



APRIL 28 - MAY 4, 2023

**13<sup>th</sup> Malmö**  
Arab Film Festival



PANORA - ROYAL

28 APRIL - 4 MAY, 2023

**مهرجان مالمو للسينما العربية**

**MALMÖ ARAB FILM FESTIVAL**



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# WELCOME



I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all of you to the 13th edition of Malmö Arab Film Festival. We are grateful to gather again and celebrate our success as a festival that has become the capital of Arab cinema in Europe.

Since its inception in 2011, MAFF has been the only festival in Scandinavia dedicated solely to showcasing Arab cinema and culture. Now, in our 13th edition, we have grown to become the largest and most influential among the Arab film festivals in the West. We will screen over 40 new films, offering a panoramic view of the most recent trends and impressive waves of Arab cinema.

Malmö Industry Days (MID), our sidebar event, will provide opportunities for filmmakers from both the Arab world and Nordic countries to develop their skills, establish a sustainable network, and secure funding for their film projects.

In addition to our popular "Arabian Nights" screenings, we have the "Films Worth Watching" and "Special Screenings" programs, featuring a group of Arab films with a special narrative.

As always, we are committed to making Arab cinema accessible to everyone, and a selection of films will be screened in schools and libraries across Skåne county.

Over the years, MAFF has become an integral part of Malmö and has contributed to putting the city on the Arab art and cinema map.

I would like to express my gratitude to all our partners for their wonderful cooperation.

On behalf of MAFF team, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our honorable guests and audience, and I wish you all an enjoyable 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.

# 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.



## MAFF TRIBUTES STAR HUSSEIN FAHMY WITH A LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Hussein Fahmy has a tremendous artistic career that extends for more than half a century, from the time he played his first role in the movie “Dalal Al-Masria” directed by Hassan El-Imam in 1970 until his most recent role in the series “Serroh Al-Batie” directed by Khaled Youssef, shown during the current month of Ramadan. Through his career, Fahmy acted in more than two hundred films, series, plays, and radio works, and worked with the top-notch directors of Egyptian cinema, such as Youssef Chahine, Kamal Al-Sheikh, Henry Barakat, Mohamed Khan, and others, in addition to holding various cultural positions, including the presidency of the Cairo International Film Festival for two terms, the first between 1998 and 2001, and the second started in 2022 and continues to this day.

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 Masterclass with Hussein Fahmy located at Malmö public library on April 30, 15:00 to 16:00.  
Masterclass moderator by Film Critic Ahmed Shawky

| STORTORGET           | PANORA FOYER                   | PANORA 1                           | PANORA 2                           |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>FRIDAY 28.4</b>   |                                |                                    |                                    |
| 19:00 Red Carpet ●   |                                |                                    |                                    |
|                      | 21:30 Arabic Mezze And Music ● |                                    |                                    |
|                      |                                | 22:30 Mediterranean Fever ●        |                                    |
| <b>SATURDAY 29.4</b> | 13:00 Kids Workshop ●          |                                    |                                    |
|                      |                                |                                    | 17:00 Batata ●                     |
|                      |                                | 17:30 Riverbed ●                   |                                    |
|                      |                                | 19:45 Queens ●                     | 19:30 Heroic Bodies ●              |
|                      |                                |                                    | 21:45 A Summer in Boujad ●         |
|                      | 21:00 Arabic Mezze And Music ● |                                    |                                    |
|                      |                                | 22:00 Valley Road ●                |                                    |
| <b>SUNDAY 30.4</b>   | 13:00 Kids Workshop ●          |                                    |                                    |
|                      |                                |                                    |                                    |
|                      |                                | 17:00 The Last Queen ●             |                                    |
|                      |                                |                                    | 17:15 Hyphen ●                     |
|                      |                                | 19:30 Nezouh ●                     | 19:45 Apy Between Life And Death ● |
|                      | 21:00 Arabic Mezze And Music ● |                                    |                                    |
|                      |                                |                                    | 21:30 Three Promises ●             |
|                      |                                | 22:00 All Roads Lead To Rome ●     |                                    |
| <b>MONDAY 1.5</b>    |                                | 17:00 Raven Song ●                 |                                    |
|                      |                                |                                    | 17:15 Voices Amplified Films ●     |
|                      |                                | 19:30 Hanging Gardens ●            |                                    |
|                      |                                |                                    | 20:00 Saudi Shorts Package ●       |
|                      | 21:00 Arabic Mezze And Music ● |                                    |                                    |
|                      |                                | 22:00 Moez The End Of The Tunnel ● |                                    |
| <b>TUESDAY 2.5</b>   |                                | 09:30 A Summer in Boujad ●         |                                    |
|                      |                                |                                    | 17:00 Short Film Package 1 ●       |
|                      |                                | 17:30 Under The Fig Trees ●        |                                    |
|                      |                                | 19:30 Alam ●                       | 19:15 Short Film Package 2 ●       |
|                      |                                |                                    | 21:30 Short Film Package 3 ●       |
|                      |                                | 22:00 19B ●                        |                                    |
| <b>WEDNESDAY 3.5</b> |                                |                                    | 09:30 A Summer in Boujad ●         |
|                      |                                |                                    |                                    |
| <b>TORS DAG 4.5</b>  |                                |                                    |                                    |
|                      |                                |                                    |                                    |
|                      |                                |                                    |                                    |
|                      |                                |                                    |                                    |

- Legend**
- Feature Film
  - Short Film
  - Arabian Nights
  - Gala Screenings
  - School Cinema
  - Special events
  - Family Film
  - Special Screenings
  - Shorts From Saudi
  - Films Worth Watching
  - Winner Film



14:00 Firas Fits in ●

14:00 Searching For Three Thousand Egyptian Pound ●

15:00 Masterclass with Hussein Fahmy ●

16:15 Book Signing of Ibrahim Al-Aris ●

20:15 Arabic Mezze And Music ●

21:00 Alhamour H.A ●

16:00 Jury Award Film Winner ●  
Short Film Winner

18:15 Audience Award Winner ●

20:30 Feature Film Winner ●



# GALA SCREENINGS



\* **MEDITERRANEAN FEVER**

# MEDITERRANEAN FEVER

Palestine, Germany, France, Cyprus and Qatar | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 108 min



## SYNOPSIS

Waleed (40) lives in Haifa with his wife and children and dreams of a writing career while suffering from chronic depression. He develops a close relationship with his neighbor (a small-time crook) with an ulterior plot in mind. While the scheme turns into an unexpected friendship between the two men, it leads them into a journey of dark encounters.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Maha Haj

**Writer:** Maha Haj

**Cast:** Amer Hlehel, Ashraf Farah, Anat Hadid, Samir Elias, Cynthia Saleem, Shaden Kanboura

**Dop:** Antoine Héberlé

**Producer:** Baher Aghbariya, Thanassis Karathanos, Martin Hampel, Juliette Lepoutre, Pierre Menahem, Marios Piperides, Janine Teerling

## MAHA HAJ

Maha Haj was born in Nazareth in 1970. She graduated from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in English and Arabic literature. Her cinematic experience was derived from her work as an artistic designer in the productions of *The Time That Remain* by Elia Suleiman, *The Attack* by Ziad Douairi, as well as *On the Hill* by Rafael Natjari.

She wrote and directed the short film *Oranges* (2009) and the documentary *Behind These Walls* (2010). In 2015 she shot her first feature film *Personal Affairs* which was selected in 2016 Cannes Film Festival's Official Selection "Un Certain Regard" and critically acclaimed. The film also won the Haifa Film Festival's Best Feature Award in 2016 and the Mediterranean Film Festival of Montpellier's Critics' Award, among others.





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A close-up, high-contrast portrait of a woman's face, looking slightly to the right. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting her features against a dark background. Her hair is dark and voluminous. The overall mood is serious and artistic.

# FEATURE FILM COMPETITION

- \* **19B**
- \* **ALAM**
- \* **BATATA**
- \* **HANGING GARDENS**
- \* **HEROIC BODIES**
- \* **HYPHEN**
- \* **NEZOUH**
- \* **QUEENS**
- \* **RAVEN SONG**
- \* **RIVERBED**
- \* **THE LAST QUEEN**
- \* **UNDER THE FIG TREES**

# JURY



## **HANA SHIHA**

Hana Shiha is an Egyptian actress born into an artistic family in Beirut. Her father, Ahmed Shiha, is a renowned Egyptian painter, and her mother, Nadia Zeitoun, encouraged her and her three sisters to pursue creative interests like piano and ballet. Hana's passion for reading began early, and she completed French, British, and Egyptian literature by the age of 16. After studying at the academy of arts, Hana earned a bachelor's degree in acting and directing from the high institute of Dramatic arts. Hana made her debut in "EL BAR EL GHARBI" (2002) and went on to star in "HOB EL BANAT" (2003) and "DARS KHOSOUSY" (2005). However, it wasn't until her breakthrough role in the hit series "EL SABAA WASSAYA" (2014) that Hana gained recognition as a leading lady. In 2014, she also appeared in the movie "BEFORE THE SPRING" and the Egyptian Epic Series "EL ADH: EL KALAM EL MUBAH" (2015). Hana was later cast by renowned filmmaker Mohamed Khan in his feature film "ABL ZAHMET EL SEIF" (2016). She has also co-starred in popular TV shows like "The President's Shadow" and "Eye Witness."



## **MARINA KOSTOVA**

Marina Kostova is an award-winning journalist, one of the leading film critics and reporters in Republic of North Macedonia. She is a founding member and Deputy of Editor in Chief of sdk.mk digital newsroom. She was a founding member and Deputy of Editor in Chief of Vest Daily, at the time the biggest newspaper in the country. She is the president of the Macedonian Section of International Federation of Film Critics – FIPRESCI. She edited the books "Manchevski Monograph", and "Rain - The World About Milcho Manchevski's Before the Rain", as well as the CD-ROM "Macedonia in the New York Times Archives", and published a hybrid collection of short stories "Language is a Strange Beast". She worked on research in films as well. She participated in FIPRESCI critics juries at number of film festivals (Venice, Sarajevo, Istanbul, Thessaloniki, Viennale, Oberhausen, Chemnitz, Mannheim, Cluj-Napoca, Luxembourg among others).



## **MOHANNAD BAKRI**

Mohannad Bakri is the Managing Director of The Royal Film Commission Jordan since 2019. Before the RFC, Bakri was the Director of External Relations and Strategic Partnerships at New York University in Abu Dhabi and was the former Regional Managing Director of Luminus Media Institution – Jordan. Earlier in his career, from 2007 - 2012, he served as the RFC's Capacity Building Manager, where he then largely contributed to developing local and regional training programs.

# JURY



# JURY



## **NADA ABOU FARHAT**

Lebanese actress, graduated from the Institute of Fine Arts. She started her career in Rahbani Theater while still in her first year of studying theater arts. Then she played roles in television, theater, and cinema. She has many successful works to her credit, as well as awards for her roles. Among these is the Best Actress award for her role in the film "Under the Bombs" which she received at the Dubai International Film Festival, as well as the Oran Film Festival.



## **TAOUFIK GUIGA**

Taoufik Guiga (Tao Guiga) is an Executive Producer at My Way Productions Tounés with extensive film industry experience. He has worked on various productions including "Femme Fatale", "The last legion", "Baria", and "Hors la Loi". He also organized the Michael Jackson concert in Tunis and managed the film center for Quinta Communications' Group in Tunisia. Recently, Tao served as Executive Producer for "The Forgiven Island" and Producer for "Porto Farina". He is currently a co-producer for the upcoming documentary "Soudan Retiens Tes Chants..." and was awarded the Best Producer prize at the Tunisian film festival in 2019. Tao is also developing "Azward, l'image immersive des Sud" and two fiction documentaries titled "Avril" and "Oranges Ameres".

# JURY

Egypt | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 90 min



### SYNOPSIS

In a dilapidated villa, lives an old guard who watches over an abandoned house. The house he considers his home sanctuary is all of a sudden threatened by a young park attendant, leaving him forced to face his fears, his past and a world he no longer recognizes.

### CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Ahmad Abdalla

**Writer:** Ahmad Abdalla

**Cast:** Sayed Ragab, Nahed El Sebai, Ahmad Khaled Saleh

**DOP:** Mostafa El Kashef

**Producer:** Mohamed Hefzy

### AHMAD ABDALLA

An Egyptian Filmmaker and part of the new wave of independent cinema in the Arab world. In 2009 he directed his first feature film "Heliopolis" which was one of the first successful independent Egyptian films to be released theatrically in Egypt. Then came his second "Microphone" which was selected among the best 100 Arabic films in history by Dubai Film Festival and won over 20 international awards. He co-directed "18 Days" which was officially selected in Cannes 2011. He then directed "Rags & Tatters" in 2013, "Decor" in 2014, "EXT/Night" 2018. His latest films have been selected in many prestigious film festivals such as Toronto IFF, London BFI, Singapore IFF, São Paulo IFF, and won many awards such as Golden award in Cinemed Mediterranean Film Festival of Montpellier, Golden Tanit in Journées cinématographiques de Carthage, Golden Tulip in Istanbul IFF festival.



# ALAM

Nordic premiere

France, Tunisia, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Qatar | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 110 min



## SYNOPSIS

In a Palestinian town, Tamer and his friends lead a typical high school student's life until the arrival of the beautiful Maysaa'. To please her, Tamer agrees to take part in a mysterious flag operation on the eve of Israel's Independence Day which is a mourning day for Palestinians.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Firas Khoury

**Writer:** Firas Khoury

**Cast:** Mahmood Bakri, Sereen Khass, Mohammad Karaki, Muhammad Abed Elrahman, Ahmad Zaghmouri, Saleh Bakri

**DOP:** Frida Marzouk

**Producer:** Marie-Pierre Macia, Claire Gadéa, Naomie Lagadec

## FIRAS KHOURY

Firas Khoury is Palestinian scriptwriter and director. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in cinema. Khoury has several short films to his credit; among them are the award-winning movies *Seven Days in Deir Bulus* (2007) and *Yellow Mums* (2010). These films were broadcast in festivals around the world but also on TV channels, including Arte and VVD. In 2019 he finished his next short, *Maradona's Legs*, which has received the Robert Bosch Stiftung Film Prize that year and also the support of Berlin Medienboard. The movie was shown at the Palm Springs Film Festival.



# BATATA

Canada, Lebanon | 2022 | Arabic, Armenian dialogue with English subtitles | 120 min

Nordic premiere



## SYNOPSIS

2022 Marks the 10th anniversary of the Syrian Refugee Crisis. With over 13 million displaced, it remains the largest human forced migration crisis of our times, but sadly not the last as millions of Ukrainians stream across the border. Shot over an unparalleled 10 years, Syrian-Lebanese director Noura Kevorkian's intimate camera follows the plight of Maria and her family of Syrian migrant workers who find themselves unable to return back to their hometown of Raqqa Syria. Unique among the numerous refugee stories to date, BATATA captures an entire decade while documenting not just the age-old conflict between two nations, but the unbending spirit of a woman who puts family ahead of all else.

## Noura Kevorkian

Noura Kevorkian is a Syrian-Lebanese filmmaker. She made her filmmaking debut with the multi-award winning short VEILS UNCOVERED (Official Competition IDFA), followed by the feature documentary ANJAR: FLOWERS, GOATS AND HEROES, and the drama-doc hybrid film 23 KILOMETRES (Official Competition Karlovy Vary).

Noura divides her time living between Lebanon and Canada.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Noura Kevorkian

**Writer:** Noura Kevorkian

**Dop:** Noura Kevorkian

**Producer:** Noura Kevorkian, Paul Scherzer



# HANGING GARDENS

Nordic premiere

Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 107 min



## SYNOPSIS

When a young Iraqi rubbish picker rescues an American sex doll from the Baghdad dumps, he crosses into a perilous red zone, where friends become enemies and nothing is certain in Iraq's explosive mix of God, love, war and madness.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Ahmed Yassin Al Daradji

**Writer:** Ahmed Yassin Al Daradji, Margaret Glover

**Cast:** Wissam Diyaa, Jawad Al Shakarji, Hussain Muhammad Jalil, Akram Mazen Ali

**DOP:** Duraid Munajim

**Producer:** Huda Al Kadhimi, Margaret Glover, May Odeh, Mohamed Hefzy, Daniel Ziskind, Ahmed Yassin

## AHMED YASSIN AL DARADJI

Ahmed Yassin Al Daradji is an Iraqi writer and director whose films focus on the communities and politics in his home country. A Berlinale Talents alumnus, his past works include *Children of God* (2013) and *Stray* (2018), both about young children impacted by the Iraq War. *Hanging Gardens*, his feature debut, premiered at Venice.



# HEROIC BODIES

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

Nordic premiere



## SYNOPSIS

Sudanese women were robbed of the rights to their own bodies throughout the modern ages enduring brutal and unfathomable forms of oppression. “Heroic Bodies” explore the various forms of the Sudanese Women’s struggle and resistance, utilizing Body Politics in Political Resistance, persistent pursuit of the right to Education, pioneering in Public Health, and breaking social norms, as well as embracing a “Zar”, where they let their bodies run wild.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Sara Suliman

**Writer:** Sara Suliman

**Cast:** Aya Tarig, Salah Abdelmahmoud Nasser, Ahmed Raief, Yassin Raief, Aya Ahmed Yousif Mustafa

**Producer:** Sara Suliman

## SARA SULIMAN

is a UK-based Sudanese Filmmaker; A Chevening scholar, researcher, Producer, and Director; And founder of Fenti Productions. In 2017, she was awarded MA in Gender Studies from SOAS, University of London, and currently registered for an MA Documentary at Liverpool John Moores University.



# HYPHEN

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

International premiere



## SYNOPSIS

When Nicole reveals to her childhood friend and cousin, Reine, that she's been addicted to heroin since she was 13, they decide to document Nicole's rehab journey. Hyphen follows the ups and downs of their relationship as well as Nicole's struggle to move out into the world as an adult and grown woman despite the lack of economic opportunities and a poisonous cultural upbringing that teaches young women to suppress their ideas and sexuality and to follow a set of religious and cultural rules.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Reine Razzouk

**Writer:** Reine Razzouk

**Cast:** Nicole Daccache, Reine Razzouk

**Dop:** Rachelle Noja, Talal Khoury

**Producer:** Reine Razzouk

## REINE RAZZOUK

Reine Razzouk is a Lebanese filmmaker, screenwriter and assistant director. Having worked on many major commercials and feature films with prominent directors such as "Ziad Doueiri", "Mira Nair" and "Abdelrahman Sissako". Reine is now developing her first narrative feature and is in the final post-production stage of "Hyphen", her first feature documentary.



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# NEZOUH

UK, Syria, France | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 104 min

Nordic premiere



## SYNOPSIS

The film takes place during the Syrian conflict, when a missile destroys the ceiling of the house of 14-year-old Zeina. As a result, she sleeps for the first time under the stars and makes friends with Amer – the boy next door.

When the violence escalates, Hala – Zeina’s mother – decides to leave. She then gets into an argument with her husband, Motaz, who refuses to become a refugee and tries everything to stop his family from leaving their house.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Soudade Kaadan

**Writer:** Soudade Kaadan

**Cast:** Kinda Alloush, Samir Al-Masri, Hala Zein, Nizar Alani

**Dop:** Helene Louvart, Burak Kanbir

**Producer:** Yu-Fai Suen, Soudade Kaadan

## SOUDADE KAADAN

Born in France, Soudade Kaadan is a Syrian director who studied theater criticism at the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts and graduated from the Institut des Etudes Scénique, Audiovisuelles, et Cinématographiques (IESAV) of Saint Joseph University in Lebanon.

Her first feature film, *THE DAY I LOST MY SHADOW*, won the Lion of the Future Award at the Orizzonti Competition of Venice Film Festival and the Jury Prize at the LA Festival. Also, her short film *Aziza* won the Sundance Grand Jury Prize in 2019.



# QUEENS

Nordic premiere

France, Belgium, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 85 min



## SYNOPSIS

Casablanca, Morocco.

A trio of women with the police on their tail embarks on a long escape that takes them across the rugged red terrain and flower-filled valleys of the Atlas to finally reach the Atlantic coast.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Yasmine Benkiran

**Writer:** Yasmine Benkiran

**Cast:** Nisrin Erradi, Nisrine Benchara, Rayhan Guarani

**Dop:** Pierre Aim

**Producer:** Jean Des Forets

## YASMINE BENKIRAN

Yasmine Benkiran grew up on the Moroccan Atlantic coast. She studied philosophy and communication sciences in Paris and made her first experiences in Buenos Aires, San Francisco and London before entering French national film school La Fémis in the screenwriting workshop (l'Atelier Scénario).

As a screenwriter, Yasmine writes for both television and cinema. She also wrote two books about Morocco and a historical series of podcasts about Alice Guy, the world's first female director.

In 2018, Yasmine directed her first short film, WINTER TIME (Tangier IFF, Off-courts Trouville). QUEENS is her first feature film as a director.



# RAVEN SONG

Saudi Arabia | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 109 min

International premiere



## SYNOPSIS

Nasser, a 30 year old unexceptional washout is diagnosed with a brain tumor when he meets an enigmatic and peculiar young woman. Infatuated by her and sick of being a failure, he must quickly figure out what he wants to do in life before he goes through a risky surgery, and reach out to the young woman with the most seductive way there is ... a song.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Mohamed Al Salman

**Writer:** Mohamed Al Salman

**Cast:** Asem Alawad, Ibraheem

Alkhairallah, Abdullah Aljafal

**Dop:** Hossam Habibi

**Producer:** Ahmed Mousa

## MOHAMED AL SALMAN

Mohamed Al Salman is a Saudi film director. He grew up in the city of Al-Hasa, Saudi Arabia. Al Salman shifted his career path from electrical engineering to filmmaking, a promising rising sector in the country.

In 2014, he began making short films. Two of which are on Netflix, '27th of Shaban' and 'Curtain' as part of the Six Windows in the Desert film collection.

Raven Song is Al Salman's latest cinematic venture and his first feature film.



# RIVERBED

Lebanon | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 80 min

International premiere



## SYNOPSIS

Riverbed tells the story of Salma and her returning daughter Thuraya, and their attempt to preserve, maintain and reconstruct their lives with and against each other. Salma survived many years by protecting her independence, she reached her peace through letting go of any attachments. But the past does not let go of Salma and brings back Thuraya, defeated, divorced, and pregnant.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Bassem Breche

**Writer:** Bassem Breche, Ghassan Salhab

**Cast:** Carole Abboud, Omayya Malaeb

**Dop:** Nadim Saoma

**Producer:** Jana Wehbe

## BASSEM BRECHE

Bassem Breche is an Emmy award winning script writer and director. Since 2007, Breche has directed three short films: "Both" (2007) premiering at Cannes' Critics week, "Ziu" (2013) and "Free Range" (2014). Breche has written a various amount of series and films: "Shankaboot" (2009), "Fasateen" (2012), "The Little Drop" (2015), "Undocumented" (2018), "Alephia" (2019), "Vertu" (2020) and "Hell's Gate" (2021). Breche is the founder/director of Scenario Beirut. Riverbed is Breche's debut film.



# THE LAST QUEEN

Nordic premiere

Algeria, France, Taiwan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 113 min



## SYNOPSIS

Algeria, 1516. The pirate Aruj Barbarossa frees Algiers from the tyranny of the Spanish and seizes power over the kingdom. Rumor has it he murdered the King Salim Toumi, despite their alliance. Against all odds, one woman will stand up to him: Queen Zaphira. Between history and legend, this woman's journey tells of a struggle, of personal and political turmoil endured for the sake of Algiers.

## DAMIEN OUNOURI

Damien Ounouri is an Algerian director based in Algiers. He studied cinema theory, developing its practical application as a self-taught skill. His documentary FIDAI (2012), co-produced by the Chinese director Jia Zhang-Ke, had its premiere at the Toronto TIFF and was shown in cinemas throughout France. His medium-length film KINDIL EL BAHR (2016) had its premiere at Cannes Directors' Fortnight and was broadcast on ARTE. He also directs video-clips and commercials, teaches at cinematographic workshops, and is Associate Producer for TAJ INTAJ (Algeria). THE LAST QUEEN is his first full-length feature film.

## ADILA BENDIMERAD

Adila BENDIMERAD is an Algerian actress, script-writer, director and producer, based in Algiers. In 2011, the actress (THE REPENTANT, THE ROOFTOPS, NORMAL by Merzak Allouache, STILL BURNING by Georges Hachem) created the company TAJ INTAJ in Algiers to promote young Algerian talent. Her production of THE DAYS BEFORE (2013) by Karim Moussaoui received worldwide acclaim, from Locarno Festival, to her nomination for a César. KINDIL EL BAHR (2016) by Damien Ounouri was selected for Cannes Directors' Fortnight. In co-production with AGAT FILMS / Ex Nihilo (France), she produced THE LAST QUEEN, which she co-wrote and co-directed with Ounouri and in which she also takes on the lead role as Queen Zaphira.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Damien Ounouri, Adila Bendimerad  
**Writer:** Adila Bendimerad, Damien Ounouri  
**Cast:** Adila Bendimerad, Dali Benssalah, Tahar Zaoui, Imen Noel, Nadia Tereszkiewicz  
**Dop:** Shadi Chaaban  
**Producer:** Adila Bendimerad, Patrick Sobelman



# UNDER THE FIG TREES

Tunisia, France, Switzerland, Germany, Qatar | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 92 min



## SYNOPSIS

In northwest Tunisia, young women work the summer harvest. Under the gaze of older workers and men, they flirt, tease, argue. Throughout the day, the orchard becomes a theater of emotions, where everyone's dreams and hopes are played out.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Erige Sehiri

**Writer:** Erige Sehiri

**Cast:** Fide Fdhili, Feten Fdhili, Ameni Fdhili, Samar Sifi

**Dop:** Frida Marzouk

**Producer:** Erige Sehiri, Didar Domehri

## Erige Sehiri

Erige Sehiri is a French-Tunisian director and producer. With her own production company, HENIA, she develops Tunisian author driven documentaries distinguished at VISIONS DU REEL, IDFA, CINEMED... In 2018, her breakout feature documentary, RAILWAY MEN, remained six weeks in Tunisian theaters. In 2021, she wrote, directed and produced her first fiction feature, UNDER THE FIG TREES, which won several post-production awards at the Venice International Film Festival (Final Cut in Venice). She then joined the selection of the 54th Quinzaine des Réalisateurs at Cannes 2022. It was also selected to be Tunisia's official submission in the 2023 Oscars for Best International Feature Film.



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- ▶ Girig-Sverige – så blev folkhemmet ett paradiset för de superrika, med Andreas Cervenka



# SHORT FILM COMPETITION



- \* **ABED**
- \* **BYSTANDER**
- \* **MY GIRL FRIEND**
- \* **MY MOTHER'S HAND**
- \* **PALESTINE 87**
- \* **TORN**

- \* **A PROPOSAL**
- \* **FLESH AND BLOOD**
- \* **LES CHENILLES**
- \* **MAMA**
- \* **ONE FOR EIGHT**
- \* **OTHMAN**

- \* **ALMAZ**
- \* **HAMZA - CHASING THE GHOST CHASING ME**
- \* **OLD PHONE NUMBER**
- \* **SHE SAID NO**
- \* **SISTERS OF THE ROTATION**

# JURY



## DANIEL ZISKIND

He started his career working as an assistant director on a number of French films, working on 7 films with Claude Lelouch, on two films with Alain Resnais, on *Les Visiteurs* (1993) with Jean-Marie Poiré, and on *My Father's Glory* (1990) and *My Mother's Castle* (1990) with Yves Robert. Then, he spent two years working as an advertising films producer at *Premiere Heure*. During that time, he worked with renowned film directors including Xavier Giannoli, Dante Desarthe and Joe Pytka. Afterwards, he spent a year working in international sales at *Roissy Films*. Then, in 2006, Ziskind made a leap into the film industry of the Arab world, acting as an associate producer on the adaptation of the *Yacoubian Building* (2006) directed by Marwan Hamed. The film premiered at Berlinale in the Panorama section and was sold in 39 countries outside the MENA region.



## DIYA YOUSEF

Diya Yousef, born in 1979, is a renowned film director, author, and poet with over 25 years of experience in the cultural field. She has been a living example of integrating art into life, dedicating herself passionately to her craft. Diya is a founding board member of the Cinema Association, the first Saudi private association focused on cinema, and has served as a member of juries in various film festivals. She is also the founder and director of the first black box theater in Saudi Arabia, located in the JAX Art District in Diriyah, as well as the founder and director of the cinema studio program. With her extensive experience, Diya has chaired major cultural festivals and currently serves as a creative consultant and director of the Sidra Cultural Foundation. She offers a platform for joint research and hosts various cultural and artistic events, making it a professional writing room for a wide range of creators.



## NICOLAS MOUAWAD

Nicolas Mouawad is a Lebanese actor started his career as a presenter of *Rotana Cafe show* (2003 - 2009), then he worked as a director in Dubai and Beirut TV channels, such as Dubai, *Fatafeat*, *MTV Lebanon* and *Rotana*. Nicolas became a well known actor in Lebanon with the hit series *Khtarab El Hay: Neighborhood Breakdown* (2014) and *Yasmina* (2014), then he made a successful landing on the Egyptian series by starring in *Wannous* (2016) with the mega star Yehia El-Fakharany. His most popular works are the hit *Sabe' Gaar* (2017), *Drop Dead Diva* (2018), *Silk Thread* (2020), *Through Thick and Thin* (2021), Nicolas has an impressive film career, as he was the main star of *Mako* (2021) which is based on true events, highlighting MV *Salem Express*, and was released in more than 8 Arab countries, and made a huge success, before he was chosen to star international films such as George Miller's Cannes hit *Three Thousand Years of Longing* with Tilda Swinton and Idris Elba, in addition to David Helling's *His Only Son* (2023), which is to be released this month in US theaters. Recently, his latest series is the Arabic copy of the Turkish series *Binbir Gece*, which is released under the new title *Al Thaman* (2013).

## PACKAGE 1

World premiere

### ABED

Jordan | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 10 min

**Director:** Abedalsalam Alhaj

**Writer:** Abedalsalam Alhaj

**Cast:** Hisham Alomary, Mohamed Abu Gouleh

**Dop:** Ahmad Jalboush

**Producer:** Mays Hisham Khafaji



#### SYNOPSIS

The story of a child, “Abed”, who works at a restaurant with his father. The father treats him cruelly and forces him to go out at midnight to buy him a pack of cigarettes. Abed has to face his phobia of darkness and the sounds of dogs...



#### ABEDALSALAM ALHAJ

In 2010, Abedalsalam completed his MFA, majoring in Cinematography & Directing. He produced and directed many films, which participated in many international film festivals. He worked on designing curricula for youth & children in the art of filmmaking for many community organizations. In addition to that, he worked more than two years in well-known Universities & institutions in Jordan as a Filmmaking Instructor, and this launched his professional educational career in the cinematic arts. Since 2012, Alhaj is the Capacity Building Manager at the Royal Film Commission–Jordan, in charge of the educational programs for Jordanians working or aspiring to work in the film industry.

## PACKAGE 1

Swedish premiere

### BYSTANDER

Lebanon, Qatar | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 13 min

**Director:** Rachel Aoun

**Writer:** Rachel Aoun

**Cast:** Joseph Zaitouny, Elie Al Haddad, Feyrouz Abou Hassan, Yara Bou Haidar, Elias Zayek, Adel Shdid, Razmig Azezian

**Dop:** Sarmad Louis

**Producer:** Stephanie Khoury, Rachel Aoun



#### SYNOPSIS

On a sunny day in Beirut, Roger, a beloved basketball coach is on his way to work proudly carrying a box of chocolates to celebrate the birth of his son. His trip is disrupted when he witnesses a horrific act of violence on the street. He observes without intervening from the safety of the pavement; not attempting to help. Roger's descent into shame begins there. As he navigates between students and colleagues, accepting their congratulations and offering them chocolates, the guilt deepens. Each encounter brings an update on the victim's condition, the incident is all over the news. By the first class of the day, Roger is a crushed man terrified to face the teenagers who idolize him.



#### Rachel Aoun

Beirut-based cinematographer Rachel Aoun has worked on award-winning feature films, TV shows, and commercials. Her recent projects include Farha and Al Rawabi School For Girls. Rachel's extensive filmography also includes The Last Friday, Mahbas, Yanoosak, and The Living Is Easy, among others. Additionally, she worked as a second unit DOP on The Lebanese Rocket Society documentary and as a lenser for Coke Studio and the web series Shankaboot.

## PACKAGE 1

### MY GIRL FRIEND

Egypt | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 17 min

**Director:** Kawthar Younis

**Writer:** Ahmed Essam El Sayed, Kawthar Younis

**Cast:** Marc Haggag, Ilham Safei El Din, Sonia Farid, Fadel El Garhi

**Dop:** Seif Eldin Khaled

**Producer:** Sandro Canaan



#### SYNOPSIS

Desperate for intimacy, Ali follows his girlfriend's suggestion that puts their relationship to the test. The plan unfolds unexpectedly when gender roles become blurred.



#### KAWTHAR YOUNIS

Born in 1993, Kawthar is a filmmaker based in Cairo, Egypt. Known for her film "A Present from the Past", which was the first of its kind to set a record for audience demand in the Egyptian market. She works as a producer for films, mini series and TV commercials. Kawthar is a co-founder of the inaugural Rawiyat-Sisters in Film.

## PACKAGE 1

World premiere

### MY MOTHER'S HAND

Iraq | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 13 min

**Director:** Kardina Hemn

**Writer:** Kardina Hemn

**Cast:** Majd Suleik Jumaah, Omer Uday, Mohammad Al Omer, Zeyad

Tareq Taha, Muntaha Habib

**Dop:** Ammar Jamal Kanaan

**Producer:** Kardina Hemn



#### SYNOPSIS

Ahmad is a 12 year old boy from Mosul. He and his father live in a partially demolished house and he works with a group of his peers to support himself and his father by extracting bones of victims under the demolished houses. They hand the bones to someone that makes the children work illegally and later sells the bones himself to a human rights organisation. Beside the livelihood, Ahmad wants to extract the bones of his mother and sister in order to bury them. This work causes him many challenges and troubles.



#### KARDINA HEMN

I hold bachelor degree. I have enrolled in the field of Cinema for almost 12 years and first I started as actor and then worked as director. I have directed 4 short films and was granted several local awards for acting and directing.

## PACKAGE 1

Nordic premiere

# PALESTINE 87

Palestine | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 14 min

**Director:** Bilal Alkhatib

**Writer:** Bilal Alkhatib

**Cast:** Shebly Al baw, Maya Omayya Keesh, Esperanza Abed Hussein

**Dop:** Mashal Kawasmi

**Producer:** Salim Abu jabal



### SYNOPSIS

During the First Intifada, Atef is chased by the Israeli army and finds himself trapped in an entrance of a house. The owner, an old lady, hides him in her bath. Atef is surprised that there is another person inside, who helps him not to be arrested.



### BILAL ALKHATIB

Bilal Alkhatib is a filmmaker and cinematographer from Palestine, holding a BA in Media and TV. He started working in film industry as cameraman and studio technician, before he realised his passion for filmmaking. His previous works are two short films "Billiards" 2016 and "Another point of vie" 2018. Palestine 87 is his third short film.

## PACKAGE 1

# TORN

Denmark, Sweden, Jordan | 2022 | Swedish, Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 28 min

**Director:** Jahfar Muataz

**Writer:** Jahfar Muataz, Fredrik Nielsen Rye

**Cast:** Baider Al Jasim, Hussein Haidar Kazem, Sherin Habib Shokr, Anas Al-Ethawi

**Dop:** Anton Falkenstrøm Tougaard

**Producer:** Alexander Nielsen



### SYNOPSIS

When Saddam Hussein is captured, Malik's family decides to move back to Iraq from Sweden. Upon arriving Malik starts experiencing the same feeling of foreignness as he did in Sweden. What is home? What does it feel like, what does it mean to belong.



### JAHFAR MUATAZ

Jahfar is born in Baghdad and moved to Copenhagen as a young boy. Jahfar is interested in the the psychological part of the human. Stories that are forgotten and that people doesn't dare fo visit. For Jahfar film is about how the story is told, how you putt together different scenes that creates a moment for the audience to relate to.

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## PACKAGE 2

World premiere

### A PROPOSAL

Qatar | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 12 min

**Director:** Nadia Al-Khater

**Writer:** Nadia Al-Khater

**Cast:** Rakan Al Nabit, Ali Mirza, Abdulrahman Al Emadi, Ibrahim Ali Al Hairdos

**Dop:** Christopher Moon

**Producer:** Justin Kramer

#### SYNOPSIS

Nasser, a young Qatari man, dreams of marrying his American fiancé. However, marriages between Qataris and non-Qataris must first be reviewed by a special department before receiving approval. There, he faces a panel who hold his fate in their hands. A true story based off of real interview experiences.



#### NADIA AL-KHATER

Nadia Al-Khater is a Qatari filmmaker drawn to innovative storytelling. Her early passion for filmmaking inspired her to direct after graduating from Georgetown University. She wrote and directed the short drama-thriller 'This Is Not a Drill' (2019) with The Film House. Her successful collaboration with The Film House continued with her second short film, the satire 'A Proposal' (2022). Her photograph "Djurgarden 10" has been highlighted by AccidentallyWesAnderson and was selected to exhibit in South Korea until June 2022. She has most recently directed the 2022 brand video for the National Museum of Qatar.

## PACKAGE 2

Nordic premiere

### FLESH AND BLOOD

Tunisia, Lebanon | 2023 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 19 min

**Director:** Ines Arsi

**Writer:** Ines Arsi

**Cast:** Sana Al Habib, Noomen Hamda, Achref Ben Youssef, Mourad Gharsalli, Mariem Ben Hassen

**Dop:** Lilia Sellami

**Producer:** Mehdi Hmili

#### SYNOPSIS

Victim of a rape by her young neighbor, the life of Donia, 19 years old, changes the day when she realizes that she is pregnant. She has only one goal, to abort before it's too late. During her battle, Donia must face a patriarchal society and a hypocritical police system.



#### INES ARSI

After five years of higher education, Ines Arsi decides to give up pharmacy to study cinema. Graduated in writing and directing from the Higher School of Audiovisual and Cinema of Tunis, Ines Arsi has directed several award-winning short films at numerous international festivals. She trained in documentary filmmaking and writing at the Université d'Été de La Femis where she directed the docu-drama "All the Truth, Nothing but the Truth". Her graduation film "Oui mais Non" was very noticed in festivals which allowed her to be selected for the Unimed Jury at the 74th Edition of the Venice Film Festival.

## PACKAGE 2

Nordic premiere

# LES CHENILLES

France | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 30 min

**Director:** Michelle Keserwany, Noel Keserwany

**Writer:** Michelle Keserwany

**Cast:** Masa Zaher, Noel Keserwany

**Dop:** Karim Ghorayeb

**Producer:** Marine Vaillant



### SYNOPSIS

Asma and Sarah, two women originally from the Levant, find themselves working in the same restaurant in the city of Lyon in France. Both bear the weight of a home they were forced to leave behind. Initially wary of each other, they gradually discover a common thread that binds them - one that dates back to when the Silk Road connected Lyon to their home countries. In the midst of forced migrations, can we move past our animosity to find solace in each other?



### MICHELLE KESERWANY AND NOEL KESERWANY

Michelle and Noel Keserwany are Lebanese writers and filmmakers known for their satirical music videos that criticize the Lebanese corrupt political system. Michelle co-wrote Capernaum with Nadine Labaki and she is now developing her first feature film, Amara, a satirical drama staged in Beirut. Noel is developing SMSS, an animated short film, grantee of the DFI, based on an unpublished novel by Emily Nasrallah. They are also developing Slow Burn, a Lebanese documentary produced by Special Touch Studios. Les Chenilles is their debut film as directors.

## PACKAGE 2

Nordic premiere

# MAMA

Egypt | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 19 min

**Director:** Naji Ismail

**Writer:** Naji Ismail

**Cast:** May Elghity, Danniell Sherif

**Dop:** Mostafa Alsheshtawy

**Producer:** kawthar Younis



### SYNOPSIS

Based on a true events. In Alexandria, Mai acts as a parent to her brother as their mom is quarantined with a deadly disease. Mai wears a gas mask while delivering food, keeping the illness hidden. As her uncle threatens eviction and demands to see her mother, Mai counts down to her 21st birthday. On the final day, she reveals the terrifying secret to her mother.



### NAJI ISMAIL

Naji Ismail was born in 1983 in Ain Shams, Cairo. He studied at the Higher Cinema Institute in Cairo from 2001 to 2006. In 2010, he was awarded a scholarship by George Washington University for a six-week course on documentary filmmaking. In 2012, he founded "Rahala Production and Distribution," a production company that creates low-budget films with high quality through an alternative production system. Naji is currently developing his first feature film, "A House for Expats."



## PACKAGE 2

International premiere

# ONE FOR EIGHT

Lebanon | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 11 min

**Director:** Lynn Tawilé

**Writer:** Lynn Tawilé

**Cast:** Carine Baz, Louna Souki

**Dop:** Lynn Tawilé

**Producer:** Lynn Tawilé



### SYNOPSIS

After a big battle with cancer, Carine has only one solution to save her life: organ transplant. In a country where everyone is born a donor, transplantation was a lifesaving answer. But if this French scenario was placed in a Lebanese setting, would Carine have had the chance to tell us her story?



### LYNN TAWILÉ

Born in 1996, Lynn Tawilé is a Lebanese award-winning film director with a masters' degree in cinema studies from The Holy Spirit University Of Kaslik, Lebanon. Her first short film 'Peur bleue' was selected in more than 15 international film festivals around the world and has won notable awards. Her second short film 'un pour huit' is currently touring in film festivals. Besides cinema, Lynn delves into directing music videos and fashion films for Arab and European artists and brands. Lynn is also a Scriptwriter for several fiction projects currently in development.

## PACKAGE 2

Nordic premiere

# OTHMAN

Saudi Arabia | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 35 min

**Director:** Khaled Zeidan

**Writer:** Abdulaziz Al Issa

**Cast:** Ahmed Yaqoub, Shoja'a Nashat

**Dop:** Khaled Zeidan

**Producer:** Khaled Zeidan



### SYNOPSIS

Othman works as a security guard at a government hospital's parking lot and lives harmoniously with Fahd, his cousin. Events take a turn, however, that shakes him out of his customary complacency, forcing him to face reality.



### KHALED ZEIDAN

Hailing from Jazan, Saudi Arabia, he directs narrative and documentary films. He is also a cinematographer, and he is the founder of Bright Frame Media Productions; winner of a number of international and local awards including those at the Prestigious Film Festival; Saudi Film Festival; and the Jazan Award for Excellence and Creativity. senior at Jazan University's College of Business Administration.



**PROMS**   
**WEDDINGS**

## PACKAGE 3

Nordic premiere

### ALMAZ

Sudan | 2022 | Tigrinya, Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 30 min

**Director:** Mia Bittar

**Writer:** Mia Bittar, Nadine el Roubi

**Cast:** Sara Ybark, Daniel Markos Tsegay, Reham Aboubida, Awadiya Macki

**Dop:** Khalid Awad

**Producer:** Ahmed Abdel Mohsen



#### SYNOPSIS

Annually millions of people leave their homes searching for a new life – 24-year old Eritrean Almaz is one of them. Eyes are set on the West she must first get smuggled out of neighboring Sudan. A key stop on one of the most well-used migration paths in Africa, thousands cross Sudan each year. No official status or money, Almaz battles isolation and discrimination while finding support and acceptance in unexpected ways.



#### MIA BITTAR

Mia Bittar is a Lebanese/ Sudanese independent filmmaker with a passion for producing stories in Sudan that can resonate globally, with a strong focus on women's voices- both on and off-screen. Her previous short fiction IMAN screened at international festivals including Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, Middle East Now, CinemAfrica and L'Institut du Monde Arabe.

Mia is a Realness Institute and Creative Producer Indaba alumni. She currently lives between Khartoum and Athens.

## PACKAGE 3

Nordic premiere

### HAMZA - CHASING THE GHOST CHASING ME

Palestine | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 19 min

**Director:** Ward Kayyal

**Writer:** Majd Kayyal

**Cast:** Kamel Al Basha, Ruba Blal, Motaz Malhes, Khoulod Tannous

**Dop:** Ashraf Dowani

**Producer:** Hiba Salameh



#### SYNOPSIS

Hamza is a middle-aged man who refuses to abandon a routine he has kept since his release from Israeli jail; every day, he goes into the woods to hunt a lion that the locals don't believe exists. He finds refuge in his journey from social rejection and denial. In the woods, Hamza is free to act according to his beliefs, fighting his own battle to heal an open wound — the trauma of losing his childhood friend, and the horrific memories of torture and guilt.



#### WARD KAYYAL

Ward Kayyal, who is 26 years old, is a Palestinian director from Haifa and just finished his cinematography studies degree at the Menshar School of Art, where he specialized in directing and filming. This year, Kayyal worked on hundreds of projects and directed his debut short film. His contemporary depiction of current political and social themes reflects his ambition to enhance the Palestinian cultural landscape.

## PACKAGE 3

Nordic premiere

# OLD PHONE NUMBER

Saudi Arabia | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 23 min

**Director:** Ali Saeed

**Writer:** Ali Saeed

**Cast:** Yaqoub Alfarhan, Ahmed Almomen, Ali Alsayegh, Oumkalthoum Sarah Bard, Jubran Al Jubran

**Dop:** Hassan Saeed

**Producer:** Hassan Saeed



### SYNOPSIS

Hamed's mid-life crisis prompts him to repent and change the course of his life, (deciding to go to Makkah) to seek forgiveness. However, during the desert road trip, something happens that prevents him from completing his long spiritual journey and makes him return to meet someone who lives in his past, still.



### ALI SAEED

An author and film producer. He studied journalism in Damascus, and wrote award-winning films such as "Green Lime" and "The Compass", winning the Best Screenplay in the 2021 Saudi Film Festival. Saeed also wrote, directed and produced the documentary "Unti-Cinema" about the history of cinema in Saudi Arabia, for the Ithra Center.

## PACKAGE 3

International premiere

# SHE SAID NO

Egypt, Germany | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 10 min

**Director:** Sondos Shabayek

**Writer:** Sondos Shabayek

**Cast:** Salma Said, Mohamad El Hadidi

**Dop:** Julian Moser

**Producer:** Sondos Shabayek



### SYNOPSIS

On a street in Berlin, the Egyptian couple Sara and Tarek meet to view a flat. Sara is 10 weeks pregnant, but when Tarek talks about marriage plans Sara breaks the news; she already took another decision.



### SONDOS SHABAYEK

Sondos Shabayek is an Egyptian filmmaker, acting coach and intimacy co-ordinator. She has over 12 years of experience working with actors and non-actors, documenting and directing theatre performances of women and gender-based stories.

**PACKAGE 3**

Nordic premiere

## Sisters Of The Rotation

Lebanon | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 15 min

**Director:** Michel Zarazir, Gaby Zarazir

**Writer:** The Zarazir brothers

**Cast:** Zeina Sfeir, Betty Taoutel, Elias Absi

**Dop:** Mohamad Sabbah

**Producer:** Michel Zarazir, Gaby Zarazir



**SYNOPSIS**

At Sisters of the Rotation's convent, the Earth doesn't spin by itself.



**GABY AND MICHEL ZARAZIR**

In 1989, Gaby came into the world. From his cradle, he stammered at his mom: I need a brother. His mom nodded approvingly.

On a beautiful day in April 1992, his mom delivered Michel.

Having obtained a Master's degrees from the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA) in Cinema, Gaby and Michel Zarazir are Lebanese filmmakers making their cinema together. They are also scenarists and producers.

Gaby is trying to live 140 years, while Michel does his best to be elected Pope. Comedy, absurdity, and madness... Their original cinema mocks the most serious things.

They are aiming to coproduce with Scandinavian producers their new projects.



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# ARABIAN NIGHTS

- \* **ALHAMOUR H.A**
- \* **ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME**
- \* **MOEZ THE END OF THE TUNNEL**
- \* **VALLEY ROAD**

# ALHAMOUR H.A

Saudi Arabia | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 120 min

Nordic premiere



## SYNOPSIS

ALHAMOUR H.A is a true rag-to-riches story inspired by true events. Set in the early 2000s, the film follows Hamed, a security guard looking for a way to make a living in a world that doesn't respect him. Along with his childhood friend Sully and his shady associate Abu Azza, Hamed discovers that selling prepaid phone cards can bring quick profits. However, as Hamed's business grows, so do the shady dealings he engages in to maintain his wealth and power, so do the authorities approach him and threaten to change everything.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Abdulelah Alqurashi

**Writer:** Hani Kaador

**Cast:** Fahad Alqahtani, Khaled Yaslam, Ali Alsharif, Fatima AlBanawi

**Dop:** Egor Povolotskiy

**Producer:** Mohammed Al Hilaly, Ali Al Tamimi

## ABDULELAH ALQURASHI

Born in Jeddah, Abdulelah Alqurashi is a director and producer. He moved to Los Angeles to obtain a master's degree in Filmmaking. In addition to writing, producing, and directing, he worked as an actor in several films. Since his return from the USA in 2017, he began working independently to transfer Roll'em, his first feature film, from paper to screen. He presented Roll'em in cinemas and theaters in Saudi Arabia and the world as the first Saudi Film screened in Saudi theatres. He believes in his ability to establish a local industry for filmmaking in Saudi Arabia and to create Saudi films to be presented to the world.







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# ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME

Nordic premiere

Lebanon | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 88 min



## SYNOPSIS

Hadi is a famous Lebanese actor in his thirties. He is experimenting an existential crisis. His problems are related to the mediocrity in filmmaking, to the non-professionalism of the people he is working with, to the hypocrisy of society, to the interference of his mother and other strangers in his personal life...

An existential crisis he is trying to make his way through, when he receives the news of his selection to an international movie. He is shortlisted with another Italian actor for the young pope part and he will have to go meet the pope who will have the final say.

He decides to hole up, getting away from his hectic life, in the heart of Qannoubine, where he lived his happiest days at his grandparents' house, when he was a kid.

## LARA SABA

In college years, Lara Saba grabbed every opportunity to acquire a solid experience in filmmaking, working as a director or assistant director on series, commercials and movies.

Besides different jobs in filmmaking, her passion for storytelling got her to explore another facet of cinematography; documentaries, directing "Suspended Return" (UNDP Documentary Prize), "Death Fields", "Cinecaravane", "Shattered Memories" ... "Beirut, Truth & Versions" (awarded Best editing at the Brussels International Film Festival) 2013, her first feature "Blind Intersections", nominated in more than 20 international festivals, was awarded best movie at the Mabrouk and Malmo Film Festival, awarded Best Actor at the Brussels International Independent Film festival and was the Lebanese entry to the Academy Awards Best Foreign Film section.

She likes to be seen as an "emotions and sensations stimulator". She is a passionate filmmaker, a true storyteller with a poignant expression.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Lara Saba

**Writer:** Josephine Habchi

**Cast:** Chadi Haddad, Julia Kassar, Betty Taoutel, Mirna Mkarzel, Cynthia Karam, Rouba Zaarour

**Dop:** Johnny Abi Fares

**Producer:** Lara Saba



# MOEZ THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Nordic premiere

Tunisia | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 85 min



## SYNOPSIS

Moez, a young man like there can be many. He is 25 years old, he lives with his mother and his little sister in a disreputable district of Tunis.

Moez multiplies the delusions ,he is arrested and taken to the police station where he makes the shocking encounter with Hassen,a radical Islamist coming from France...

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Mohamed Ali Nahdi

**Writer:** Mohamed Ali Nahdi, Slim Ben Ismail

**Cast:** Seif Mannai, Akrem Mag Sakkouhi, Dali Zgarger, Leila Chebbi, Saleh Mssadak, Lamine NAHDI, Andelkader Ben Said, Mohamed Ali Madani

**Dop:** Amine Messadi, Amine Aissa

**Producer:** Mohamed Ali Nahdi

## MOHAMED ALI NAHDI

Mohamed Ali Nahdi is a Tunisian actor and director. He started his career very early. After getting many roles in television and cinema he traveled to Paris to study cinema in conservatoire libre du cinéma Français where he obtained his diploma as an editor.

In 2008,he directed his first short film THE PROJECT. A short film about censorship in Tunisia under the dictatorship of Ben Ali.

In 2010,his second short ,one upon a time at dawn. Then a third one FATUM was shot in 2018 and received the special mention of the young jury at CINEMED. MOEZ THE END OF THE TUNNEL is his first feature film.



# VALLEY ROAD

Saudi Arabia | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 110 min

International premiere



## SYNOPSIS

In the late '90s, in the mountains of Saudi Arabia, in Alwadi village, a disabled kid (Ali) goes on a road trip into the valley with his father (Nassir), who thinks that his disability is just a sickness, to meet a folk doctor and find treatment for Ali. Everyone thinks of Ali as just a sick boy, except his older Sister (Siham) who sees him as perfect as he is, and probably would stop him from going if she weren't in the city finishing college hoping to be the last family's refuge from poverty. During the journey, Ali gets lost in the middle of nowhere and starts his own trip facing a series of events that made him realize that his disability can't stop him from enjoying new things in life.

## KHALED FAHD

Khalid Fahd is a Saudi writer and director, known for his short films, in which he participated in many local and international film festivals, for which he received awards for the scenario and film making category.

His most prominent film *The Little Bird*, which won the Saudi Film Festival award, the Faten Hamama Festival award, the American Film Institute award, and the Algerian Medgasin Festival.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Khaled Fahd

**Writer:** Khaled Fahd

**Cast:** Hamad Farhan, Naif Khalaf, Aseel Omran

**Dop:** Carter Cage

**Producer:** Rakan Anneghaimshi, Majed Z. Samman



# Arab Cinema CENTER

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## ACC AWARDS





# FILMS WORTH WATCHING

- 
- \* **A SUMMER IN BOUJAD**
  - \* **THREE PROMISES**

# A SUMMER IN BOUJAD

Morocco, France, Belgium | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 80 min



## SYNOPSIS

Summer 86. Haunted by the death of his mother, 13-year-old Karim returns to spend the holidays with his recomposed family in Boujad, a small town in Morocco. Karim followed his father Messaoud when he agreed, in exchange for a government check and after 20 years in a factory, to leave France for good. Feeling rejected by his father who has rebuilt his life, Karim tries by all means to earn back his love. But the « little Frenchy » struggles to fit in with his new family and the local kids, until he meets a mysterious outsider, Mehdi...

## OMAR MOULDOUIRA

Omar Mouldouira was born in Paris in 1973, graduating in 1999 from FEMIS with a degree in sound engineering. He has written and directed several short films that received awards in numerous film festivals and were also broadcast on European and Moroccan television. A summer in Boujad is his first feature film.

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Omar Mouldouira

**Writer:** Omar Mouldouira

**Cast:** Yassir Kazzouz, Hatim Seddiki, Laila Fadili, Azzelarab Keghat, Ahmed Elmelkouni, Adam Morjani, Hiba Aouad

**Dop:** Jean-Marc Selva

**Producer:** Mohamed Nadif, Valentin Leblanc, Delphine Duez





# THREE PROMISES

Palestine, USA | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 60 min



## SYNOPSIS

Through the director's mother's lens we explore the dual stories of a mother navigating the impossible choice of whether to take her family away from home amidst immense danger, trading physical safety for emotional turmoil, and the story of a mother and son navigating the impact this unspoken time had on their family for the first time. It explores questions of: why she filmed them; why it took so long to leave as danger intensified around them; and, whether she would make that same decision again. Structured around the three promises Suha negotiates with God as Palestine's Second Intifada escalates, the film is an intimate portrait of how four family members experience crisis and the roles they play within the family unit. What unfolds might be surprising. The film is peppered with moments of humor, real-time deliberation around how to get to safety, and the heartbreaking witness of a son losing his grasp on childhood.

## YUSEF SROUJI

Yusef is a first time documentary filmmaker and longtime storyteller. His work centers around understanding the dynamics of occupation in Palestine, and community resilience in conflict zones. He holds a Master of Development Practice from UC Berkeley and hopes to use his skills to aid and empower marginalized communities in the Middle East. Yusef spent the first part of his childhood in Palestine, then relocated to Qatar with his family in the midst of the Second Intifada. He attended the University of British Columbia, where he earned a BA in Economics. He has been a fellow with the SFFilm Catapult Documentary Fellowship, received production and post-production grants from the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC), and has been a fellow with the Gotham Documentary Feature Lab (formerly IFP Documentary Lab).

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Yousef Srouji  
**Cast:** Yousef Srouji, Suha Khamis, Dima Srouji, Ramzi Srouji  
**Dop:** Mashaal Kawasmi  
**Producer:** Marielle Olientine





# FAMILY FILM

**\* FIRAS FITS IN**  
**\* SEARCHING FOR THREE THOUSAND EGYPTIAN POUND**

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**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

## FIRAS FITS IN

Nordic premiere

Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon, Canada | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 12 min

**Director:** Tony El Ghazal

**Writer:** Tony El Ghazal

**Cast:** Ziad Iskandar Ghazal

**Dop:** Ahmed Jassim

**Producer:** Dalal Garai, Balkees Al-Jaafari



### SYNOPSIS

Firas, a Jordanian-Lebanese nine-year-old visits Jordan for the first time in nine years to renew his passport. After constantly feeling like a stranger in Lebanon, (where he lived all his life) he is convinced that he'd finally feel at home in Jordan. Through a series of dramedic events, it becomes clear that the two neighboring countries are worlds apart. Determined to fit in, Firas must go to extreme lengths to prove that he can finally belong.



### TONY EL GHAZAL

Tony El Ghazal is a Lebanese award-winning writer & director. He has directed several narrative fiction films & documentaries which have played in film festivals around the world. His films center around stories from the Arab world that are universal in their appeal. Tony graduated from Northwestern University in Qatar where he was awarded two Studio 20Q grants to direct his short films, Bayt El Omor (2021) & Ibn El Ballad (2022). In addition to short films, he also conceptualizes & directs corporate commercials.

## SEARCHING FOR THREE THOUSAND EGYPTIAN POUND

Nordic premiere

Egypt | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 20 min

**Director:** Hozifa Abdelhalim

**Writer:** Hozifa Abdelhalim

**Cast:** Sief Safwat, Belal Abdo, Fady Gabr

**Dop:** Amir Eid

**Producer:** Hozifa Abdelhailm



### SYNOPSIS

After finding out that his favorite artist is having a concert in his hometown Cairo, A young boy is hellbent on attending but he can't afford to buy a ticket, so his friend suggests that they bet on the last money he has, hoping they would win.



### HOZIFA ABDELHALIM

Hozifa Abdelhalim [Giza, 1991] is a self-taught director based in Cairo. He kickstarted his career through enrolling in a number of directing and scriptwriting workshops. His first short film "Walkman" was produced by ADEF Foundation and officially selected at Malmö Arab Film Festival in 2015.

In 2019, his second film, "Falling" received Best Screenplay Award and a production grant from the Jordanian foundation "Aflami". In 2022, his third film "Searching For Three Thousand Egyptian Pounds" was awarded Best Film in Zawya Shorts Film Festival, and officially selected in a number of festivals such as Hollywood Arab Film Festival, and Visions (Cairo Egyptian Short Film Festival).

DISCOVER THE BEST OF NORDIC DOCS & SHORTS

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**\* A SUMMER IN BOUJAD**

# A SUMMER IN BOUJAD

Morocco, France, Belgium | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 80 min



## SYNOPSIS

Summer 86. Haunted by the death of his mother, 13-year-old Karim returns to spend the holidays with his recomposed family in Boujad, a small town in Morocco. Karim followed his father Messaoud when he agreed, in exchange for a government check and after 20 years in a factory, to leave France for good. Feeling rejected by his father who has rebuilt his life, Karim tries by all means to earn back his love. But the « little Frenchy » struggles to fit in with his new family and the local kids, until he meets a mysterious outsider, Mehdi...

## OMAR MOULDOUIRA

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## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Omar Mouldouira

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**Cast:** Yassir Kazzouz, Hatim Seddiki, Laila Fadili, Azzelarab Keghat, Ahmed Elmelkouni, Adam Morjani, Hiba Aouad

**Dop:** Jean-Marc Selva

**Producer:** Mohamed Nadif, Valentin Leblanc, Delphine Duez





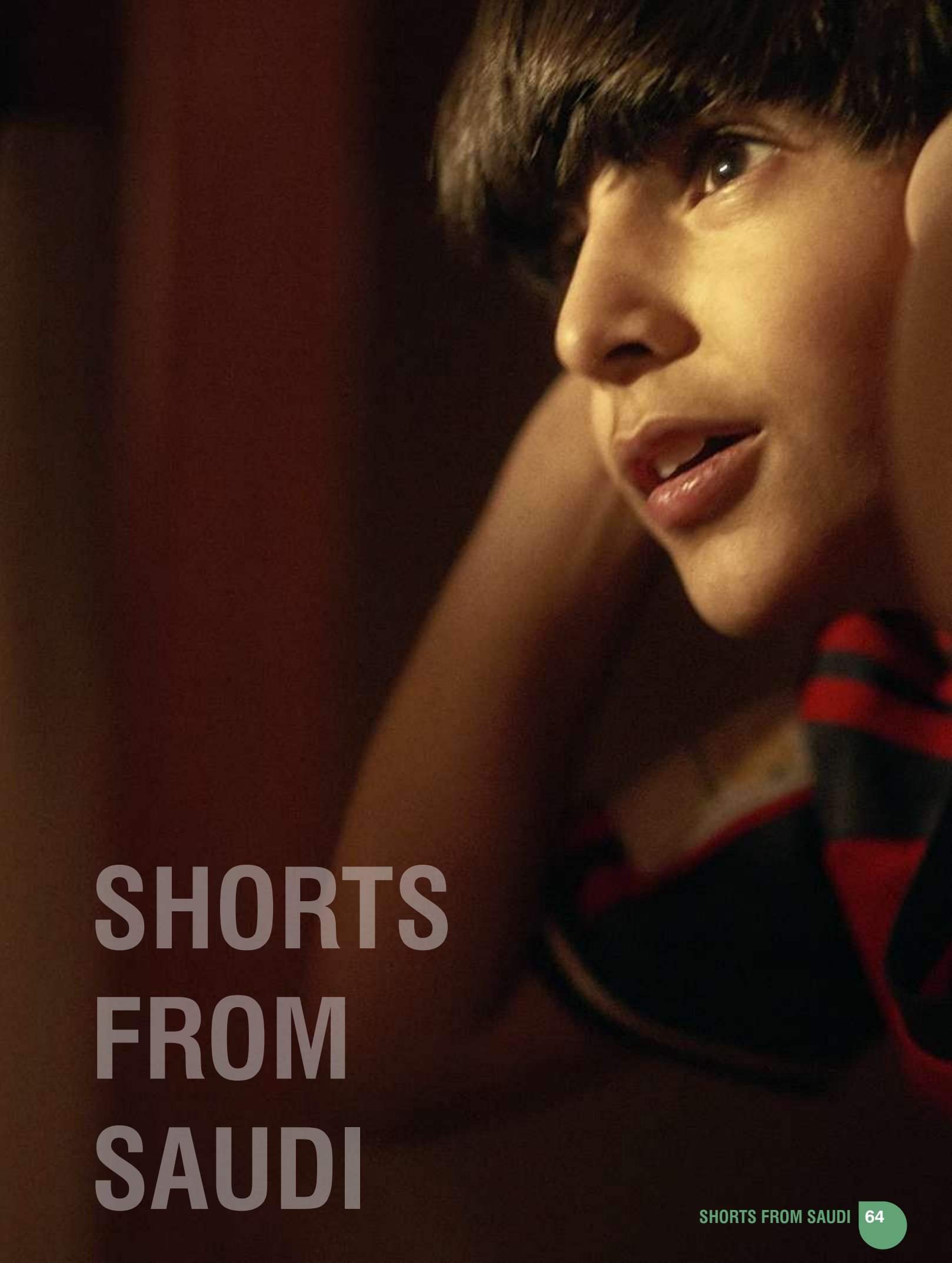
# BUFF

2024: 9 – 16/3

Film submission: 1/6 – 15/11 2023

[buff.se](http://buff.se)





**SHORTS  
FROM  
SAUDI**

- 
- \* KOORA
  - \* THE GRAND SECRET OF BARSEEM
  - \* THE OLD SCHOOL

## KOORA

International premiere

Saudi Arabia | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 15 min

**Director:** Ziyad Alzahrani

**Writer:** Ziyad Alzahrani

**Cast:** Reem Alhabib, Ibrahim Alkhairallah, Abdulaziz Alqahtani, Thunayan Alqahtani

**Dop:** Abdullah Alattas

**Producer:** Mohammed Algarawi



### SYNOPSIS

In one of Riyadh's rural neighborhoods, two kids sneak in one of the neighbors' houses; Abo Naif, while he was out to try and get their ball back, as one of the kids get in the house, he finds out that he's not alone and he's locking his unstable wife in the house.



### ZIYAD ALZHRANI

Ziyad Alzahrani started his journey in the world of filmmaking doing short sketches on YouTube, which attracted the attention of people in the field and then worked at "Telfaz 11" as a director and writer in the most famous YouTube programs such as "Khalat", and went on to direct some TV series, documentaries, and successful commercials.

## THE GRAND SECRET OF BARSEEM

Nordic premiere

Saudi Arabia | 2022 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 8 min

**Director:** Sultan Rabea

**Writer:** Sultan Rabea

**Cast:** Yasin Ghazzawi, Majed Alturki

**Dop:** Hameed Khan

**Producer:** Majed Alturki



### SYNOPSIS

Barseem tries to get a job. During the interview, his grand secret hinders him.



### SULTAN RABEA

His interest in films began from childhood, as they formed an escape from reality to different worlds. Sultan made his 1st short film right after graduating in the U.S. and instantly realised his passion for directing. He left for Panama afterwards to focus on developing writing and filming skills. Some months later, he moved to England where he started working as a freelance videographer shooting commercials and events. Upon returning back to Saudi, Sultan started his career as a full-time filmmaker.

# THE OLD SCHOOL

World premiere

Saudi Arabia | 2023 | Arabic dialogue with English subtitles | 14 min

**Director:** Abdullah Al Khamees

**Writer:** Abdullah Al Khamees

**Cast:** Fahad Al Mutairi, Laila Malek, Nawaf Al Suliman

**Dop:** Fawzi Darwish

**Producer:** Mahfooth Al Zahrani, Batoul Al Arafa



## SYNOPSIS

After being away from a currency headquarters for months, Battal begins his work, only to find himself in conflict with a modern work environment and a condition that cannot be easily achieved.



## ABDULLAH AL KHAMEES

A filmmaker with around seven years of experience working in the film industry, documentaries, and commercials. Strong passion for creating, developing, writing & producing commercials, documentaries, independent short and feature films.



[www.close-upnorth.com](http://www.close-upnorth.com)



\* APY BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

# SPECIAL SCREENINGS

# APY BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

Sweden | 2022 | Swedish dialogue with English subtitles | 63 min



## SYNOPSIS

This is a testimony that describes how during 19 days of respiratory care, documentary filmmaker Mehdi Saleki fought for his life against the coronavirus. From the hospital bed and the mobile camera at his side, he immortalised his journey through the nightmare landscape of the disease.

"During these days I have been on a journey, a journey without borders. There was no white, there was no black, there were no straight lines"

## MEHDI SALEKI

Mehdi Saleki founded and owns REC VIEW film production company in Sweden. He has produced many of his own documentaries which were broadcast to various countries around the world. In addition, he has been a film teacher at three different institutions in Sweden.

## FIRAS RAZAK

Firas Razak is a documentary film director who holds a BA in Artistic Production from Dalarna högskolan University.

He works in the news section of the Swedish state television, SVT

## CAST & CREDITS

**Director:** Mehdi Saleki, Firas Razak

**Writer:** Mehdi Saleki

**Dop:** Mehdi Saleki

**Producer:** Mehdi Saleki



- 
- \* **CASE STUDY**
  - \* **DEVELOPMENT FUNDING**
  - \* **NETWORKING SESSIONS**
  - \* **ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS**
  - \* **PANEL DISCUSSION**
  - \* **PITCH AND MATCH**
  - \* **PRESENTATION**
  - \* **WORK IN PROGRESS**

# MAFF INDUSTRY DAYS



# MAFF INDUSTRY DAYS



We are proud to present the 9th edition of MAFF Industry Days (MID), a pioneering initiative that aims to foster exchange and collaboration between the film industries of Sweden and the Arab world.

The objective of MID is to facilitate opportunities for pitching, networking, and collaboration between producers, financiers, filmmakers, and distributors, over three days filled with diverse programs and events. This initiative brings Sweden and the Arab world closer, encouraging a concrete and hands-on approach to collaboration that enables the telling of stories that may not have been heard otherwise. In doing so, MID positions Malmö and the Skåne region as a hub for film production and brings together representatives from all the major Nordic film institutes.

The Skåne region has developed into a vibrant center for film production and other creative industries, with numerous new organizations, production companies, and enterprises that have boosted the city's economic capacity and enhanced its appeal, both nationally and internationally. MAFF Industry Days offers a unique platform to showcase this development and promote cross-cultural exchange between the film industries of Sweden and the Arab world.



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

# BOOK SIGNING CEREMONY

## WOMEN, THE FUTURE OF ARAB CINEMA

Two scenes! Two scenes put the story into frame. Ninety years separate these two very real scenes despite their “cinematic” nature. The first scene heralded the true beginning of Egyptian cinema, The Mother of Arab Cinema. The second marked the loftiest award that Arab Cinema had granted, to the same being who starred in the first scene. The first scene took place in Cairo, specifically in The Metropole Cinema on November 16, 1927 after the premiere of the film Layla. Turkish Widad Orfa started making it, then Stephan Rosti, whose origins are Greek, took over and finished the film. Aziza Amir produced the film and starred in it thereby being considered a pioneer of the true Egyptian Cinema dubbed thereafter “Hollywood on the Nile”. In that foundational moment, which will be representative of the birth of Egyptian cinema for decades to come, it was really significant that Talaat Harb, the most prominent economist in Egypt during that time, should stand and applaud, not the directors of the film, but that woman whose presence was key to the coming-into-life of Egyptian Cinema, Aziza Amir, the producer and the lead actress of the film. When Talaat Harb addressed her, with Ahmed Chawki next to him endorsing his words, he said, “I congratulate you, madam, for you have fulfilled, as a woman, what men couldn't.”

Talaat Harb was well known for the way he meticulously embellished his words with his “Egyptian” perception, distinguishing thereby the Egyptian producer from her foreign colleagues. He was undoubtedly congratulating the woman in Aziza Amir and praising the role she played, as a woman, in that cinematic coming-into-life. ...

As for the second scene, which came more than ninety years after the Cairo scene, it was in the city of Tunis, specifically during one of the latest distinguished sessions in the history of that festival, the 2019 edition. One of its great surprises and features is that Arab women filmmakers won about two-thirds of the awards. They made up more than three-quarters of the people working in the festival as well as of the audience of the more serious films and the important educational sessions and debates, which are the trademark of this festival. It is true that this edition of Carthage did not bring anything new, since the large female presence is characteristic of the serious film festivals such as the Malmö Arab Film Festival in Sweden.

All this gives the two scenes with which we began our work their flavor and significance, and gives this book, which is, first and foremost, devoted to the cinema of Arab women, or more significantly to the women of Arab cinema, a *raison d'être*...

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### 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.



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Ibrahim Alariss book signing ceremony is located at Malmö public library on April 30, 16:15 to 17:00.

# IBRAHIM ALARISS



**WOMEN, THE FUTURE OF ARAB CINEMA**

# 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

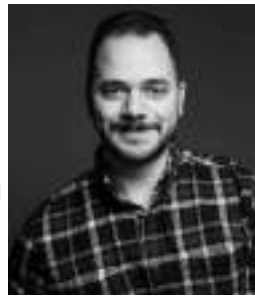
Five projects were selected to participate in the training program, where mentorship was provided by reputable Swedish and Arab filmmakers for aspiring participants through production and post-production labs. Each project was granted up to 4,000 JDs to produce their short documentary films and publicly screen them in Jordan. Moreover, the five short films will be screened at the 13th Malmö Arab Film Festival, with the attendance of a representative for each project.

## TRAINERS

**Duties:**

Provided the teams with guidance and advisory throughout the production phase, supported them with any challenges that came up on set, and ensured the overall production of clear and cohesive films.

WIDAD SHAFAKOJ

**Duties:**

Provided advisory and guidance during the post-production phase. His specific responsibilities included working closely with the participants to help them develop the story's narrative during the editing process by analyzing the structure and the audience.

BASEL MAWLAWI

**Duties:**

Provided the teams with guidance and advisory throughout the production phase, supported them with any issues that came up on set, and ensured the overall production of clear and cohesive films.

ASMA BSESISO

**Duties:**

Provided the teams with guidance and advisory throughout the production phase, supported them with any issues that came up on set, and ensured the overall production of clear and cohesive films.

SANDRA MADI

**Duties:**

Provided the teams with guidance and advisory throughout the production phase, supported them with any issues that came up on set, and ensured the overall production of clear and cohesive films.

HANA ELIAS

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## FINDING OUM AL GHAITH

Following the story of three Women (A semi-nomadic, an Urban and a Bedouin) before winter solace in a drought land, leading their community to save water resourcing. Contrasting and echoing ancient rainmaking rituals connected to a folkloric character (Oum Al-Ghaith). (Oum Al-Ghaith) is also a ritual performed by the Bedouins in the event of the lack of rain, where children would create a wooden sculpture of (Oum Al-Ghaith) and sing folkloric songs asking for the much-needed rain. The Film illustrates this fictional character by showing our main Three "human" characters and the role each of them plays in leading their community in saving water resources, only to find that they are our own real-life (Oum Al-Ghaith) and they inspire a new generation of resource protectors.



### ABEER BAYAZIDI

An impact producer with more than 12 years of diversified experience in Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility, Abeer currently works as the Training and Content Director of Greener Screen. She works with filmmakers, writers, and content creators to educate, advocate and showcase environmental sustainability and social justice causes.

Abeer recently co-founded the boutique impact agency Common Good and working on her debut feature documentary "Finding Oum Al Ghaith."



### BASSAM ALASAD

Bassam Alasad is a producer, Green production consultant. Currently, Bassam is working as the Managing Director of Creative Media Solutions, a Dubai-based media company. He produced and co-produced Projects in the past 15 years all around region. His latest projects are "Born a King" and "Champions" as an executive producer, and he is currently producing two Jordanian films "Montréal" and "Finding Oum AlGhaith". In 2014, Bassam started his green production journey. Later co-founded Greener Screen, a consultancy that supports the film industry in becoming carbon-neutral. In 2021, Bassam joined the Amman International Film Festival - Awal Film as the head of industry.

## SELF-COMMITMENT

Women's stories around the world share similarities despite differences. However, not everyone understands this humanity, including some females themselves. Social heritage, economics, laws, traditions, and decision-makers contribute to this misunderstanding. Women are sometimes expected to be perfect in all areas of life. One woman's journey demonstrates the ability to maintain her perspective in the Middle East while overcoming obstacles. Fatima made difficult decisions to pursue her path, despite societal beliefs that women are more beautiful in their weakness.



### ASEEL YASEEN

Acting is an irreplaceable passion that allows for living different perspectives and being real with characters. This experience pushed one individual to see things differently and pursue a directorial role. "Self Commitment" is their first film, expressing a strong woman overcoming obstacles and sharing cultural differences, thoughts, and freedoms. They aim to share a social reality, create hope, and focus on the unique details of each individual story while bringing together similarities and differences.



### YOUNES HABABEH

Filmmaker most of my work was for TV programs as a cinematographer/director and editor.

## SHE IS SOUF

"Souf" is a short documentary that tells the story of Najah Al-Azza, a resident of a former refugee camp in Souf, Jerash. Born to Palestinian parents who fled Palestine in 1948, Najah faced numerous challenges including poverty, family tragedy, and discrimination due to her dark skin color. Despite this, she defied the odds and ran for parliamentary elections, excelled in her studies, and achieved her dreams. The film culminates with Najah passing the flag of hope to her nephew Elias, who represents a bright future for her community.



### MUHANNAD LAFI

Muhannad Lafi is a documentary filmmaker with a degree in Radio and Television and a Diploma in Cinema and Television. He has attended courses in documentary filmmaking and made several short documentaries, including "Third Eye on Madaba," which won Best Short Documentary at a French Cultural Institute competition. Lafi has also worked as an assistant director on documentaries for Al Jazeera and AlAraby Television, including "Naya Group," "Churchill's Memoirs," and "Palestinian Cinema" directed by Nader Taha, Aroa Hamad Allah, and Ayed Nabaa.



### AHMAD HALABIEH

Ahmed Halabiya is a director and producer. He founded "Golden Track for Media Production" and has been working in the field of media and artistic production since 2011. Halabiya has been involved in dozens of short and feature-length documentaries, television programs, and short narrative films.

## WARDEH

A short documentary that sheds the light on the harsh conditions of domestic workers in Jordan through the story of the Sri Lankan worker Asanka, who is trying to return to her homeland in various ways. and Sarah a Sri Lankan woman fighting to stay in Jordan to help migrant workers through her work as a translator in court.



### RAHMEH ALSHMMAS

Rahme Alshmmas, a Jordanian documentary filmmaker, started her journey as a student in Media. She merged her love of filmmaking and journalism to develop a distinctive style. She believes that the depth of any story is in its details, so she creates close-to-heart content through her distinctive style of production.



### AHMAD FARAH

Ahmad Farah is a Jordanian musician and music-videos producer with over four years of experience in the film industry. He worked on several projects all related to music with independent artists and bands most notable work with Tayar an Arabic electronic music/indie-pop duo. His passionate and punctual way of work sets him apart from others in the film scene in Jordan. His recent work on (Wardeh-وردة) (short documentary movie is his ever first experience as a film producer away from his exclusivity with music.

## WHO IS ZEYNE

Zeyne is a Palestinian-Jordanian singer/songwriter whose angelic voice was passed down from her grandmother to her mother and then to her. Starting her singing career on social media during the global COVID lockdown, Zeyne was able to reserve her spot on the map in a rising Arab alternative music industry through a series of bold, genre-defying songs. While she has gained wide attention on music streaming platforms, Zeyne has yet to experience singing her music before a live audience. Unraveling childhood singing traumas and with an impatient crowd waiting, will Zeyne get through her first live concert the way she had always imagined?



### ZAID BAWAB

Zaid Bawab holds a degree in computer graphics and animation from PSUT and an MFA in Screenwriting and Directing from RSICA. He has directed various commercials, music videos, and documentaries, and taught filmmaking in universities across Jordan. With a broad knowledge of Arab pop culture, he has also worked in various positions related to video and music streaming. Despite his diverse experiences, Bawab's passion for directing remains strong as he aims to tell Jordanian stories through documentary or fiction with a musical twist. Currently, he is one of the main presenters on Roya TV's "Caravan" show, presenting music and film content.



### MEINA HAWASHIN

Meina Hawashin is a Jordanian producer/Director who graduated from the SAE Institute in 2019 with a Bachelor's degree (BA) in filmmaking. Starting with her own set of poetic short videos, she has been able to explore different aspects of the filmmaking world and found her heart mostly set on Producing, directing and writing. Through Various projects, Hawashin has worked as a production manager for music videos, short films and commercials. She has a passion for shedding light on inspirational and psychological stories no matter the genre, enlightening the world of how they can be portrayed in a visual manner transcending the stereotypical patterns.

## PROJECT SUPERVISOR / MAFF



### MOUHAMAD KEBLAWI

Director, Producer, Expert, and artistic Consultant. Broad experience in project management in media production and business development within the film and creative industries. with particular focus on diversity. Founder and General Manager of the Malmo Arab Film Festival in Sweden.

## RFC



### Abedalsalam Al Haj

RFC Representative

Abdul Salam Al-Hajj Completed his MFA in 2010, majoring in directing and cinematography. He produced and directed several films that participated in numerous international festivals. He worked on designing curricula for youth and children in the film industry for several community organizations. Additionally, he worked for over two years in well-known universities in Jordan as a film professor, which began his professional career in cinematic arts education. Since 2012, Al-Hajj has been serving as the Capacity Building Manager at the Royal Film Commission - Jordan and he is responsible for filmmaking educational programs to filmmakers of varying levels.



Mustafa Kaoud will signing the book at cinema Panora on May 1, 21:00 to 21:45.



Mustafa Kaoud is a Palestinian writer and journalist with Swedish nationality. He was a television program producer and editor before coming to Sweden in 2014. He immediately started working at the Malmo Arab Film Festival before moving on to work at Radio Sweden's Arabic department and writing a column for Sydsvenskan newspaper. Due to his interest in literature, he turned to literary translation from Swedish to Arabic after three years of being in Sweden. He translated five children's literature books for famous authors, published by Al-Muna and Hegas Publishing Houses, in addition to translating many studies, parts of educational books, a book on comics, and various information for different Swedish institutions. He then turned to classical literature by translating August Strindberg's "The Red Room," published by Mizar at the end of last year. The book received widespread coverage and great interest from most Swedish media outlets.



# MAFF AWARDS



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

**Short Film Competition** (Fiction and non-fiction)

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.)

**Feature Competition** (Fiction and non-fiction)

Best Feature – award 35 000 SEK (This award recognizes the film’s director.)

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

Best Feature ( non-fiction) – award 15 000 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.

# MAFF STAFF

## STAFF

**Mouhamad Keblawi**, Founder - Head of festival & industry

**Mohamad Abo Whatfa**, Festival Coordinator

**Mahmoud Eyad Mahmoud**, Guest Coordinator

**Ayla Mahmoud**, Jury Coordinator

**Nizar Keblawi**, Cinema Coordinator

**Eyad Mahmoud**, Transport Coordinator

**Nihal Mahmoud**, Social Media coordinator

**Athir Abbas**, Press Guest Coordinator

**Yazan Alqaq**, Live Stream Coordinator

**Mohammad Hasan**, Festival Assistant

**Jartiena Choura**, Festival Assistant

**Mustafa Al Rubaye**, Festival Assistant

**Nouran Alawad**, Festival Assistant

**Omar Kauod**, Festival Assistant

**Ruaa Hasan**, Festival Assistant

**Sedra Alawad**, Festival Assistant

**Sedra Qaweder**, Festival Assistant

**Ahmad Okdeh**, Festival Assistant

**Glykeria Pounenti**, Festival Assistant

**Abdallah Al Shaar**, Festival Assistant

**Mathews Omanga**, Festival Assistant

**Reem Abu watfa**, Festival Assistant

**Nour Hassan Metwally**, Festival Assistant

**Zeineb Adnan**, Festival Assistant

**Lama Hawila**, Festival Assistant

**Sam yahya**, Festival Assistant

**Haneen Sakhnini**, Festival Assistant

**Yasmin Shreih**, Festival Assistant

**Amro Alshaher**, Festival Assistant

**Hadil El-imam**, Festival Assistant

**Omran Abdullallah**, Festival Assistant

**Yazan Smadi**, Festival Assistant

**Ramez Rizk**, Festival Assistant

## PROGRAMMERS/CONSULTANT

**Ahmed Shawky**

**Mohamed Atef**

## BOARD



**Amal Keblawi**,  
Chairman



**Alea Mohammad**,  
Accountant



**Athir Abbas**,  
Board Member



**Birgitta Severinsson**,  
Board Member



**Mostafa Kaoud**,  
Board 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)

**Family Film:** Free

**Festival pass:** 10 kr

**Festival card:** 350 kr

Student and senior: 270 kr

(The card grants you access to all festival screenings)

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](http://www.maffswe.com)

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

Closing film (Royal) ticket sales are available one hour before the film starts.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[info@maffswe.com](mailto:info@maffswe.com)



## ADDRESSES

**Folkets Bio Panora**  
Friisgatan 19 D

**Royal SF**  
Södra Tullgatan 4

**Scandic Triangeln Hotel**  
Triangeln 2

**Elite Plaza Hotel**  
Gustav Adolfs torg 49

**Malmö Public Library**  
Kung Oscars väg 11

The background is a solid teal color. It features several large, overlapping, rounded triangular shapes in a slightly darker shade of teal. In the lower right quadrant, there is a small, intricate, white decorative pattern consisting of concentric, star-like or floral motifs.

**MALMÖ ARAB FILM FESTIVAL  
2023**