Factory Girl” By Mohamed Khan and has worked with the Famous Director “Dawood Abd el Sayed” on his Feature film “Out of ordinary”. He produced his first short film “The dream of a scene” which participated at many festivals and won a special prize from “Festival del cinema Africano Dasia e America Latina Di Milano”. Founder of “Papion Art Production”, Shafiey is also a member of Selection Committee at Luxor film festival 2018

Andreas Rocksen



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Johansson has been a Director, DOP, and film editor since 2006. He started working as a film producer in 2015 when he also became a shareholder of Laika Film & Television AB, Sweden. William has been working with a number of documentaries and documentary series.

GIVE UP THE GHOST

Credits

Director: Zain Duraie
Arab producer: Alaa Alasad
Production Company: Tabi360/CMS
Swedish Co-producer:
Helene Granqvist
Production Company:
Nordic Factory Film
Country: Sweden

Synopsis

Salam is a young housewife who is quietly suffering within the codified Middle Eastern Society all while trying to help her husband Ammar, to overcome his sexual dysfunction. Accusing Salam of being infertile, her Mother in Law finds another wife for Ammar. Weak and helpless towards the situation, Ammar pushes Salam into a different direction, which encourages her to fight back a difficult battle.

Zain Duraie



Zain Duraie graduated from the Toronto Film School in 2009. In 2010, Duraie had her training at Philistine Films with prestigious filmmaker Annemarie Jacir and acclaimed producer Ossama Bawardi. Projects include “When I Saw You” where she worked from preproduction to post- production as well as several other productions including “The Rendezvous”, “Thank You for Bombing”, “Mare Nostrum”, and “Wajib”. Philistine Films also produced “Horizon”, Duraie's debut film which premiered at Palm Springs Shorts Fest where it won Best of the Fest Selects, the film was also screened at Montreal World Film Fest, Cannes Short Corner, among others. In 2017, Duraie worked with acclaimed Bosnian filmmaker Aida Begić in Turkey/ Sanliurfa on her latest film “Never Leave Me”. Afterwards, Duraie began developing her feature film, screenplay abroad, which was selected to be developed with the prestigious Asia Pacific Screen Academy as well as at Meditalents Residence.

Alaa Alasad



Producer at Creative Media Solutions (CMS), Alasad has been producing and co-producing fictional and nonfictional projects around the world among them, his first Feature film “Baghdad Perfume” with the director Roua Alazzawi. Alasad has also produced awards winning films in Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, Spain and Australia. He is currently working on, among others, the Saudi-Spanish film

“Born A King” directed by Agusti Villaronga. Alasad also produces TV series and documentaries.

Helene Granqvist



Nordic Factory Film & TV Sweden AB After graduating from The Royal Theatre School in Copenhagen in 1988 Helene Granqvist spent a decade working as a production designer for film, theatre and national television. In 1999 she started realizing her vision of an alternative, interactive and Internet based TV channel which was the first step towards building her first company Good World and her

starting point as a producer. Helene is innovative as a person and talented as a networker with connections within various Scandinavian cultural spheres. She is devoted and engaged in developing talents, social innovation, and sustainable development and in film politics.

WORMS WILL NOT KNOW PARADISE

Credits

Director: Emna Najjar
Arab Producer: Nejib Ayad
Production Company:
Rives Productions
Swedish Co-producer: Leif Mohlin
Production Company: MINT
Country: Tunisia, Sweden

Synopsis

Saber, 11, wants to leave the place where he was born and where he still resides; the Cemetery. He sees in Hichem, the film critic, a way to escape the macabre atmosphere that surrounds him. He gets closer to him, clings to him, and builds dreams.

Emna Najjar



Born in Tunisia, Emna Najjar became a director after studying and working in journalism and writing a thesis on information sciences and communication at the Sorbonne. Her first short film "Bitter Honey" was selected in competition at the Carthage Film Festival JCC (2014). "Waltz of Dawn" is her second film, completed in April 2018, the film made its world premiere at the festival des Cinemas Arabes (Paris, 2018). She is currently working on other short film projects and is developing a feature film's script.

Nejib Ayad



A filmmaker who began his career in 1973 as president of the Tunisian Federation of Cine-clubs (FTCC). Then became the director of SATPEC until 1988. He was also director of several film festivals. In 1992, he founded RIVES PRODUCTION, known for being the biggest producer of television fiction in Tunisia, and a feature such as "IN SEARCH OF AIDA" by

Mohamed Malas, "An Odyssey » by Brahim Babaii, "The kingdom of Ants" by Chawki Mejri, "El Hay Yrawah_War reporter" (documentary) by Mohamed Amine Boukhris, "The shoes" (short) by Anis Lassoued, « L'agora » by Abdallah Yahya, "Boutellisse" by Nasreddine Shili.

Leif Mohlin



Worked in the industry since 1987 with TV-drama and film. Among the titles is Soaps in the 1990.ies, TV-drama as Spung 2002 -2004 (voted as second best ever Swedish TV-drama), The Commission 2005, Features like the ARN2007 , Crown jewels 20010 , The Kautokeino Rebellion 2006, Shed no tears 2012, There should be rules 2015 (Winner at Woodstock 2015, Dragonheart 2016 (winner at Ale kino 2017)

MAFF POST-PRODUCTION FUND



Awards

- 5,000 \$ presented by Arab Cinema in Sweden
- 3,000 \$ presented by The Imaginarium
- Distribution in the Arab world presented by MAD Solutions

POST-PRODUCTION JURY



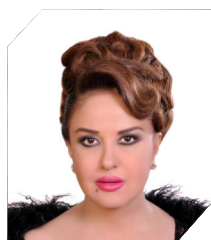
Abdalla El Chami

A Lebanese National who was born and raised in Abu Dhabi, Abdallah is a Multimedia and Graphic Design graduate from the American University of Sharjah. Currently, Abdallah is the Managing Partner at MAD Solutions, the Arab world's first fully integrated film studio, dedicated to the production, promotion and distribution of Arab films in the Arab world and beyond. Abdallah is also the Director of the Arab Cinema Center, the first mobile platform that connects, nurtures, and promotes the Arab film industry, bridging it with local, regional and international festivals, markets and audiences.



Layaly Badr

Layaly Badr started as a children's storywriter. She has two published books "Lobana Wa AlQamar" & "Nahar Wa Shajara". She studied film making in Germany and screenwriting in New York. She won several awards for her films and her works are distinguished for mixing live action with animation. Most of her films were musicals with Arabic musical elements. Badr was the head of the first children channel in Arab World; she believes that children should have a stronger voice in media so she launched the first youth channel (Art Teens), in which children could design and carry out their own TV programs by themselves. Since then, Layaly has moved to the Film industry as a producer and distributor.



Madeleine Tabar

Madeline Tabar is a Lebanese-Egyptian actress for film and television. She starred as leading actress in a number of awarded films, especially known for Three Veils/ American, Way to ilat/Egyptian, Kafroon /syrian and Explosion/Lebanese. She had been in the highest management of the Lebanese Film Festival and had participated in a various festivals all over the world, both as an invited guest star, and also as a member of jury for feature and short films like the (European Film Festival) in Sharm Al Sheikh /Egypt, along with director Dawood Abdel sayed, Also(Wahran International Film Festival),in Algeria. As well as head of jury for (Ostraca Film Festival). In addition Madeleine Tabar was honored during Malmo Arab Film Festival 2016. She also got the Beirut Golden Award Prize in 2017.

FATARIA

Tunisia, France/2018/Arabic Dialogue/80 mins

Credits

Director: Walid Tayaa

Producer: Richard Magnien

Production Company:

MAT Productions

Synopsis

2004, Tunis, the Arab summit. In this frantic and burlesque atmosphere, characters cross paths without ever really meeting, striving to deal with their personal problems.

Hamadi, electrician, has to repair a faulty supply system in a dilapidated apartment block... Hamadi is attracted to Naziha, a divorcee in her fifties who lives in the building... Salha is trying by all means to earn a living in order to provide for her family. She can be a professional mourner and cry in deceased people's houses then, immediately after, enliven wedding parties... Nadia, choreographer, tries to rehearse with her dancers in spite of the unbearable din coming from a neighboring construction site held by a corrupt man... Ammar is seeking a treatment at the public hospital, both mistreated and sent away from one office to the other... The Arab summit is a success... while the characters fight for survival.

Walid Tayaa



Born in Tunis, July 12, 1976 in 2006, Tayaa directed his first short film, "MADAME BAHJA", selected at the Cannes Film Festival in the "World Cinema" section. In 2009, he made two short films, "PRESTIGE" (screened at La Berlinale 2010) and "VIVRE", awarded the Grand Prize at the 16th Festival du Film Méditerranéen in Tétouan and the Tanit d'Or at the JCC 2010. In 2012, Tayaa made two more short films, "BOULITIK" and "CHRONIQUE D'UN CITOYEN ORDINAIRE", and developed a documentary "TANGLED IN IMBROGLIO", supported by AFAC. "FATARIA" (ex BOURACHKA), supported by French CNC (Aide au Cinéma du Monde) and Ministry of Culture Tunisian, is Tayaa's first feature film.

Richard Magnien



Initially trained as a scientist, Magnien went on to earn a bachelor's degree in cinema; he became a cinema "transmitter," as programmer of famous festivals and director of independent art-movie theatres. In the 90s, he ran a film distribution company Amorces Diffusion.

Through Amorces, the French public discovered such filmmakers as Aki Kaurismaki, Atom Egoyan, Hou Hsiao Hsien, Chen Kaige, Manoel de Oliveira, Nouri Bouzid, Flora Gomes, Moufida Tlatli, to name only a few.

In 1992, Magnien founded MAT Films, to produce documentaries and features films. Mat's début production was the feature-length "LES SILENCES DU PALAIS" by Moufida Tlatli, awarded the Caméra d'Or Special Mention Cannes 1993. Since then, Mat has been involved in the production of awarded and highly acclaimed films.

With MAT Productions, Magnien continues the same editorial line. MAT is developing in production and coproduction a number of feature films, including Walid Tayaa's, FATARIA.

PARKOUR(S)

Algeria/2018/Arabic Dialogue/88 mins

Credits

Director: Fatma-Zohra Zamoum

Producer: Fatma-Zohra Zamoum

Production Company:

Z et Compagnie Productions

Synopsis

6 AM, while a small city in Algeria awakens, a free runner practices. This is an ordinary day for many people but not for those who are about to gather at a wedding reception.

Youcef, 27, a childhood friend of Kamila, arrives very early to the wedding hall, having taken his day off to help the family of the bride. After missing a phone call from Yamaha, to whom he left his stall at the bus station, he is worried. Because there is no public transportation, Salima, 40, arrives late to the wedding reception hall, where she is giving a hand in the kitchen. At 9 am, singer Sonia, 55, and her husband Kamel, 40, take the road towards the wedding reception hall where they will perform.

All morning, the bride Kamila, 27, acts very strangely and spends hours doing nonsense things instead of relishing this day. Her mother is worried about her.

The future husband, Khaled, 30, a wealthy wholesaler, is very happy and plans to pamper himself in a hammam, regardless of the day's hectic schedule. Everything is perfectly planned but many things go wrong. Who is to blame?

As the story ends, at 6 pm, it's difficult to say.

Fatma Zohra Zamoum



Fatma, born in Algeria, is a scriptwriter, director, and a producer. After attending the Fine Arts School in Algeria, she graduated in Art History and Cinematography and Audiovisual Studies from the Sorbonne in 1995 in Paris.

“Z’har” (2009) is Zamoum's first feature film, depicting Algeria's violent days in the 90s. She went on to direct shorts and documentaries (“La Pelote de Laine” and “Le docker noir, Sembene Ousmane” and has authored several books including “Comment j'ai fumé tous mes livres” (2006). In 2011, Zamoum directed and produced her second feature film “Kedach Ethabni” (How Big Is Your Love). Since then Zamoum is working, among other, on two films in postproduction: “BODY + ART”, a documentary on artists in the 60s and 70s and “PARKOUR(S)” a feature narrative film.

Zamoum has co-created in 2008 a production and distribution company “Z et Compagnie Productions”, Boumerdes, Algeria.

WHEN WE'RE BORN

Egypt/2018/Arabic Dialogue/110 mins

Credits

Director: Tamer Ezzat
Producer: Moataz Abdelwahab
Production Company:
Team One Productions

Synopsis

Three intersecting stories about love engulfed in a musical atmosphere. Amin, the athletic newly married young man, who lives with his wife Aida and the rest of his family in a tiny flat. In his attempts to earn a living and manage to move out with Aida to their own place, Amin starts working as a trainer in a gym, where he meets Nariman, a rich lady in her 40's. Nariman notices Amin's needs for money and offers him to work with her as male escort for her rich lady friends. Amin must decide if he should accept being a prostitute in order to realize his wife's dream of having her own place. This story is intertwined with a roaming musician with a guitar singing about Amin's dilemma. Farah, the devout Christian girl yearning for love who literally bumps into love and becomes infatuated with Ossama who happens to be a Muslim. Farah is faced with the dilemma of marrying the man she loves or succumbing to the wishes of her family and community. Ahmed, the musician, who has also been singing about Farah's dilemma, once we follow him, we are to find out that he, has a story of his own. Ahmed comes from a rich family and must choose between his love to his father and a career as a musician. Three dramatic stories interwoven with music about the things we do for the people we love.

Tamer Ezzat



Tamer Ezzat originally graduated as a Physics & Electronics Major. He started as an actor but soon turned his attention to filmmaking. In 200, he received a Fulbright fellowship to study at the Center for Advanced Digital Applications (CADA) at New York University. At the same time, he pursued a diploma in film directing at the New York Film Academy (NYFA.) Following September 11, 2001, Tamer directed a documentary about Egyptians living in New York, "Everything Is Gonna Be Alright!" Upon returning to his native Cairo in 2002, Tamer directed and produced numerous documentaries for major regional TV channels. His feature film "The Place I Call Home" was officially selected by more than 13 festivals and received four awards. Tamer's second feature, "The Ring Road," premiered at the Cairo International Film Festival. "When We're Born" is the first co-production between Ezzat and producer Moataz Abdelwahab.

Moataz Abdelwahab



Moataz Abdulwahab graduated from the Higher Institute of Cinema in 2000, and worked as a producer in a variety of TV shows and documentaries. His experience ranges from news to entertainment and music. In 2010, Abdelwahab established Team One, which has become a leading company in documentary films and TV programs in the Egyptian market and the Arab region and has recently ventured in feature fiction films' productions. Among the company's clients are Al Jazeera, CBC, Discovery Education and Euro News. Many of Abdelwahab's documentaries focused on the history of the Arab cinema, and profiling the pioneers of the industry.

Abdelwahab is producing his first feature: "When We We Are Born" partnering with director and co-producer Tamer Ezzat. Armed with years of experience in the production field and a passion for art, he brings a fresh production strategy to the Egyptian market, focusing on uncompromising artistic values that also appeal to mass audiences.

GIRLS OF THE MOON

Tunisia/2018/Arabic Dialogue/60 mins

Credits

Director: Hiba Dhaouadi
Producer: Nada Mezni Hafaiedh
Production Company:
Leyth Production

Synopsis

"Girls of the Moon" is the story of women battle's against a dangerous disease called "Xeroderma Pigmentosum" characterized by intolerance to ultraviolet rays obliging its victims to avoid exposure to daylight. The film unveils the monotonous daily lives of these characters and the way each victim choses to challenge and confront her reality.

Lamia - the seductive biologist researcher - choses to protect herself without neglecting her professional and personal life.

Siham - the revolted woman - preferred to fight against fate and rules, challenging the disease by deciding to go out without protection and succeeding in her studies and her life.

Finally, Aya - the little angel - is full of life and joy, she dreams of being a doctor one day to help people overcome this disease.

The documentary will follow these women who are forced to endure the heat and the sun, especially in the summer while their behavior unfolds facing the daylight and what's happening to their bodies.

Do they have the courage to live avoiding the sun forever?

Hiba Dhaouadi



Hiba Dhaouadi was born on June 29, 1988 in Bizerte, Tunisia.

She began composing her first song and wrote her first feature film at the age of 12, and ever since, she has been following her journey into filmmaking. She received a MFA in Film Production and Assistant Directing in 2012, and received an Applied License degree in the Cinema, Writing and Filmmaking Program at the Higher Institute of Multimedia Arts in Tunis (ISAMM) in 2010.

In 2014, Dhaouadi won the Chicken&Egg Pictures fund for the development of "Girls of the Moon". In 2016, the film won the Anglo-Tunisian fund, the Rambourg Foundation Prize for Art and Culture, and participated in the Rough-Cut Workshop of the 2018 Cairo International Women Film Festival. Girls of the Moon is her first documentary film.

Nada Mezni Hafaiedh



Nada Mezni Hafaiedh is born 1984 in Saudi Arabia into a diplomatic family, which exposed her to different cultures at an early age.

She is known for tearing down taboos, and touching on fundamental issues that are related to freedom. Hafaiedh is also known for directing her films in a special kind of realism by shooting them in a very spontaneous manner.

THE SMUGGLED SPERM

Palestine/2017/Arabic Dialogue/90 mins

Credits

Director: Sawsan Qaoud

Producer: Nada Ennab

Production Company:
Mashahid for Art Production

Synopsis

Since 2012, 64 children have been the offspring of artificial inseminations from smuggled sperm. For the last six years, the idea of smuggling sperm has brought life, literally, back to the wives and families of Palestinian prisoners who are sentenced to 25 plus years inside Israeli prisons. Ammar al Zuban was the first prisoner to successfully smuggle his sperm to ensure his wife's right to motherhood after being sentenced to 27 years in prison while they were still newlyweds.

Today, 30-40% of prisoners are married. At first, this was not an accepted practice due to traditions but after Sheiks declared it halal, it became politicized and weaponized as a method of resisting the occupation.

The babies' birth became a national celebration, greater than a wedding. Unfortunately for these kids, eldest being 5 years old now, they are not recognized by the State of Israel. With no birth certificates or adequate paperwork, they cannot even visit their fathers in prison.

No other people on the face of this planet have taken such extremes to preserve their right to parenthood.

The film documents the cost that Palestinian women are willing to pay to ensure the continuity of life, what are their lives like as a prisoners' wives and what does it mean for them to live as a single moms.

Sawsan Qaoud



Sawsan Qaoud is Palestinian filmmaker. Qaoud holds a degree in Film Production from Moscow University, 1995 studying Media and TV Production.

After graduating, she worked as a TV producer and reporter for MBC. In 1999, she founded Smart Frame Company, one of the first production houses in Palestine.

She went on to lecture students in Alquds University and in 2013; she founded Mashahid for Art Production, a company that produces documentaries. Some of Sawsan's films are "The Good Samaritan", "Empty Seat", "The Diaspora Symphony", "The Prison outside the Prison Bars", "Women at the Stadium" and "Al Aqsa Women". Her experience and love of film is evident in her work, which focuses on sharing the humanitarian side of people's stories. Her work was screened at film festivals and aired on regional TV channels such as Al Jazeera, MBC, Al Arabia, and Al-Arabi. Sawsan also runs the Palestinian cinema club.

Nada Ennab



Nada Enab is an Iraqi born Palestinian film producer. She obtained her degree in Media TV Production from Birzeit University and has been working in the production field since her graduation. Ennab Joined Production companies projects like Smart Frame TV Production, PBC, and Mashahid LTD and has worked as an independent Film Producer and Director. Ennab has produced Documentaries for TV Channels like Aljazeera and Alarabi.

Her work includes; The Diaspora Symphony – 52 Min -Aljazeera Documentary-2017, Empty Chair – 52 Min -Aljazeera Documentary-2017 and the TV program – Hakaya –30 episode - Al arabi TV 2016.

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