



MAY 4-9, 2022
12th Malmö
Arab Film Festival

MALMÖ ARAB FILM FESTIVAL

مهرجان مالمو
للسينما العربية

12th EDITION

4-9 MAY 2022

PANORA - SF STORGATAN - ROYAL

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WELCOME



It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 12th edition of Malmö Arab Film Festival. Finally, we meet again in the beautiful city of Malmö, after two editions in which we were forced to deal with the pandemic difficulties and adapt to it. Two hybrid editions in which the majority of MAFF activities took place virtually. And now, we will celebrate our capability for making it physically, and feel grateful to be able to gather once again in a city that became a European capital of Arab cinema. Since 2011, MAFF has been the only festival in the Scandinavian region focusing exclusively on Arab cinema and culture. We have now reached the 12th edition, and MAFF has established itself as the largest and most influential among the Arab film festivals in the West.

This year, we screen more than 65 new films, giving a panoramic look at the most recent trends and impressive waves of Arab cinema. We keep our tradition of hosting Malmö industry days (MID), the sidebar that aims to help filmmakers from both Arab world and Nordic countries to develop, establish a sustainable network, and fund their film project.

The guest of honor of the 12th edition is Saudi cinema, this young and aspiring industry which is living a golden era, with an extensive state support that quickly resulted in a number of impressive films and shining talents who were warmly welcomed by the biggest international film festival. We host a special Saudi showcase, beside various activities to shed light on this growing Arab cinema.

Along with the usual popular "Arabian Nights" screenings, MAFF has a new showcase this year entitled "Films Worth Watching", gathering a group of Arab films with a special narrative. The program will allow the audience of Malmö to watch more different-from-the-norm films from the Arab world.

In addition, a selection of films will be screened in schools and libraries across Skåne county, to extend the opportunity for everyone to enjoy Arab cinema.

Again, the festival has come to be referred to as "Malmö" plain and simple, which means that we have become an integral part of our beloved town, and that we have contributed to putting it on the Arab art and cinema map.

I thank all our partners in this edition of the festival and especially the wonderful cooperation with the Saudi Film Commission to produce the guest of honor program at the highest levels. On behalf of Malmö Arab Film Festival team, I would like to thank our honorable guests and audience and wish you a wonderful watching experience.

Mouhamad Keblawi
Founder - Head of festival & industry

ABOUT MAFF



Malmö Arab Film Festival (MAFF) is the leading and largest film festival dedicated to Arab cinema outside the Arab world. The festival has been held since 2011 and has since then come to provide a platform for Arab cinema in Europe. The starting point for the festival was to create a platform and a meeting place for Arab cinema in Malmö, Sweden and Europe. The festival was founded by the festival's general manager and creative director Mouhamad Keblawi. It started as a grassroots initiative and has since undergone a tremendous development, and is now the largest film festival in southern Sweden. The first edition of the festival clearly showed that there was a great demand for contemporary Arab cinema among the public, and the following two years laid the foundation for the festival. MAFF received great attention, both in Sweden and internationally. The range of films and the number of international guests increased, as well as collaborations with external organizations. The organization is now an all-year-around operation working with special events and festivals across Sweden. Malmö Arab Film Festival is ultimately an organization that promotes diversity and tolerance with cinema as its tool. The film medium is an accessible cultural form, and provides a universal language with an incredible narrative power that can serve as a tool for fostering mutual understanding. Cinema is for everyone and has the potential to cross all boundaries. The 12th edition of the festival will take place between the 4th and the 9th of May 2022

ABOUT MALMÖ



MALMÖ IS MORE THAN A CITY. Malmö is meetings, food and laughter. Malmö brims with people creating experiences for others to enjoy - theatre, art and music. Malmö is Sweden's third largest city and the commercial center of southern Sweden and the Öresund region. The area is Scandinavia's most densely populated metropolitan region and is home to 3.7 million people or a quarter of the whole of Sweden and Denmark's population.

Malmö is an intercultural and youthful city. In recent years the population of Malmö has increased significantly. Malmö is a very international city with nearly a third of its inhabitants born abroad. There are 181 nationalities represented in Malmö and 150 different languages. Ideas and momentum flow in Malmö. You feel this flow when you visit.

You feel it in our art, our music, our food. You feel it in our diversity and people. Malmö is a place where people come to fulfil their dreams. A city with room for ambition and talent – and that invites you to join in.

Malmö is the industrial centre that became an academy that became a city to savour. A place where people come to make their dreams come true. A city where you will experience something new.

Welcome to Malmö.



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SAMHÄLLSFÖRÄNDRING
OCH FRAMTIDSTRO!**



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STORTORGET	SF STORGATAN	PANORA FOYER	PANORA 1
WEDNESDAY 4.5			
1730 Red Carpet ●			
	21.00 Daughters of Abdulrahan ●		
THURSDAY 5.5			
			14.00 Soula ●
			16.15 Farha ●
		18.00 A photo exhibition from ● around the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	
			18.30 The Book of Sun ●
		19.00 Arabic Mezze And Music ●	
			21.00 Quareer ●●
			22.45 Bara El Manhag ●
FRIDAY 6.5			
			14.00 Life Suits Me Well ●
			16.15 A Second Life ●
		18.00 Arabic Mezze And Music ●	
			18.30 Today Is A Wonderful Day ●
			20.45 Junoon ●●
			23.00 Abo Saddam ●
SATURDAY 7.5			
			14.00 The Journey ●
			16.30 Costa Brava, Lebanon ●
		18.00 Arabic Mezze And Music ●	
			18.45 The Alleys ●
			21.15 40 Years And A Night ●
			23.00 Our River... Our Sky ●
SUNDAY 8.5			
		10.00 Breakfast And Kids workshop ●	
MONDAY 9.5			

Legend

- Feature Film
- Documentary Film
- Short Film
- Family Film
- Special Events
- Guest Of Honor Program
- Arabian Nights
- Gala Screenings
- Films Worth Watching
- Winner Film

PANORA 2	PANORA 3	ROYAL	MALMÖ PUBLIC LIBRARY
14.00 On The Fence ●	14.00 Fiasco ●		
	15.45 Short Film Package 1 ● ●		
16.00 Captains of Zaatari ●			
18.00 Suspended Wives ●			
19.45 The Tambour of Retribution ●			
22.15 Streams ●			
	22.30 I'll Go to Hell ●		
14.00 Short Film Package 2 ●	14.00 Beirut: Eye of the Storm ●		
16.00 The Blue Inmates ●	16.00 Voices Amplified Films ●		
17.45 Diary of Gabrielle Street ●			
19.30 The Stranger ●			
22.00 Were it not for Metro... ●			
	22.30 Short film package ●		
14.00 Halal Cinema ●	14.00 From Cairo ●		
			15.30 Signing the book ● of Ibrahim Al-Aris
15.45 Communion ●	15.45 Short Film Package 3 ●		
18.00 Souad ●			
20.15 Route 10 ●			
22.30 2 Talaat Harb ●	22.30 Short Film Package 4 ●		
	11.00 Bara El Manhag ●		
	13.30 Short Film Package 5 ● ●		
		17.00 MAFF Award ●	
		Closing Film: Hamel El Lakab ●	
	16.00 Documentary Film Winner ● Short Film Winner ●		
	18.15 Audience Award Winner ●		
	20.30 Feature Film Winner ●		



DAUGHTERS OF ABDULRAHMAN

Jordan, Egypt | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 118 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Zainab wakes up to a shocking discovery that could defame her in the neighborhood. She quickly calls for her sister's aid. Yet, fiery Amaal has her own secret struggle and is not having her sister Samah, who is too busy to be there. Meanwhile Khitam tries to focus on her own mission.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Zaid Abu Hamdan

Writer: Zaid Abu Hamdan

Cast: Saba Mubarak, Farah Bsieso, Hanan Hillo, Mariam Al Basha, Khalid Al Tarifi, Mohammed Al Jizawi

DOP: Ahmad Jalboush

Producer: Saba Mubarak, Aya Wuhoush

ZAID ABU HAMDAN

Born and raised in Amman, Jordan, Zaid Abu Hamdan holds an MFA from the New York Film Academy in Hollywood California. Zaid started his career working on international TV shows as an Assistant Director and Producer, including E! Entertainment's coverage of the Golden Globe and Sesame Street. In addition, Zaid worked as a television reporter for Middle East Broadcast Corporation group (MBC Group) in Hollywood. He also worked on directing reality and scripted shows such as Sesame Street, a competition that shows and mentors the Arab Film Studio program at Image Nation, Abu Dhabi. Since 2009, Zaid has wrote and directed five award winning and audience acclaimed short films, including Bahiya & Mahmoud, which was the official Jordanian submission to the Academy Awards in 2012.



HAMEL EL-LAQAB

Egypt, Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 120 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Yehia, a famous soccer player, is married to Misk, a gynaecologist. The couple have been trying to have a baby for as long as they were married. The long awaited miracle happens in the most unexpected turn of events when Yehia is the one who gets pregnant!

Will he as a man and his future as a soccer player survive this?!

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Hisham Fathy

Writer: Hesham Maged, Ihab Blaibel

Cast: Hesham Maged, Dina El Sherbiny, Mohamed Sallam, Ahmed Fathy, Donia Maher, Laila Ezz El Arab

DOP: Tariq Draz

Producer: Mohamed Hefzy, Tarek El Ganainy, Mohamed Rasheedy, Roua Almadani

HISHAM FATHY

After studying Architecture in Alexandria, he moved on to Cinema, studying Directing in Cairo and graduating in 2003. In parallel, he worked as an assistant director in a great number of Egyptian and international films, then went on to directing advertisements.

Hisham made his directorial debut with the hit comedy series, Al Kabeer Part III.

He succeeded in going on to create a handful of comedy hits including the Tv show; Al Frenga and the series; The Last of the Schmucks. Alongside his original calling directing advertisements. In 2022, after two years of working on it, he released his first movie; Hamel El Lakab (The Title Holder). Marking the third cooperation between the Director and the lead actor and writer; Hesham Maged.



FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

A SECOND LIFE

ABO SADDAM

COSTA BRAVA, LEBANON

FARHA

JUNOON

LIFE SUITS ME WELL

OUR RIVER... OUR SKY

SOUAD

SOULA

STREAMS

THE ALLEYS

THE STRANGER



JURY



AHD KAMEL

Ahd Hassan Kamel is an award winning actress and filmmaker from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She is best-known for her role as Fatima in the 2018 BBC2 /Netflix series, Collateral. and her starring role in the 2014 BAFTA-nominated film, Wadjda, Ahd grew up in Saudi Arabia and moved to New York City in 1998. She received a BFA in Animation & Communication from Parsons School of Design in 2014 and a Directing degree from the New York Film Academy in 2015. Ahd then went on to study Acting under the personal tutelage of William Esper at the William Esper Studio. Ahd has written, directed and acted in her two award-winning short films, The Shoemaker 'Al-Qondorji' (2009) and Sanctity 'Hurma' (2012). She lives with her partner in London.



GEORGE KHABBAZ

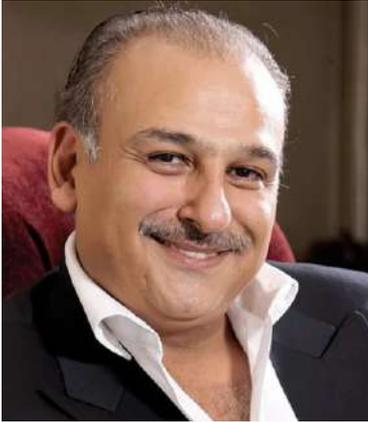
Georges Khabbaz is a renowned Lebanese actor, writer, director and music composer who has studied musical science at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), then specialized in “Musical Theater”. Since then he is working and maintaining a recognizable mark in the Television, cinema and theatre field. Georges has produced 18 theatre plays written, directed and starred by him. He also composes the music of his plays reflecting the influence of musical theatre on him. Georges has also played main roles in short and feature films like “Under the Bombs” by Phillip Aractinji, “Silina” by Hatem Ali and the movie that he wrote himself, “Ghadi” directed by Amin Dora. He also wrote the feature film “Waynon”. Many of the above mentioned films “participated in numerous renowned film festivals around the world and won prizes for distinguished acting and writing. His latest appearance was in “Perfect Strangers”, the first Netflix Arab original.



HANY LASHEEN

He is a graduate of Higher Institute of Cinema - Film Director Division 1976. He has directed more than 30 documentaries and of several Cinema Films including Ayoub, Al Aragoz, Alawda Walasfour, Alfarah and more and of several TV Series such as Albaky men alzaman saa, Zaman Emad Eldeen, Albahar Mondy and more. He Acquired several national and international prizes. He work too teaching Cinema Directing at the Higher Institute of Cinema and other Egyptian private universities. Holds a number of positions as Head and member of several Egyptian and Arab Cinema festivals.

JURY



JAMAL SULIMAN

Jamal Suliman is a syrian producer, director and actor of television series, film and stage. He was born in 1959 in Damascus, studied acting at the Higher Theatrical Arts Institute in Damascus, then obtained his Master's degree in theatrical studies from Leeds university.

Suliman was appointed Ambassador of the United Nations Population Fund in 1999.

He started his career acting on stage and producing television series.

Some of his famous work include Return to Haifa (1982), The Survivor (1995), Salah Al Din Al Ayyubi, (2001), Halim (2006), The Baby Doll Night (2008), and lastly Meen Aal, that was shown in Ramadan 2022.



RACHIDA SAADI

She took her first steps on the film set in 1999. Rachida Saadi works as a production manager on several films including La beauté éparpillée by Lahcen Zinoun, la chambre noire and OÙ vas-tu Moshé, by Hassan Benjelloun, Colère by Mohamed Zineddaine, Andalousie mon amour by Mohamed Nadif. She created her own company JANAPROD in 2007. The 5th String by Selma Bargach was the first feature film produced by JANAPROD, which won awards at the Tangier Festival (Sound Award and Special Mention of the Jury) and the Khouribga Festival (Jury Award) and was screened at several international festivals.

Since then, JANAPROD has also produced documentaries and several short films by young talents. Since then, Rachida Saadi has been responsible for the executive production of some twenty feature films by Moroccan directors, as well as co-producing the latest films by Mohamed Zineddaine, Mohamed Nadif, Hassan Benjelloun and Mohamed Mouftakir.

A SECOND LIFE

Tunisia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 93 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Gadeha (12) happens one day to be the victim of a car accident. He undergoes surgery. Penniless, his mother, Borkana, is helped by Malika and Moez, a benevolent couple that offers to pay for the hospital fees and provides the destitute family with a roof. Gadeha meets Oussama, Malika and Moez's child (11). A strong friendship is made between the two boys. But Gadeha finds out haphazardly the secret of his family's new standard of living. He is devastated.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Anis Lassoued

Writer: Chema Ben Chaabane, Anis Lassoued

Cast: Yessine Tormsi, Ahmed Zakaria, Chiboub, Chema ben Chaabane, Jamel Laroui, Dorsaf Ouertatani, Anissa Lotfi

DOP: Amine Messadi, Adonis Nadhem Romdhane, Moez Chaabane

Producer: Anis Lassoued

ANIS LASSOUED

Anis Lassoued obtained his director's diploma from the IMC – Institut Maghrébin de Cinéma - Tunis and the University of Tor Vergata - Rome. He did also training courses in the Femis-Paris and GSARA-Lièges and INSAV - Brussels. He shot several documentary films for TV channels (NHK, TV5, Aljazeera children...). In 2006, he made his first short fiction Saba Flouss (Magic crop) (International Short Film Festival Oberhausen; Cinémas du Monde-Cannes; Muhr Award in DIFF-UAE 2006; Gold Cairo in Cairo International Film Festival for Children 2007).

In 2012, he shot a fiction Sabbath El Aïd (My Shoes) (Poulain d'Or & Best African film-FESPACO 2013 - TIFF Kids International Film Festival-Canada - Taiwan International Children's Film Festival - Lucas International Children's Film Festival- Germany).

In 2013, he founded, with other filmmakers, a production company - Lumières Films.

In 2016, he received the National Award for the Protection of Children's Rights for his cinematographic work defending Children's Rights.

Anis Lassoued has just finished a documentary Our Plants (2022) and his first feature A second life had its world premiere in competition at the 43st Cairo International Film Festival 2021-Jury special mention



ABO SADDAM

Egypt | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 89 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

The experienced old truck driver "Abu Saddam" gets a transportation mission on the North Coast Road after he stopped working for years.

He decides that he wants to complete his mission perfectly to complement his working reputation, but he faces a small situation on the road, and this get out of control...

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Nadine Khan

Writer: Mahmoud Ezzat

Cast: Mohamed Mamdouh, Ahmed Dash, Sayed Ragab, Aly Kassem, Zeina Mansour

DOP: Abdelsalam Moussa

Producer: Ahmed Fahmy

NADINE KHAN

Nadine Khan is a filmmaker living and working in Cairo. She earned her BA in film directing from the Egyptian Higher Film Institute in 2001. Since then, she has directed several fiction films, commercials, TV series and music videos. Her debut feature film Chaos, Disorder/ Harag w' Marag won the Jury Prize at the Dubai International Film Festival (2012), and the Best Film award at the Oran Film Festival, Algeria (2013) and the Muscat International Film Festival, Oman (2014). Khan's sophomore film Abu Saddam (2021) has been premiered at the 43rd Cairo International Film Festival (international competition) winning best actor (Mohamed Mamdouh). One of Khan's four short films One in a Million (2006) was in the official selections of the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen and the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) and was acquired by the ZDF Kultur. She has also directed several TV commercials and music videos, and her critically acclaimed TV series Seventh Neighbor/ Saabe' Gaar (produced by CBC, 2017) was met with popular success around the MENA region. Khan now is in production with her 2nd TV series Meen A'al / Who said so MBC production will be screened in 2022 Ramadan season.



COSTA BRAVA, LEBANON

Denmark, France, Lebanon, Norway, Qatar, Spain, Sweden | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with Swedish subtitles | 106 min



SYNOPSIS

In *Costa Brava, Lebanon*, the free-spirited Badri family escape 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.

MOUNIA AKL

Mounia Akl is an award-winning Lebanese filmmaker. Her short film, *Submarine* (2016), was in the Official Selection of the 69th Cannes Film Festival (Cinéfondation), SXSW, TIFF and Dubai Film Festival where it won the Muhr Jury Prize. In 2017, Mounia 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 was developed during the Cannes' Cinéfondation Residency. The project was also selected to participate in Torino Film Lab Feature Lab and in Sundance Institute Screenwriters and Director's Lab.

Mounia holds a bachelor's degree in Architecture from ALBA and an MFA in Directing from Columbia University. She has taught film directing at the NHSI Film Summer Institute at Northwestern University, Chicago.

Mounia is currently developing new projects, in TV and Film, one of which being her second feature film.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Mounia Akl

Writer: Mounia Akl

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

DOP: Joe Saade

Producer: Myriam Sassine, Georges Schoucair



FARHA

Jordan, Sweden, Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with Swedish subtitles | 92 min



SYNOPSIS

Farha (14 years old) lives in a village in Palestine 1948. Girls her age are traditionally married, yet she dreams of continuing her education in the city with her best friend Farida. As she gets closer to her dream, the looming danger reaches her village and Farha is brutally separated from Farida. Terrorized for his daughter's safety, Farha's father locks her up in a concealed, small storage room, promising to return. But he never does.

Buried in the tight dark space, Farha's only connection to the outside world is a small hole in the wall and few cracks in the wooden door. What she witnesses inside and outside of the room forces a new path for Farha as her life-changing journey begins.

DARIN J. SALLAM

Jordanian writer/director Darin J. Sallam holds an MFA from the Red Sea Institute for Cinematic Arts (RSICA - affiliated with USC). To her credit are 5 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 and was selected to renowned film festivals worldwide where it received a special mention award by the Red Sea Film Festival Competition jury and awarded Best Euro-Mediterranean Film, Best Director and Best Actress by the 6th Aswan International Women Film Festival 2022.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Darin J. Sallam

Writer: Darin J. Sallam

Cast: Karam Taher, Ashraf Barhom, Ali Suliman, Firas Taybeh, Majd Eid, Sameera Asir, Tala Gammoh

DOP: Rachel Aoun

Producer: Deema Azar, Ayah Jardaneh, William Johansson



JUNOON

Saudi Arabia, United States | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 92 min

International premiere



SYNOPSIS

Khalid, a wannabe vlogger, travels with his wife and best friend from Saudi Arabia all the way to Southern California, hoping to catch some great footage of paranormal happenings. When his wish comes true, will the three of them have the presence of mind to turn the cameras off and flee? Director Maan B plays Khalid himself and narrates the story, creating an atmosphere of suspense from the moment they set off into the unknown.

MAAN B. YASER B.

Maan B. is an active young Saudi Producer, Director and Actor who came to the US from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2010 pursuing a college degree in filmmaking. In 2016 he got his bachelor's degree in filmmaking from the New York Film Academy in Hollywood. In 2014 Maan and his brother Talha were established the Prince of Arabia Entertainment LLC (POA). He has continuously been producing, line producing and/or managing productions that range from short films and commercials to web series and music videos and soon, feature films.

In 2020 Maan and his brother Yaser B. Co-Directed their first Saudi feature film entitled "Junoon" The movie was shot in Los Angeles and Jeddah and it will have its world premiere at The Red Sea International Film Festival 2021

Yaser B. He is a Saudi filmmaker. He earned several scholarship supported by Saudi film commission by the Ministry of Culture in USC in USA, and BFI in UK. Yaser has worked with Maan as a director in the feature film (Junoon) which has been nominated in several international festivals such as Red Sea International Film Festival, and best director award in London International film festival and won daw' national award supported by Saudi film commission by the Ministry of Culture. He has written and directed a short film which has won the second place in Wai regional award supported by Ministry of Health. He has directed and creatively written several national governmental and non-governmental commercials, including Riyadh season 2021.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Maan B.Yaser B.

Writer: Pedro Paulo Araujo

Cast: Saleh Alem, Ida Alkusey, Maan B., Khairia Nazmi, Noan Ribeiro, Sumaya Rida

DOP: Jeremy Asuncion

Producer: Prince of Arabia Entertainment



LIFE SUITS ME WELL

Morocco | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 96 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

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

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Al Hadi Ulad-Mohand

Writer: Al Hadi Ulad-Mohand

Cast: Samir Guesmi, Lubna Azabal, Sayed El Alami, Jalal Quarrioua

DOP: David Quesemand

Producer: Karim Debbagh

AL HADI ULAD-MOHAND

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* is his first feature film.



DAMAS

THE CAPITAL OF TASTE

*The fragrance of the
Middle East wafts from*

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Tel: 042-4004444

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Södra Förstadsgatan 42
Malmö
Tel: 040-222242

DAMAS
THE CAPITAL OF TASTE

OUR RIVER... OUR SKY

Iraq, France, UK, Germany, Kuwait, UAE, Qatar | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 117 min

Nordic premiere



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.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Maysoon Pachachi

Writer: Maysoon Pachachi, Irada Al-jubori

Cast: Darina Al Joundi, Zainab Joda, Amed Hashimi, Basim Hajar, Labwa Arab, Zaydun Khalaf, Meriam Abbas

Dop: Jonathan Bloom

Producer: Talal Al-muhanna

MAYSOON PACHACHI

Maysoon Pachachi is a London-based filmmaker of Iraqi origin. She was educated in Iraq, the USA and the UK. She studied Philosophy at University College London (BA Hons) 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, largely making films in and about the Middle East.

Maysoon has also taught film directing and editing in Britain and Palestine (in Jerusalem, Gaza and at Birzeit University). In 2004, with her colleague, Iraqi filmmaker, Kasim Abid, she co-founded INDEPENDENT FILM & TELEVISION COLLEGE, a free-of-charge film-training centre in Baghdad, whose students produced 17 short documentary films, shown at festivals and screenings internationally and within Iraq at a traveling festival.



SOUAD

Egypt, Tunisia, Germany | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 96 min

Swedish premiere



SYNOPSIS

Zagazig, a small city on the Nile Delta in Egypt. Today.

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 13-year-old little sister, embarks on a real-life journey looking for answers.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Ayten Amin

Writer: Ayten Amin

Cast: Bassant Ahmed, Basmala Elghaiesh, Hussein Ghanem

Dop: Maged Nader

Producer: Sameh Awad

AYTEN AMIN

Ayten 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, and after receiving several national prizes it was exclusively acquired by Canal Plus in France.

In 2013, her debut feature film 'Villa 69', received the Special Jury Award for Arab Film at Abu Dhabi Film.

Throughout her career, Ayten 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 "Saabe' Gaar" (The Seventh Neighbor), a 70-episode TV series



SOULA

Algeria, France, Qatar, Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 92 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

SOULA is the story of a young single mother who is rejected by her family in the name of honor.

Trying to make it through the night with her baby, she finds herself caught up in a spiral of violence.

Along the roads of Algeria and through unfortunate encounters in a stunning journey, she heads towards her inevitable destiny.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Salah Issaad

Writer: Salah Issaad, Soula Bahri

Cast: Soula Bahri, Idir Benaibouche, Franck Yvrai, Djillali Boudjemaa

Dop: Arthur Fanget

Producer: Salah Issaad, Abdelghafour Issaad, Taqiyeddine Issaad

SALAH ISSAAD

Born in 1989 in Algeria, Salah was raised in a family of publishers.

After a baccalaureate in letters and foreign languages in 2008, he entered the Law School of Batna in Algeria. Then, he emigrated to France where he studied cinema for two years at the University of Paris VIII. Alternating professional life and studies, he joined the ARFIS, an audiovisual school in Lyon, then finally joined the Factory school in Villeurbanne where he obtained his Diploma in film direction.

He directed a feature film and several short films. He has always been pushed by the passion of telling stories where human relationships are at the forefront. He explores different narrative forms and different film genres like drama, tragedy, stories inspired by real facts, and comedy.



STREAMS

Tunisia, France, Luxembourg, United States | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 122 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Amel works in a factory in Tunis. She lives with her alcoholic husband Tahar, 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 organizing a strike. Amel meets the connection: Imed, a wealthy businessman, who takes advantage of the situation and abuses Amel. She surrenders to his advances in order to offer her son the opportunity of a lifetime. But the police catch them. Amel is imprisoned, accused of adultery and prostitution. Moumen is destroyed by the scandal. He becomes violent, stops his football career and starts drinking and taking drugs.

After her release, she searches for Moumen in the lower and violent streets of Tunis. In this long quest for the missing son, Amel has to face the falling Tunisian society.

MEHDI HMILI

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 of Cinémas du Monde at Cannes Film Festival with the feature documentary *Fouledh*. His second feature film *Streams* was selected in official competition and world premiere at the 74th Locarno Film Festival and won the Best Acting Performance at the 43rd Cairo International 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.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Mehdi Hmili

Writer: Mehdi Hmili

Cast: Afef Ben Mahmoud, Iheb Bouyahia Zaza, Slim Baccar

Dop: Ikbal Arafa

Producer: Moufida Fedhila



THE ALLEYS

Jordan | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 116 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Gossip and violence run rampant deep in the labyrinthine alleys of East Amman. Ali, a hustler pretending to be a businessman, has to keep his relationship with Lana a secret in order to hide from society's judgemental eye. Things start to fall apart when Lana's mother, Aseel, is blackmailed by an unknown voyeur who has filmed the young couple.

Hoping to avoid embarrassment, Aseel discreetly convinces Abbas, a ruthless gangster, to put a stop to it all... but things do not go as planned. Their lives start to intertwine and collide not only with each other, but with other neighbours living in the same alleys.

BASSEL GHANDOUR

Bassel is most known for writing and producing the 2016 Oscar Nominee and BAFTA winning Theeb. His directorial debut, The Alleys, will premiere at the prestigious Piazza Grande of the 2021 Locarno Film Festival. Currently he's directing a docuseries that follows the journey of five Syrian footballers who were recruited to play professional football in Brazil.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Bassel Ghandour

Writer: Bassel Ghandour

Cast: Emad Azmi, Baraka Rahmani, Munther Rayahnah, Nadira Omran, Maisa Abd Elhadi, Nadeem Rimawi, Mohammad Jezawi

Dop: Justin Hamilton

Producer: Rula Nasser, Yousef Abed Alnabi



THE STRANGER

Palestine, Syria, Qatar, Germany | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 112 min

Swedish premiere



SYNOPSIS

In a small village in the occupied Golan Heights, the life of a desperate unlicensed doctor who is going through an existential crisis, takes another unlucky turn when he encounters a man wounded in the war in Syria. Overturning all community expectations in times of war and national crisis, he ventures forth to meet his newly found destiny.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Ameer Fakher Eldin

Writer: Ameer Fakher Eldin

Cast: Ashraf Barhoum, Amal Kais, Mohammad Bakri, Amer Hlehel, Hitham Omari, Mahmoud Abu Jazi, Elham Araf, Cila Abusaleh

Dop: Niklas Lindschau

Producer: Tony Copti, Jiries Copti, Dorothe Beinemeier

Ameer Fakher Eldin

Ameer Fakher Eldin is a Syrian screenwriter and director, born in the former Soviet Union in 1991 to Syrian parents from the occupied Golan Heights. His debut film, *The Stranger*, which is the first film from the Golan Heights, premiered at the 78th Venice International Film Festival (Giornate Degli Autori), where it won the Edipo Re Award for Best Film and it is selected as the Palestinian entry for Best International Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards. *The Stranger* is intended to be the first installment of a trilogy directed by Ameer Fakher Eldin. His second feature with the provisional title "Nothing of Nothing Remains" is in development.



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white lace wedding dress, stands on a beach. She is holding a bouquet of pink flowers. The background shows the ocean and a rocky coastline under a cloudy sky.

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DOCUMENTARY FILM COMPETITION

CAPTAINS OF ZAATARI

DIARY OF GABRIELLE STREET

FIASCO

FROM CAIRO

HALAL CINEMA

SUSPENDED WIVES

THE BLUE INMATES

WERE IT NOT FOR METRO...



JURY



KASIM ABID

Kasim Abid is an award-winning Iraqi filmmaker, director and producer and is the cameraman of all his films. He holds an MA from VGIK-All Union State Institute of Cinematography-Moscow.

Co-Founder of 'Independent Film and TV College' non-governmental free-of-charge film-training center in Baghdad 2004. Also Kasim taught film directing and cinematography in Britain, Jordan, Sudan and Palestine (Jerusalem, Gaza and Birzeit University).



MAHMOUD AL MASSAD

Mahmoud Al Massad is a Jordanian/ Dutch director, script writer and producer.

He received acclaim for his feature documentaries SHATTER HASSAN, RECYCLE and THIS IS MY PICTURE WHEN I WAS DEAD, reaching audiences worldwide.

RECYCLE was awarded the World Best Cinematography Award at Sundance in 2008, screened at over 130 international film festivals and was theatrically released in several European countries.

Al Massad won three international awards for the script of his film, "Blessed Benefit" a narrative feature, which premiered in 2016 at Toronto International Film Festival and won the NETPAC jury award for the Best Asian film as well as the Special jury award for best acting at Warsaw Film Festival. The film exclusively featured on Netflix.

Al Massad is currently developing a new documentary, Cinema Salwa and working as a creative advisor for international film projects.



NADA AL-AZHARI

A Syrian French critic mainly interested in French, Arab and Asian Cinema (Iranian, Indian...), she collaborates regularly with Pan-Arab prestigious magazines, sites, and newspapers like Al-Hayat Newspaper (2000-2018), Al Jazeera Documentary (since 2011), Al-Araby Al-Jadid Newspaper (since 2018), Arab Cinema Magazine (was published in Beirut 2015-2016) and "Diffah" a website for cultural news (since 2020).

Author of "Al Cinema al-irâniyya al-râhina" ("Contemporary Iranian Cinema"), Dar Almada, Beirut 2012.

As a journalist, she covers cinema festivals, like Thessaloniki (Grece), Tehran (Iran), Brussels (Belgeum), Evora (Portugal), le Caire (Egypte), Vesoul (France), Kolkata (India), etc.

She was member of several internationals juries in festivals like Busan, Warsaw, Istanbul, Algeria, El-Gouna, Dohuk, Bangalore, Kolkata, Kerala, Dhaka, Vesoul, and advises some festivals in France and Asia about their programs of Arabic cinema.

CAPTAINS OF ZAATARI

Egypt | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 78 min



SYNOPSIS

Two best friends Mahmoud and Fawzi living in the Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan have an undying dream of becoming professional soccer players while facing the difficult reality of their lives. Despite being locked in a space that has no facilities or opportunity for training, they remain hopeful and practice day in and day out. When a world-renowned sports academy visits, both have a chance to make this dream come true.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Ali El Arabi

Writer: Ali El Arabi

Cast: Mahmoud Dagher, Fawzi Qatleesh

Dop: Mahmoud Beshir, Fawzi Darwish

Producer: Ali El Arabi

ALI EL ARABI

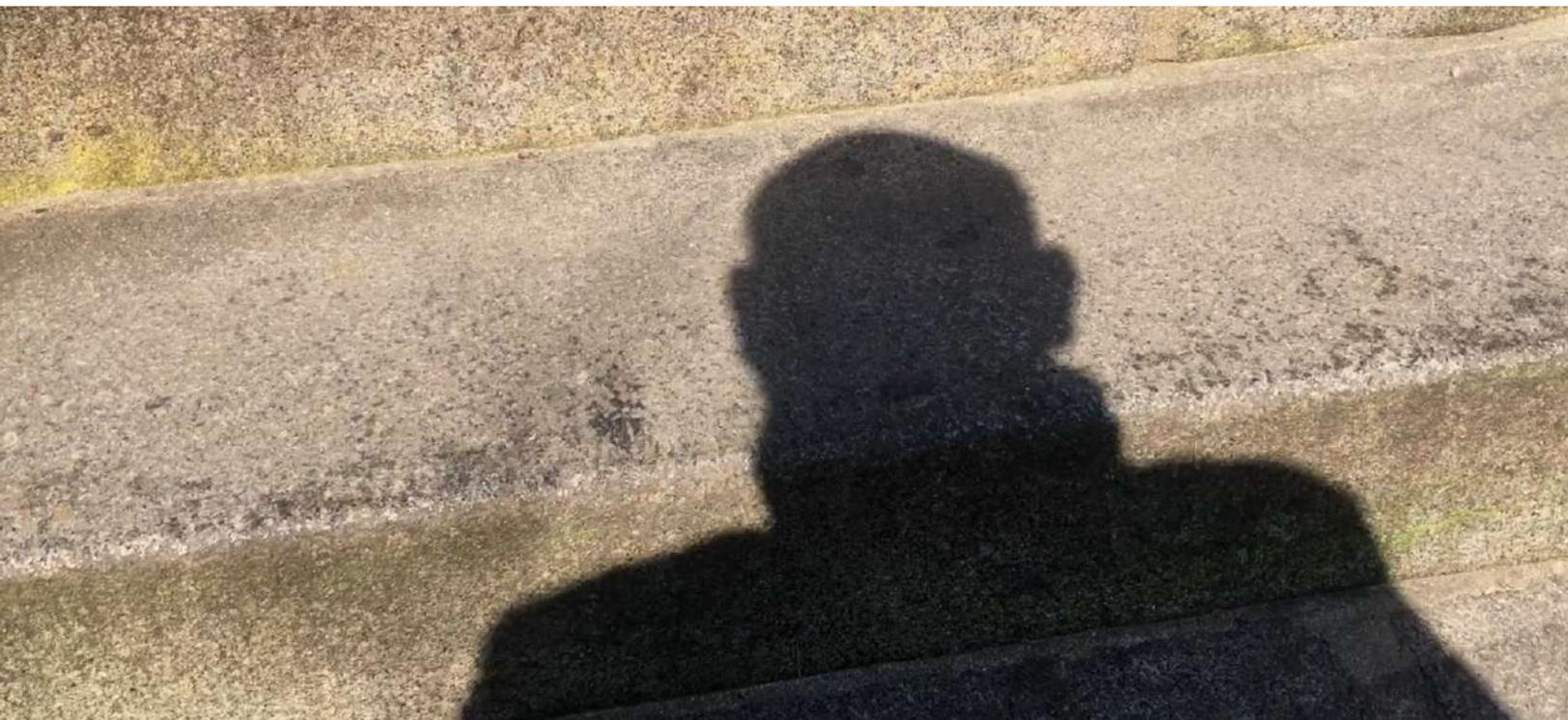
After being a war reporter, producing documentaries for ZDF, Stern TV Germany, and National Geographic in the MENA region, Ali El Arabi set up Ambient Light, a production company where he produced films focusing on topics such as refugee displacement and women and children's rights. His debut feature documentary, *Captains of Zaatari*, premiered in Sundance in 2021 and was long-listed for the 2022 Oscars.



DIARY OF GABRIELLE STREET

Palestine | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 60 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

When the French authorities closed their borders, landed their planes, confined their citizens to their homes, spreading the police on the streets.. I was in Paris. Without any planning, the memory coming from Palestine began to flow and merge with the diaries I live here, and the virus began to awaken other viruses, which made me spontaneously, as a Palestinian citizen, besieged in the most beautiful Parisian neighborhood (Montmartre), busy documenting aspects of diaries and memories in a period of time that changed the face of the world.

RASHID MASHARAWI

Rashid Masharawi is an acclaimed Palestinian filmmaker whose films, all showing with irony the daily Palestine life, won several prizes and were shown in international and Arab film festivals for decades. In 1996, he founded Cinema Production and Distribution Center (CPC) in Ramallah, to train young Palestinian filmmakers and develop a Palestinian cinema.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Rashid Masharawi
Writer: Rashid Masharawi
Cast: Rashid Masharawi
Dop: Rashid Masharawi
Producer: Rashid Masharawi



FIASCO

Lebanon, Netherlands | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 70 min

Swedish premiere



SYNOPSIS

For half of his life, Nicolas, the director, used the camera as a confidant to film his video diary. This intimate film shows the strong and, at times, dysfunctional relationship that binds Nicolas to his mother and sister after the death of his father. His sister Tamara gets married and moves away from home; he is then left alone with his mother and her expectations for the “successful life”, which he cannot fulfill. His mother fears that he will be a failure. "Your life is such a Fiasco!" she tells him tenderly as he does not show any interest in finding a wife. But Nicolas is carrying a fear that she knows nothing about...

NICOLAS KHOURY

Nicolas Khoury (1989) graduated in film and audiovisual studies from the Lebanese Academy of Fine-Arts (ALBA) in 2010. He is an independent documentary filmmaker and film editor living and working in Beirut, Lebanon. His filmography includes three independent medium length films that Production company: Sekak Films were awarded in multiple festivals. His short independent documentary Résonances (27 minutes) won the best short documentary at It's All True film festival, Brazil in 2018, and the Tanit D'or of the best short documentary in Journées Cinématographiques de Carthage, Tunisia in 2018. Fiasco is his first long documentary.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Nicolas Khoury

Writer: Nicolas Khoury

Cast: Nelly Khoury, Tamara Khoury, Nicolas Khoury

Dop: Nicolas Khoury

Producer: Nicolas Khoury



FROM CAIRO

Egypt | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 64 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Hala Galal attempts to make a film about women living a single life in Cairo. With Cairo hunting her, fear crippling her, she meets Heba and Aya. Two women who are leading a single life but managing to face their fears and carve a space for their dreams. Heba is a photojournalist, artist and single mother of Ward. She struggles to make ends meet by working as a photojournalist but her passion is conceptual art. The insecurity of working as a freelance artist makes it very difficult to leave her job. Between daily chores and following up on her daughter's homework, she manages to carve some time for her artistic projects.

Aya, is a young woman who lost her parents at a young age and tried to conform to expectations by getting veiled. After university Aya joins a production company as a film editor working on documentary films of social relevance. She meets Samar who is a survivor of brutal domestic violence that deformed her face and she wants to document her story.

HALA GALAL

Hala Galal is a Filmmaker (writer, director and producer). She is the founder and executive director of SEMAT Production & Distribution supporting Alternative/Independent Cinema in Egypt. She has led SEMAT, a cultural hub with links to a number of civil society organizations involved in the creative sector and youth as well as women organisations in Egypt/the Arab Region. Hala produced more than 10 films for first time directors. Her long documentary 'Women ChitChat' won the Silver Prize at the Arab Rotterdam Film Festival.

CAST & CREDITS

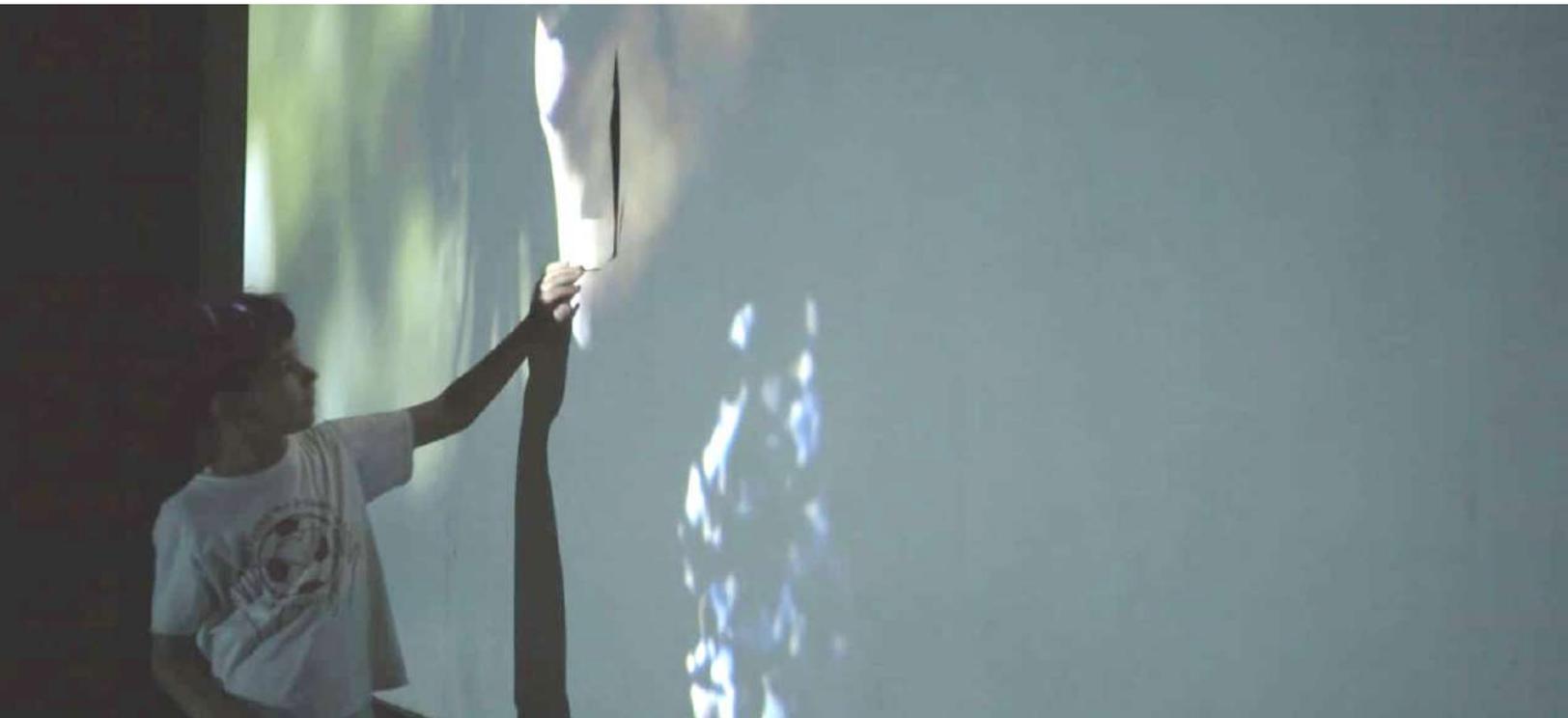
Director: Hala Galal
Writer: Hala Galal
Dop: Kesmat ElSayed
Producer: Kesmat ElSayed



HALAL CINEMA

Tunisia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 68 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Ali Imam Khatib is leading a somewhat unusual project, which is the reopening or renovation of a cinema in his district of Ksour El Sef which has been closed for more than 25 years. If he is passionate about this project, it is because he believes in the role that a film committed to the youth of his region can play. His project will only overlap with another's: Documentary filmmaker Amine, who has decided to stage Ali's entire endeavor, but with a different conception of cinema. A concept that completely contradicts Ali's.

AMINE BOUKHRIS

Amine Boukhris is a Tunisian director, born in 1986. A graduate of the Institute of Arts and Cinema in Tunisia, he directed several short documentaries. The neighborhood is the first long documentary film to receive many Arab and international awards, including the Best Documentary Film Award at the Malmö Festival in Sweden, produced by the late great producer Najib Ayyad. Halal Cinemas, his second long documentary film.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Amine Boukhris
Writer: Amine Boukhris
Cast: Ali ajmi
Dop: Farouk araidh
Producer: Amine Boukhris



SUSPENDED WIVES

Morocco, France, Qatar | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 73 min

Nordic premiere



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.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Merieme Addou

Writer: Merieme Addou

Cast: Latifa Mondir, Saadia Charkaoui, Ghita Tabit

Dop: Med Ali Essaghraoui

Producer: Merieme Addou

MERIEME ADDOU

Born in Morocco, Merieme 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.



THE BLUE INMATES

Lebanon | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 75 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

From Lebanon's notoriously tough Roumieh prison, Daccache's third film emerges shedding the light on inmates suffering from mental illness and facing a life sentence in prison. Indeed, the Lebanese penal code states that "Insane", "Mad" & "Possessed" offenders should be incarcerated until evidence of "being cured" (whereas "mental illness" can be managed with proper treatment and not "cured" and in Lebanese prisons psychological and medical care for these inmates are absent). In the film, Daccache involves "regular" inmates to represent in a theatre production the stories of the inmates suffering from mental illness and convey their messages to the outside world and decision makers hopefully changing the status of these forgotten behind bars - and preventing a similar "life sentence" fate for future inmates.

ZEINA DACCACHE

Zeina Daccache is a Lebanese actress, theatre and film director and drama therapist. She worked for the TV as an actress from 2003 to 2015. She is the founder and Executive Director of Catharsis - Lebanese Center for Drama Therapy and works as drama therapist in different settings (prisons, rehabilitation centers, etc.). Her internationally award winning films (12 Angry Lebanese & Scheherazade's Diary) amended several laws in Lebanon. She is recipient of many awards given for her distinguished contributions to the field of social initiatives and services.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Zeina Daccache
Writer: Zeina Daccache
Cast: Zeina Daccache
Dop: Karim Ghorayeb
Producer: Zeina Daccache



WERE IT NOT FOR METRO...

Lebanon | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 103 min

World premiere



SYNOPSIS

Were it not for Metro... draws a multi-faceted portrait of eight Lebanese performers playing in an acclaimed cabaret show, at Beirut's Metro Al-Madina theatre: A place where their winding paths have aligned and where their dreams came true. Warbling outside the flock, they kept performing their show successfully, tirelessly from 2013 to 2020, as long as Beirut's heart kept beating.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Georges Hachem

Writer: Georges Hachem

Dop: Mark Khalifa, Talal Khoury, Jean Hatem

Producer: Georges Hachem, Hussein Gharib

GEORGES HACHEM

Georges Hachem is a Lebanese filmmaker who graduated from the Louis Lumière National School in Paris, after completing theater studies at the Lebanese University. In 2010, he had written and directed *Stray Bullet* which starred Lebanese actress and filmmaker Nadine Labaki. Awarded in many international film festivals, *Stray Bullet* won notably the Best Arab Film award at Dubai International Film Festival. In 2016, he had written, produced and directed *Still Burning* which starred Canadian-Lebanese playwright Wajdi Mouawad, along with Algerian actress Adila Bendimerad and Lebanese actor Fadi Abi Samra.



Home is
where
the
heart is



SHORT FILM COMPETITION

PACKAGE 1
AND THEN THEY BURN THE SEA
BY THE SEA
DIYAR HISMA
INSIDE HAPPY FACES
STRANGERS AFTER MIDNIGHT

PACKAGE 2
ARNOOS
ASHES
CHITANA
LOVESICK IN
VIRTUAL VOICE

PACKAGE 3
CAIRO-BERLIN
JMAR
MARIAM
THE MISSION
THEN CAME DARK

PACKAGE 4
KHADIGA
NIGHT
STRUCK
TENDER THREADS
WHO GAMES LAST...

PACKAGE 5
AN ALGERIAN GAME
LAST DAY OF SUN
TOUCHLINE
WARSHA
WHISPER DOWN THE LANE



JURY



MOHAMMED SALMAN

Mohammed Salman, a Saudi Filmmaker. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from King Saud University in Riyadh, 1998. He works in various fields of art.

A founding member of the Cinema Association, a member of the Saudi Film Festival. His films have been screened in many regional and international film festivals, such as Palm Spring shortfest, Dubai International Film Fest, and received multiple nominations and awards, most recently Best Director Award for "The Wedding Dress" in the Short Film Competition in Riyadh, 2018, Best film production Award for "Black" in Saudi Film Festival 2019. The Jury award for Black in Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival 2020.



SHERRY ADEL

Shery Adel is an Egyptian actress, known as the sweetheart of the Egyptian Cinema for her innocence, captivating beauty and cheerful personality. Born in Cairo on April 19, 1988, Sherry began her acting and singing career from a young age. Starring in TV programs and several TV commercials. She continued her studies at the University of Cairo, graduating from French Immersion in Business studies. She pursued her passion for acting after graduation and continued to star in major roles along big stars in Egyptian cinema such as Omar El Sherief and Adel el Emam. Sherry continued on this path to fulfill her dreams of becoming a distinguished Egyptian film star. The recipient of several awards throughout her acting career, Shery was rewarded as the best promising rising star, Received the Oscar of Egyptian Cinema and the National Alexandrian festival award.



SOFIA DJAMA

Sofia Djama began to write short stories. Algiers was to serve as the main protagonist of each plot.

Limply one Saturday morning, an adaptation of one of them, was her first short film awarded at Clermont Ferrand Film Festival. From then on, she devoted herself to writing her first feature film, The Blessed that won three awards at the Venice Film Festival, with the Best Actress award going to Lyna Khoudri, the Brian Award, given to the film which "best champions human rights, democracy, pluralism and freedom of thought", and the Lina Mangiacapre Award for a film which "changes the image of women in the cinema". Sofia Djama is devoting her self for her second feature film.

PACKAGE 1

Swedish premiere

AND THEN THEY BURN THE SEA

Qatar | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 12 min

Director: Majid Al-Remaihi

Writer: Majid Al-Remaihi

Dop: Mesa Prum

Producer: Basel Owies



SYNOPSIS

And Then They Burn the Sea is an elegiac contemplation on familial memory and loss. Filmmaker Majid Al-Remaihi ruminates on the experience of witnessing his mother's gradual and terminal memory loss over the course of many years. Weaving a personal family archive, reenacted dreams and rituals, the film underlines the promise of cinema as a medium for memories even at their most irretrievable.



MAJID AL-REMAIHI

Majid Al-Remaihi is a filmmaker and film programmer from Doha, Qatar. His short film "And Then They Burn the Sea" premiered at Locarno in 2021. He produced it under the mentorship of Academy Award-nominated director Rithy Panh and with the support of the Qatari Film Fund.

PACKAGE 1

International premiere

BY THE SEA

Palestine | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 12 min

Director: Wisam Al Jafari

Writer: Wisam Al Jafari

Cast: Yasmin Shalaldeh, Emile Saba, Ward Al Kurdi

Dop: Ibrahim Handal

Producer: Wisam Al Jafari



SYNOPSIS

Nahid tries to celebrate her husband's birthday as he is being chased by Israeli soldiers. Due to the containment due to COVID19-, it is really difficult for Nahid to get all the ingredients needed to bake the birthday cake. Will Nahid be able to celebrate her husband's birthday with him in their secret place?



WISAM AL JAFARI

Wisam Al Jafari is Palestinian film maker from Bethlehem. In 2019 he obtained his BFA in filmmaking at Dar al-Kalima University. Wisam directed several narrative and experimental short films. His previous short film "AMBIENCE" which won the 3rd Prize at Cinefondation - Cannes Film Festival 2019. He worked as an assistant director, location manager, camera assistant and sound engineer in many short and feature films. Wisam is in development of his first feature film.

PACKAGE 1

Nordic premiere

DIYAR HISMA

Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 25 min

Director: Fahd Fayz

Writer: Fahd Fayz

Cast: Salem Alatwy, Awad Alatwy

Dop: Fahd Fayz

Producer: Faisal Baltyuor



SYNOPSIS

When Salem, a Bedouin knight, and his friend Hamid return from a hunting journey, they are confronted with difficulties in the most hostile regions of the northern desert. As each of them struggles to survive, events come to a head and accelerate.

Witness the heroic experiences, customs, and traditions of the Bedouins Tribal life in the north of the Arabian Peninsula, where a young Bedouin animal hunter heroically fights the brutality of the desert and saves the traditional norm in a dramatic narrative structure.



FAHD FAYZ

Fahd Fayz is a Saudi Arabian filmmaker located in Tabouk. Fahd holds a bachelor's degree in technical science and works part-time as a photographer, designer, and editor with a line producer for local and independent film projects in Saudi Arabia. Fahd uses his creative drive experience to come up with character concepts for his films. He is presently promoting his debut short film as a director of "Diar Hisma", with a first-run screening at the Carthage Film Festival 2021 Tunisia. Fahd's work was chosen for the regional completion of the Infiniti cars in 2018, and he was awarded the prize for best shooting photos in Saudi Arabia, which led him to be part of creative designs that are widespread in social media.

PACKAGE 1

Nordic premiere

INSIDE HAPPY FACES

Egypt | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 12 min

Director: Omar Al Halwany

Writer: Omar Al Halwany

Cast: Hussien Nassar, Amr Ramadan, Ahmed Helmy, Reham Mohy

Dop: Houssam Habib

Producer: Ahmed Hassan



SYNOPSIS

During his boring day job, a distressed Karim and his co-workers are facing a formal committee that are giving a random drug analysis to all employees in the building. Will they pass the test? These people are coming for your blood. If you tested positive, you will be guilty, outcast, and fired from work.

The company of Dionysos is undoubtedly enjoyable and charming, but it is also painful, cruel, and insane without limits. It doesn't matter if you used to be a king in old days, you are Not a king anymore.



OMAR AL HALWANY

Graduated From High Cinema Institute in Egypt 2020. As a director I have three short films (Expiry date 2015 which won 7 awards from 48 hours film festival 2015, An appointment with death 2018, Inside Happy Faces 2021 which won the best film award from Shnit film festival 2021) As an first assistant director I have made (I am Afraid to forget your face 2020 dir. / Sameh Alaa which won a prestigious palm d'Or in Cannes 2020, also Fifteen by Sameh Alaa, Red velvet, Al Sada) Also I was an assistant for films (The Originals 2017 By Marwan Hamed, Torab Al Mas 2018 by Marwan Hamed, Kalb baldy 2016 By Moataz al tony, Kira w Al Gen 2022 By Marwan Hamed) I have made a large number of commercials (Pepsi, Vodaphone, shipcy, Zed park, orange, estalat, galaxy)



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PACKAGE 1

International premiere

STRANGERS AFTER MIDNIGHT

France | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 23 min

Director: Kinda Youssef

Writer: Kinda Youssef

Cast: Mohamad Al Rashi, Soulafa Oueshek, Reem Ali, Hareth Mheddi

Dop: Boris Larre

Producer: Kinda Youssef



SYNOPSIS

Unfolded moments in the life of four Syrian refugees in Paris, after midnight. During this night, Nassima will ask Fadel for a divorce because she cannot live with him anymore. While she babysits a child, Rawan tries to make him believe that she is an actress, for he does not believe her. Meantime, Mourad tries to reach the Paris Police station and take a waiting before it opens to seek asylum.



KINDA YOUSSEF

Kinda Youssef is a young multimedia journalist and filmmaker. She began experimenting with cinema while studying radio and television at Damascus University. Kinda was accepted to the Sorbonne University in Paris to continue her studies in cinema and aesthetics after arriving in Paris. Between 2017 and 2020, she earned two master's degrees in directing and cinema studies from the Sorbonne and Paris 8 University. She is currently working on a variety of journalistic and artistic projects, constantly seeking to relate human stories to filmmaking.

PACKAGE 2

Nordic premiere

ARNOOS

Jordan | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 18 min

Director: Samer Battikhi

Writer: Samer Battikhi

Cast: Fadi Haddadin, Mohammed Idris, Saba Mubarak, Ziad Bakri, Ahmed Al Omari

Dop: Samer Nimri

Producer: Aya Wuhoush



SYNOPSIS

During a normal day at a shopping square in Amman, Sami, a 15 year old spoiled naive kid, and the street-smart hustler Mahmoud, a 15 year old corn seller are ready to execute their plan to steal an unexpected gift that will impress Sami's girlfriend, not knowing of the uncalculated twists that are coming their way from the shop owners.



SAMER BATTIKHI

A freelance writer and director who has been working in the film industry in Jordan since 2015. He began his career as an assistant director, working with several veteran local and international filmmakers. He has directed, written, and produced several short films in between student projects and independent films. The last short film, titled "Arnoos" was produced by PanEast Media with the support of the Jordanian Film Fund, and starred Saba Mubarak and Ziad Bakri. He is currently working on developing several projects; his first feature film titled "Men Mal Allah" which won the developing grant from Jordanian Film Fund, and a TV series titled "Propaganda" which he co-created.

PACKAGE 2

Nordic premiere

ASHES

Morocco | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 22 min

Director: Mustapha Farmati

Writer: Mustapha Farmati

Cast: Abdelghani Sannak, Hamid Najah

Dop: Mustapha Farmati

Producer: Mohamed El Haoury



SYNOPSIS

A one-eyed man sets out on a journey in the wilderness, seeking a holy man whom he believes is the only one capable of bringing eyesight to him.



MUSTAPHA FARMATI

Teacher of English at Sidi Waggag High school, Tiznit, Morocco, an established artist painter, with paintings exhibited in many art galleries across Morocco, he has six films *My Dream My Nightmare* (short film)(2012), *Return* (short film)(2013), *The Painting* (short film)(2015), *Whispers Under The Dust* (short film)(2019), *The Last Wave* (short film)(2020), *Ashes* (short film)(2021).

PACKAGE 2

Nordic premiere

CHITANA

Tunisia, Qatar, Norway | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 20 min

Director: Amel Guellaty

Writer: Amel Guellaty

Cast: Yasmine Ben Amara, Yasmine Thamleoui

Dop: Amine Messadi

Producer: Asthma Chiboub



SYNOPSIS

Instead of bringing water from the village well, Eya and Sofia, ten and twelve, seize the chance to discover the nearby forest where they're not allowed to go. They decide to do whatever they want, just like boys! In the forest, they make beautiful encounters. But freedom always comes with a cost...



AMEL GUELLATY

Amel is a Tunisian director and photographer. In 2017, she writes and directs award-winning *Black Mamba* (20'). The film is broadcasted by Canal+ and Italian RT Channel. Amel has just completed her second short fiction, *Chitana*, and is developing her first feature, *Tunis-Djerba*.

PACKAGE 2

Nordic premiere

LOVESICK IN

Palestine | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 16 min

Director: Said Zagha

Writer: Said Zagha

Cast: Ali Suliman, Nisreen Faour, Laith Zuaier, Nabil Koni

Dop: Ahmad Jalboush

Producer: Mais Salman



SYNOPSIS

A Palestinian family hosts a young American tourist after a simple misunderstanding. But as chaos unfolds in their village, it doesn't take too long for them to become part of the absurd mayhem that immediately ensues.



SAID ZAGHA

Palestinian writer-director Said Zagha completed his undergraduate education at Ohio's Kenyon College in 2011. His second short film, "Lovesick in the West Bank" will premiere in 2021, following his 2016 dramedy "Five Boys and a Wheel" which premiered at the Dubai International Film Festival in 2016 and went on to play at 40+ fests worldwide, winning three awards in Mexico, Oman, and Algeria. It is distributed by MAD Solutions and is currently streaming on OSN. He is currently developing his first feature film, "Weedestine" a heist thriller set in the West Bank, which has already been selected at several labs and received a production grant from the Royal Film Commission of Jordan. He is also a Berlinale Talents alumnus (2020).

PACKAGE 2

Nordic premiere

VIRTUAL VOICE

Sudan, Qatar | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 7 min

Director: Suzannah Mirghani

Writer: Suzannah Mirghani

Dop: Suzannah Mirghani, Rodney Sharkey

Producer: Suzannah Mirghani



SYNOPSIS

This is a satirical review of our times. Suzi doll is an ego-warrior. My online avatar, marching to the algorithms of social media. She is lit by temporary outrage. A trending indignation. A passion that is fashion. A politics of the popular. Her activism is abstract. Her help is hypothetical. We know many girls like Suzi, and many times we are her: vacuous virtual voices, echoing injustices.



SUZANNAH MIRGHANI

Suzannah Mirghani is a writer, researcher, and independent filmmaker. She is a media studies and museum studies graduate. Mixed-race Sudanese and Russian, she is interested in stories about the complexity of identity. Suzannah is the writer, director, and producer of AL-SIT (2020, Sudan/Qatar), which won the Canal+ Award at Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival and five Academy Award qualifying prizes: Best of Fest at LA Shorts; Grand Prix at Tampere Film Festival; Best Short Film at BronzeLens; Best Narrative Short at New Orleans Film Festival; and Grand Jury Prize for Short Live Action Short at AFI Fest. Her latest short is the experimental documentary/social media satire VIRTUAL VOICE (2021), which premiered at Tribeca Film Festival. Suzannah is working on her first feature COTTON QUEEN, a magical realist tale set in the cotton fields of Sudan.

PACKAGE 3

Nordic premiere

CAIRO-BERLIN

Egypt, United Kingdom | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 17 min

Director: Ahmed Abd El Salam

Writer: Ahmed Hosny

Cast: Mariam Al-Ferjani, Ibrahim El-Naggary, Nabil Nour El-Din

Dop: Mostafa El-Kashef

Producer: Joseph Adel



SYNOPSIS

In a post revolution Cairo, after numerous failed trials to escape the status quo of her generation's depression, Nour, 29, secretly arranges fleeing her homeland. Hours before her departure, She embarks on a journey of struggle with a patriarchal society and a fight within to keep her hidden secret.



AHMED ABD EL SALAM

Ahmed Abdelsalam is a Cairo based director of films, commercials, and music videos. Abdelsalam graduated from MetFilm School London with a master's degree in Film Directing. Previously he had received a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication and Media Arts. His debut short CAI – BER (Original Title: CAIRO – BERLIN) has been officially selected in Gouna Film Festival, 5th edition, and is expected to have its world premiere there in October 2021. Abdelsalam began his career as an Assistant Director by working on numerous feature-length films and acclaimed TV series, like Eshtebak (2016), Tayea (2018), and Qabeel (2019). The filmmaker's expertise covers a variety of genres that always seem to have an inventive and avant-garde flair with generation influence. He is known for fusing cinematic style and sophistication with commercial work to achieve distinctive outcomes. Currently, Abdelsalam's time is divided between his native Cairo and London, working on a variety of projects; including films, music videos and TVCs.

PACKAGE 3

Nordic premiere

JMAR

France | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 20 min

Director: Samy Sidali

Writer: Samy Sidali

Cast: Zouhair Sabri, Sara Kola, El Mehdi Ez-zarouqy

Dop: Thomas Ford

Producer: Antoine Salomé, Joséphine Mourlaque



SYNOPSIS

Jmar alchahwa: جمر الشهوة: piece of red coal. Metaphor used to describe a feeling that warms up, gives pleasure but can hurt if you get too close. On the beach of Mohammedia, a small coastal town in Morocco, Khaled sells horse rides to passers-by. He hangs out with his friends, they are in their twenties and fanta-size about a sexuality that is forbidden to them. That day, Khaled makes an encounter and finds himself caught between the reality of his world and a burning desire that he can't control.



SAMY SIDALI

Samy Sidali was born in 1989 to Moroccan parents. At the age of 18, he moved to London where he studied cinema at the University of the Arts London, from which he graduated in 2013. His graduation film, The things I do for you, is presented at the within a selection on the IdeasTap platform sponsored by BAFTA in 2014. He worked for 2 years for the London creative agency BAMB as a director of institutional films and documentaries, most often abroad. In 2020, Samy directed his first short produced film (Mabel Films): Jmar. He is currently developing several projects in France and Morocco, fiction and documentary.

PACKAGE 3

Nordic premiere

MARIAM

USA | 2021 | Arabic, English dialogue with English subtitles | 11 min

Director: Reem Jubran

Writer: Reem Jubran

Cast: Maz Siam, Beto Ochoa, George Jubran

Dop: Tamara Dobry

Producer: Reem Jubran



SYNOPSIS

Mariam is an ode to Zaid, a closeted young Arab-American teen who deals with a one-dimensional angry father, takes care of his grandfather suffering from Alzheimer's, but also struggles with understanding his identity, duty to his family, fear of rejection and the impossibility of his acceptance to his family and culture.



REEM JUBRAN

Reem Jubran is a Palestinian-American director and writer. She is currently pursuing an M.F.A. in Directing from UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television where she is writing and directing her own short films after having worked two years as assistant director for award-winning Palestinian films. Her debut short narrative film *Mariam* (2021) premiered at Outfest Fusion Film Festival. Her first feature in-development, *Sou-Sou*, was selected for the Producer's Highlight Program at the Palestine Pavilion the Cannes 2020 Marche du Film.

PACKAGE 3

International premiere

THE MISSION

Jordan | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 22 min

Director: Mohammad Khalil Al-dabbas

Cast: Faisal Al-adwan, Karim Alkorde

Dop: Sabir Dk

Producer: Ahmad Alwan



SYNOPSIS

The Mission is a short Thriller film that tells the story of Rommel, who tries to steal a grocery store, but fails, trying to escape and hide in a house, only to be surprised that the house is the center of a terrorist cell that is planning a terrorist bombing after several hours, and the terrorists put him in front of two options: death or jihad Rommel is placed among a group of odangers that threaten his life, trying to hide that he is a Christian from the terrorists and to preserve his life and the lives of civilians who will be killed in the terrorist operation.



MOHAMMAD KHALIL ALDABBAS

Mohammad Khalil Al-Dabbas: 22 years old, a Jordanian film director known as (Daniel), from Salt city .

Mohammed aspires to reach the world and enter the world of filmmaking in Hollywood. And to be nominated for an Academy Award as soon as possible to be the youngest director to win an Academy Award in the world.

PACKAGE 3

Nordic premiere

THEN CAME DARK

Lebanon | 2021 | No dialogue | 15 min

Director: Marie-Rose Osta
Writer: Marie-Rose Osta
Cast: Ali Jamil, Hussein Khalaf
Dop: Marie-Rose Osta, Mutaz Salloum
Producer: Marie-Rose Osta



SYNOPSIS

A mist emerges, a howling wind kicks in and the forest turns dark. Two men pull out a tree and drag it like a dead body. In a forest in the mountains of Lebanon, where the unspoken pact of balance between the villagers and the forces of nature breaks, legend has it that revenge is bound to happen.



MARIE-ROSE OSTA

Marie-Rose Osta is an independent filmmaker. She graduated with a Masters Degree in Filmmaking, from ALBA University in Beirut, and has been working in the advertising industry while pursuing her filmmaking career. She independently wrote, directed, and produced three short films “Gangbang”, “Status-Quo” and “Then Came Dark”. Marie-Rose is currently in the development of her first feature film: “With Time”.

PACKAGE 4

Nordic premiere

KHADIGA

Egypt | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 20 min

Director: Morad Mostafa
Writer: Morad Mostafa
Cast: Malak Tarek, Fatima Fawzi, Zizi Moustafa, Ayman Abdelaziz
Dop: Mostafa elkashef
Producer: Sawsan Yusuf



SYNOPSIS

Khadiga, a young mother of 17 lives alone with her baby after her husband left for work in a remote city. On an ordinary day she makes her way through the hustle of Cairo streets to do some visits when she starts to feel pressured and uncomfortable with the surroundings.



MORAD MOSTAFA

Morad; an Egyptian Filmmaker, born in Cairo. He worked as an Assistant Director in several independent films; he collaborated as an Executive director in "Souad" feature film - official selection in Cannes Film Festival 2020 and Berlinale. He wrote and directed two short films "Henet Ward" and "What we don't know about Mariam"; both had their world premieres in "Clermont-Ferrand" and has been selected in other major festivals (BFI London - Palm Springs - Busan – Thessaloniki – Stockholm - Karlovy Vary – FIFF Namur – Cinemed Montpellier - Shanghai - Durban – EL Gouna - Cairo) and won more than 30 international awards.

HANAN



GROUP

Hanan Group was founded by the Swedish dancer and choreographer Hanna Hanan Thorstensen in 2009 and has gained local and international following. In 2013, the group won its first international dance competition and after that they have been invited to perform at many festivals around the world. In 2014 the group was invited to represent Egypt at an international folklore festival in Shanghai China, where they performed for around 80 million people and won a reward for "best energy on stage". Hanan Group prides themselves on transmitting their love for dance to the audience and to show the world the richness and diversity of different kind of dance style from the Middle East and North Africa.

 www.hanan.se

 [hanangroup](https://www.instagram.com/hanangroup)



PACKAGE 4

Nordic premiere

NIGHT

Germany, Qatar, Palestine, Jordan | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 16 min

Director: Ahmad Saleh

Writer: Ahmad Saleh

Cast: Hiam Abbass, Rafia H. Oraidi, Salma Saleh

Dop: Saed Saleh

Producer: Fabian Driehorst



SYNOPSIS

The dust of war keeps the eyes sleepless. Night brings peace and sleep to all the people in the broken town. Only the eyes of the mother of the missing child stay resilient. Night must trick her into sleeping to save her soul.



AHMAD SALEH

Ahmad Saleh is a Palestinian/German writer and director. His first film, HOUSE, 2012 was nominated for the German Short Film Award and his second film, AYYN, 2016 won the Student Academy Award. Recently he finished his third short film, NIGHT and is developing his first feature.

PACKAGE 4

Nordic premiere

STRUCK

Lebanon | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 6 min

Director: Sarah Kaskas

Writer: Sarah Kaskas

Dop: Sarah Kaskas

Producer: Nermine Haddad



SYNOPSIS

One year after the Beirut Port explosion, director Sarah Kaskas narrates her trauma through a collage of her fragmented memory. Together with the voices of survivors, they attempt to process their collective grief.



SARAH KASKAS

Sarah Kaskas is the cofounder of Karaaj Films and director of the award winning films "Bread and Tea (2016)" and "Underdown (2018)". Her short documentary "STRUCK" and short fiction "The Window" are currently touring festivals including Aspen Shortsfest. Sarah is now developing her 2nd feature project in Beirut.

PACKAGE 4

World premiere

TENDER THREADS

Morocco | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 25 min

Director: Oujidane Khallid

Writer: Oujidane Khallid

Cast: Jalila Talemsi, Abdenbi Beniwi, Nezha Tebaai

Dop: Walid Lamharzi Alaoui

Producer: Fayçal EL Kadiri



SYNOPSIS

The routine of daily life between Radia and her mother generates an awful discomfort and becomes a major obstacle to Radia's emotional future and her relationship with her mother. This monotony therefore causes an unexpected cleavage.



OUIJDANE KHALLID

Oujidane Khallid, Moroccan Filmmaker and Scriptwriter, Laureate of a specialized Master in Documentary Cinema at Abdelmalek Essaadi University in Tetouan and a fundamental license in writing and film making at the Higher Institute of Audiovisual and Cinema Professions (ISMAC) in Rabat. She wrote and directed three short-movies, fictional & documentary in an academic setting. Those films have been screened in several national and international festivals. In 2021, Oujidane wrote and directed her first professional short-film: " Tender Threads ", Produced by Cygnus Productions. Oujidane Khallid worked as an assistant director & Artistic Director in many films projects. She co-writes many Feature films scripts produced by the National Moroccan Tv.

PACKAGE 4

Nordic premiere

WHO GAMES LAST...

Tunisia | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 15 min

Director: Hassen Marzougui

Writer: Hassen Marzougui, Temimi Mohiedine

Cast: Abdelmonem Chouayet, Hamdi Hadda, Saladin Kaffel

Dop: Taieb ben Ameer

Producer: Temimi Mohiedine



SYNOPSIS

Ali, a newly appointed teacher, purchases a used car. He has an RDV with a Mediator for a rental of a house. At the sight of his new car, the Mediator changes his mind and very quickly offers him, a magnificent house for a ridiculous rent. The pound agent, the movers, the neighborhood grocer, and many others... Ali discovers that all this respect is due only to a misunderstanding. Why? Because.



HASSEN MARZOUGUI

Hassen Marzougui is a 30-year-old filmmaker. He cut his teeth at the Higher Institute of Fine Arts in Tunis. Among the short films, Confinement 20 - 7mn 39s. Marzougui immerses us in the intimacy and experience of several families during confinement, 2020 a documentary supported by the Kamel Lazaar Foundation for Solidarity Culture. 'Cas / بقشيش / fiction 2017: 10 mins, Assala / أصالة / fiction 2015 / 6:30 mins,' Le paris Sportif 'for the BBC. / Rira Bien... Qui... Fiction 15 minutes. New Atmosphere Prod production November 2021.

PACKAGE 5

International premiere

AN ALGERIAN GAME

Algeria | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 26 min

Director: Amel Blidi

Writer: Amel Blidi

Cast: Ritadj Dalia Ghazi, Mila Boussouf, Serine Ferdi, Maissa belaroussi, Hania Amar, Anya Louanchi, Samia Meziane

Dop: Nasser Medjkane

Producer: Serge Lledo



SYNOPSIS

1995. A neighborhood in the suburbs of Algiers. 12 years old Samia and Nouara are the best friends ever. One morning, gunshots disrupted the peaceful symphony of their little world, hushing their laughter and bringing their games to a halt. It was a matter of days before the violence that seemed so distant broke out before their very eyes, turning their world upside down and changing their behavior...



AMEL BLIDI

Amel Blidi is a journalist for more than a decade. She came to cinema thanks to Bejaia Doc's internship where she realized the short documentary "Tomorrow is another day" with Nabil Boubkeur in October 2013. She directed two other short documentaries "In the shadow of words" and "a weird meeting". "Chabchaq, an Algerian game" is her first fictional film.

PACKAGE 5

Nordic premiere

LAST DAY OF SUN

Tunisia | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 23 min

Director: Kays Mejri

Writer: Kays Mejri

Cast: Mohamed Grayaa

Dop: Mehrez Tabak

Producer: Imed Marzouk



SYNOPSIS

Tunisia 1987, Ben Ali comes to power, it is the dawn of a new era, detective Ayed begins to investigate the murder of a little boy, a case that will trigger a series of events that no one was prepared for ...



KAYS MEJRI

Kays Mejri is a Canadian-Tunisian filmmaker who works and lives between Montreal and Tunis. His contemporary dance film *Der Untermensch* was officially selected for the 'Best Canadian Short' category at the TIFF and Cannes Film Festival as part of the 'Not Short on Talent' presented by Telefilm. Kays recently directed the short films *When the Sky began to Scream*, *The Slip* and *Last Day Of Sun* to be released in Summer 2021.

PACKAGE 5

International premiere

TOUCHLINE

Jordan, USA | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 15 min

Director: Mohammed Saffouri
Writer: Mohammed Saffouri
Cast: Basil Askar, Anas Algaraleh
Dop: Ghassan Nazmi
Producer: Tareq Baddar



SYNOPSIS

In Haifa, Palestine 1948, Ahmed a 17-year-old football player gets an offer to play for the Palestinian National Team after a wonderful performance in a friendly match. On his way back home after the game, Ahmad and his Jewish friend, Eliyahu, face soldiers blocking their way back and see the people of the city fleeing. Ahmed returns to his home seeing his own family leaving the city to seek a safer place as well. Ahmed leaves the city with his family, leaving his home, friends, and most importantly his dream behind.



MOHAMMED SAFFOURI

Mohammed Saffouri is a Capital Emmy-winning filmmaker based in Virginia. Saffouri, who's been working in the media and film industry for 7 years, graduated from George Mason University in 2020 with a degree in Film and Video Studies and a concentration in Film Directing.

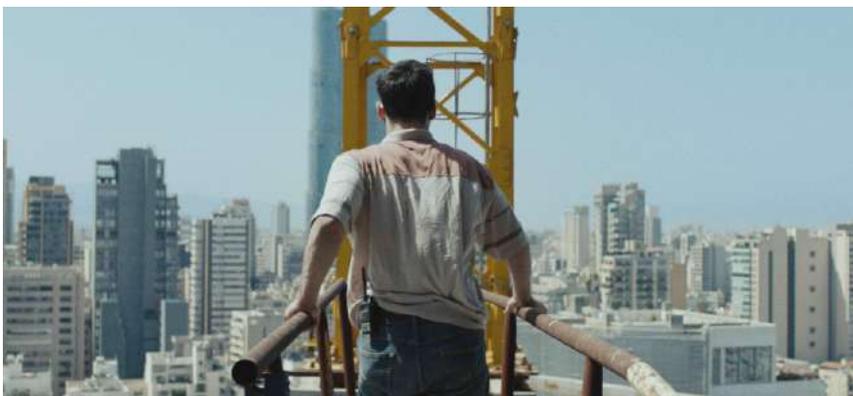
PACKAGE 5

Nordic premiere

WARSHA

France, Lebanon | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 15 min

Director: Dania Bdeir
Writer: Dania Bdeir
Cast: Khansa
Dop: Shadi Chaaban
Producer: Coralie Dias



SYNOPSIS

Mohammad is a crane operator working in Beirut. One morning he volunteers to take on one of the tallest and notoriously most dangerous cranes in Lebanon. Away from everyone's eyes, he is able to live out his secret passion and find freedom.



DANIA BDEIR

Dania Bdeir is a Lebanese award-winning writer & director. She's a member of the Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective, has a BA in Graphic Design from the American University of Beirut and an MFA in directing from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where she received a full scholarship in her third year. In 2019, Dania was selected as a Berlinale Talent and participated in its Short Film Station with Warsha, a co-production between Inter Spinax Films (France), GoGoGo Films (France) and Né à Beyrouth Films (Lebanon). Dania is currently based in Dubai and is developing her first feature film Pigeon Wars which was selected for the 2018-2019 Torino Film Lab x DFI Hezaya Screenwriting lab, the 2021 Cine Qua Non Storylines lab and the 2021 Nostos Screenwriting Retreat.

PACKAGE 5

International premiere

WHISPER DOWN THE LANE

Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 5 min

Director: Raghad Albarqi

Writer: Leila Belkacem

Cast: Khairiya Nazmi, Tuleen Hafiz, Eyad Ayman Kaifi, Eihab Khalifah

Dop: Raghad Albarqi

Producer: Abdulrahman Khawj



SYNOPSIS

Experimental animated short film takes viewers on a linear trip that follows a sequence of interrelated phone calls between five people that finally erupt into a larger fight.

The film examines the themes of communication and self-destruction, as well as the consequences escalate to a bigger conflict.

The short film explores the concepts of communication, self-destruction, and the domino effect.



RAGHAD ALBARQI

Raghad is an animator and filmmaker who enjoys working on a wide variety of projects. She graduated from the Visual and Digital Production program at Effat University in Jeddah. Her graduation film "Social Molds Manual" has been introduced and screened at numerous film festivals, Raghad worked at creative agencies as an animator and Illustrator for local and international brands.

هيئة الأفلام
Film Commission
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



film.moc.gov.sa

ARABIAN NIGHTS

2 TALAAT HARB

BARA EL MANHAG

QUAREER

TODAY IS A WONDERFUL DAY



2 TALAAT HARB

Egypt | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 115 min

International premiere



SYNOPSIS

Four stories take place in a furnished apartment that we follow through the doorman and his family who live on top of the building in a miserable room. In the first story, a doctor tries to treat a figure with a political position. In the second story, Hassan meets in the 1970s with his old friend Nadim, who comes from Lebanon during its Civil War. The third story takes place at the beginning of the new millennium and the takeover of businessmen. As for the fourth story, it takes place before January 2011 when Sami returns under pressure from his family to sell the apartment and the whole building.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Magdi Ahmed Ali

Writer: Henzada Fekry

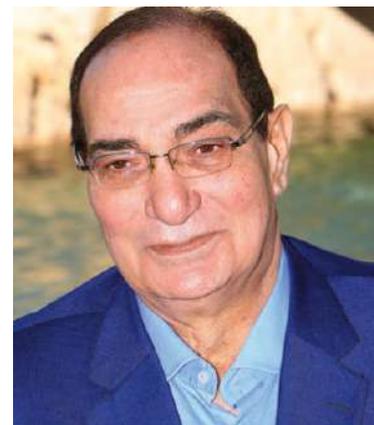
Cast: Samir Sabri, Ahmed Magdy, Sherif El Desouki, Ahmed Wafik, Sahar El Sayegh

DOP: Mohsen Ahmed

Producer: Ahmed Magdy

MAGDI AHMED ALI

Magdi Ahmed Ali's creative career began when he worked as an assistant director for several directors who included Mohamed Khan, Khairy Bushara and Youssif Shaheen. Fourteen years later in 1996 Magdi directed his first film title "Ya Donya ya Gharamy" ("Life My Love"). That work was followed by other titles such as 1998's "al-Battal" ("The Hero") which starred Ahmed Zakky, "Assrar al-Bannat" ("Girl's Secrets") and "Khaltat Fawziyah" ("Fawziyah's Recipe"). Moreover, Magdi Ahmed wrote and directed "Assafeer al-Ganna" ("Birds of Paradise") which starred Fathy 'Abd Al Wahab in addition to directing the television series "Frisca" and "Mamlakat al-Gabbal" ("Mountain Kingdom") which aired in Ramadan, 2010. He studied directing at the Higher Institute for Cinema after completing his education at the Pharmaceutical Faculty.



BARA EL MANHAG

Egypt | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 100 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Barra El Manhag is a light-hearted drama about Nour, a 13-year-old orphan boy. As all the boys are afraid of the haunted house right in front of the school, he's encouraged to go into the house to gain their respect, only to find an old man living there, hiding from the world. A friendship and apprenticeship evolve between the boy and the old man, leading to a journey of self-discovery for both of them.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Amr Salama

Writer: Amr Salama, Khaled Diab

Cast: Maged El Kedwany, Omar Sherif, Ruby, Asmaa Abulyazid, Ahmed Khaled Saleh, Donia Maher, Ahmed Amin, Aly Kassem

DOP: Ahmed Beshary

Producer: Shahinaz el Akkad

AMR SALAMA

Amr Salama has written and directed multiple award winning feature films. On A Day Like Today (2008) Asmaa (2011) Excuse My French (2014) Made In Egypt (2014) Sheikh Jackson (2017) Co-directed the documentary, Tahrir 2011: The Good, The Bad & The Politician, winner of the UNESCO award at the Venice Film Festival and numerous other international awards. Directed and supervised the content of the first season of the Arabic version of the international TV show, Saturday Night Live. Directed the hit Arabic Egyptian drama 'Tayea'. Created, wrote, produced and directed the 1st Netflix original show in Egypt 'Paranormal' which was listed by Variety as one of the best international shows in 2020. In 2021, co-wrote and directed the film Extracurricular and also co-produced and co-directed the show Bimbo for Shahid VIP.



QUAREER

Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 71 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Five short stories take a place in a conservative society, where five female protagonists risking their lives by facing incidents that occurs in puberty, marriage, separation, and sexual assault. A left-out child who tries to refill the gap by reaching out to her absent father through his students. A teenager struggles to sign her parental consent form to participate in an art competition facing the pressure of her parents' separation. A fresh graduate who is conflicted between her family desires and what she wants in her life. A girl who lives normally until a sudden visit made her re-live her past childhood traumatic experience. A widow let a stranger get into her house at her husband's funeral.

NORAH ALMOWALD

A Saudi director and a filmmaker, who found her passion for filmmaking through her art work, and creative writing. After graduating with a Bachelor Degree in Cinematic Art from Effat University in 2018. She worked on several short films, then took a filmmaking workshop in La Femis Film School, Paris. She also worked on feature films such as "40 years and one night" by Mohammed Alholayyil and the TV Series The Fate Hotel and Ureem season 2.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Norah Almowald, Ragheed AlNahdi, Ruba Khafagy, Noor Elamir, Fatimah Alhazmi
Writer: Norah Almowald, Noor Elamir, Sara Mesfer, Fatimah Alhazmi
Cast: Salwa Ahmed, khayria Abu Laban, Raghad Balashram, Manal Ahmed, Fay Fouad
DOP: Aziz Allaf
Producer: Sara Mesfer, Ragheed Al Nahdi



NOOR ALAMEER

Noor Alameer is a Saudi director and writer who made several short films such as “My Neighbor behind the Wall”, “The Bus” a documentary that won the “Best Student Documentary Short Film” award in 2017, Saudi Film Festival. She also has been part of independent feature films such as “The Physical Properties of Coffee ” in 2018. She also worked as a director, writer and executive producer in the feature film “Quareer” in 2018 and 2019 . She directed and wrote her film “Kareemat Somaya ” as a part of “Becoming” the omnibus feature that was funded and supported by Red Sea film Festival Foundation. Her upcoming work is “dream's date “, a short comedy fantasy film



RAGHEED ALNAHDI

Ragheed Al-Nahdi is a Saudi director and producer. She started her media career at an early age at Jeddah Radio as a presenter and writer for social and kids programs. Ragheed graduated with a bachelor’s degree in cinematic arts from Effat University. She worked in several short and feature films and participated in many film festivals and cultural events.



RUBA KHAFAGY

Ruba Khafagy is a Saudi filmmaker who graduated in 2019 and got her bachelor’s degree in Visual and Digital Production at Effat university. Ruba worked as a colorist and editor in a post production company called “Kut The Crab” for a year and half. She was a part of many films, series and commercials such as comedy club, Numera 2, The Case, The Fate Hotel and more. As a colorist, she worked in a film called “Shiraa” that was screened in Saudi film festival in 2020.



FATMA ALHAZMI

Jeddah native Fatma Alhazmi studied Visual & Digital Production at Effat University. As a part of the new wave of young directors in Saudi Arabia, Fatma wishes to share her unique vision onto the screens exploring Saudi culture and more. In her years as a student, Fatma would participate in various short & feature films, where the filmmaking experience would help her find her own brush in years to come.



TODAY IS A WONDERFUL DAY

Egypt | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 95 min

International premiere



SYNOPSIS

when people face the Sexual and emotional needs, spousal abuse. Is it really a wonderful a today? The four heroes of the movie suffer in varied stories, Only the suffering and where they work is the only mutual thing, how they will face and recovery their problems. The film deals with stories about the relationship of man and woman, and raises many issues such as marital coldness, marital rape, in addition to the delay in the age of marriage

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Neveen Shalaby
Writer: Dina EL Saka, Neveen Shalaby
Cast: Bassem Samra, Hana Shiha, Naglaa Bader, Ahmed Wafik, Entisar, Emy Islam, Mahmoud EL Lathy, Mohamed Hakim, Ammy Sultan
DOP: Ahmed Adel
Producer: Alaa Soliman, Sherif Mandour

NEVEEN SHALABY

Nevveen Shalaby is a filmmaker from Egypt, graduated from Cinema Academy in Cairo, she has been selected in Berlin Talent Campus 2008 in Berlin International film Festival, also she worked as a documentary filmmaker with many organizations such as Amnesty international, Holland Tv, United Nation Women and she made lot of short movies, she won many prizes local and International she joined some festivals as a jury member, in 2021 she finished her first feature film "it's a wonderful day"



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FILMS WORTH WATCHING

BEIRUT: EYE OF THE STORM

COMMUNION

I'LL GO TO HELL

ON THE FENCE



BEIRUT: EYE OF THE STORM

Lebanon, France | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 75 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Four young women artists in Beirut document the momentous October 2019 uprising against corruption and sectarian rule. The prevailing mood is one of hope and change. But a few months later, Covid-19 locks down the city, and all optimism evaporates with the massive explosion at Beirut's port. Will the young women be able to hold onto their dream of building a new Lebanon? This non-chronological personal account of a tumultuous period in recent Lebanese history explores the role of women, creativity and change.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Mai Masri

Writer: Mai Masri

Cast: Noel Keserwany, Michelle Keserwany, Hanine Rabah, Lujain Jo

DOP: Jocelyne Abi Gevrayel

Producer: Mai Masri, Sabine Sidawi, Charlotte Uzu

MAI MASRI

Mai Masri is a Beirut-based Palestinian filmmaker who studied film at San Francisco State University, USA. Her films were screened worldwide and won over 90 international awards including the trailblazer award at Mipdoc Cannes in France (2011) and the lifetime achievement award at El Gouna Film Festival in Egypt (2019). She reached international acclaim with her debut feature film, *3000 Nights* (2015) which was premiered at Toronto International Film Festival and won over 28 international awards. She is also known for her humanistic and poetic documentaries: *Children of Fire* (1990), *Hanan Ashrawi: Woman for Her Time* (1995), *Children of Shatila* (1998), *Frontiers of Dreams and Fears* (2001), *Beirut Diaries* (2006), *33 Days* (2007) and *Beirut: Eye of the Storm* (2021). She also co-directed with her late husband filmmaker, Jean Chamoun : *Under the Rubble* (1983), *Wild Flowers* (1986), *War Generation – Beirut* (1988), *Suspended Dreams* (1992), and produced: *In the Shadows of the City* (2000), *Hostage of Time* (1994), *Women Beyond Borders* (2004), and *Lanterns of Memory* (2009).



COMMUNION

Tunisia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 97 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

A couple, a cat... and a virus.

During lockdown, Sarra works from home in the humanitarian sector, helping people in distress during the Covid-19 crisis. Her husband Kais, psychotic, finds himself without medication, out of stock. Then begins a long and painful descent into hell while nature regains its rights, and the air becomes more pure and breathable...

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Nejb Belkadhi

Writer: Nejb Belkadhi

Cast: Souhir Ben Amara, Nejb Belkadhi

DOP: Hazem Berrabah

Producer: Imed Marzouk

NEJIB BELKADHI

Born May 13, 1972 in Tunis. After studying business and marketing at IHEC Carthage, he began a career as an actor in cinema and theater. His first steps in directing were made on TV on Canal+ Horizons in 1999. In 2002, he founded Propaganda Productions with his friend Imed Marzouk who would later become his producer. In 2005 he directed his first short film called "Tsawer". The film will be selected at more than 30 festivals in 11 countries. In 2006, his feature-length documentary VHS-Kahloucha will participate in more than 50 festivals including a world premiere at the Cannes festival and a selection in competition at the Sundance festival. It will collect 7 prizes in various festivals including the prize for the best documentary film at the 2006 Dubai festival. In 2013, his first feature film "Bastardo" was presented as a world premiere at the "Toronto International Film Festival" and selected in competition at CINEMED in Montpellier in 2014. 30 festivals later, the film will collect 11 awards at internationally. In 2014, he released his second feature-length documentary 7 ½, shot three years earlier before the first free elections in Tunisia. In 2018, he released his second feature film "Look at me", which will be selected at TIFF and more than twenty international festivals.



I'LL GO TO HELL

Tunisia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 84 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

The film tells the story of Najet, whom the doctors say that she will die soon, so she decides to take the rest of her life head-on, instead of giving in to self-pity. Najet begins to organize for her big departure, as she doesn't like to be buried in a white shroud and end up eaten by worms, however, her family opposes her wishes.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Ismahane Lahmar
Writer: Ismahane Lahmar
Cast: Fatma Ben Saidane, Rashid Abdelhamid, Mourad Gharsalli, Hela Brahmi Khamassi, Rania Jdidi
DOP: Wafa Mimouni
Producer: Ismahane Lahmar

ISMAHANE LAHMAR

Franco-Tunisian director and screenwriter. Newly producer. Trained at the Superior School of Audiovisual Production (ESRA) from Paris, and obtained her master's degree in audiovisual production in New York. Ismahane has made short films which have been seen at several international film festivals. In 2017 she directed a Tunisian comedy for ICFLIX, "WOH". In 2019 Ismahane opens her production company, Madame Prod in which she develops and supports women's projects. She founded "Le cinema Au feminin", a unique training program that combines cinema and personal development. It is a program that trains women from disadvantaged backgrounds in the film industry on the preparation, shooting and post-production of a film.



ON THE FENCE

Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, UK | 2020 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 61 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

After a bad dream, which the mother saw, Nesrine travels from Cairo, where she has lived since 2002, to her hometown "Tema" in Upper Egypt (400 km south of Cairo), in an attempt to save their old home. a self-journey the filmmaker takes us back and forth between two worlds that don't belong to either of them. Nesrine is suspended between two different places, in the house that the father left before his death there you find an attempt to cling to a special map, but it is very fragile and will disappear.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Nesrine Lotfy Elzayat

Writer: Nesrine Lotfy Elzayat

DOP: Olla Elmalah

Producer: Hala Lotfy, Nesrine Lotfy Elzayat

Nesrine Lotfy Elzayat

Nesrine El-Zayat was born in Upper Egypt in the governorate of Sohag. She studied sociology at the University of the South Valley. She was working a film critic and journalist at Rosa El-Youssef newspaper. She made 2 short documentaries, the one it's called "WARD NO.6" has been screened on Channel 3 in France. It won the Jury Prize for the Human Rights Competition at the Baghdad International Film Festival and the Jury Prize for Best Short Documentary at the National Festival for Egyptian Cinema in 2009. The second on called "THE BLACK DRESS" made it in 2013, it was screening in festivals in Egypt, India, France, Morocco. "On the Fence" was the last and newest one, its long feature documentary film who Nesrine filmed and edited. The first premier was during Cairo film festival in December 2020.



FAMILY FILM

BARA EL MANHAG

BEFORE THE FILM YOU AND YOUR KIDS WILL ENJOY STORY TIME WITH WAFAA SULEIMAN

Wafaa Ahmed Suleiman, a former professor at the Faculty of Education, Damascus University, an educational researcher and trainer in the field of early childhood, specialized in telling the story, and the activities inspired by them. Participated in a project to promote Arabic language for native speakers through story-telling and art activities in the city library Stadsbibliotek





BARA EL MANHAG

Egypt | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 100 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Barra El Manhag is a light-hearted drama about Nour, a 13-year-old orphan boy. As all the boys are afraid of the haunted house right in front of the school, he's encouraged to go into the house to gain their respect, only to find an old man living there, hiding from the world. A friendship and apprenticeship evolve between the boy and the old man, leading to a journey of self-discovery for both of them.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Amr Salama

Writer: Amr Salama, Khaled Diab

Cast: Maged El Kedwany, Omar Sherif, Ruby, Asmaa Abulyazid, Ahmed Khaled Saleh, Donia Maher, Ahmed Amin, Aly Kassem

DOP: Ahmed Beshary

Producer: Shahinaz el Akkad

AMR SALAMA

Amr Salama has written and directed multiple award winning feature films. On A Day Like Today (2008) Asmaa (2011) Excuse My French (2014) Made In Egypt (2014) Sheikh Jackson (2017) Co-directed the documentary, Tahrir 2011: The Good, The Bad & The Politician, winner of the UNESCO award at the Venice Film Festival and numerous other international awards. Directed and supervised the content of the first season of the Arabic version of the international TV show, Saturday Night Live. Directed the hit Arabic Egyptian drama 'Tayea'. Created, wrote, produced and directed the 1st Netflix original show in Egypt 'Paranormal' which was listed by Variety as one of the best international shows in 2020. In 2021, co-wrote and directed the film Extracurricular and also co-produced and co-directed the show Bimbo for Shahid VIP.





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**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE SAUDI FILM COMMISSION**

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ABOUT THE FILM COMMISSION



The film commission is a Saudi government body, under the Ministry of Culture, founded in February 2020 and based in Riyadh. the authority aims to develop the film sector and production environment in Saudi Arabia, as well as to motivate and empower Saudi filmmakers.

- Talent development: ensuring that the kingdom's film sector has access to qualified talent at a competitive cost.
- Infrastructure: ensure that the Saudi film sector has access to appropriate facilities and services at a competitive cost.
- local production in the kingdom: stimulating local film production in the kingdom.
- International production in the kingdom: attracting international film production to the kingdom.
- Regulatory framework: creating an appropriate regulatory environment that promotes the development of the film sector.
- Distribution and presentation: stimulating demand for Saudi films in selected local and international markets.

هيئة الأفلام
Film Commission
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia





ABDULLAH AL EYYAF AL-QAHTANI, CEO OF THE SAUDI FILM COMMISSION,

Abdullah Al Ayaf Al-Qahtani is a filmmaker, novelist and engineer, who has won local and regional awards. he was appointed CEO of the film authority in June 2020. he graduated from King Fahd university of petroleum and minerals and worked as an engineer at Saudi Aramco and held a number of positions as head of programs and initiatives at the King Abdulaziz world cultural center (enrichment), as well as head of media relations, visual and audio production, events and other departments.



GHASSAN HABIB, FILM PROMOTIONS DIRECTOR

Ghassan: After years of working in Marketing and PR for agencies like Ogilvy and Porter Novelli, he joined the commission where he handled talent development before becoming the director of Film Promotions at the Film Commission



FAHAD ALSUWAYAN, PRODUCER

Fahad Alsuwayan's career began at the tender age of 13 when he impulsively decided to take part in a media company. While at KSU business school, he worked at a MENA-based sport e-journalism & content creation platforms. After graduating, he opted for a career in banking. Years later, he founded an events & content investment company. Simultaneously, he joined C3Films, known as Telfaz11. Earning both commercial success & recognition in the form of awards.

In 2018, he was chosen for the newly founded Saudi Film Council, missioned to enrich the intellectual creative economy & promotes KSA's diverse culture.

Till present, Fahad had been hands on several domains such as: infrastructure, strategy, policies & Int'l production such as Desert Warrior, Kandahar..etc.



HALEEL ALSAYER, DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS

Haleel Alsayer is a young Saudi professional who believes in the Vision 2030 of Saudi Arabia. Being part of the Saudi vision gave him an advantage to support his country working in the Partnership filed in the cultural sector



MONERAH ALSAIDAN, SENIOR TALENT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

An inspired Saudi female director and producer. She directed her first short film in 2017. Since then Monerah has been on a continuous learning journey to develop herself in the world of filmmaking. She attended several courses, from USC cinema of art in Directing, and from Film Independent - LA in developing scripts, and other workshops. Monerah produced several contents in collaboration production companies in Saudi, Spanish, British, American and Italian, and that expanded her horizon and knowledge in the industry, which led her to be as a senior talent developer in the Saudi film commission where she works closely with filmmakers and create workshops and training that can help enhance their interest and knowledge of the filmmaking world.



FERAS ALASKAR, SENIOR FILM PROMOTION SPECIALIST

A dynamic, reliable, flexible, and highly motivated individual with years of executive experience. Primarily in the Public Relations, Marketing, Events Feras Joined SFC team after a long journey of expertise as Director of PR & Marketing at The Ritz-Carlton and other services entity 2021 he awarded as the Saudi hospitality talent award at the hotel show Saudi Arabia and he was feature Hotelier Middle East as one of 50 best hotels marketing talent in Middle east.



ABDULAZIZ ALMUTAIRI, TEAM LEADER/ LOCAL FILM PROMOTION AND FESTIVALS

Master of Arts: Cinematographer, 12/2016 New York film Academy – LA Bachelor of Arts: Mass communication and public relations, 12/2012 king Abdulaziz University – Jeddah ACCOMPLISHMENTS The founder of "the Young Saudi film festival" in LA, USA 2017, 2018, and in 2019 in Riyadh.

Appointed as representative to present Saudi films in four American universities as part of Prince Mouhamed bin Salman trip to US in 2018 producer for many short and feature films such as " the perfect candidate"

PANORAMA SAUDI CINEMA

FEATURE FILMS

40 YEARS AND ONE NIGHT

ROUTE TEN

THE BOOK OF SUN

THE JOURNEY

THE TAMBOUR OF RETRIBUTION

SHORT FILMS

LITTLE BIRD

NOUR SHAMS

SENSES

SUN 89

THE PALM WITCH

WICKER

ZAWAL



40 YEARS AND ONE NIGHT

Saudi Arabia | 2020 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 74 min



SYNOPSIS

When their father gets into a car accident five siblings rush to the hospital. Though they find him in good shape the collision causes past secrets to spill out over one harrowing night

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Mohammed Alholayyil

Writer: Bashayer Alsomali

Cast: Jaafar Algharib, Sana'a Bakr Yonis, Meshal Almutari, Zara Albalushi, Khalid Saqr, Osema Saleh, Rahaf Ibrahim

DOP: Amine Messadi

Producer: Abdualrahman Khawj

MOHAMMED ALHOLAYYIL

It's the dark sense of humour that marks out the work of Mohammed Alholayyil. His first feature film, 40 Years and One Night, fully supported by the Red Sea Film Festival, is scheduled to premiere later this year. Honing a minimalist aesthetic, he utilizes sparse set design and sound design to focus on the psychological. In particular, the warped relations within the family unit. His camera frames the family home with a documentary level of truth, moving the camera in a verité style that unveils hidden truths.



ROUTE TEN

Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 82 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Maryam and Nasser are set to travel from Riyadh to attend their father's wedding in Abu Dhabi, until the flight is cancelled. Undaunted, they decide to make the journey by car instead. Their time together will mend a relationship that has frayed since their mother's death as they share their feelings about their overbearing father—but, they underestimate the many hazards of the desert road, including an angry stranger whose terrifying pursuit has the brother and sister driving for their lives.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Omar Naim
Writer: Omar Naim, Khalid Fahad
Cast: Baraa Alem, Fatima Al-Banawi, Abdul Mohsin Al Nimr
DOP: Matthew Irving
Producer: Almotaz Aljefri, Rami Yasin

OMAR NAIM

Omar Naim is an award winning Lebanese-born director, writer, and documentarian. His most recent film is the supernatural thriller *Becoming* (2020), starring Toby Kebbel, Penelope Mitchell and Jason Patric. *Becoming* was selected as one of the best horror films of 2020 by Thrillist.com. Naim's feature debut was the science-fiction thriller *The Final Cut* (2005), starring Oscar winners Robin Williams and Mira Sorvino. The film premiered in competition at the Berlin Film Festival, and won Naim the Best Screenplay prize at the Deauville Film Festival that same year. Naim also directed the thriller *Dead Awake* (2010) with Nick Stahl, Amy Smart, and Rose McGowan, as well as a documentary film for PBS about Muslim American standup comedians after 9/11. His most recent documentary, *Two Cities* (2021), is a portrait of a Lebanese theatre surviving the nation's numerous crises.



THE BOOK OF SUN

Saudi Arabia | 2020 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 120 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

During 2010, the year of Saudi Youtube spring movement. Husam, a high school senior finds himself lured into video production, along with his best friend/classmate Maan, Ibrahim who used to bully them and lastly Orabi, the teacher with a passion for film-making. In the midst of their final high school year, a wild adventure ensues as they decide on producing a horror feature film, without any financial budgets, risking their entire future.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Faris Godus
Writer: Godus Brothers (Sohayb & Faris)
Cast: Sohayb Godus, Baraa Alem, Ismail Alhasan, Ahmed Saddam (Alyoung)
DOP: Amr Alammari
Producer: Sohayb Godus

FARIS GODUS

Faris Godus is known for directing and writing his digital content since 2010 with multiple videos that hits more than 450 million views in total. His 2016 short "Predicament in Sight" was selected in the Saudi Film Days Festival which was held in California. Recently it was released on Netflix as part of the "Six Windows in the Desert" package. Recently, he just completed his first feature film. A 27 years old Saudi director, his passion and self-taught skills in filmmaking shaped up his career. His work has a distinctive comic touch and narrative vision consolidated through entertaining visually arresting and artistically innovative films. Faris passion is to tell stories stemming from his environment that reinforces the local culture from his unique point of view. He reside his job at Telfaz11 as a director to co-find Tape production as creative producer.



THE JOURNEY

Saudi Arabia, Japan | 2020 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 110 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Abraha and his ruthless invading army threaten the city of Makkah and are trying to destroy everything that comes their way and attack the innocents. While defeat seems inevitable, "Aws" and a group of fighters decide to defend their city against this mighty army. Aws, a simple potter, is forced to reveal his dark past when he discovers among the defenders his lost childhood friend Zurara. In the midst of fears and dangers, Aws battles his doubts and fears as he tries to unite his friends and companions on the eve of the battle, and the strength of faith and perseverance drives them to stand and fight to the end. As Abraha's army approaches, the fate of their city and their families is at stake.

KOBUN SHIZUNO

Kobun Shizuno directed the animation series Case Closed in 2004 and was selected as general director of the animated series G.I. Joe: Sigma 6 in 2005. After that, he directed Case Closed films from 2011 to 2017 in a row. In 2014 he directed the television animation series Knights of Sidonia. Also, he co-directed with Hiroyuki Seshita the trilogy animation film GODZILLA released in 2017 and 2018. His famous theatre works include Case Closed: The Crimson Love Letter (2017) and GODZILLA: Planet of the Monsters (2017).

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Kobun Shizuno

Writer: Atsushi Tomioka

Cast: Nassar Alnassar, Abdo Chahine, Abdulrahman Alwarthan, Abdullah Elfiky, Racha Rezk, Jasem Alnabhan,

Dop: Amr Alammari

Producer: Dr. Essam Bukhary



THE TAMBOUR OF RETRIBUTION

Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 92 min



SYNOPSIS

The son of the swordsman falls in love with daughter of Tagaga in a social paradox based on selling joy (wedding) and buying death.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Abdulaziz Alshlahei

Writer: Mufarrej Mujfill

Cast: Faisal Aldoukhi, Ajeba Aldosary, Adwa Fahad, Shabib Alkhaleefa

DOP: Hussam Habib

Producer: Ahmed Mousa

ABDULAZIZ ALSHLAHEI

Abdulaziz Alshlahei director and Saudi film maker born in Riyadh 1986 His passion for movie making started at an early age . The open ending theme in all of his movies came from the interesting instinctual and the magical realism of the environment where he lived . He approaches stories of his movies from a human perspective He lands his question at every end but the story doesn't end As in his last movie "Kaman" or "Violin" which depicts the conflict of ideas between a religious person and a violin that fights for its rights in a clash between reality and fantasy "Had Altar" is considered his second feature and now he is preparing for his third film "Hobal" He has four short film preceded his feature films . His film "Distance zero" won best film at Saudi Film Festival and Best Cinematic Achievement from Alexandria Film Festival



LITTLE BIRD

Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 17 min

Director: Khalid Fahad

Writer: Khalid Fahad

Cast: Abdulhaleem Salman, Amal Althaqafi, Nader Haseen, Ali Alkardous , Nour Ajnbi

Dop: Mohammed Abdulhadi

Producer: Mohammed Abdulhadi



SYNOPSIS

In a world where Malik lives alone, he faces fateful challenges in his life



KHALID FAHAD

Khalid Fahad a Saudi independent filmmaker. Known for his first mini-series produced in Canada in 2012. His first short film (The Investor) in 2017 achieved participation in many film festivals, including the Beirut International Festival and he won the Best Screenplay award at the Dutch Golden Falcon Festival. The short film that he produced (Hair: The Story of Grass) in 2019 achieved participation in many festivals, including Slamdance and Fantastic Fest. Khalid worked as a trainer at the Sharjah Film Festival and a programmer at the Slamdance Festival 2020.

NOUR SHAMS

Nordic premiere

Saudi Arabia, UK, USA | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 26 Min

Director: Faiza Ambah

Writer: Faiza Ambah

Cast: Aisha Rifae, Ahmad Saddam

Dop: Lasse Tolboll

Producer: Basil Khalil



SYNOPSIS

Single mother SHAMS is an Uber driver in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, with two obsessions; her only child MAKKI, and her African desserts. Shams struggles to get Makki married, or to get any interest in her desserts. In fact Makki wants to participate in a hip-hop competition, which could lead to winning an extended trip to France, and separate them for the first time in their lives. Shams is forced to decide which is more important, keeping her son, or finding herself.



FAIZA AMBAH

Faiza Ambah is an award-winning writer/director/producer and former Washington Post correspondent based in Saudi Arabia. Her directorial debut short film, MARIAM (2015) won numerous international awards, including being showcased at UNESCO in Paris, the Scottish Parliament, and is continually being screened at universities around the world. Faiza was also involved in the production of SANCTITY (Berlinale 2013) and AVE MARIA (Cannes, Oscars 2015).

SENSES

International premiere

Saudi Arabia | 2020 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 10 min

Director: Khaled Zidan
Writer: Khaled Zidan
Dop: Khaled Zidan
Producer: Anas Yousef



SYNOPSIS

" Senses " a short documentary film that tells a mixture of the stories of three blind talented persons in different fields, how does it feel when the light does not sneak?



KHALED ZIDAN

A director and cinematographer from southern Saudi Arabia, he directed and produced a number of independent short films, nominated and winner in a number of local and international film festivals Interested in visual arts.

SUN 89

Nordic premiere

Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 26 Min

Director: Mansour Albadran
Dop: Abdulmajeed Alshuqairan
Producer: Mansour Albadran, Srrah Algeithi, Aziz Altuwajiri



SYNOPSIS

A group of Saudi engineers called Estidamah decide to build a car to participate in the 2019 World Solar Challenge in Australia. Running against the clock, we follows their journey from the start as they make a vehicle until they arrive to the finish line, overcoming hurdles and making their dream a reality.



MANSOUR ALBADRAN

Saudi Film director and producer, graduated with a cinema production degree from DePaul University in 2016. Mansour directed and produced a wide range of production from short narrative films, short documentaries, commercials and corporate videos. His works were officially selected in many important festivals around the world such as Gulf Film Festival in Dubai, Saudi Film Festival, Sharjah Film Platform and Alain Film Festival.

THE PALM WITCH

International premiere

Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 4 min

Director: Hala Alhaid
Writer: Hala Alhaid
Dop: Hala Alhaid
Producer: Hala Alhaid



SYNOPSIS

Two friends set off in the old city of Riyadh on a search to find their lost pet. Meanwhile, an evil night witch begins to chase them.



HALA ALHAID

Hala is a Riyadh based animator and filmmaker, with a M.F.A in 3D Animation and Motion Arts from Pratt Institute in New York, Brooklyn. Her passion for storytelling through animation comes from the fact that it is a liberating medium, as the limits of imagination are non-existent in the realm of animation. Her student short films *The Dark Cloud* (stop-motion animation) 2015 and *The Palm Witch* (3D animation) 2021, have been screened in multiple film festivals in the Gulf region. Like *The Red Sea International Film Festival* in Jeddah, *Saudi Film Festival* in Dhahran, *ZUMEFF* and *Original Narrative Film Festival at AUS* in the United Arab Emirates.

Hala works on writing for animation, storyboarding, animation and character design. She is a skilled digital illustrator of portraits, and also dabbles in VFX. Currently, she is directing a Saudi animated feature film, while writing and directing another short in an animated anthology series. Additionally, she teaches Audiovisual Media at the College of Arts in King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

WICKER

International premiere

Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 5 Min

Director: Wejdan Almarzouq
Writer: Ali Alahmad
Cast: Hamid Alhamid, Ayat Alhamid, Rabab Alhamid, Roqaya Aleid, Sadeq Alhamid
Dop: Ali Aldaif
Producer: Shima Alhashim



SYNOPSIS

The wicker and frond industry is the best known of the popular crafts and dates back to the civilization of Mesopotamia, the Arabian Peninsula, and other places where palm cultivation flourished, so it is in most of the human environment vocabulary, the frond house, The film tells the story of these families



WEJDAN ALMARZOUQ

Wejdan al Marzouq: a media graduate from King Faisal University in Al-Ahsa, she has expertise in producing and directing, as well as working on media projects and other projects in many disciplines, and she has directed a documentary film for the first time.

ZAWAL

Nordic premiere

Saudi Arabia, Germany, France | 2020 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 8 min

Director: Mujtaba Saeed

Writer: Mujtaba Saeed

Cast: Paolo Al Shalhaf, Diana Kadah, Katharina Walther

Dop: Adrian Langenbach

Producer: Gilda Weller, Nora Helou



SYNOPSIS

Eight year-old Adam confronts a mutated world, when he breaks out of the designated quarantine area for refugees.



Mujtaba Saeed

Mujtaba Saeed was born and raised in Saudi Arabia. Already at an early age, he was curious to explore the theatre and film industry of the Arab region. In 2005, Saeed decided to move to Germany to study directing. He graduated at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in 2020. During his studies, he directed several films among which Green Lemon, the Compass and Darkness is a color.

هيئة الأفلام
Film Commission
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



film.moc.gov.sa

A PHOTO EXHIBITION FROM AROUND THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

As part of the Guest of Honor program, Malmö Arab Film Festival in partnership with Film Commission of Saudi Arabia presents A photo exhibition featuring beautiful and well known places from around the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The exhibition showcases landscapes and scenery that have appeared in various films in the region.

Saudi Arabia has much to offer it's visitors, whether they are interested in photography or film there is beautiful desert, ancient towns, vast shorelines, a historic city and a lot of breathtaking places can be found all over the country.



● Opening exhibition on May 5, 18:00 in Cinema Panora Foyer



هيئة الأفلام
Film Commission
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



CONVERSATION

Conversation with Abdullah AlQattani ceo of Saudi Film Commission moderated by Ahmed Shawky. Mr. Al Qattani will discuss the film Commission initiatives and its future plans



ABDULLAH AL EYYAF AL-QAHTANI, CEO OF THE SAUDI FILM COMMISSION,

Abdullah Al Ayaf Al-Qahtani is a filmmaker, novelist and engineer, who has won local and regional awards. he was appointed CEO of the film authority in June 2020. he graduated from King Fahd university of petroleum and minerals and worked as an engineer at Saudi Aramco and held a number of positions as head of programs and initiatives at the King Abdulaziz world cultural center (enrichment), as well as head of media relations, visual and audio production, events and other departments.

● May 5, at 11:00 in the festival's Center in Scandic Triangeln Hotel.

PANEL

HOW TO NUDGE GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT FILMMAKING BETTER?

Filmmaking is not only an art form it is a big business affecting many service sectors. Several countries acknowledge the link to employment, education, and tourism and actively support filmmaking. How can we learn from each other's experiences - the need for film funds, production incentives, support to emerging filmmakers, local infrastructure as in production service companies. Fahad Alsuwayan is joined by Mohanad Bakri, Layaly Badr, Kristina Borjeson, Joakim Rangshrand and the panel is moderated by Pernilla Frykholm



FAHAD ALSUWAYAN

Fahad Alsuwayan's career began at the tender age of 13 when he impulsively decided to take part in a media company. While at KSU business school, he worked at a MENA-based sport e-journalism & content creation platforms. After graduating, he opted for a career in banking. Years later, he founded an events & content investment company. Simultaneously, he joined C3Films, known as Telfaz11. Earning both commercial success & recognition in the form of awards. In 2018, he was chosen for the newly founded Saudi Film Council, missioned to enrich the intellectual creative economy & promotes KSA's diverse culture. Till present, Fahad had been hands on several domains such as: infrastructure, strategy, policies & Int'l production such as Desert Warrior, Kandahar..etc.

● May 6, at 15:00 in the festival's Center in Scandic Triangeln Hotel.

JUNOON

Saudi Arabia, United States | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 92 min

International premiere



SYNOPSIS

Khalid, a wannabe vlogger, travels with his wife and best friend from Saudi Arabia all the way to Southern California, hoping to catch some great footage of paranormal happenings. When his wish comes true, will the three of them have the presence of mind to turn the cameras off and flee? Director Maan B plays Khalid himself and narrates the story, creating an atmosphere of suspense from the moment they set off into the unknown.

MAAN B. YASER B.

Maan B. is an active young Saudi Producer, Director and Actor who came to the US from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2010 pursuing a college degree in filmmaking. In 2016 he got his bachelor's degree in filmmaking from the New York Film Academy in Hollywood. In 2014 Maan and his brother Talha were established the Prince of Arabia Entertainment LLC (POA). He has continuously been producing, line producing and/or managing productions that range from short films and commercials to web series and music videos and soon, feature films.

In 2020 Maan and his brother Yaser B. Co-Directed their first Saudi feature film entitled "Junoon" The movie was shot in Los Angeles and Jeddah and it will have its world premiere at The Red Sea International Film Festival 2021

Yaser B. He is a Saudi filmmaker. He earned several scholarship supported by Saudi film commission by the Ministry of Culture in USC in USA, and BFI in UK. Yaser has worked with Maan as a director in the feature film (Junoon) which has been nominated in several international festivals such as Red Sea International Film Festival, and best director award in London International film festival and won daw' national award supported by Saudi film commission by the Ministry of Culture. He has written and directed a short film which has won the second place in Wai regional award supported by Ministry of Health. He has directed and creatively written several national governmental and non-governmental commercials, including Riyadh season 2021.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Maan B.Yaser B.

Writer: Pedro Paulo Araujo

Cast: Saleh Alem, Ida Alkusey, Maan B., Khairia Nazmi, Noan Ribeiro, Sumaya Rida

DOP: Jeremy Asuncion

Producer: Prince of Arabia Entertainment



QUAREER

Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 71 min

Nordic premiere



SYNOPSIS

Five short stories take a place in a conservative society, where five female protagonists risking their lives by facing incidents that occurs in puberty, marriage, separation, and sexual assault. A left-out child who tries to refill the gap by reaching out to her absent father through his students. A teenager struggles to sign her parental consent form to participate in an art competition facing the pressure of her parents' separation. A fresh graduate who is conflicted between her family desires and what she wants in her life. A girl who lives normally until a sudden visit made her re-live her past childhood traumatic experience. A widow let a stranger get into her house at her husband's funeral.

NORAH ALMOWALD

A Saudi director and a filmmaker, who found her passion for filmmaking through her art work, and creative writing. After graduating with a Bachelor Degree in Cinematic Art from Effat University in 2018. She worked on several short films, then took a filmmaking workshop in La Femis Film School, Paris. She also worked on feature films such as "40 years and one night" by Mohammed Alholayyil and the TV Series The Fate Hotel and Ureem season 2.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Norah Almowald, Ragheed AlNahdi, Ruba Khafagy, Noor Elamir, Fatimah Alhazmi

Writer: Norah Almowald, Noor Elamir, Sara Mesfer, Fatimah Alhazmi

Cast: Salwa Ahmed, khayria Abu Laban, Raghad Balashram, Manal Ahmed, Fay Fouad

DOP: Aziz Allaf

Producer: Sara Mesfer, Ragheed Al Nahdi



NOOR ALAMEER

Noor Alameer is a Saudi director and writer who made several short films such as “My Neighbor behind the Wall”, “The Bus” a documentary that won the “Best Student Documentary Short Film” award in 2017, Saudi Film Festival. She also has been part of independent feature films such as “The Physical Properties of Coffee ” in 2018. She also worked as a director, writer and executive producer in the feature film “Quareer” in 2018 and 2019 . She directed and wrote her film “Kareemat Somaya ” as a part of “Becoming” the omnibus feature that was funded and supported by Red Sea film Festival Foundation. Her upcoming work is “dream's date “, a short comedy fantasy film



RAGHEED ALNAHDI

Ragheed Al-Nahdi is a Saudi director and producer. She started her media career at an early age at Jeddah Radio as a presenter and writer for social and kids programs. Ragheed graduated with a bachelor’s degree in cinematic arts from Effat University. She worked in several short and feature films and participated in many film festivals and cultural events.



RUBA KHAFAGY

Ruba Khafagy is a Saudi filmmaker who graduated in 2019 and got her bachelor’s degree in Visual and Digital Production at Effat university. Ruba worked as a colorist and editor in a post production company called “Kut The Crab” for a year and half. She was a part of many films, series and commercials such as comedy club, Numera 2, The Case, The Fate Hotel and more. As a colorist, she worked in a film called “Shiraa” that was screened in Saudi film festival in 2020.



FATMA ALHAZMI

Jeddah native Fatma Alhazmi studied Visual & Digital Production at Effat University. As a part of the new wave of young directors in Saudi Arabia, Fatma wishes to share her unique vision onto the screens exploring Saudi culture and more. In her years as a student, Fatma would participate in various short & feature films, where the filmmaking experience would help her find her own brush in years to come.



WHISPER DOWN THE LANE

International premiere

Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic Dialogue With English Subtitles | 5 min

Director: Raghad Albarqi

Writer: Leila Belkacem

Cast: Khairiya Nazmi, Tuleen Hafiz, Eyad Ayman Kaifi, Eihab Khalifah

Dop: Raghad Albarqi

Producer: Abdulrahman Khawj



SYNOPSIS

Experimental animated short film takes viewers on a linear trip that follows a sequence of interrelated phone calls between five people that finally erupt into a larger fight.

The film examines the themes of communication and self-destruction, as well as the consequences escalate to a bigger conflict.

The short film explores the concepts of communication, self-destruction, and the domino effect.



RAGHAD ALBARQI

Raghad is an animator and filmmaker who enjoys working on a wide variety of projects. She graduated from the Visual and Digital Production program at Effat University in Jeddah. Her graduation film "Social Molds Manual" has been introduced and screened at numerous film festivals, Raghad worked at creative agencies as an animator and Illustrator for local and international brands.

DIYAR HISMA

Nordic premiere

Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 25 min

Director: Fahd Fayz

Writer: Fahd Fayz

Cast: Salem Alatwy, Awad Alatwy

Dop: Fahd Fayz

Producer: Faisal Baltyuor



SYNOPSIS

When Salem, a Bedouin knight, and his friend Hamid return from a hunting journey, they are confronted with difficulties in the most hostile regions of the northern desert. As each of them struggles to survive, events come to a head and accelerate.

Witness the heroic experiences, customs, and traditions of the Bedouins Tribal life in the north of the Arabian Peninsula, where a young Bedouin animal hunter heroically fights the brutality of the desert and saves the traditional norm in a dramatic narrative structure.



FAHD FAYZ

Fahd Fayz is a Saudi Arabian filmmaker located in Tabouk. Fahd holds a bachelor's degree in technical science and works part-time as a photographer, designer, and editor with a line producer for local and independent film projects in Saudi Arabia. Fahd uses his creative drive experience to come up with character concepts for his films.

He is presently promoting his debut short film as a director of "Diar Hisma", with a first-run screening at the Carthage Film Festival 2021 Tunisia. Fahd's work was chosen for the regional completion of the Infiniti cars in 2018, and he was awarded the prize for best shooting photos in Saudi Arabia, which led him to be part of creative designs that are widespread in social media.



BRIDGES OF TALENT

“Bridge of Talents” program is a workshop targeting young talents in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to be held during the days of Malmö Arab Film Festival, and aims to build a bridge of collaboration between the film industry in the Kingdom and its counterpart in Sweden and the Nordic countries, and to contribute to training young filmmakers from the Kingdom and increase their networks of communication with international industry.

* Enriching the talents of young Saudi females and males in the field of filmmaking through cinematic lectures and masterclasses covering the various stages of making a film, under the supervision of professionals from Sweden and the Arab world.

* Building bridges of communication between Saudi young talents and the industry in the Arab world by attending the activities and screenings of Malmö Film Festival, networking with industry professionals and meeting with representatives of major Arab and European companies.

* Benefiting from the experience of the prestigious film industry in Sweden and the Nordic countries by making field visits to the most important film institutions in the region, such as the Ystad city Film studios – Film I Skane, the Danish Film Institute, the Danish Cinematheque, and the Swedish TV quarters in Malmö.

“Bridge of Talents” is generally targeting young filmmakers who have taken the first steps in their career and want to add to their experiences and enrich their professional development. It is not a program for beginners and not a program for seasoned professionals, but it is aimed at those who have already started initial steps in their film career.

PARTICIPANTS



FATMA ALHAZMI

Jeddah native Fatma Alhazmi studied Visual & Digital Production at Effat University. As a part of the new wave of young directors in Saudi Arabia, Fatma wishes to share her unique vision onto the screens exploring Saudi culture and more. In her years as a student, Fatma would participate in various short & feature films, where the filmmaking experience would help her find her own brush in years to come.



KHALED ZIDAN

A director and cinematographer from southern Saudi Arabia, he directed and produced a number of independent short films, nominated and winner in a number of local and international film festivals Interested in visual arts.



MANSOUR ALBADRAN

Saudi Film director and producer, graduated with a cinema production degree from DePaul University in 2016. Mansour directed and produced a wide range of production from short narrative films, short documentaries, commercials and corporate videos. His works were officially selected in many important festivals around the world such as Gulf Film Festival in Dubai, Saudi Film Festival, Sharjah Film Platform and Alain Film Festival.



MAWADDA SALLAM

A Saudi filmmaker. She studied cinematic art. Sallam produced My Night short drama film, Quarer - Door 1 and 2 and Becoming - سمية كريمة as a line producer and production manager. she wrote the Forgotten Victims, which was selected by Qabes film festival in Tunisia and Saudi film festival.



RAGHAD ALBARQI

Raghad is an animator and filmmaker who enjoys working on a wide variety of projects. She graduated from the Visual and Digital Production program at Effat University in Jeddah. Her graduation film "Social Molds Manual" has been introduced and screened at numerous film festivals, Raghad worked at creative agencies as an animator and Illustrator for local and international brands.



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YASSER BIN ABDULRAHMAN

Yaser B. He is a Saudi filmmaker. He earned several scholarship supported by Saudi film commission by the Ministry of Culture in USC in USA, and BFI in UK. Yaser has worked with Maan as a director in the feature film (Junoon) which has been nominated in several international festivals such as Red Sea International Film Festival, and best director award in London International film festival and won daw' national award supported by Saudi film commission by the Ministry of Culture. He has written and directed a short film which has won the second place in Wai regional award supported by Ministry of Health. He has directed and creatively written several national governmental and non-governmental commercials, including Riyadh season 2021.

SCREENINGS OUTSIDE THE CITY OF MALMO

Malmo Arab Film Festival is honoring Saudi Cinema at MAFF's 12th edition, and in collaboration with cinematheque and the Danish film institute they are honored and excited for present two Saudi feature films for a special screening in Denmark.

40 YEARS AND ONE NIGHT

Friday May 6, 2022 at 16:30

Saudi Arabia | 2020 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 74 min

Director: Mohammed Alholayyil

Writer: Bashayer Alsomali

Cast: Jaafar Algharib, Sana'a Bakr Yonis, Meshal Almutari, Zara Albalushi, Khalid Saqr, Osema Saleh, Rahaf Ibrahim

DOP: Amine Messadi

Producer: Abdulrahman Khawj



SYNOPSIS

When their father gets into a car accident five siblings rush to the hospital. Though they find him in good shape the collision causes past secrets to spill out over one harrowing night

QUAREER

May 7, 2022 at 17:45

Saudi Arabia | 2021 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 71 min

Director: Norah Almowald, Ragheed AlNahdi, Ruba Khafagy, Noor Elamir, Fatimah Alhazmi

Writer: Norah Almowald, Noor Elamir, Sara Mesfer, Fatimah Alhazmi

Cast: Salwa Ahmed, khayria Abu Laban, Raghad Balashram, Manal Ahmed, Fay Fouad

DOP: Aziz Allaf

Producer: Sara Mesfer, Ragheed Al Nahdi



SYNOPSIS

Five short stories take a place in a conservative society, where five female protagonists risking their lives by facing incidents that occurs in puberty, marriage, separation, and sexual assault. A left-out child who tries to refill the gap by reaching out to her absent father through his students. A teenager struggles to sign her parental consent form to participate in an art competition facing the pressure of her parents' separation. A fresh graduate who is conflicted between her family desires and what she wants in her life. A girl who lives normally until a sudden visit made her re-live her past childhood traumatic experience. A widow let a stranger get into her house at her husband's funeral.

MAFF INDUSTRY DAYS

DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

POST-PRODUCTION PLATFORM

EXPERTS ONE-TO-ONE

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

PRESENTATION

SEMINAR

VOICES AMPLIFIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

CASE STUDY

WORKSHOP

NETWORKING SESSIONS



MAFF INDUSTRY DAYS

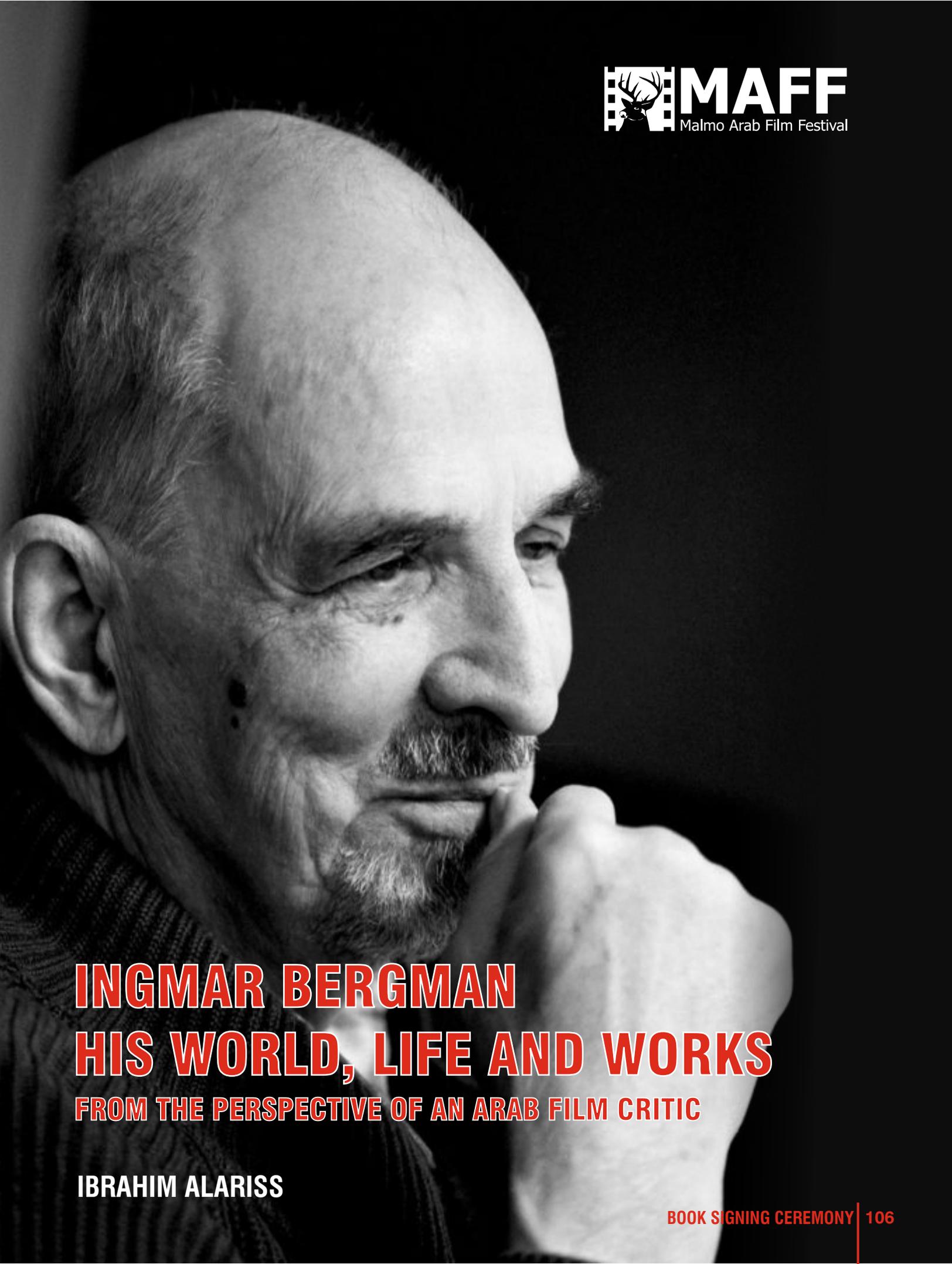


We are proud to present the 8th edition of MAFF Industry Days - MID, the pioneering initiative that aims to promote exchange and cooperation between Sweden and the Arab world within the film industry.

The objective of MID is to bring together producers, financiers, filmmakers, and distributors and create opportunities for pitching and networking through three days filled with various programs and events, bringing Sweden and the Arab world closer together. Through stimulating collaboration in this very concrete, hands-on manner, MID brings the Arab and Swedish film industries and cultural spheres closer to each other, thus providing audiences with the opportunity to enjoy new film experiences and hear stories that might not have been told otherwise. MAFF Industry Days positions Malmö and the Skåne region as a hub for film production and gathers representatives from all the major Nordic film institutes. In recent years, the Skåne region has developed into a dynamic center for film production and other creative industries; many news organizations, production companies, and enterprises have seen the light of day, and have increased the city's economic capacity and enhanced its attractiveness, both on the national and international level.



MAFF Industry Days is located at the festival's Center in Scandic Triangeln Hotel.



INGMAR BERGMAN
HIS WORLD, LIFE AND WORKS
FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN ARAB FILM CRITIC

IBRAHIM ALARISS

BOOK SIGNING CEREMONY

INGMAR BERGMAN

HIS WORLD, LIFE AND WORKS

INGMAR BERGMAN FROM EYES AN ARAB CRITIC

During his final years in Paris, Mahmoud Darwish enjoyed telling how the film theaters he frequented in Beirut in the early 1970s brought him closer to auteur cinema and made him discover a cinema different from the one he had known. He would describe with amazement how it was difficult for him to find a seat in a theater showing a film by Ingmar Bergman, even in the middle of the week. The Swedish director was considered an icon by Arab cinephiles who watched most of his films back in those good years, mainly in theaters and in the then-numerous cinema clubs across Arab cities. On the other hand, Turkish writer Orhan Pamuk- Nobel Prize for Literature Laureate- recounts how he used to meet his woman during the screenings of Bergman's films in the Dunia Movie Theater on Istanbul's İstiklal Caddesi, where Beyoğlu Street intersects with Taksim Square. Thus, he dedicates several pages in his great novel, *The Black Book* to Bergman and his film, *The Silence*. Fate had it that I watched that same film for the first time in the very same Istanbul theater around the same time as Pamuk and his lover/wife. Many books on Bergman are available in Arabic, but they are mere translations from French or English, in addition to translations of some of his books such as *Images* and *The Magic Lantern*. Nevertheless, as far as I know, no comprehensive books on Bergman have been published in Arabic other than the many studies about him that were published in Arab newspapers and magazines. Hence, it seems to me that it is high time one wrote a book about him in Arabic, and that is the book at hand.

This book aims to be simple and include Bergman's biography starting with the day he passed away, an event that many Arab intellectuals considered to be a major loss. The book then goes back in time to trace Bergman's life, before touching on his key films with various levels of elaboration by analyzing each film and placing it in its context in light of the global intellectual developments on the one hand, the developments in Bergman's own life on the other. The aim is to distill the meanings carried in these films as to justify considering the aesthetics and ideas expressed by this filmmaker part of the movement of world thought. In addition, one should not forget the common aesthetics between his cinema and his theater, as well as the relation between them.

To this end, this book will also include a sort of a dictionary of Bergman's ideas, quotes from interviews conducted with him in the 1970s and 1980s, and an annex featuring what Arab critics and journalists wrote about him upon his death as well as some pictures about his films and life.

IBRAHIM ALARISS

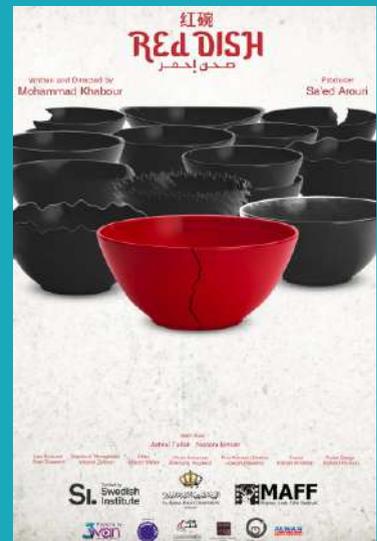
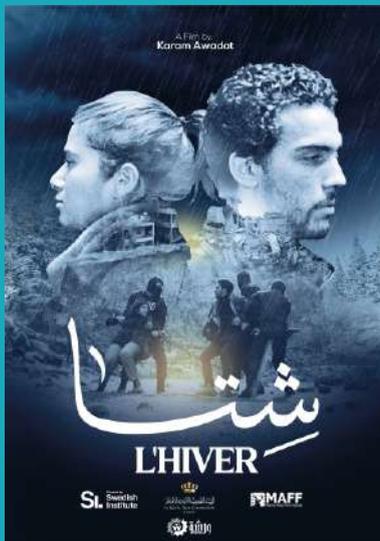
Born in Beirut in 1946, Al-Ariss is a film critic, journalist, cultural historian and translator. He studied film directing in Rome, screenwriting and criticism in London, and has been working in journalism since 1970. He currently heads the film department in London's al-Hayat newspaper, where he writes a daily column about human heritage and the history of world culture. In addition, he has translated around 40 books and papers about cinema, philosophy, economics, history and criticism from French, English and Italian.

His most significant works include: "A Journey in Arab Cinema", "Martin Scorsese: A Cinematic Biography", "Youssef Chahine: A Child's Perspective", "A Rebel's Grip", "Cinema: History and the World", "Arab Cinema: Its History, Its Future and Its Role in the Renaissance", "A Cinema of Humans: A Reading in the Life and Work of Selected Filmmakers", and, most recently, "the Cinema and Society in the Arab World trilogy", published in three parts, summarizing the history of Arab cinema and its relationship with the societies of the region.



Ibrahim Alariss book signing ceremony is located at Malmö public library on May 7, 15:30 to 17:00.

VOICES AMPLIFIED



VOICES AMPLIFIED

THE PROJECT

The "Voices Amplified" project, aims to provide aspiring filmmakers across Jordan with the opportunity to express their lives' experiences through producing short narrative films themed "Cultural Heritage". The project aims to build the filmmaking capabilities of Jordanians and residents in Jordan through the different stages from script development to post-production, all under the supervision of professionals from Sweden and Jordan. This project is important as it empowers filmmakers in Jordan to represent their reality and take control of their own stories.

IMPLEMENTATION

Three projects were selected to participate in the training program, where we provided mentorship for the aspiring participants by reputable Swedish and Jordanian filmmakers, through three labs: script development, production, and post-production. Each of the projects was granted an amount of a maximum of 4000 JDs to produce their short narrative films and publicly screen them in Jordan. Moreover, the three short films will be screened in the 12th Malmö Arab Film Festival, with the attendance of a representative for each project. The program will cover all travel expenses.

TRAINERS

SET SUPERVISORS



AMEEN NAYFEH



AHMAD ALKHATIB



MAHMOUD MASSAD

Duties:

1. Guiding and supporting the participating teams on set during the Production Phase, to guarantee the smoothness of the shooting process.
2. Providing all the necessary assistance to the participants, that enables them to produce their films.
3. Introducing the participants to the different roles of the crew members, and the professional relationship between all concerned parties.

SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR



SHAKER K TAHREER

Duties:

1. Guiding and mentoring the participants in the process of developing their scripts over the course of 8 sessions.
2. Interacting with the participants and answering all the questions regarding the raised topics.

EDITOR



PIERRE LAURENT

Duties:

1. Guiding and assisting the teams in the Editing process over the course of 6 days.
2. Interacting with the participants and answering all the questions regarding the raised topics.

TRAINEES



Mohammad Khabour, a Jordanian director and actor, born in 1987, holds a university degree Holds another scientific degree in the Jordanian Ministry of Culture Worked in the field of acting and operating in 2006 Filmed the first short film for mobile phones in 2011He wrote and directed his first short fiction film, Mashariqi Al-Tariqi Won the Best Film Award at Jordan International Film Festival 2016 In 2017, he directed his own production, Oud Fine Participated in several workshops and courses in filmmaking, the Royal Film Commission of Jordan. Mohammad has many documentaries, including a film about the writer Jamal Nagy, in which he participated Mondial Cairo and won the Golden Prize, during the ban period (covid-19), he made the movie Al-Manayah, which won 12 international awards and is currently working on developing his first feature film and writing the first season of the series Look at Me, which received a development grant from the Royal Commission.



Mooney Abu Samra The director's career in the film industry began in 2013 by participating in several intensive workshops with the Royal Film Commission in the manufacture of short fiction films, digital films, documentaries and montage over a period of 3 years, during which she worked in some dramatic scenes and short films, in which her role was As a screenwriter, director and editor, she is now working freely in editing, directing and writing.



Karam Awadat wrote and directed many projects, small sketches, and programs I have a lot of written stories for short movies, I'd like to make it become real

MANAGEMENT TEAM



ABEDALSALAM ALHAJ
Capacity Building Manager



LAYAL ALOTAIBI
Training and Community Programs
Coordinator



MIRA NIMRI
Outreach and Programs Coordinator



MAHMOUD DIBAJEH
Film Centers Supervisor

MAFF AWARDS



Malmö Arab Film Festival presents competition selections for feature and shorts. The following awards are presented for each section.

Short Film Competition

Best Short Film – award 15 000 SEK (This award recognizes the film’s director.)

Jury Award – award 10 000 SEK (This award recognizes the film’s director.)

Documentary Competition

Best Documentary – award 20 000 SEK (This award recognizes the film’s director.)

Jury Award – award 15 000 SEK (This award recognizes the film’s director.)

Feature Competition

Best Feature – award 30 000 SEK (This award recognizes the film’s director.)

Jury Award – award 20 000 SEK (This award recognizes the film’s director.)

Best Director
Best Script
Best Actor
Best Actress

The City of Malmö’s Audience Award

25 000 SEK (This award recognizes the film’s director.)

Audience Award to Best Feature or Documentary.

MAFF STAFF

STAFF

Mouhamad Keblawi, Founder - Head of festival & industry
Mohamad Abo Whatfa, Festival Coordinator
Fida Kablawi, Project Coordinator
Raghad Korayem, Guest Coordinator
Nizar Keblawi, Cinema Coordinator
Sara Abu Eljebain, Creative Coordinator
Eyad Mahmoud, Transport Coordinator
Mohammad Shakir Salman, Accreditation Coordinator
Athir Abbas, Press Guest Coordinator
Yazan Alqaq, Live Broadcast Coordinator
Aila Mahmoud, Festival Assistant
Aleaa Mohammed, Festival Assistant
Mohammad Hasan, Festival Assistant
Jartiena Choura, Festival Assistant
Mahmoud Eyad Mahmoud, Festival Assistant
Mustafa Al Rubaye, Festival Assistant
Nouran Alawad, Festival Assistant
Omar Kauod, Festival Assistant
Rahaf Okdeh, Festival Assistant
Ruaa Hasan, Festival Assistant
Marya Kamal, Festival Assistant
Sedra Alawad, Festival Assistant
Sedra Qaweder, Festival Assistant
Taim Bako, Festival Assistant
Ahmad Okdeh, Festival Assistant
Mariam Alsibai, Festival Assistant
Glykeria Pounenti, Festival Assistant
Abdulaziz Faysal Alanzi, Festival Assistant
Nihal Mahmoud, Festival Assistant
Kaisa Capriles, Festival Assistant
Abdallah Al Shaar, Festival Assistant
Rukaia Habib, Festival Assistant
Mathews Omanga, Festival Assistant

PROGRAMMERS

Ahmed Shawky
Mohamed Atef
Pernilla Frykholm
Kais Kasim
Hana Alomair
Sahar El Echi

BOARD



Amal Keblawi,
Chairman



Aleaa Mohammad Jassim,
Accountant



Aila Mahmoud,
Board Member



Birgitta Severinsson,
Board Member



Mostafa Kaoud,
Board Member



Athir Abbas,
Deputy Member



Nouran Alawad,
Deputy Member



Rahaf Okdeh,
Deputy Member

TICKET INFO

Cinema Screenings

Film ticket: 80 kr

Student and senior: 70 kr

Ticket for Opening Film: 100 kr

Student and senior: 80 kr

Ticket for Closing Film: 100 kr

Student and senior: 80 kr

(Includes access to MAFF Awards + Closing Film)

Festival pass: 10 kr

Festival card: 350 kr

Student and senior: 270 kr

(The card grants you access to all festival screenings except the opening and closing film)

Note all film screenings you have to pick up your film ticket from the box office.

To attend the screenings during Malmö Film Festival you will need – aside from film ticket – a festival pass.

All the seats in the auditoriums are unnumbered.

It may be a long queue at the box office before the screenings, so buy your tickets and festival pass well in advance.

BUY TICKETS

You can buy your film tickets at MAFF website:

www.maffswe.com

Also can be bought at cinema Panora during the festival days.

Opening film (cinema SF storgatan) and closing film (Royal) ticket sales are available one hour before the film starts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

info@maffswe.com



ADDRESSES

Folkets Bio Panora
Friisgatan 19 D

Royal SF
Södra Tullgatan 4

Scandic Triangeln Hotel
Triangeln 2

Scandic City Hotel
Kaptensgatan 1

Scandic S:t Jörgen Hotel
Stora Nygatan 35

Malmö Public Library
Kung Oscars väg 11

Malmö Public Library
Kung Oscars väg 11



هيئة الأفلام
Film Commission
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

