

APRIL 23-26 2024

10th Edition by Malmö Arab Film Festival



**MAFF
INDUSTRY
DAYS**

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WELCOME

Dear Guests,

We extend a warm welcome to MAFF Industry Days 2024. As we celebrate the 10th year of this distinguished industry event, we take pride in presenting a platform that has continually support collaboration and innovation within the worlds of Nordic and Arab cinema.

Since its inception, MAFF Industry Days has been dedicated to bridging cultural boundaries and developing diverse narratives within the Arab film industry. Our designed programs aim to establish partnerships and facilitate meaningful exchanges between producers, funders, distributors, and film professionals.

Over the past decade, MAFF Industry Days has acted as a driving force for numerous Nordic-Arab film collaborations, contributing to the enrichment of our cinematic landscape. We owe much of our success to the constant support of our participants, whose dedication has been instrumental in driving our collective vision forward.

We are honored to host respected delegates from around the world, representing some of the most influential institutions and organizations in both the Nordic countries and the Arab world.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners for their invaluable contributions to this edition of MAFF & MID. It is through our collaborative efforts that we continue to witness the impact of MAFF Industry Days, and we look forward to the outcomes of this year's reflections.

As we start this journey together, we are filled with excitement for the future of our industry. We trust that MAFF Industry Days 2024 will serve as a platform for meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and growth.

Welcome to MAFF Industry Days 2024!

Malmö Arab Film Festival

ABOUT MID

We are thrilled to present the 10th edition of MAFF Industry Days (MID), continuing our commitment to supporting exchange and collaboration between the film industries of Sweden and the Arab world.

MID's core objective remains unchanged: to facilitate opportunities for pitching, networking, and collaboration among producers, financiers, filmmakers, and distributors. Over four days packed with diverse programs and events, MID acts as a platform for bringing together creative minds and driving meaningful partnerships. Our initiative plays an important role in bridging Sweden and the Arab world, encouraging collaborations that breathe life into stories yet untold. Through MID, Malmö and the Skåne region assert their position as thriving hubs for film production, attracting representatives from all the major Nordic film institutes.

The Skåne region continues to evolve as a dynamic center for film production and creative industries. With the emergence of numerous organizations, production companies, and enterprises, Skåne's economic strength and international appeal have only grown stronger. MAFF Industry Days is key for showcasing progress and promoting cultural exchange between Sweden and the Arab world's film industries.



Photo by: Bojana Lukac

THE CITY OF MALMÖ

Standing tall above Malmö's Western Harbour, the Turning Torso skyscraper symbolises the dynamic journey this city has made in recent times. In the space of a few short decades, a once-successful industrial city that fell on hard times has reinvented itself as a modern, young, global knowledge centre.

Malmö today is a natural hub for people and cultures from worldwide. The city's inhabitants come from around 180 countries. This diversity is one of Malmö's key assets and creates the basis for a rich cultural life. It also equips Malmö to perform well in an ever-more globalised world.

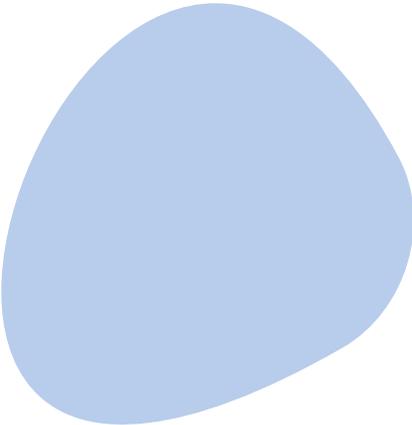
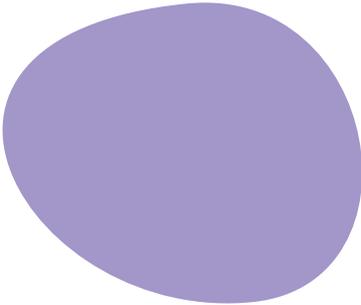
Malmö is one of Sweden's fastest growing metropolitan centres. The high number of births and influx of people stand for the greater part of the population increase. Each year, the City of Malmö provides a population forecast for the next ten years. It is an important tool for the planning for Malmö's future. The 2020 population forecast shows, among other things, that the number of Malmö residents is expected to increase by about 50,000 new residents by 2030.

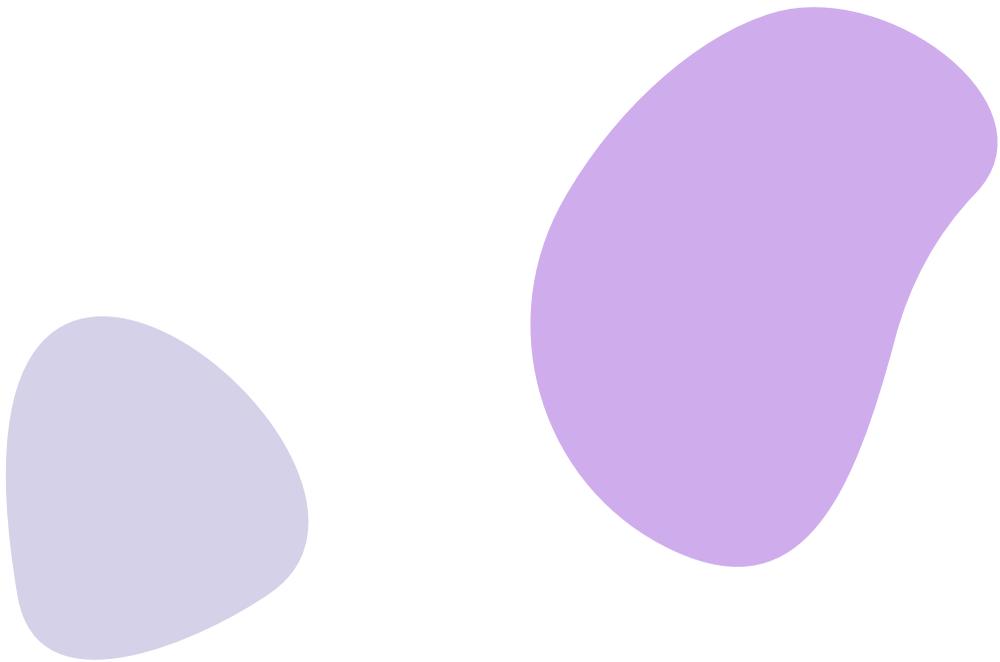
The rapidly growing population presents opportunities and challenges for social welfare. It requires that we constantly work to ensure a sustainable and inclusive development in the city.

Malmö aspires to be a sustainable city – socially, economically and environmentally. Businesses, researchers, inhabitants and the city authorities are working closely together to reduce health-related inequality, especially among children and youth. Malmö is also pioneering environmental zones such as Augustenborg, the Western Harbour and Hyllie.

Welcome to Malmö!

FUNDING PROGRAM





- **Development Fund Jury**
- **Feature Film projects in Development**
- **Short Film Projects Development**
- **Post-production Platform**
- **Our Partners & Sponsors**

DEVELOPMENT FUND JURY

Eduardo Guillot

Director



Eduardo Guillot is the Artistic Director of Mostra de València-Cinema del Mediterrani International Film Festival. He has worked as a cultural journalist for thirty years and collaborated on books dedicated to Emir Kusturica, noir cinema or the relationship between cinema and videogames or popular music. Member of the programming team at València Cinematheque for five years. International programming advisor for more than ten years at Abycine (Albacete) and Cinema Jove film festivals. Member of Fipresci.

Contact info: program@lamostradevalencia.com

Bassam Alasad

Producer



Producer, PGA and DAE member. Currently, Bassam is working as the Managing Director of Creative Media Solutions. He has produced several projects in the past 17 years. His latest project was "Born a King" (2019) and "Champions" (2021) as an executive Producer, and he is currently producing the upcoming feature films "Montréal" and "Finding Oum Al Ghait". In 2014, Bassam started his green production journey and later co-founded Greener Screen, a consultancy that aims to support the film industry to become carbon-neutral. Since 2021, Bassam Alasad is currently the head of the Amman Film Industry Days and Amman projects market at the Amman International Film Festival.

Contact info: bassam@cmsgulftv

Marie Balducchi

Producer



Marie Balducchi is a French producer at AGAT Films/Ex Nihilo, a collective of associated producers in Paris. On a daily basis, the company reconciles an individual practice which consists of developing, producing and promoting the work of authors and a collective practice based on financial, editorial and human solidarity between the associates. Marie Balducchi produces films for both cinema and television and participates in film support commissions like Europe Creative Media, CNC Cinemas du Monde. She is a member of L'académie des Césars.

Contact info: marie.balducchi@agatfilms.com

FEATURE FILM PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

23 April 2024

At Scandic Hotel

10:00	-	10:20	Behind Closed Doors
10:20	-	10:40	Dogmas
10:40	-	11:00	Lebanon Baby
11:10	-	11:30	Running with Beasts
11:30	-	11:50	Tkalle



150,000 SEK CASH GRANT
from The Swedish Film Institute

\$5,000 CASH GRANT
from The Royal Film Commission - Jordan

\$5,000 WORTH OF SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT
from Mariam Naoum from Sard

AWARDS

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

QATAR, SWEDEN

90 MINS

SYNOPSIS: Behind Closed Doors is a portrayal of human relationships within the complex social fabric of a modern Arabic/Gulf country. The film delves into the challenges faced by its characters, who struggle with the intricacies of marriage, social norms and family pressure. Central to the narrative is Sara's struggle to cope with her 'perfect' life.

Hend Fakhro

Scriptwriter



Hend Fakhro is a Qatari screenwriter and director, known for her thought-provoking films that explore the intricacies of human connections. Fakhro was born in Cairo, Egypt in 1982 to an Egyptian mother and Qatari father. Her grandfather, actor Mohamed Tawfiq, and great aunt, Karima Mokhtar, helped foster her creative and artistic talent from a young age. Fakhro studied at St. Edward's university in Austin, Texas, where she earned a BA in Marketing with honors.

Hend's work encompasses a variety of roles, including acting and producing. Her work reflects her interest in telling stories from the Middle East, with a special interest in women's issues. Her first short films, 'His Name' (2012), and 'The Waiting Room' (2016) traveled extensively within the festival circuit. Recently, Hend has co-written a script for an American production starring an Oscar nominated cast. Hend is currently preparing to shoot her first feature film, Behind Closed Doors.

Contact info: hendfakhroo@gmail.com

Cindy Le Templier

Producer



Cindy Le Templier, a French-Jordanian Producer based in Doha, Qatar, dedicated to creating impactful films. Cindy has an extensive experience working on acclaimed French films, and was a co-founder of a production house in Amman-Jordan, where she produced numerous film and TV projects. She currently leads creative ventures at 'The Film House' in Doha, with the goal of producing innovative films and digital projects; currently, producing 'Behind Closed Doors' and steering the development of two compelling features.

Contact info: cindy@thefilmhouse.tv

Linda Mutawi

Swedish Co-Producer



Linda is a film producer with a multicultural background, she has worked in the UK, Jordan, Dubai and Sweden. Over the last 23 years her experienced has ranged from fiction to documentaries. Linda is a graduate of both The Producers Guild of America's diversity workshop, and the EAVE Producers Workshop 2022. She is currently producing and co-producing various Swedish and international projects.

Contact info: linda@fikra.se

DOGMAS

ALGERIA, FRANCE

100 MINS

SYNOPSIS: Farid and Salim, born post-Algerian independence, are proud of their father Said, a war hero. Destined to become top snipers in the Algerian army, Farid pursues his dream and joins as an officer. Meanwhile, Salim takes a different path, fighting the Soviet army in Afghanistan. Afterward, Salim aligns with the FIS, Algeria's popular political party. Despite winning elections, the army intervenes, causing division and turning the brothers into bitter foes.

Salah Issaad

Director



Born in 1989 in Algeria, the Algerian-Tunisian director grew up in a family of publishers. After completing his bachelor's degree in letters and foreign languages in 2008, he pursued law studies in Batna, Algeria. Later, he moved to France and studied film at the University of Paris VIII for two years. Balancing work and studies, he attended ARFIS audiovisual school in Lyon, then Eicar Lyon, where he earned his Cinema Director diploma. Passionate about storytelling and exploring diverse genres like drama, tragedy, real-inspired stories, and comedy, he directed a feature film and several shorts. His debut film, Soula, won multiple awards.

Contact info: salah.issaad.pro@gmail.com

Taqiyeddine Issaad

Producer



Born in 1985 into an Algerian publishing family, Taqiyeddine Issaad grew up surrounded by tales and adventures. His early travels instilled in him a sense of openness and freedom. As a self-taught individual, Taki explored literature, entrepreneurship, sciences, and history, with a particular interest in aviation and travel, which became his profession. Alongside his piloting, he delves into filmmaking, initially supporting his brother Salah and later co-producing "Soula." Recognized for his creativity and discernment, Taki brings a unique perspective to his pursuits, marked by his passion for storytelling and exploration.

Contact info: prod@evidencefilm.com

Mohanad Salahat

Swedish Co-Producer



Mohanad Salahat, a Palestinian/Swedish filmmaker and writer, has had his documentaries featured on Al Jazeera TV, Swedish National Television (SVT), and global film festivals. He has collaborated with production companies and festivals in Sweden, Turkey, Qatar, and Palestine as a freelance director and producer. Additionally, he serves as a consultant for media companies and organizations, and has served as a jury member for international film festivals. In 2021, Mohanad founded his own production company, Sunbird Films, based in Malmö, Sweden. He continues to work actively as an independent filmmaker, writer, and journalist across Europe and the Arab world.

Contact info: mohanad@sunbirdfilms.se

LEBANON BABY

SWEDEN

100 MINS

SYNOPSIS: Retired Lebanese man Mohammed Hadid seeks a wartime rescue on a reality show, leading to a heartwarming reunion in Sweden. This transformative journey highlights the power of family and selflessness, reshaping his perspective on life and opening new chapters of connection and redemption.

Mona Masri

Scriptwriter



Screenwriter from Sweden. Mona Masri is a well-established and critically acclaimed screenwriter and former journalist, who has come up with the idea and is writing the script based on a personal story. Mona is one of the writers behind the internationally acclaimed Swedish Netflix series "Snabba Cash" (2021-2022). Her previous work also includes writing the Danish TV series "Copenhagen Cowboy" (2022) and the Swedish feature film "Amina"(2023). In 2018, Mona was awarded with the prestigious Swedish Ingmar Bergman scholarship as a screenwriter.

In 2023 she was selected as one of six screenwriters for the European Writer's Club "Boosting Concepts," led by Torino Film Lab, with the upcoming project "The Building" (SVT/Zentropa).

Contact info: monamasri@gmail.com

Maria Dahlin

Producer



Maria Dahlin possesses vast experience collaborating across borders, with the majority of her projects entailing international partnerships. She is known for actively pursuing opportunities that transcend national boundaries, seeking out projects that foster cross-cultural exchange and cooperation among diverse global communities.

Contact info: maria.dahlin@metafilm.se

Rula Nasser

Co-Producer



A Dynamic Jordanian producer, Rula started to produce feature films and documentaries in 2010 under the banner of the Imaginarium Films. Under her management, The Imaginarium has become one of the most acknowledged film production companies in the Middles East and Gulf regions. Over the years, Rula worked closely with a prominent network of Arab and international film professionals such as award winning directors: Hany Abu Assad, Hanro Smitsman,

Mijke De jong, Xavier Giannoli, Emmanuelle Hamon, Niels Arden Oplev, Ali Abbasi, Bilal

Falah & Adel Al Erabi & Mohammad Diab. Her films have been exhibited worldwide at the most highly praised film festivals (Cannes, Toronto, Locarno, New York...etc.) and have received vast acclamations from both critics and the public.

Contact info: info@tifilmz.com

RUNNING WITH THE BEASTS

LEBANON

90 MINS

SYNOPSIS: Amid Lebanon's economic collapse, five friends embark on a risky secret plan to chase their dreams, facing the unexpected cost of growing up.

Leila Basma

Director



Leila is a Lebanese filmmaker based between Beirut and Prague. She holds a BA from IESAV in Beirut, and an MFA in Film Directing from FAMU. Through her work, she explores the themes of society, youth, womanhood, and identity. Her short documentary The Adam Basma Project was short-listed for the Student Academy Awards after touring international documentary film festivals. Her graduation film Sea Salt was selected to premiere at the Venice IFF La Biennale in the official Orizzonti Competition. Leila is currently developing various film and photography projects.

Contact info: leilabasma94@gmail.com

Natália Pavlove

Producer



Natália, a Czech-based producer, holds an MA in Producing from FAMU and MA in International Relations and Management. She founded her own company, Other Stories, in 2021 after collaborating on various feature films, series, and documentaries with production companies in the Czech Republic. She produced the award-winning short film "Vinland" and the Czech-Lebanese-Qatar coproduction "Sea Salt," both celebrated at international film festivals such as Venice IFF, Karlovy Vary IFF 2022, and Cairo IFF 2022. Currently, she is collaborating and developing projects with emerging female directors. She is an IDFA Academy and EURODOC alumna and was nominated for the Czech National Film Awards.

Contact info: natalia@otherstoriesfilms.com

Siri Hjorton Wagner

Swedish Co-Producer



Siri Hjorton Wagner is a producer and founder of [sic] film. Since starting the company in 2015 she's produced shorts and features that have screened at festivals like Berlinale and Sundance, and been awarded with several prizes, among them the Swedish Academy Award - the Guldbagge. She has also line produced TV series, and directed shorts and music videos - earning her a nomination for the Swedish Grammy awards for Best Music Video. Siri has participated in Nordic Film Lab, Young Nordic Producer's club in Cannes, Rotterdam Lab, Berlinale Talents, Producer's network and is an EAVE alumni.

Contact info: siri@sicfilm.se

TKALLEM

UK, TUNISIA, SWEDEN

105 MINS

SYNOPSIS: During the migrant crisis in Tunisia, Walid, a mute Black Tunisian boy, aspires to showcase his unique magic trick on the streets of Tunis. Despite being exploited by his scamming father and enduring racial discrimination, Walid persists in pursuing his dream. After a brutal attack and a heated family dispute, Walid's father undergoes a profound change eventually supporting Walid in his quest. However, when the magic trick doesn't unfold as planned, an unexpected twist occurs.

Nejib Kthiri

Director



Nejib Kthiri is a Tunisian filmmaker and musician based in London, UK. After studying music and sound engineering at West London University in 2011, he transitioned into film making. His debut short film Trinou has been making waves in the film festival circuit, being selected to festivals around the world like DOCUFEST, the prestigious Cairo International Film Festival, LA Shorts International Film Festival, the Cinequest International Film Festival and many more. Trinou gained audience and critical acclaim, earning several award nominations, and winning best Short Film in Rotterdam Arab Film Festival and Amman International Film Festival. Nejib is currently working on the script for his feature film Tkalllem.

Contact info: production@seventhagegroup.com

Ian Henry

Producer



Since 1990 Ian Henry has produced films all over the world, specialising in feature length documentaries and commercials. Having lived in Asia for 20 years, Ian returned to London and started London Film & TV in January 2018 to develop projects for Film and Television alongside continuing with commercial work. Having completed two feature length projects, AUTONOMOUS (2019) and HOW HIGH (in post-production), London Film has several projects in development in features, documentary and returning TV Drama series. Their most recent project is HALLOW ROAD, a co-production with Two&Two Films, starring Rosamund Pike and Matthew Rhys, shot in Ireland and the Czech Republic, currently in post-production.

Contact info: ian@london.film

Sean Wheelan

Swedish Coproducer



Filmgate Films started in 2010 with the ambition of developing and co-producing TV and feature films from Sweden. Since then it has co-produced 45 international feature films like: Oliver Hermanus's Oscar/BAFTA nominated "Living", Cristian Mungius' drama R.M.N., "The Whistlers" by Corneliu Porumboiu (main competition in Cannes 2022 and 2019).

Contact info: sean@filmgate-films.com



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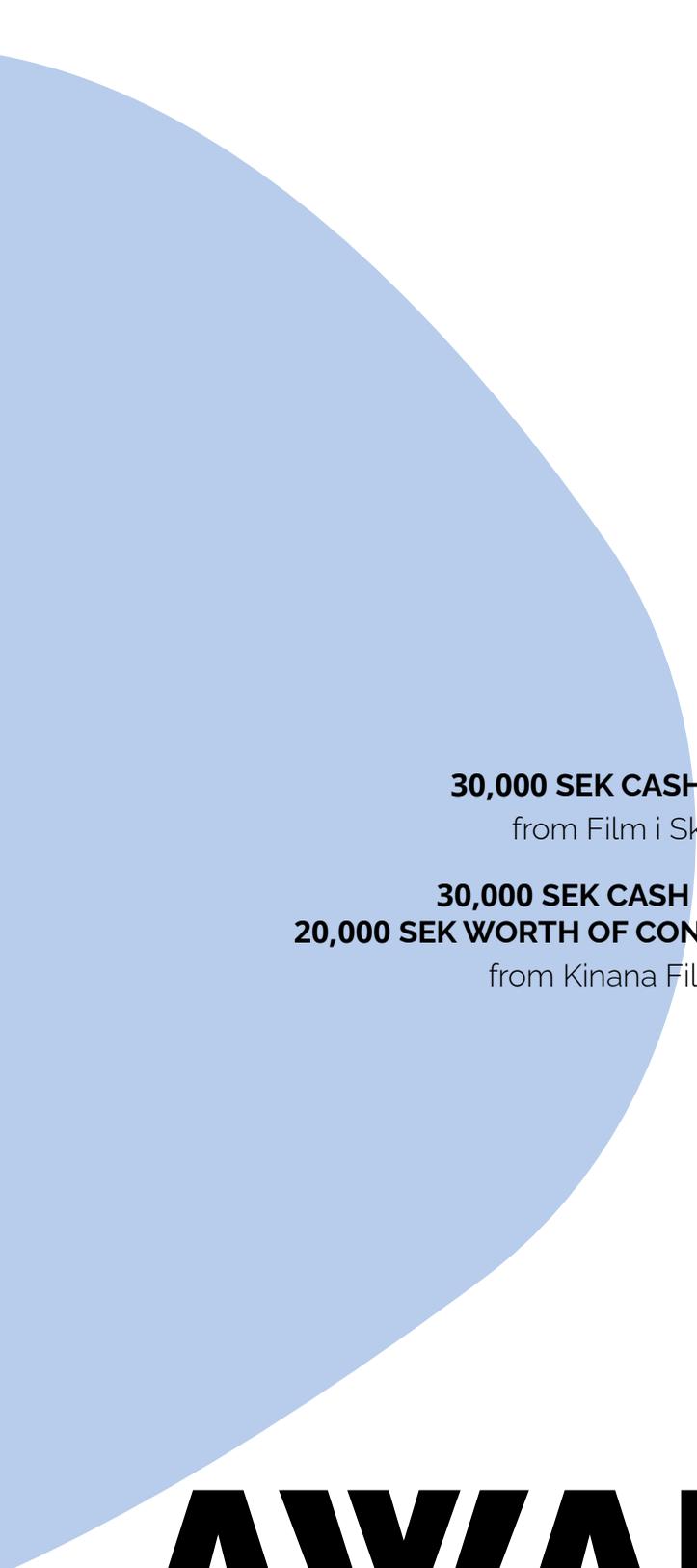
SHORT FILM PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

23 April 2024

12:00 - 12:20
12:20 - 12:40
12:40 - 13:00

At Scandic Hotel

Elsewhere
I See you in Full Colour
The Albatross



30,000 SEK CASH GRANT

from Film i Skåne

**30,000 SEK CASH GRANT &
20,000 SEK WORTH OF CONSULTANCY GRANT**

from Kinana Films AB

AWARDS

ELSEWHERE

SWEDEN

15 MINS

SYNOPSIS: A child narrates his parents' story describing contrasting geographical and cultural origins. Combining animation styles, music and history to enchant, this is a unique love story animated with vibrant colours and songs to create a moving family tree with roots reaching from the banks of the River Nile to the peaks of the Swedish Alps.

Issraa Elkogali Häggström

Director



Issraa is a Sudanese-Swedish filmmaker, writer and producer. She co-produced the feature film *GOODBYE JULIA*, winner of the Freedom prize in the Un Certain Regard category at Cannes 2023. Issraa is an alumna of the National Theatre of Sweden's writer's residency and a former talent development candidate at Story Ltd. Executive producer and screenwriter of the award winning short fiction film *A HANDFUL OF DATES* (2020), her debut documentary short, *IN SEARCH OF HIP HOP* (Official selection IFFR and DIFF 2013) was shown in festivals in 15 countries and purchased by BBC Arabic. Her art installation work *Nora's Cloth* received the Ibsen Scholarship in 2011 and toured, Norway, Sweden and the UK until 2014. *Nora's Cloth* featured performance, animated video, interviews and still photography.

Contact info: Issy.haggstrom@gmail.com

Lars Lovén

Producer



Lars Lovén is a documentary filmmaker, freelance journalist and documentary producer for radio. Directed the feature documentary *Fonko* (2016) on the contemporary music scene in a number of cities across the African continent, tracing its roots to the fight against colonialism and contextualising it against rapid social change. The film had cinema distribution and festival screenings in more than 40 countries. He is currently directing the music documentary *Celtic Utopia* at MDEMC, with support from the Swedish Film Institute, SVT and the Swedish Arts Council with preliminary release 2025. Has directed a tv-series for Swedish National Television on contemporary African music (2014) and made a number of documentaries for Swedish National Radio, including *Astor Piazzolla, tangons motvalsigeni* (2021), *Det sista folkmusikhaket* (2019) and *Rebetiko* (2017). Is editor in chief and publisher for the multilingual magazine *Lyktan* since and has been a music critic for the newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* since 2004.

Contact info: Lars@larsloven.se

I SEE YOU IN FULL COLOUR

SWEDEN, PALESTINE, LEBANON, EGYPT

10 MINS

SYNOPSIS: In 2008 Gaza, 9-year-old Ahmed and his faithful dog, Bahr, share a profound bond as they navigate the challenges imposed by the eruption of war in their homeland.

Mohammed Al-Majdalawi

Director



Mohammed Al-Majdalawi was born in Palestine and has a master's degree in documentary film from Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts. While living in the Gaza Strip, he worked as crew for several international films including 'Bridges Over Blood' and 'Eyewitness Gaza' and made his own short films, 'Gaza Art Through Barbed Wire' and 'To Mai'. He is currently working on his documentary feature 'Out of Place'.

Contact info: mohamedmajdalawi@gmail.com

Fady Gamal Atallah

Producer



Fady Gamal Atallah is an Egyptian/Swedish director and producer, co-founder of B-RETTA FILM in Stockholm. With a background in engineering, he pursued his passion for film, studying at Stockholm Film School and De Montfort University, where he earned his MA in filmmaking. He has created award-winning short films and documentaries, including Raindance Film Festival 2019 Official Selections and a Special Jury Prize at CNFF 2016. His films as producer received grants from Swedish Film Institute, Film i Skåne and Doha Film Institute.

Contact info: fady.atallah@b-retta.s

THE ALBATROSS

NORWAY

10 MINS

SYNOPSIS: Elena arrives at the remote cabin by the sea of her estranged father to confront him about their traumatic past, but instead finds a wounded albatross. Taking care of the bird reignites old memories while a brewing storm isolates her inside the cabin with the albatross. This situation will test her endurance and force her to reconsider her relationship with her father to liberate herself from her past.

Mike Malajalian

Director



Mike Malajalian is a Lebanese Filmmaker & Graphic Designer.

He holds a Master's degree in "Cinema & Video" from the Academia di Belle Arti di Brera in Milan, Italy, and a Master's degree in Graphic Design & Visual Communication from the Lebanese University of Fine Arts. He directed several short films such as "La Femme aux Raisins" (2011) and "Gli occhi di Aldo" (2014).

His first psychological horror short "Reprisal" (2017), won the MaskoonFFF's best short film award and participated in over 25 international film festivals including the prestigious SITGES, Boston Underground and Frightfest. His latest experimental short film "SPASM" (2022) premiered in MaskoonFFF in Beirut and participated in various film festivals. Mike is now in the production phase on his first feature documentary and in the development phase of his first fiction feature film.

Contact info: mike.malajalian@gmail.com

Søren Schjødt

Producer



Søren is a driven producer with a passion for bringing creative visions to life. He is adept at navigating the complexities of entrepreneurship, sales, and effective communication. Søren is recognized for his skills in mentoring and mediating within diverse teams, both large and small, ensuring seamless project execution. Committed to excellence in customer service, he has a keen eye for detail in development, finance, budgeting, and marketing. Søren began his career in documentary filmmaking and achieved a significant breakthrough last year with a successful theatrical release. He is now transitioning to fiction formats with multiple upcoming projects in the pipeline, continuing to push the boundaries of storytelling.

Contact info: Soren@goodtime-pictures.com

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EXHIBITION



WORKSHOPS



ACTIVITIES



Q4, 2024



RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA



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23 April 2024

10:00 - 10:30
10:30 - 11:00
11:00 - 11:30
11:45 - 12:15
12:15 - 12:45
12:45 - 13:15

At Panora Cinema

I am a Script Girl
My Mother's Glasses
She was not Alone
Spring Came on Laughing
Un-Making of
Wear and Tear

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from Unison Studio AB - Sweden.

\$5000 CASH AWARD
from The Imaginarium Films - Jordan

**COMPANIES' REPRESENTATIVES WILL
CHOOSE THE WINNERS**

AWARDS

I AM A SCRIPT GIRL

EGYPT, SWEDEN

90 MINS

SYNOPSIS: A young woman who immigrated to France from Egypt and worked in cinema, becoming the ultimate career woman and a mother in a male dominated industry. I am a Script Girl is a close-up and personal journey of the life, challenges, and the career of Sylvette Baudrot. She is a courageous and determined 90-year-old woman, whose work in the film industry spans almost 70 years.

Mina Nabil

Director



Mina Nabil is a Director, Cinematographer, and Producer from Alexandria, Egypt and he received in 2011 a Bachelor degree in Cinema Production. Mina is also one of the Co-founders of Fig Leaf Studios Inc. He worked as a DOP for features, shorts, documentaries. He has attended several master classes such as Documentary Campus 2014 Berlin, Beirut Talents 2015, Robert Bosch Stiftung film Prize at Berlinale nominee in 2016, AFS program at the USC 2017 Los Angeles and Film Independent Fellow Doc Lab 2018 Los Angeles.

Contact info: contact@minanabilfilms.com

Fady Gamal Atallah

Producer



Fady Gamal Atallah is an award-winning Egyptian/Swedish film director, screenwriter and producer born on February 7, 1983 in Cairo, Egypt. He is the co-founder of B-RETTA FILM based in Stockholm. Coming from an engineering background, Fady studied film at Stockholm Film School and received his MA degree in filmmaking at Raindance Film School. He is a PhD candidate in audio-visual film studies at University of Birmingham.

Contact info: fady.atallah@b-retta.se

The 19th Co-production Forum for Smart Content for Savvy Young Audiences



Welcome to

m:brane

no. 19

March 11-13

Submissions opens October 10th 2024 2025

Submission Deadline

Thursday November 28th 2024 at 23:59 CET



film i skåne



www.mbrane.se

MY MOTHER'S GLASSES

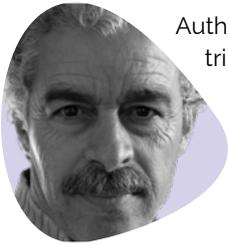
TUNISIA

95 MINS

SYNOPSIS: In the 70s, a communist-leaning movement was outlawed, and incarcerated in Borj Roumi prison. The authorities proposed writing a letter of apology to the president in order to regain freedom. The detainees unanimously refused to write this letter. Houcine, the only worker in the cell, changes his mind and decides to write. Once released, he imprisons himself in his own apartment. He was murdered in the Jeudi Noir protest in 1978 where over 200 people were killed by the army.

Moncef Dhouib

Director&Producer



Author and film director, works between cinema and theater. He has directed the trilogy Hammam D'hab, The Trance, and Tourba. Soltane el Madina, La V is Coming, Divorce Caprice ,and currently My Mother's glasses. Moncef Dhouib is also the founding producer of Manara Production since 1994. He has produced national television shows, short as well as feature films: The TV Arrives, and currently: My Mother's glasses in post production.

Contact info: moncefdhouib28@gmail.com

SHE WAS NOT ALONE

IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA

90 MINS

SYNOPSIS: Fatima, an inspiring 55-year old nomadic woman, lives with her beloved buffaloes in the rapidly disappearing, ancient Iraqi marshes. This documentary follows her daily dramas and rhythms for two years. Fatima's world is filled with islands of reed, migratory birds, and buffalo herds. While the existential threat posed by climate change appears in the distance like the oil flares on the horizon, the tension in the film builds through the physical and spiritual tests she experiences. Even though forces of ecological and economic collapse push her to abandon her way of life and move to the city, she stands firm through each season of drought and flooding, death and rebirth, and keeps fighting to keep her way of life and her animals alive.

Hussein Al-Asadi

Director



Hussein al-Asadi (b. 1997) is an emerging director, producer, and cinematographer from Basra, Iraq. He began his career working as the Director of Photography for several short films. Soon after, he began to write, direct, and produce his own films. His first short film "Eye of the Mountain" was released in 2019 and premiered at the Ismailia International Film Festival in Egypt. In 2020, he produced and directed his second short documentary film – "She Was Not Alone." The film won several international awards and awards in the Arab world for the best short documentary film. Al-Asadi developed this film into a feature-length documentary project and has participated in the Close-Up Documentary Lab, First Cut Lab at the Doha Film Institute, Final Cut at the Venice Film Festival, and Red Sea Film Festival Market for this project.

Contact info: hussein.adventure@gmail.com

Huma Gupta

Producer



Huma Gupta, a Professor at MIT, is based in Boston, USA. 'She Was Not Alone' marks her debut as a producer. She teaches environmental filmmaking at MIT, producing six short films in 2023 exploring themes like drought and deforestation in Pakistan, Syria, Greece, Italy, and Armenia. Her book project, "The Architecture of Dispossession," delves into Iraqi state-building through the lens of mid-20th-century migrant settlements. Gupta has also trained practitioners using short films in Afghanistan and contributed to the United Nations-Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre to aid those displaced by climate change and conflicts globally.

Contact info: humagupta@gmail.com

SPRING CAME ON LAUGHIN

EGYPT

90 MINS

SYNOPSIS: Spring's cruel nature unveils secrets, anger, and sorrows, hidden beneath laughter in four tales. A poignant autumn finale concludes the film.

Noha Adel

Director



Noha Adel, born in 1975, is a talented director from Cairo University's English Department. She participated in the Fundamentals of Directing workshop in 2017 to enhance her skills. Noha wrote, directed, and produced the short film "Into Reverse" for her graduation project, which screened at the 2017 Dubai International Film Festival. Her second short film, "Once Upon A Time In the Café," was released in 2020 and received acclaim, participating in competitions at international and local film festivals and winning multiple awards. Noha is now focused on her debut feature film, "Spring Came on Laughing," set to release in 2024.

Kawthar Younis

Producer



Kawthar Younis is an experienced filmmaker based in Cairo. Her latest short film, "Sahbety / My Girl Friend" (2022), premiered at the Venice International Film Festival, becoming the first Egyptian short film to compete there. It has since been on tour, earning numerous awards. Kawthar also gained recognition for her film "A Present from the Past," which set a record for audience demand in Egypt. She is a co-founder of Rawiyat-Sisters in Film, a collective supporting female filmmakers. As a producer and film director, she works on feature films, short films, and mini-series.

Contact info: kawtharyounis@gmail.com

Laura Nikolov

Co-Producer



Laura Nikolov, who studied history and cinema in Paris, is involved in many activities for cultural and artistic diversity. After having managed different film activities as director of an Alliance française and consultant for film festivals, she is currently dedicated to film production working on several film projects around the world.

Contact info: laura.nikolov@coorigines.fr

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UN-MAKING OF

PALESTINE

60 MINS

SYNOPSIS: During the preparation for a feature film, war erupts in Gaza, raising a question about the relevance of the team's work during war.

Bilal Al-Khatib

Director



Bilal Al-Khatib is a filmmaker and cinematographer from Ramallah, holding a bachelor's degree in Media and Television. He started working in the film industry as a cinematographer and lighting designer, joining the crews of various films, dramatic works, and specialized film workshops. He has written and directed several documentary and short narrative films that participated in global and international festivals, such as the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival and the Moscow Film Festival. His recent film, "Palestine 87," won numerous awards, including the Golden Tanit for Best Short Narrative Film at the Carthage Film Festival and Best Film at the Jerusalem Arab Film Festival. His new documentary project, "My Name is Khalil," received development grants from the Qattan Foundation and the British Consulate. Bilal is also working on his first feature-length narrative film and pursuing a master's degree in documentary cinema.

Contact info: matarbilal45@gmail.com

Ala' Abu Ghoush

Producer



Ala' Abu Ghoush is a filmmaker from Jerusalem who has shown a passion for the arts since his early years. He has worked as an Art director in numerous feature-length narrative films that have received various international awards. In 2006, he contributed to the establishment of Collage, an artistic production company in Ramallah. In 2009, he moved to France, where he studied cinematographic direction at the ENSAV school in Toulouse, France, after receiving a scholarship from the French government for a master's degree. He directed three short films: "Hammurabi 2008," "Golden Fish 2010," and "Gaza Metro 2011."

Contact info: aghoush@gmail.com

WEAR AND TEAR

TUNISIA

100 MINS

SYNOPSIS: Ayda has been an operator in a call center for years. She is in her forties and lives alone in a neighborhood of Tunis. She spends her days repeating the same catchphrases to strangers on the other end of the phone. Over the years, her life sinks into emptiness, monotony and loneliness. An accumulation of day-to-day occurrences resonates within her and triggers a desire to take control of her life and she begins to free herself from the work that has robbed her of her freedom.

Sarra Abidi

Director



Sarra Abidi, Tunisian director and producer at Synergy productions. She studied at the Fine Arts Institute in Tunis and INSAS in Belgium. She followed other training courses in documentary and production. After documentary projects and the two short films "Le rendez-vous" and "le dernier wagon", she directed and produced her first feature fiction film "Benzine" released in 2018 which was selected and awarded in several international festivals. "Wear and Tear" is her second feature film, shot at the end of 2022 and supported by the Tunisian Ministry of Culture, AFAC and NETFLIX, currently in post-production. Her documentary "In my absence they killed the palm trees", will be released in 2024. Her latest project, "Le malentendu", is in the development stage.

Contact info: saralabidi@yahoo.fr

Ibtissem Labidi

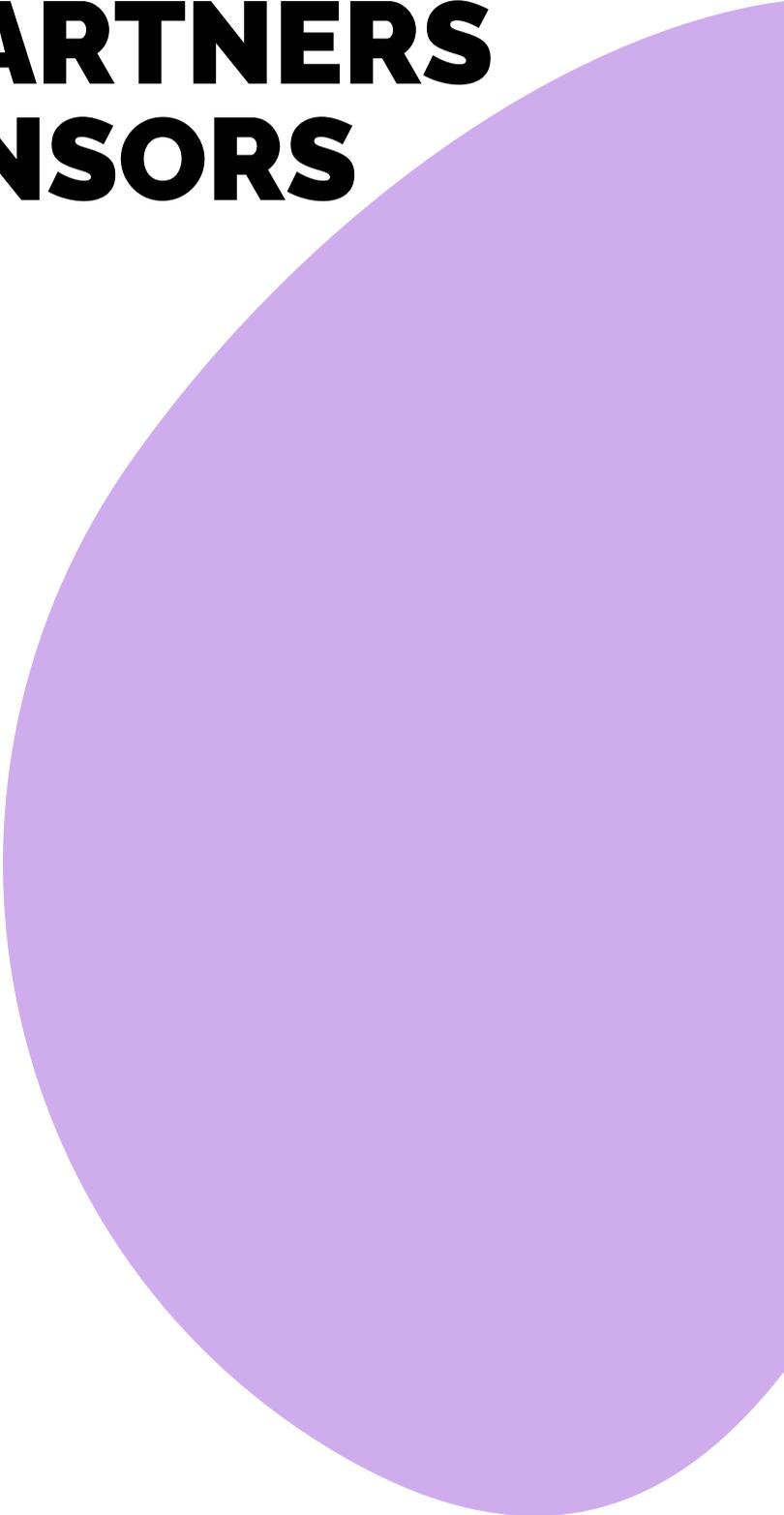
Producer



Ibtissem Labidi, a producer at Synergy Productions, holds a master's degree in art philosophy from the University of Tunis 9 April and another in audiovisual production from the Higher Institute of Multimedia Arts in Manouba. Transitioning from interior design to set design for Tunisian short films, she joined Synergy Productions in 2015, contributing to various projects. Currently, she's spearheading "On the Edge" by Sahar Echi, "The Song of Wind Turbines" by Jihed Ben Slimen, and "Le Malentendu" by Sarra Abidi. Additionally, she's involved in "Wear & Tear" by Sarra Abidi, which has garnered support from multiple funds and institutes. Ibtissem is presently partaking in the DFMI Business Lab 2023/2024.

Contact info: synergyprod.tn@gmail.com

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Founded in 2016 by Ali El Arabi (CEO, Producer and Director), Ambient Light is an international film production and distribution company based in Cairo (Egypt) and Los Angeles (United States). Ambient Light is producing and co-producing scripted and unscripted films on four continents with the aim to give a voice to the people who are not heard, to empower artists from the MENA region, and to build bridges between the region and American and European markets.

 alilarabi@ambientlightfilm.com

 www.ambientlightfilm.com

AMBIENT LIGHT

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Ali El Arabi

CEO, Producer&Director



His directorial debut, Captains of Zaatari, premiered at the Sundance World Documentary Competition, and it was named one of the best 15 films at the festival by Variety. Ali El Arabi was also the creative director for the FIFA WORLD CUP 2022 in Qatar, during which he directed it's official music video. Recently, El Arabi co-produced Goodbye Julia which premiered at Cannes and was longlisted for the Oscars.

Contact info: alyelarabi@gmail.com

Rahaf Ahmed

Associate Producer



Rahaf, a 22-year-old senior graduating from the film program at AUC, began her career in the industry at the age of 16 as a freelance assistant director, working on several prominent Egyptian films. She joined Ambient Light two years ago as a Producer. In her role, she focuses on distribution and sales and also contributes to the company's development team. Rahaf has been involved in successful films such as "Goodbye Julia," which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and received the freedom award, "Arze," and "52 Blue." Currently, Rahaf is directing her debut short film titled "Nesma."

Contact info: rahaf@ambientlightfilm.com

CREATIVITY THROUGH DIVERSITY

Fostering Cultural Connection Through the Lens of Filmmaking

At Kinana Films, we passionately believe in the power of every voice and story. As a Sweden-based film production company, we are committed to championing diversity and welcoming fresh perspectives in the industry.

Our mission is to bridge the cultural gap between Sweden and the Middle East, offering a platform for both emerging and established filmmakers to share their unique narratives. From script to screen, we leverage our expertise to provide the support and resources necessary to bring our talents' visions to the global stage.

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KINANA FILMS

At Kinana Films, we believe every voice and story deserves to be heard. As a Swedish-based film production company, we are dedicated to promoting diversity and embracing new perspectives in the industry. With a mission to bridge the cultural gap between Sweden and the Middle East, we strive to provide a platform for emerging and established filmmakers to bring their unique stories to life. From script to screen, we utilize our experience to provide the support and resources needed to bring our talents' vision to the world.

Basel Mawlawi

Producer



Basel Mawlawi is a film producer currently working at Kinana Films, a production house based in Sweden. He received his Bachelor's degree from Middlesex University in the UK and a Professional Diploma in Film Production from SAE Institute. Basel started his career as a production manager and line producer.

His work focuses on nonfiction storytelling and feature narratives. Basel is passionate about collaborating creatively with filmmakers and writers to tell meaningful stories that can make a difference. He has participated in prestigious producer labs, including DFI's Producers Lab, Young Nordic Producers in Cannes, and EAVE 2021.

Contact info: basel@kinanafilms.com



LAGOONIE
FILM PRODUCTION

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وتشارك في مسابقة الأفلام الطويلة بفيلم

عن رواية الكاتب الكبير «إحسان عبد القدوس»

أنف وثلاث عيون

A NOSE AND THREE EYES

عن Lagoonie Film Production شركة مصرية أسستها المنتجة شاهيناز العقاد في 2017 وتوسعي من خلالها لتطوير صناعة السينما والتلفزيون في مصر والعالم العربي خلال إنتاج وتوزيع أفلام ومسلسلات عالمية ذات أفكار مختلفة عن السائد، تضع من خلالها الصناعة العربية على الخريطة الدولية منها ريش، الحارة، برا المنهج، صالون هدى، انشالله ولد وعلم وأحدثها رحلة 404، والتي حصدت أكثر من 25 جائزة من مهرجانات دولية مثل كان، قرطاج، كارلوفي فارسي، تورينو، فينيسيا، البحر الأحمر، والجونة، بجانب دعم الشركة للمواهب وصناع الأفلام في منطقة الشرق الأوسط من خلال تقديمها جوائز لمشروعات الأفلام في مهرجانات دولية.

LAGOONIE FILM PRODUCTION

Lagoonie Film Production, founded in 2017, is a leading Egyptian company shaping the film and TV industry in Egypt and the Arab world. They produce award-winning films like "Feathers" and "Amira" showcased at top international festivals. The company also creates commercially successful projects and supports Arab cinema through awards and industry events. With recent hits like "Barra El Manhag", " Saat Eagaba " " Rehla 404" "Anf w 3 3yon " and upcoming releases, Lagoonie continues to make a mark with a commitment to quality and global recognition.

Shahinaz El Akkad

CEO



Shahinaz El Akkad is the CEO of Lagoonie group. The group includes Lagoonie Film Production, a pioneer production house in Egypt and the Mena region. Through Lagoonie Film Production, Shahinaz managed to leave her mark on the scene by being the lady behind several widely acclaimed Film and TV Productions.

Contact info: shahinaz.elakkad@lagoonie.group

Maria Adel

Marketing & PR Manager



With a solid portfolio in the marketing and public relations field, Maria Adel Asaad is an experienced, value-driven manager of the Marketing and PR department at Lagoonie Film Production, with considerable skills and knowledge as she held several posts in numerous well-known organizations.

Maria achieved remarkable outcomes since joining Lagoonie in February 2021, owing to her ability to take challenging duties and turn them into thriving ones.

Prior to joining Lagoonie, Maria held many posts in reputable entities, including Cairo International Film Festival (CIFF), Bare Entertainment, and MAD Solutions.

Maria Adel Assad graduated from Misr International University in 2018, with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication and a major in Integrated Marketing Communication (IMC).

Contact info: maria.adel@lagoonie.group

Farrah Halawa

Creative Producer



Farrah Halawa studied psychology and neurosciences at the University of Sussex. Since 2020, she has been a key creative producer at Lagoonie Film Production, making significant contributions to renowned and award-winning films. In 2022, she was picked to take part in Torino Film Lab and has continued to enhance her skills through Sundance courses. Additionally, Farrah has independently collaborated with the Cairo Film Festival in 2022 and 2023, showcasing her versatility and passion for the industry.

Contact info: farrah@lagoonie.group

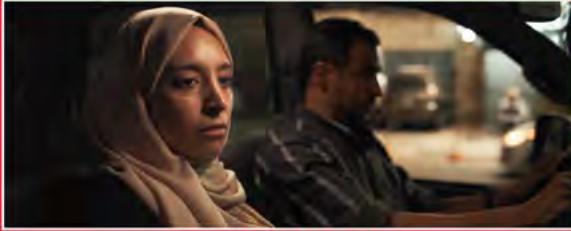
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MAD SOLUTIONS

MAD Solutions is the first Pan-Arab independent studio and fully integrative marketing and creative consultancy for the Arab film and Entertainment Industry. Under the umbrella of MAD Solutions, the studio is supported by five pillars: MAD Marketing, MAD Content, MAD Distribution, MAD Culture, and MAD Celebrity, which together are helping to usher in an exciting new generation of Arab filmmakers and entertainment talent.

Alaa Karkout

CEO



Alaa Karkouti is the CEO of MAD Solutions — the Arab World's most prolific distributor of Arab film content and talent management agency — and the Arab Cinema Center, which is a platform that connects film professionals around the globe to their Arab counterparts.

Contact info: alaa.karkouti@mad-solutions.com

Maher Diab

Co-founder



Maher Diab is the creative beating heart behind MAD Solutions, which he co-founded and built into the Arab world's leading distributor of Arabic film content with the help of his skills as a visual artist and keen eye for storytelling. He is also the co-founder of the Arab Cinema Center.

Contact info: maher.diab@mad-solutions.com

Abdelrahman Amin

Senior Account Manager



Currently immersed in the vibrant world of film distribution, marketing, sales, and acquisitions at MAD Solutions. With a deep passion for the independent film industry, I am dedicated to connecting exceptional films with diverse audiences. My work revolves around promoting and distributing unique cinematic experiences, striving to contribute to the growth and appreciation of independent cinema worldwide.

Contact info: Abdelrahman.amin@mad-solutions.com

RED STAR
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RED STAR FILMS

Founded in 2014, Red Star Films, is an Egyptian company that took solid steps towards bridging the gap between independent and commercial films with an outlook that constantly chooses innovation over guaranteed profit, we take pride in establishing a reputation for being a non-conforming entity, constantly pushing the dictates of the local market and the mainstream culture that goes with it. Propping first time script writers and directors and dealing with controversial topics has been the path we learned a lot from. With a repertoire of 18 films reaping 60 awards from various international film festivals, we created a milieu in which young filmmakers put forth and exhibit their own distinctive visions with the support of more experienced cast and crew members. Red Star managed to produce and co-produce films pertaining to various genres premiered in prestigious film festivals and received awards from International film. Our goal is to bridge the gap between art-house and commercial cinema.

Rasha Gawdat

Producer



Rasha Gawdat joined the free cinema studies in the Egyptian Film Palace then started her production career as production assistant in addition to her work at the organization of Cairo International Film Festival for many years. As producer she is now working on different film projects in different stages of production by providing services such as raising funds, following and being part of the production process, planning for festival participation and film release.

Contact info: info@redstarfilms.net



الهيئة الملكية للأفلام
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JORDAN

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THE ROYAL FILM COMMISSION JORDAN

THE ROYAL FILM COMMISSION - JORDAN (RFC) was established with a vision to develop an internationally competitive Jordanian film industry. Founded in the year 2003, the RFC is a financially and administratively autonomous Jordanian public organization led by a Board of Commissioners, chaired by HRH Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein. RFC role is to Encouraging Jordanians and people from the Middle East to tell their stories, thus contributing to cross-cultural understanding and enhancing freedom of expression. Creating Educational programs for Jordanians working or aspiring to work in the film industry. Promoting film culture throughout Jordan, thus contributing to educating and fostering a critical mind. Positioning Jordan as a location for international audio-visual productions, offering great locations, creative resources, as well as technical assistance and financial incentives. Offering Management and support services to local and foreign productions. Providing work opportunities at world-class standards in all areas of cinematic art.

Mohannad Al Bakri

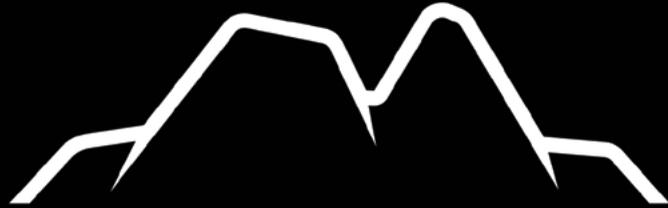
Managing Director



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.

Contact info: mohannad.bakri@film.jo



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RUM PICTURES

Rum Pictures started in London, and established its second branch in Amman – Jordan, to serve the high demand in the MENA region. Currently, we offer the best Post-Production Facilities in Amman. Our passion for film comes across in the environment we have meticulously created to inspire creativity whilst also offering state-of-the-art resources. Boasting the first ever color grading theater in the country, Rum Pictures has multiple editing suites, graphics suites and a mixing theater. We have a Post-Production hub in Amman equipped with the latest tools and technology, and eager to deliver a fine final product, taking care of every single desired detail to give you the outreach you are searching for.

Abdulalem Alshamery Founder & Managing Director



Abdulalem Alshamery has produced and directed numerous documentary films and television productions. He earned a Master's degree in Broadcast Journalism from Birmingham City University. His expertise extends to media and film consultancy and training. In 2018, Alshamery relocated to Jordan, where he established RCD Productions, a group of companies specializing in production, post-production, and visual effects (VFX).

Contact info: abdulalem.s@rum-pictures.com



“Sard” provides a unique model in the Middle East, it was established as a writing room and developed to be a content creation company for originals and adaptations (novels- international formats) for cinema and TV. Additionally, it expanded to coproduction.

“Sard” is the first kind of incubator for both talents and great ideas in the MENA region market. It has a team of 9 writers, and many freelancers and researchers. Get to know them more on-screen and at Malmö Arab Film Festival.

“Sard” was founded by the Egyptian Scriptwriter Mariam Naoum in 2016. The word “Sard” is an Arabic word that means storytelling.

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Mariam Naoum

Screenwriter

Sard's Founder & CEO



SARD - MARIAM NAOUM

Sard writing room is a dedicated hub for Scriptwriters. Ever since it was founded by Mariam Naoum in 2016, Sard has become a safe space for aspiring screenwriters to develop their projects, improve their writing skill, and practice their creative freedom. Sard has also pursued its essential goal of creating Arabic content that caters to the Egyptian and Arabic audience, reflecting their dreams, fears, struggles and their everyday life.

Mariam Naoum

Founder



Mariam Naoum is an Egyptian award-winning scriptwriter with a superior background in a range of different writing styles across various platforms including short feature films, programs, documentary films, children's programs, advertisements, and television series.

In 2016, she founded Sard Writers' Room that seeks to create scripts for the big and small screens and offers grants to young screenwriters developing long feature films to be mentored by Sard's team of experienced writers.

Contact info: m.naoum@sard-eg.com

Rim Chamia

General Manager



Rim started working in the field of advertising and animation after her graduation from Cairo University with a BA in Mass Communication, she also headed to the world of art as an assistant director in the office of director Youssef Chahine, Rim worked on many Arab and foreign films, especially French films. She serves as a senior drama director for radio and television.

Contact info: r.chamia@sard-eg.com

Aya Dowara

Executive Director



Aya Dowara is a film producer, Aya is the Executive Director at Sard. Mariam Naoum for the past two and half years, her latest is the co-production of the documentary film Captains of Zaatari 2021, Objects are Closer Than They Appear, 2023 and production team Newton's Cradle TV. Aya used to be the Director, the European Egyptian Cultural Programme, EU National Institutes for Culture and the cultural specialist at the US Embassy managing the film, entrepreneurship and gender programs for 10 years.

Contact info: a.dowara@sard-eg.com

Imaginarium

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INSHALLAH A BOY

Director & Writer AMJAD AL RASHEED



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THE IMAGINARIUM FILMS

The Imaginarium Films was established in 2010 with an aim at creating original audio-visual content that is captivating to audiences regionally and internationally. Over the years, The Imaginarium films developed, produced & line produced many awards winning independent genuine films locally and internationally & teamed up with many European and regional producers around the world.

Rula Nasser

Founder and Producer



Rula Nasser accumulated experience in different aspects of production of Commercials, TV series and low budget films all the way to big budget studio films. Started with the BBC Channel & Discovery Channel , a journey that contained self-exploration of local stories and talents across MENA, later joined the Royal Film Commission in 2005 for developing the Filmmaker's Support Program. She has produced more than 20 films from all around the world that were selected in many prestigious international film festivals, like Berlin and Cannes.

Contact info: rula.nasser@gmail.com

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Yehya Breshe Co-founder & Senior Sound Engineer



Yehya Breshe has been working in the sound industry for over 15 years. As the head of the sound department at Unison Studio, Yehya oversees all sound engineering and design for the company's various projects. He brings a blend of technical expertise and creative vision to his work, crafting soundscapes that transport audiences and elevate stories. Yehya's work has been featured in numerous films, television shows, and other productions.

Contact info: yehya@unisonstudio.se



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EU AND SCANDINAVIAN EXPERTISE: With deep knowledge of film funds in the EU and North Scandinavia, we're your ideal partners for securing financial support. We know the intricacies and key players to ensure your projects get the backing they deserve.

Mouhamad Keblawi Founder - General Manager



Mouhamad Keblawi is a versatile figure in cinema, serving as a producer, director, and artistic advisor globally. He founded the Malmö Arab Film Festival and has extensive experience in TV and film production, particularly documentaries. Keblawi has received prestigious awards including the Arab Cinema Personality of the Year and the Malmö Award for Cultural Contribution. served on jury committees for various film festivals, and was honored with the Creative Industry Award in 2023 by the city of Malmö, Sweden.

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SWEDISH FILM INSTITUTE

The Swedish Film Institute is the national funding for film and works to promote film across the board – from idea to finished product, during launch in Sweden and around the world.

Josefin Lundgren

Production controller



Josefin Lundgren works as a Production Controller at The Swedish Film Institute and is also responsible for providing support to organizations that promote the development and production of Swedish film and filmmaking.

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FILM I SKÅNE

Film in Skåne is a regional resource and production center for film. Our mission is to promote film operations in Skåne and to increase growth in Skåne through film production. Film in Skåne is financed by Region Skåne Holding and Region Skåne's culture committee.



Joakim Strand

Head of Production

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Jeanette Schjerva

Commissioner Screening and Distribution

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Lisa Nyed

Commissioning Editor Documentary Film

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Ludvig Rodman

Commissioning Editor Short Fiction Film

Contact info: ludvig@filmiskane.se

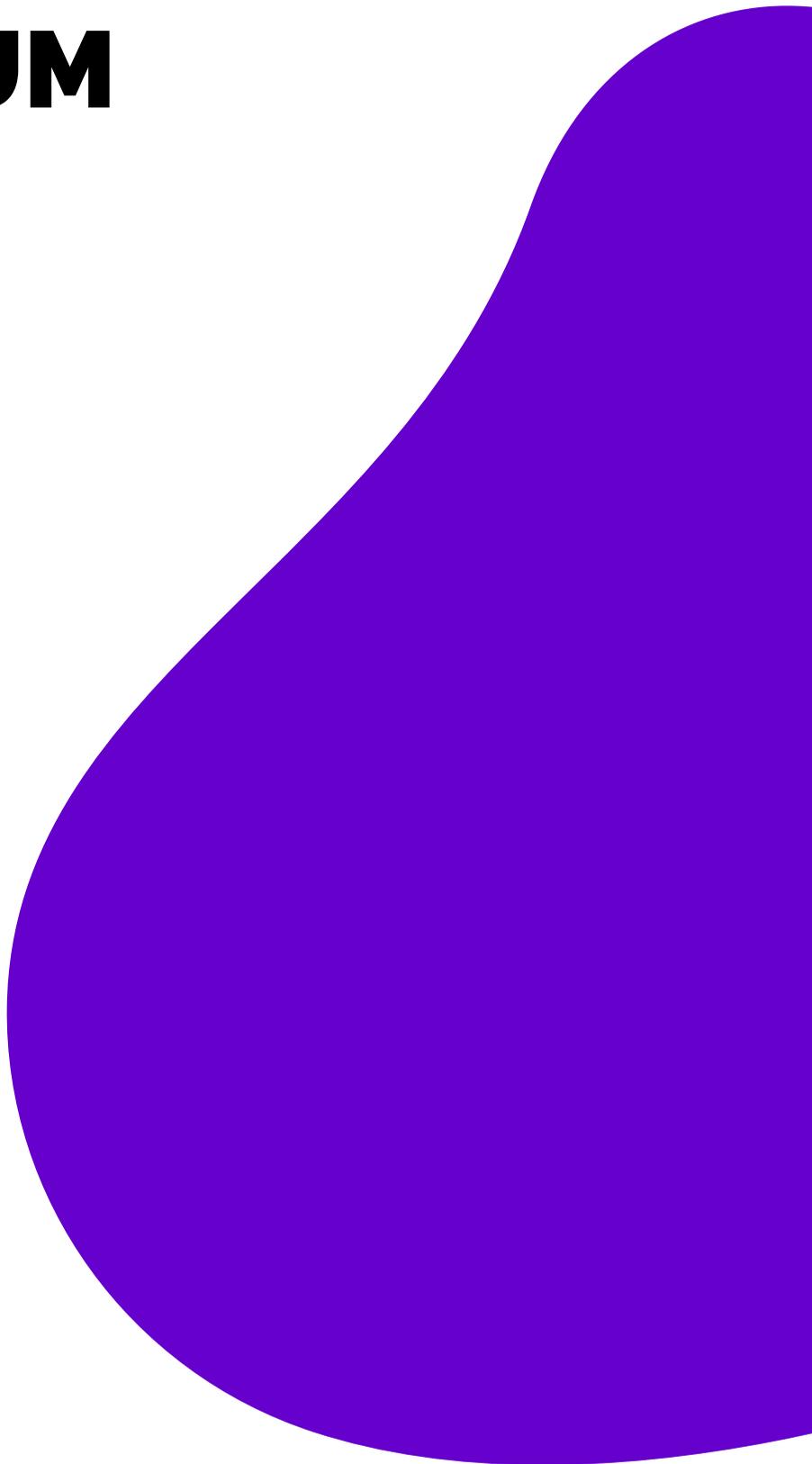


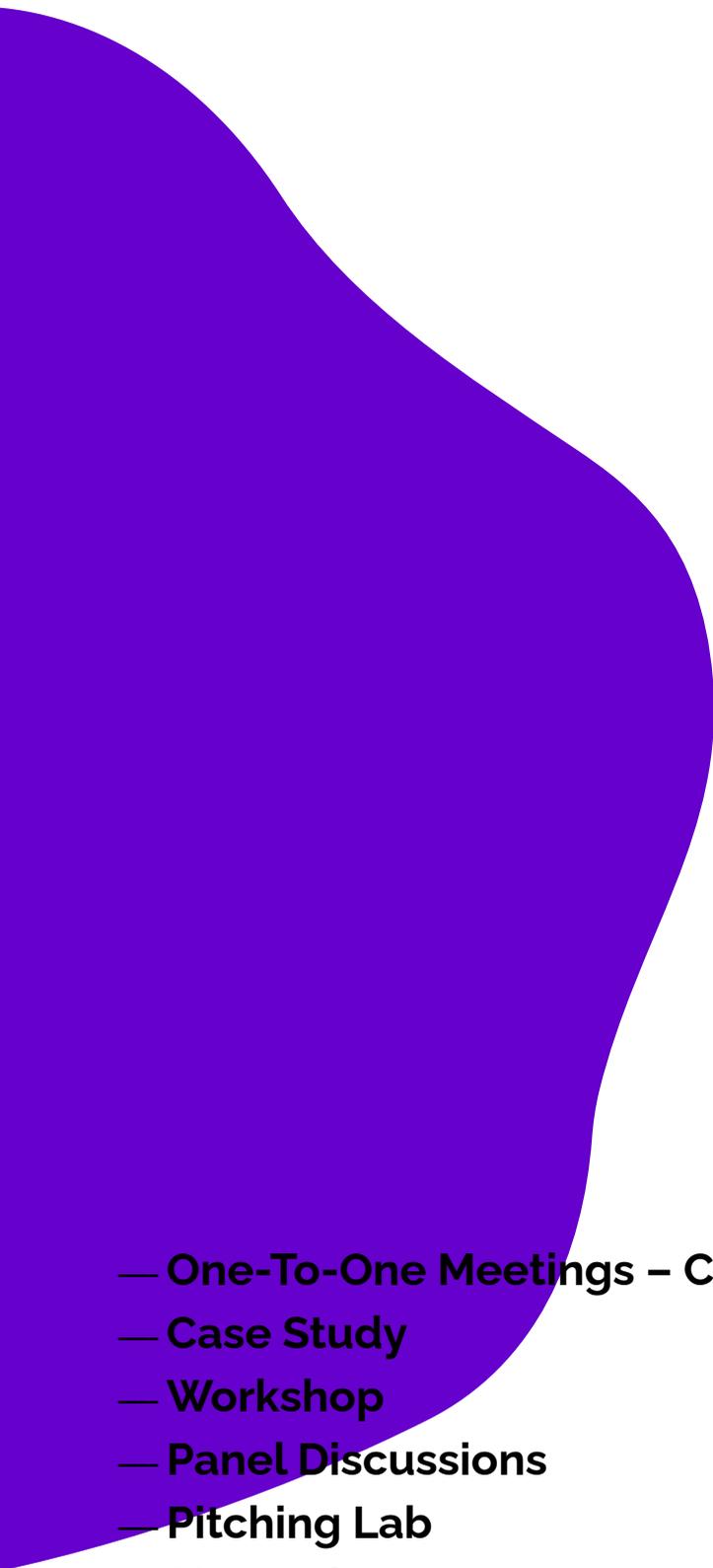
Mikael Svensson

Head of Southern Sweden Film
Commission, Film i Skåne

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FORUM



- 
- **One-To-One Meetings – Closed Sessions**
 - **Case Study**
 - **Workshop**
 - **Panel Discussions**
 - **Pitching Lab**
 - **Networking sessions**

MEET THE EXPERTS

CLOSED SESSIONS

Alexe Landgren



Alexe Landgren is a screenwriter/director from southern Sweden. She has a background working with extras and casting, has made nine shorts which screened internationally, and won Pixel Talent Award in 2017. Currently her and Karen Helene Haugaard's feature debut, LYKKE POST PARTUM, is in post-production and parallel Alexe is developing future projects, while occasionally taking on work as a script consultant. Her aim is to create poignant drama set in everyday situations, often with female perspectives and a subtle humor.

Contact info: alexe_landgren@hotmail.com

Lina Chaabane



Lina Chaabane is a multilingual cinema producer, specializing in Tunisian films, with a rich educational background from South Bank Polytechnic, Valencia University, and Science Po University. Since joining Nomadis Images in 1997, she has produced notable films like "Red Satin," "Buried Secrets," "Foreign Body" by Raja Amari, and "Inhebbek Hedi" by Mohamed Ben Attia. Her work extends to organizing festivals, including the Carthage and Manarat Mediterranean film festivals, and contributing to training programs for African and Arab filmmakers through platforms like SUD ECRITURE and Med Film Factory. Additionally, Chaabane is on the selection committee of Fespaco, enhancing her significant influence in the film industry.

Contact info: chaabane.lina@icloud.com

Ludvig Rådman



Ludvig has been working at Film in Skåne since 2013 and has been a commissioning editor for short fiction and responsible for systems and IT since 2020. Ludvig has a background as a filmmaker and is educated at the Sydney Film School and in film studies at Lund University. Currently, he is diligently working with individual development of filmmakers and projects. He is equally enthusiastic about delving into artistic expression and serious themes as he is about brainstorming freely and laughing together with filmmakers working with humour. He is both serious and playful and, oddly enough, has Pacific Rim as one of his favourite movies.

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Mikael Svensson



Southern Sweden Film Commission was established in 2003 to attract national and international film- and TV-productions to the region. The Commission is a part of the regional film fund, Film i Skåne and from 2020 our five neighbouring regions are part of the commission.

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Magnus Paulsson



Magnus Paulsson, a seasoned producer at Solid Entertainment AB in Malmö, Sweden, has been shaping the entertainment industry since the late 80s. With a diverse portfolio spanning documentaries, feature films, commercials, and music promos, Magnus has left a mark on both local and international projects. Notable co-productions include "Jia & Jia" (2016) and "Shelley" (2016), showcasing his ability to navigate cross-cultural collaborations. His contributions to Swedish cinema include productions like "Above All Species" (2015) and "From The Depths Of My Heart" (2015), highlighting his talent for storytelling. In the documentary realm, Magnus's work on "John Howe - There And Back Again" (2004) and "Desperately Seeking Seka" (2002) demonstrates his versatility and commitment to crafting compelling narratives.

Contact info: magnus@solidentertainment.se

Mehdi Saleki



Mehdi founded REC VIEW film production company in 2000 in Sweden. He has produced many short documentaries and reports for BBC international, TRT English, and Swedish television, as well as many documentaries that were sold to different countries. In addition, he has been a film teacher in three different institutions: Info komp Educational Center, EC Education AB and Malmö University. Among his works: Apy Between Life and Death, Ett Helare Malmö, Wrestling to win, The soul behind the shawl, UN Veil without my Veil, Tiebreak, A Story Behind the Match, Breaking the Siege, Breaking the Silence, etc.

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Mohamed Atef



Artistic Consultant and Producer based in Germany. Atef is considered one of the most influential festival programmers, he was festival programmer for number of Arab and International Film Festivals including: Malmö Arab Film Festival (Sweden), El Gouna Film Festival and Cairo International Film Festival (Egypt), in addition, Atef was the Artistic Director of Ismailia International Film Festival for Documentaries & Shorts and Luxor Arab & European Film Festival. Atef is a script reader for many prominent international film funds.

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Christian Juhl Lemche



Christian Juhl Lemche has been working at the Danish Film Institute since 2003. For a number of years he worked as a Festival Consultant, promoting Danish feature films to international film festivals. In that capacity he also served as the president of European Film Promotion from 2011 – 2015. In 2020 he changed his position at DFI and since then he has worked as International producer at DFI handling our minority co-production scheme. Since 2016, Christian has been the national representative for Denmark to Eurimages and he is currently a member of Eurimages' Gender Equality and Diversity working group.

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Frontières

Fantasia /  MARCHÉ DU FILM
MONTREAL, QUÉBEC

Disruptive Servant

Pia is a typical Swedish teenager living with her family in Oman. When she takes a keen interest in Islamic occult and attempts to summon her Qareen (demonic self), she unleashes a powerful spirit that torments her and her family through terrifying and supernatural occurrences.

This film project is looking for funding, sales/pre-sales and distribution agreements.
For more information, please contact the Producer
Magnus Paulsson from Solid Entertainment (Sweden) magnus@solidentertainment.se or
Amal Al-Agroobi from ALAGROOBI Films (UK/UAE) alagroobifilms@gmail.com

DISRUPTIVE SERVANT

SYNOPSIS: Felix Hallberg and his family have recently relocated to Muscat, Oman in order to source Arab artwork for specialist galleries in Sweden. His three children, Fredrik (7), Emma (12) and Pia (17) are adjusting to a different way of life. When Pia and her friends take part in a desert drumming circle and she sees a demon for the first time, she takes an interest in the occult; discovering ways to evoke and control her qareen/demonic self in order to have so-called "super human powers". She travels to the village of Bahla to meet a witch doctor to seek out the ritual process to have the ability control her demonic self however, the ritual is disrupted and Pia upsets the balance between the demonic world and human world; unleashing an aggressive spirit demon that torments her and her family through terrifying and supernatural occurrences until they discover the source of their fears and pain.

Amal Al-Agroobi

Writer & Director



Amal Al-Agroobi, a London-based writer/director from the UAE, made her film debut with the short documentary "Half Emirati" in 2012, addressing taboo cultural topics.

In 2013, her feature documentary "The Brain That Sings" tackled autism and special needs, leading to legislative changes in the UAE. Known for character-driven narratives on identity and social injustice, she continued with films like "Under the Hat" (2016), "Vanish in Smoke" (2019), and "The Protocol" (2021), exploring themes from friendship to family feuds. Amal aims to shed light on overlooked stories,

represented by Echo Lake Management since 2021.

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Magnus Paulsson

Producer



Magnus Paulsson, a seasoned producer at Solid Entertainment AB in Malmö, Sweden, has been shaping the entertainment industry since the late 80s.

With a diverse portfolio spanning documentaries, feature films, commercials, and music promos, Magnus has left a mark on both local and international projects. Notable co-productions include "Jia & Jia" (2016) and "Shelley" (2016), showcasing his ability to navigate cross-cultural collaborations. His contributions to Swedish cinema include productions like "Above All Species" (2015) and "From The Depths Of My Heart" (2015), highlighting his talent for storytelling.

In the documentary realm, Magnus's work on "John Howe - There And Back Again" (2004) and "Desperately Seeking Seka" (2002) demonstrates his versatility and commitment to crafting compelling narratives.

contact info: magnus@solidentertainment.se

UNHEALED



02 MAR – 15 SEP 2024
MODERNA MUSEET - MALMÖ
TURBINE HALL AND LOADING DOCK

The international group exhibition "Unhealed" delves into the aftermath of the uprisings and revolutions, that swept through the Arab world starting in 2010. These events altered the lives of millions of people, many of whom, as a consequence, now live in Sweden. With this exhibition, Moderna Museet Malmö presents seventeen artists who, in different ways, have addressed this tumultuous and still unfolding chapter in history.

"Unhealed" portrays existential experiences amid major social upheaval. It navigates through feelings of hope and despair, bringing us beyond political analysis. Through sculpture, painting, drawing, film and photography, it embodies a poetic narrative rather than a strict historical account. The contributing artists are predominantly based in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen, but also in Albania, Italy, Romania, and Sweden.

Artists: Asim Abdulaziz, Aya Albarghathly, Muhammad Ali, HÉLA Ammar, Marwa al-Sabouni, Selim Ben Sheikh, Shady Elnoshokaty, Safaa Erruas, Hadia Gana, Khaled Hafez, Diana Jabi, Rachid Koraichi, Moataz Nasr, Adrian Paci, Mario Rizzi, Fethi Sahraoui, and Mouna Jemal Siala

CURATORS: ABIR BOUKHARI AND JOA LJUNGBERG

WOLFGANG WINTERL

THE POWER OF IMAGE

THE MEANING OF IMAGE IN OUR LIFE

As a famous saying claims, a picture says more than a thousand words. An image expresses many things and for each viewer it's a different and unique expression. That's the reason why images are one of the most powerful things in our life, even if we are not always aware of it. Since the beginning of the technical revolution the pictures play a much bigger role in our lives. Look at social media for example. But the relationship between humans and pictures is way older. It's since the stone age that humans transmit their stories and their feelings through pictures. Either physically, in that way it is visible for others. Or non physically, as memories or dreams. For this reason, images are highly relevant in the arts in general and especially in the cinema.

WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR:

Ali Kareem

Screenwriter & Director



Ali Kareem Obaid, born in 1984, is an Iraqi/German screenwriter and director. In 2011 he graduated as theater director from the Academy of Fine Arts, Baghdad University, Iraq. Afterwards he came to Germany as DAAD scholarship student. In 2016 he completed his master "Choreography and Performance" at the Institute for Applied Theatre Studies at Gießen University. His first short film HASSAN IN WONDERLAND has been screened on many film festivals all around the world. In 2017 Ali released his last short film ABRAHAM. The film was screened at Odense Film Festival, Interfilm Short Film Festival Berlin and many other prestigious festivals. Ali Kareem works as a film advisor and in selection committees of film festivals for example for the Arab Film Festival San Francisco, and InterFilm Berlin (Oscar qualifying). He also works as script consultant for Saudi Film Festival in Dammam. Ali was a jury member at Atlanta Film Festival in USA 2020 (Oscar qualifying) and Slemani Film Festival 2019. In 2023 Ali was selected as a director and screenwriter for Berlinale Talents program in Berlin.

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FROM SCREEN TO EVERYDAY LIFE: ADDRESSING SOCIAL ISSUES IN CINEMA

In an era where cinema serves as both a reflection and stimulus for societal change, this discussion delves into the significant impact of films addressing pressing social issues. From gender issues in Jordan, racism and women's relations in Sudan, to political complexities in Western Sahara, our panel of directors, Amjad Al Rashid, Mohamad Kordofani, and Anna Klara Åhren, will explain how their work attempts going beyond the screen and dealing with sensitive issues. We will explore how these cinematic narratives bridge cultural divides, start important discussions, and inspire action in communities worldwide while navigating censorship and criticism. From gripping narratives to thought-provoking documentaries, cinema has a unique ability to shed light on the complexities of our world and amplify voices often silenced by mainstream discourse.

MODERATED BY: AMAL AL-AGROOBI

Mohamed Kordofani



Mohamed Kordofani is a Sudanese aircraft engineer turned filmmaker. He made a number of short films, including NYERKUK, which won the Black Elephant Award for best Sudanese Film and the NAAS Award for best Arab film at Carthage Film Festival in 2017. In 2023 Kordofani's debut feature film Goodbye Julia premiered in Cannes Film Festival, where it was awarded the Prix de la Liberté and also celebrated for being the first-ever Sudanese film to be officially featured in the festival. He is also the Co-founder of Klozium Studios; a production house based in Sudan & UAE which co-produced, and executed the production of Goodbye Julia.

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Anna Klara Åhren



Anna Klara Åhren has been involved in the filmmakers collective RåFILM since 2005 and made many documentaries, campaign films and animations, but also developed film education activities and held international video workshops. With a core of video activism, she has experimented with forms of display and distribution alongside the conventional. Her latest production 3 Stolen Cameras (2017) was made together with the media group Equipe Media from occupied part of Western Sahara. Anna Klara Åhren is currently a teacher in documentary filmmaking at Ölands Folkhögskola and about to release a feature documentary "HAIYU- Rebel Singer Mariem Hassan and the Struggle for a Free Western Sahara" made together with Saharawi Voice.

Contact info: ak@rafilm.se

Amjad Al Rasheed



Amjad Al Rasheed, a Jordanian director and writer born in 1985, has an MFA in Cinematic Arts with a concentration on Directing and Editing. In 2016 he was selected by «Screen International» as one of five «Arab Stars of Tomorrow» highlighting the up-and-coming young talents of the region. He attended the Talent Campus during the 57th Berlinale, after which he directed short films that garnered nominations and won prizes at various Arab and international film festivals

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BEHIND THE LINES: EXPLORING THE SCRIPT WRITER'S IMPACT IN PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND COLLABORATIVE SYNERGY WITH DIRECTORS

Join us for an exciting panel discussion featuring scriptwriter Mariam Naoum and director Khairy Beshara. Discover the art of storytelling and filmmaking as they share their experiences and insights. This special session offers a rare chance to learn from the experts in the film industry.

MODERATED BY: AYA DOWARA

Mariam Naoum



Mariam Naoum is an Egyptian award-winning scriptwriter with a superior background in a range of different writing styles across various platforms including short feature films, programs, documentary films, children's programs, advertisements, and television series. In 2016, she founded Sard Writers' Room that seeks to create scripts for the big and small screens and offers grants to young screenwriters developing long feature films to be mentored by Sard's team of experienced writers.

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Kahiry Beshara



Khairy Beshara (b. June 30, 1947) is a prominent Egyptian filmmaker, one of very few directors who redefined Realism in Egyptian cinema. Beshara graduated top of his class from the High Cinema Institute in 1967, earning him a 2-year scholarship to Poland to complete a staż (internship). Back in Cairo, he made documentaries that earned him various accolades like Tank Hunter (1974). He directed 13 long feature films that made him a household name in the Middle East, like The Collar and the Bracelet (1986), Bitter Day Sweet Day (1988) and Ice Cream in Gleem (1992) and were screened at many international film festivals. He is among the first Arab digital filmmakers, taking it on in the early 2000s. Beshara directed three musical plays, and published his first novel, Chinese Pride, in 2023, which is currently being translated into English and whose adaptation to film is Beshara's upcoming project. He also writes poetry and will soon publish his first anthology of poems titled Unceasing Destiny.

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MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES ACROSS THE FILMMAKING INDUSTRY

Join us for a thought-provoking panel discussion about "Mental Health Challenges across the Filmmaking Industry," presented by MedFest Egypt in collaboration with MAFF. Exploring the mental health challenges filmmakers face, the pressures of deadlines, as well as economic issues & long hours of shooting. We'll discuss the importance of solidarity in promoting mental health practices, the importance of seeking support, and enhancing the quality of films worldwide. Also discussing how cinematic cultures can learn from each other & fostering a global community of filmmakers dedicated to supporting mental health. Our panel features Mina el Naggar, Egyptian actor and founder of MedFest Egypt, known for his vast experience in the film industry and passion for mental health advocacy. Louise Johanson, representing Sane Cinema, is an expert in mental health and filmmaking, and Nada Abou Farhat, a renowned filmmaker and mental health advocate, will share their experiences and expertise.

Mina El Naggar



Founder of Medfest Eg, actor, director, a physician and a passionate traveler.

Merging his two main professions "Medicine and filmmaking", Mina had founded Medfest Eg in 2017 as a platform that connects both worlds together in a touring short film festival which is the first of its kind in the MENA region that sheds light on the interrelation between health, filmmaking and social impact. The festival also hosts international screenings and collaborates with other festivals such as Gouna Film Festival and Cairo International Film Festival

focusing on the mental wellbeing of those who work in the filmmaking industry. Along with being the founder and Managing director, he acts as the artistic director of the festival. As an actor, he participated in many TV series and films such as, Rivo 1 & 2, El Ekhtiyar, El Gamaa 2, Asham and Ezaaet Hob.

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Nada Abu Farhat



She is a Lebanese actress, who graduated from the High Institute of Arts. Her

journey began at a young age, as she embarked on her acting career in Theater, TV, and Cinema while still in her early years of studying theatrical arts.

Throughout her career, she has accumulated a plethora of successful works, earning her numerous accolades and awards. Notably, she received the Best Actress award for her exceptional performance in the film "Under the Bombs" at both the Dubai International Film Festival and the Oran Film Festival. Additionally,

she was honored with another Best Actress award for her role in "The Secrets of Sitt Badiia" at the Sharm el Sheik International Theatre Festival for Youth, among other recognitions. Beyond her on-screen achievements, she has served as a jury member for several esteemed film festivals, including the Lebanese Women Film Festival and the Malmö Arab Film Festival. Her passion for acting extends beyond her own performances, as she also excels as an acting coach for TV series and an instructor for acting workshops.

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Louise H. Johansen



Louise Højgaard Johansen is a Danish festival programmer and industry consultant. She started her career at CPH PIX and has curated audience and industry events for more than 15 years. Her work has taken her from Denmark to Iceland and Greece, and today she has settled in Prague. After becoming a mother, she continues her work for Athens Intl. Children's FF, next to collaborating with FAMU, Cinergy Prague and Karlovy Vary IFF. Louise holds a master in Film Studies from The University of Copenhagen, and is a member of the Danish and European Film Academies. Sane Cinema is her latest initiative that creates awareness about mental health and offers a safe space for film professionals to discuss how to survive in the industry in the long run. Since its launch at Berlinale 2023 has collaborated with the Erich Pommer Institut, ACE Producers, APA Czech Producers Association, CICAIE, EWA, EFM, Marché du Film, Karlovy Vary IFF, Thessaloniki IFF, etc.

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INTRODUCING THE MID PITCHING LAB:

The Pitching Lab is one new initiative of MID. Its format is between an ordinary pitching session and a group workshop/seminar, with the aim of offering constructive feedback to new projects in different phases of development, even very early production. The idea is to have a group "circle" seating arrangement, where experts and filmmakers are mixed with no hierarchy, and after every pitch both experts and filmmakers can give feedback to each other, ask questions, offer insights and contribute new ideas to the projects. A lot like what an academic group workshop looks like, but also while connecting people and help them network and meet closely with other filmmakers and experienced professionals in the industry.

FUNDING DEMYSTIFIED: TIPS AND INSIGHTS ON FUNDING APPLICATION PROCESS

Get insider tips on navigating the film funding application process. Learn how to craft compelling proposals and secure financial support for your projects.

MODERATED BY:

Christian Juhl Lemche



Christian Juhl Lemche has been working at the Danish Film Institute since 2003. For a number of years he worked as a Festival Consultant, promoting Danish feature films to international film festivals. In that capacity he also served as the president of European Film Promotion from 2011 – 2015. In 2020 he changed his position at DFI and since then he has worked as International producer at DFI handling our minority co-production scheme. Since 2016, Christian has been the national representative for Denmark to Eurimages and he is currently a member of Eurimages' Gender Equality and Diversity working group.

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SHOOTING IN CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENTS: A DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Gain practical strategies for shooting in demanding locations from experienced directors. Explore creative and logistical considerations for capturing compelling footage in diverse environments.

MODERATED BY

Abu Bakr Shawky



Abu Bakr Shawky is an Egyptian-Austrian filmmaker. He studied Political Science at the American University in Cairo and received an MFA in Film Production from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. His debut feature YOMEDDINE premiered in the Main Competition of Cannes Film Festival in 2018. The film received the Francois Calais Award and was Egypt's submission to the 91st Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. Shawky was named by Variety as MENA Talent of the Year and was listed by Forbes Magazine among the top five Arab directors on the global stage. His second film HAJJAN premiered at Toronto International Film Festival and RSIFF and is released in theaters in 2024.

Contact info: abshawky@gmail.com

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN SHORT MOVIES

Discover how to create compelling characters in short films. Gain insights on engaging audiences and evoking emotions through well-developed protagonists.

MODERATED BY:

Johan Simonsson



Johan is a film commissioner at FilmCentrum Syd in Malmö, where he's also responsible for talent development, creating workshops and screening events. In addition to his work at FilmCentrum Syd, he is a filmmaker in his own right, mostly as a director of documentary films.

Johan is especially keen on discovering films and filmmakers that are exploring new and uncharted territories, always with a high level of artistic ambition.

Contact info: johan@filmcentrumsyd.se

Olle Bugge



Director, writer and producer from Sweden. Works at FilmCentrum Syd and at Hybris Film in Malmö. For me, creating films is an expensive and long therapy session where I alone or together with others can process my anxiety for things that hurt. For me, a film that continues after it ends is a good film.

Contact info: olle@filmcentrumsyd.se

CREATING THE IMPOSSIBLE: UNCONVENTIONAL FILMMAKING TECHNIQUES

Explore groundbreaking methods in filmmaking with industry experts. Learn how unconventional techniques can lead to extraordinary results on screen.

MODERATED BY:

Asmae EL Moudir



Asmae EL Moudir, a Moroccan filmmaker with degrees in production and documentary, studied cinema in Paris. She's known for award-winning short films and her debut feature, "The Mother of All Lies," premiered at Cannes in 2023, winning several awards. It was also shortlisted for the Oscars and screened at major festivals worldwide. Asmae has been recognized with nominations for PGA and Film Independent Spirit Awards, and she won the IDA Award for Best Director.

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THE REALITY OF INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTIONS: CHALLENGES TO SUCCESSES

Learn about the challenges and successes of international co-productions. Hear from filmmakers who have navigated cross-cultural collaboration to create impactful films.

MODERATED BY:

Issraa El Kogali Häggström



Issraa is a Sudanese-Swedish filmmaker, writer and producer. She co-produced the feature film *Goodbye Julia*, winner of the Freedom prize in the Un Certain Regard category at Cannes 2023. Issraa is an alumna of the National Theatre of Sweden's writer's residency and a former talent development candidate at Story Ltd. Executive producer and screenwriter of the award winning short fiction film *A Handful of Dates* (2020), her debut documentary short, *In Search of Hip Hop* (Official selection IFFR and DIFF 2013) was shown in festivals in 15 countries and purchased by BBC Arabic. Her art installation work *Nora's Cloth* received the Ibsen Scholarship in 2011 and toured, Norway, Sweden and the UK until 2014. *Nora's Cloth* featured performance, animated video, interviews and still photography.

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FRIDHEMS FILMLINJE



The film department at Fridhems Folkhögskola is one of Sweden's leading preparatory educations of film and an obvious part of Swedish film today. Prominent filmmakers and film workers have begun their careers with us since the 1990's.



FRIDHEMS
FOLKHÖGSKOLA

WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF



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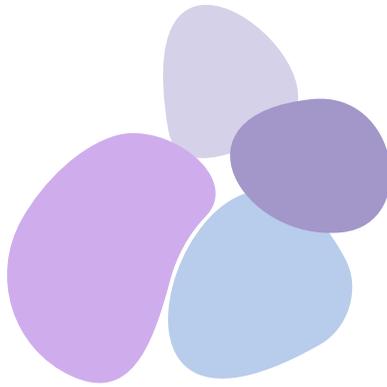




Plötsligt händer det!

Mötet. Möten mellan människor leder ofta till förändring. När vi utbyter erfarenheter och kunskap med andra får vi nya perspektiv. Ett samhälle utan mänskliga möten blir tråkigare, mindre inkluderande och mindre jämlikt. Tillsammans vet vi mer än vad vi gör var och en för sig.





MID's catalog and new visual identity capture Malmö's spirit. City's shape and its districts on map inspire layout, while Malmö's famed purple skies define the color palette.

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