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MEDITERRANEE AUDIOVISUELLE Monthly News letter

In this issue, the launch of the CMCA's 15th International Festival of Mediterranean Documentaries and Current Affairs Films, which will take place in Marseille; Close-Up on Algeria's Tamazight Film Festival; the launch of DTT in Tunisia and Euromed Audiovisual III's long-awaited programme.

Happy reading to you all.

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Le CMCA est soutenu par les cotisations de ses membres, la Ville de Marseille, le Département des Bouches du Rhône et la Région Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur

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HEADLINE STORY



PRIX INTERNATIONAL DU DOCUMENTAIRE ET DU REPORTAGE MEDITERRANEEN



The 15th CMCA International Festival of Mediterranean Documentaries and Current Affairs Films has been launched. For the second year running the event will be hosted by the French port of Marseilles, at the same time as the town is gearing up to be the European culture capital in 2013, the *Centre Régional de la Méditerranée* is given new life and MUCEM is launched.

All the CMCA's partners – broadcasting companies, institutions, independent producers – and the regional authorities will again be mobilised as they were last year, particularly to sponsor the awards; in pole position of course *France Télévisions*, which since last December has had a key role in the CMCA through its president Patrick de Carolis.

Six awards are given to the films in competition:

- **CMCA Grand Prix "Mediterranean Challenges" (6,000 €)**

This award is given to the best film (documentary or news) on a current Mediterranean subject. It picks out productions which improve our understanding of the present situation in the Mediterranean and rewards a director's skill at questioning events and putting them into perspective, as well as his capacity to listen to the principal characters.

- **"Mediterranean Memories" (5,000 €)**

This award is for the documentary which, with or without archives, most successfully places in a present-day context historical events concerning the Mediterranean, stories of men and women, whether individual or collective, or places of symbolism and memory.

- **"First Work" (5,000 €)**

A prize for a director who hasn't made more than 3 documentaries, or a work produced within a school or training programme.

- **"Mediterranean Art, Heritage and Cultures" (5,000 €)**

An award is for the documentary film which highlights the region's artistic life (music, plastic arts, live theatre, visual arts), its heritage (sites, monuments, works of art,

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archaeology, architecture) and other instances of Mediterranean culture (folklore and traditions).

- **Special Jury Award (5,000 €)**, all categories together.

This is the award for a film which has not received any other prize but which the jury considers of special merit.

- **Investigative Documentary (5,000 €)**,

The award for the best filmed investigation which gets to the heart of an event, past or present, within the Mediterranean region.

These awards are for the directors and authors of the work concerned

In addition, broadcasting awards may be given by representatives of the television companies, entirely at their discretion.

They will be chosen from amongst any of the films in the final selection. The broadcast of any work thus rewarded has to be agreed individually between the broadcaster and the makers of the film.

There are two phases to the competition

- **In June**: an international jury pre-selects the films which will be shown in the finals
- **In December**, the final phase of the Festival: a different international jury views the pre-selected films and chooses the winners, there are screenings for the public, meetings, debates and of course the awards ceremony.

Deadline for registering and sending films: 24th May 2010

To find the Festival rules and the Registration Form, available in three languages (French, English and Italian):

<http://www.cmca-med.org/fr/le-prix/edition2010.php>



[# CMCA – INA: Training to use archive material as a basis for news film](#)

Over the past year the CMCA and *INA Méditerranée* have organised a training course on “writing a current affairs film using archive material”, for young journalists around the Mediterranean area. Taking place in Marseilles, it was

planned in two phases: the first was in 2009, from the 29th June to the 3rd July, and the second will be this year from the 22nd to the 25th March.

Journalists from the public television companies of Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia and Croatia are taking part.

The training seeks to:

- make everyone working in broadcasting throughout the Mediterranean region aware of the need to preserve their audiovisual heritage, specifically targeting those in television who use archive material everyday for TV news, magazine programmes etc
- build up skills used in journalistic narration
- make a short film using a particular corpus of archive material

The training is for journalists who have at least three years' experience, and those chosen are from HRT (Croatia), ENTV (Algeria), Tunisian television, JRTV (Jordan) and SNRT (Morocco).

The instructors at these training sessions either work on the preservation of audiovisual archives at INA, or are writers and film editors making current affairs programmes.

The first module took place over 5 days, with class-room sessions on the principles of preservation and safe-guarding archive material; a critical approach to sources and the legal implications of using archives. The trainees then made a short film about the problems of fishing in the Mediterranean from the 1960's to the present day.

The second session will take place over 4 days, with instruction on using a camera and video reporting. The trainees will then make a film on the same subject as the one in the first session (fishing in the Mediterranean), but this time combining new material they have just filmed with the archive material from the first session.

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LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

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[# Spain / Without advertising RTVE sees its audience grow](#)

According to a study published in February by *Barlovento Comunicación*, an audiovisual consultancy, the two channels of Spain's public broadcasting group RTVE saw a net increase in their audience in January, the month they dropped advertising from their screens. In the same month, private non-paying channels, which still have advertising, saw their audience drop.

TVE1, the premier channel, saw its share of the market increase during January by two points to 18.6%, ahead of *Telecinco* (14.8%, down 0.3% compared to December) and *Antena 3* (13.7%, down 0.9%). The audience for the second channel grew from 3.5% to 3.6% during the same month. The figures of the other national private channels, *La Cuatro* and *La Sexta*, also reflected the change in advertising.

As a reminder, since January 1st 2010 advertising has been banned on public television. Commercial breaks, generally very long, peppered Spanish television programmes. In January last year they were even denounced by the advertisers themselves, who talked about "advertising saturation".

On the 2nd December 2009 the European Commission began an investigation into how RTVE is now going to be financed. As compensation for lost advertising revenue there will be, amongst other things, a system similar to the one adopted in France: a 3% tax on the income of the private non-pay broadcasters and 1.5% for the pay channels, as well as a 0.9% tax on the income of telecommunication operators.



[# Turkey / Launch of TRT 7](#)

Following the success of various Turkish series dubbed into Arabic and broadcast on North African and Middle East channels, the Turkish public broadcasting group TRT launched an Arabic channel on the 7th February: TRT 7. Journalists from Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine,

Algeria and Iraq have been recruited. The new channel will be broadcast by satellite across the Middle East, the Arabian peninsula and North Africa. Music, entertainment, news, films, documentaries and children's programmes are on the schedule. Turkish public television's policy makers want to make it a family channel similar to TRT1.



[# Algeria / Launch of a television channel dedicated to scientific research](#)

In mid-February, Hafid Aourag, Director General of scientific research and technological development at Algeria's Ministry for Higher Education, announced that an internet television channel dedicated to scientific research should soon be unveiled. Already the "Algerian Research Channel" has its own studio, sets and technical equipment, based at the *Centre d'études et de recherche sur l'information scientifique et technique* (CERIST).

[# Francophonie / TV5 Monde launches "Première Classe"](#)

On-line French lessons for beginners, that is what has been on offer at *TV5 Monde* since early February at www.tv5monde.com/premiereclasse. This new offer is both free and easily accessible. It is aimed at young people and adults who have no knowledge of the French language but wish to acquire the basics so they can communicate easily with French speakers.

The web-site is multi-lingual (English, German, Spanish, French), with six themes available: greetings, leisure, meals, lodging, work and health. The activities on offer use the audiovisual resources of *TV5 Monde's* web-site: www.tv5monde.com

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[# Turkey / Captain Haddock wreaks havoc at the private channel TV8](#)

50,000 Turkish pounds (24,100 euro)! That is the fine imposed by the Higher Council of Turkish Broadcasting (RTUK) on the private television channel TV8. The crime? Showing Captain Haddock, one of the main characters in the Tintin comic strip, smoking a pipe....thus infringing the law which forbids the broadcast of any scene showing people smoking. One of the members of the council was however opposed to the sanction, saying that children can tell the difference between real and fictional characters....



[# Tunisia / Partnership agreement between Club Africain and Nessma TV](#)

At the beginning of February, Club Africain, a Tunisian omni-sport club, and the private television channel Nessma TV signed an agreement to broadcast a weekly 90-minute programme about the Club, its news and its plans. Kamel Idir, Club Africain chairman, calls the agreement protocol *"a win-win, since it will give the club higher visibility both for club supporters and the wider sporting audience, at the same time helping the image both of the Club and the channel..."* Now Nessma TV is committed to preparing and equipping a studio and the necessary transmission equipment, the first programme should be on the air in early April,



[# Morocco / Broadcast of the Turkish series "Sanawat Addayaa" on 2M](#)

The Moroccan channel 2M is currently broadcasting, from Monday to Friday, a Turkish series dubbed into Arabic *"Sanawat Addayaa"*. It is about the ups and downs of Yahya and Rafif, a young couple in love, innocently dreaming of marriage and a family....but then everything changes! Rafif falls in love with her wealthy boss, Omar. Yahya, broken-hearted, attacks Omar and is sent to prison, where he gets to know a Mafia Boss who promises to help him find a job when he is released. But once in the new job he meets Lamis, with whom he falls hopelessly in love. But what he does not know is that Lamis is Omar's sister....



[# France / Mediterraneo in March](#)

Cyprus, 20 years after the fall of the Berlin wall, a demarcation line still divides a European country: the Buffer Zone in Cyprus. A crew from *Mediterraneo* managed

to get into this zone, just a few dozen metres wide and guarded by United Nations soldiers. Close to this forgotten wall is Nicosia's French school, founded 35 years ago.

In Syria "women of Islam": while in different European countries wearing a headscarf or veil raises different reactions, crystallising arguments, in certain Muslim countries women can now get into top jobs. In Damascus some women are even preparing to become mufti.

In Morocco, the ageing population is having consequences on the way the elderly are looked after. Indeed as Moroccan society evolves, family solidarity is not as strong as it used to be and some senior citizens are having a very hard time.

In Egypt, looking at the ceramic artists of El Fustat. Islamic art is a source of inspiration for the ceramic craftsmen in Cairo, where the tradition is preserved thanks to the Al-Fustat Ceramics Centre.

Also, **in France**, a retrospective of the Catalan painter Miró at the Maeght Foundation in Saint-Paul de Vence.

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[# Tunisia / Tunisian television goes from analogue to digital](#)

Tunisia will start transferring from analogue to digital transmission at the end of March. The process will continue until 2015, when the whole country will be covered. The new protocol for transmission relay is being financed by a 4.6 million euro loan from the French company Thomson Grass Valley.

At first the digital bouquet (multiplex) will consist of between 6 and 12 channels and there will be a gradual introduction of decoders and DTT television sets on to the market. Ways to help people make the transfer will be available, since DTT will bring diversification of content, new channels, new services. As analogue TV ends, the liberation of frequencies will allow the development of new audiovisual services such as HD TV, mobile TV, digital radio and mobile broadband internet services across the country.



[# Egypt / A new Egyptian bouquet broadcsat on Arabsat](#)

Since February 15th five new Egyptian channels have been transmitting on the Arabsat satellite, all aimed at Arabic-speaking households in the Arab world, Europe and America. For Khalid Balkhyour, Chairman of Arabsat, *"the launch of these channels constitutes the kernel of a new Egyptian bouquet of Arabsat satellites. Between now and the end of the year a dozen should be integrated in the bouquet. Negotiations about this are in progress at the moment."*

As the latest market studies have shown, a large number of Arab expatriates in Europe follow Arab programmes on Arabsat."



[# Italy / More than 500 million pages visited on Mediaset's web-site](#)

The month of January 2010 has been hugely successful for Mediaset's web-site. It logged a total of 500 million pages visited (an increase of 38% over last January) as well as 15 million dedicated visitors (up by 33%). On average, each visitor spends 12 minutes and 9 seconds on the Mediaset site



[# France / Arte: budget increase and satisfaction on the web-site](#)

In 2010, Arte France's budget will increase by 4%, that is an increase of 9 million euro. The total budget will be 242 million euro. Programme budgets, with an increase of 5.5%, will top 105.6 million euro – giving 558 hours of co-produced and 410 hours of bought-in material. The web-site arte.tv is also doing well, with an average of 3.2 million visits a month in 2009, reaching as many as 4 million in December.



[# Spain / Telefonica owns 22% of Digital Plus' capital](#)

In early February, *Telefonica* concluded an agreement with Sogecable's affiliate *Prisa* to give it a further 1% of Digital Plus' satellite bouquet (making a total of 22% of the company's capital). The cost of the operation (22 million euro) is calculated on the basis of a valuation of the company at 2.35 billion euro. The new acquisition places *Telefonica's* share in Digital Plus on a par with *Telecinco*, part of the Italian group Mediaset. On the 18th December *Telecinco* acquired *Cuatro*, one of *Prisa's* channels, plus 22% of Digital for a total of 1 billion euro.



[# Europe / Long term contract between Eutelsat and MultiChoiceAfrica](#)

15 years! That's the length of the contract signed between Eutelsat and MultiChoice Africa, sub-Saharan Africa's top subscription television operator, for the lease of 20 Ku-band transponders. In its announcement, Eutelsat explains that “this is one of the largest contracts concluded”, running until 2025, emphasizing the continually strengthening relationship between Eutelsat and MultiChoiceAfrica. The bouquet today reaches an audience of more than 800,000 homes in sub-Saharan Africa.

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CINEMA

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[# The Lebanon / Dima El-Horr's "Every Day is a Holiday"](#)

Lebanese director Dima El-Horr's "Every Day is a Holiday" was released in France in early February. It takes place during Lebanon's Independence Day celebrations: three women who do not know each other are on same bus, taking them to the prison located some way out of town. Tamara is visiting her husband, who was sent to prison on the day of their wedding, a marriage rejected by her family. Lina, on the other hand, wants to divorce her husband. Hala's husband is a prison warder. In the middle of the arid wasteland, sown with mines and truncated dreams, the journey becomes a quest for their own independence. A Franco-German-Lebanese co-production, the principal characters are played by Hiam Abbass, Manal Khader and Raïa Haidar.



[# Morocco / Filming "The Child Sheikh"](#)

In the stony desert, 30 miles to the south of Erfoud, Moroccan film-director Hamid Benani (photo) has begun shooting "The Child Sheikh", part of Berber history. It is set during the resistance, as the local Berber commander, Assou Baslam, prepares his final defence of a natural and impregnable fortress, the summit of Bou-Gafer. Led by Captain Balmorel, the attacking French colonial forces hurl themselves against it, but without success. But little by little, heavily besieged and increasingly short of food and ammunition, the vice tightens around the band of independence fighters. According to

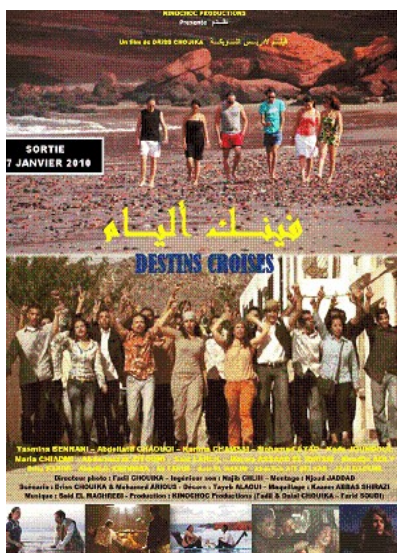
legend, when the clan had lost all its men fighting the colonial army, the warrior women of the Aït Atta, elected Ydir, a five year-old child, to be their Sheikh. Their last surviving male – only he can save the tribe from extinction.



[# Morocco / Nabil Ayouch acquires the rights to the novel: "The Stars of Sidi Moumen"](#)

Next October the director Nabil Ayouch (photo) is going to shoot a film taken from Mahi Binebine's novel "The Stars of Sidi Moumen". A story told from beyond the grave by one of the kamikaze who bombed Casablanca's Grand Hotel, the book is about a group of young people based in the same shanty town, sharing the same aimless chaos of drugs,

violence, unemployment and despair. A wretched world, perfect seed-ground for radical Islam in its search for apprentice kamikaze. The author explains that "he wanted to make a kamikaze speak. Once dead, he does not wake up in Paradise, as he was promised." He is objective enough to realise he has been duped "along with his friends, allowing themselves to be manipulated by dream merchants who, catching them at exactly the right moment of uncertainty, knew exactly how to exploit their situation."



[# Morocco / Release of Finak Alyam \(Crossed Destinies\)](#)

The Moroccan film "Finak Alyam" by director Driss Chouika, was released in its home country at the end of January. It is about three couples in their forties. Since their wild university days they have drifted apart, but they come together again in a villa belonging to one of the couples. Each has received a rather strange invitation, apparently from Rajaâ, an old friend who they all thought had disappeared years before.

Intrigued, the three couples go to the address given, unknown to any of them. The reunion takes place and Rajaâ, although not there in person, is present in each one's memory. The six middle-aged adults have formed three couples, which do not necessarily correspond with the love matches of their student days. And in this strange reunion Rajaâ cannot be found. No one finds the slightest trace of her...



[# Italy / Shooting "I Fiori de Kirku" in Iraq](#)

For the first time since the beginning of the conflict in Iraq a feature film has been made within the country. Filmed in Iraq's third largest city, Arbil, capital of Kurdistan, "I fiori de Kirkuk" (The Flowers of Kirkuk) is an Italian co-production directed by an Iraqi-Kurd, Fariborz Kamkari. It's the story of an impossible love affair between Najila, an Arab and Sherko, a Kurd – both doctors. 'Impossible' because in the 1980's under Saddam Hussein this type of

union was forbidden, the Kurds being regarded as the pariahs of Iraqi society. As a reminder, during that long period Saddam Hussein exterminated thousands of Iraqi Kurds.

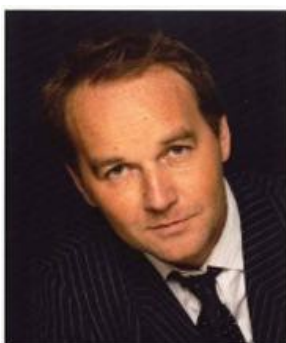
In the principal roles, two North African actors: the Tunisian Mohamed Zaoui and Morjana Alaoui a young Franco-Moroccan. The film is being produced by Rai Cinema, the Lazio Region, Eurimage and TSI.



[# Euro-Mediterranean / "Let's film" project launched in Jerusalem](#)

At the beginning of the year a project called "Let's Film – Zoom Through the Culture Glass" was launched in Jerusalem, and will continue for 10 months. It brings together 24 young people from Poland and Palestine, aiming to bring out their latent abilities by developing their creative and leadership skills, encouraging their feeling for social issues by using this inter-cultural experience to make them active citizens. The project achieves this by getting them to work together to make films and a video animation. During their study visit in Jerusalem, the

young participants first thought through ideas for and then made all the preparations to shoot four documentary films, an animated film and an exhibition of photographs – each capturing daily life in Jerusalem through the eyes of these young Palestinians and Poles. This project is supported by the Anna Lindh Foundation and is organised by the Polska Together Foundation.



[# France / "Men and Gods" by Xavier Beauvois](#)

"Of Men and Gods", a film by Xavier Beauvois (photo) is about the monks from the monastery of Tibhirine in Algeria, who were kidnapped then murdered in 1996. The circumstances surrounding the deaths of the seven French Trappist monks remains controversial. Now in post-production, the film was shot around Meknès in Morocco between December and January 2009, using a former monastery on the side of a mountain. In the main roles, Lambert Wilson, who plays Michaël Lonsdale, a medical monk who had been in Algeria since the 1950's, Olivier Rabourdin, Philippe

Laudenbach and Roschdy Zem. The film is produced by Why Not Productions in co-production with Armada Films and France 3 Cinema.



[# France / Release on DVD of "Amreeka"](#)

Due for release in April, the DVD of "Amreeka", first feature by Cherien Dabius, a young woman director born in the US of Palestinian-Jordanian parents.

Muna, a single mother with a teenage boy, is a Palestinian, enthusiastic and optimistic. However, daily life at the heart of the occupied territories is difficult, if not hopeless. Then one day she gets the chance to leave all this and go to work in America: since she feels an outsider in her own country, she may as well really be an outsider somewhere else. She leaves with her son Fadi to join her sister, who settled in the depths of Illinois for 15 years ago.

After the initial joy of being reunited with her sister, Muna and Fadi have to find their place in this "Amreeka" so ardently desired. But the United States, going to war against the "devil" Saddam, has strange notions of welcome. But even that does not deter Muna in her quest for a better life. In the main roles: Nisreen Faour, Melkar Muallem and Hiam Abbass.

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FESTIVALS

CLOSE UP ON THE 10th ANNUAL NATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL OF TAMAZIGHT FILM IN TIZI OUZOU



The 10th Annual National Cultural Festival of Tamazight Film will take place between the 15th to the 20th March at Tizi Ouzou in Algeria. The Festival presents films in Tamazight, the native name for the Berber languages, while encouraging sub-titled films in other languages. The films screened in these annual get-togethers are either unseen or considered minority films – so a chance for the Algerian public to see works which are either very recent or which have not had wide distribution.

The Festival shows films made that year, a fine example of Algeria's cultural and linguistic mosaic.

Using sound and images, the Festival is helping restore Berber culture across the Algerian nation – it has no base, but visits the country's main towns, wherever a film or cultural infrastructure is available. The organisers hope that in time they will find a permanent home – perhaps even in Algiers, the capital.

The Festival has several aims:

- To encourage Tamazight language films and artistic creation within Algeria
- To give Berber film-makers the possibility of having their films better known by guaranteeing the promotion and distribution of their films in their original language.
- To become an established place for film-makers and others working in the diverse Algerian cultures to come together
- To be part of the growth of an artistic and cultural product, its distribution across Algeria and abroad.
- To create a framework where actors, creators and cultural operators, both Algerian and from outside, can exchange their experiences and skills.

The Other Festivals

[# Italy / 20th Festival of African, Asian and Latin American Cinema](#)

[# Syria / 3rd International Festival of Documentary Film](#)

[# Morocco / 5th Festival of University Cinema](#)

[# Morocco / International Festival of the Cinema of both banks](#)

[# Morocco / 4th National Festival of Amateur Film](#)



[# Italy / 20th Festival of African, Asian and Latin American Cinema](#)

The 20th Festival of African, Asian and Latin American Cinema will take place from the 15th to the 20th March in Milan. It's the only Festival in Italy entirely given over to learning about the films, reality and cultures of the countries of that immense geographic slice of the globe. In competition: full length dramas for the Eni Award and

documentaries for the Lombardy Region Award. There is also the *Credito Artigiano* award for the best African film, and two others for best short drama film and best documentary. Two novelties this year:

A tie-up with the Rotterdam International Film Festival, with the screening of a selection of films from their "Where is Africa?" programme, and a special section dedicated to football, entitled "Africa nel pallone – Cinema and football in Africa in the build-up to the 2010 World Cup."

Outside the competition there is "Extr'A", a category for Italian directors with films either about the Festival's three continents or which look at problems about immigration into Italy. For all information: www.festivalcinemaaficano.org



[# Syria / 3rd International Festival of Documentary Film](#)

The 3rd International Festival of Documentary Film, Dox Box, took place in Syria from the 3rd to the 11th March in three different towns: Damascus, Hims and Tartus. 45 documentary films from the four corners of the world were screened in the official competition, with one award given by the organisers and another by the public. Outside the competition, in the category "festival masterpieces", there will be screenings of films which have won prizes at other

prestigious festivals during 2008 or 2009.

For the first time, Dox Box will present “Voice of Syria”, a category for Syrian documentaries selected by an independent jury. Also a workshop will be organised for 14 young documentary film-makers from Arab countries.



[# Morocco / 5th Festival of University Cinema](#)

From the 17th to the 21st March the fifth Festival of University Cinema will take place at Errachidia. Created by the Al-Qabas association for cinema and culture, this festival wants to spread the culture of the image across the region, getting Moroccan productions known and establishing the idea that cinema can be a lever for development. For Ameer Charqui, the event's director, the aim “*is to create a place where actors, directors, critics, producers, academics and cinema buffs can meet and exchange views.*” There will be a five day retrospective of the film-maker Ahmed Maânouni, with screenings of several of his films, including “*Les coeurs*

brulés”, “*Al Hal*” and “*Lyam a Lyam*”. These will be followed by discussions between film-goers and professionals, and there will also be workshops on script-writing, reading films and documentaries.



[# Morocco / International Festival of the Cinema of both banks](#)

From the 14th to the 18th June, Tamouda Bay, an association, will be organising an International Festival of cinema from all round the Mediterranean. Their aim is to establish a network of cooperation and exchange in the cinema right across the region, to foster the culture of cinema and other screen arts while at the same time encouraging tomorrow's young talent. 57 films have already been registered, four awards will be given, one for documentaries and three for short films: a Grand Prix, an award for the best film and a jury prize (worth 15,000 to 20,000 dirhams). The festival will be held in the coastal town of Mdiq in Morocco.

Registration is already open, you have until the 3rd May to send your films. For more information:

<http://www.festivalcinemdiq.org/>



Morocco / 4th National Festival of Amateur Film

With the "7th Art" Association, the town of Settat is organising the fourth National Festival of Amateur Films which will take place between the 30th March and the 3rd April. On the bill: an official competition for amateur films of less than 15 minutes, made by Moroccans or people resident in Morocco; four training workshops on script-writing, shooting a film, digital editing and the treatment of

sound; a panorama of Egyptian amateur films as well as debates on questions about amateur films in Morocco and the rest of the world.

For more information: <http://www.filmamat.on.ma>

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WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH.....<http://www.zalab.tv>



**The first web-tv
for participatory
video**

ZaLab TV is the first web-based television company entirely dedicated to participative video.

Its mission: to offer web-surfers films and documentaries made by groups from different Euro-Mediterranean countries, thus helping to break the geographic and cultural barriers and stereotypes created and spread by the media.

Za is for Cesare Zavattini, the Italian writer and script-writer, a major figure in Italian neo-realist cinema and winner of the International Peace Prize in 1954. In the 1960's he spearheaded the fight for a free cinema, independent from the major production companies and the star system: a serious cinema, born of creative collective work, based on the principal that "everyone can be a film-maker". At that time 8mm and Super 8 cameras were easy to use and

cheap enough to become "as popular as ink and coloured crayons".

It is that philosophy which the creators of ZaLab TV want to foster, their answer to a globalised world. Using the Internet to link local groups making participative videos, ZaLab TV will find them as wide an audience as possible by publishing the best on line.

At present four Mediterranean countries form ZaLab TV's on-line network: Italy, Spain, Palestine and Tunisia. In the virtual space that ZaLab TV offers them, the participants can meet up through workshops, discuss, argue and publish their videos.

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THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY



EUROMED AUDIOVISUAL III – THE PROGRAMME

Eagerly awaited, the EuroMed Audiovisual III programme for 2009-

2012 has been announced – with a budget of 11 million euro.

By supporting the development of the cinematic and audiovisual industries in southern Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia), the programme will help spread inter-cultural dialogue and cultural diversity.

It encourages complementarity and integration of the region's film and audiovisual industries, while seeking to harmonize public sector policy and legislation.

Continuing the work of EuroMed Audiovisual I and II, the new programme aims to help Mediterranean films find their place in the world market and, by building up the audience for these films, create a demand for their wider distribution.

By fostering cooperation between producers, distributors and other people working in the industry right across the Euro-Mediterranean area, by sharing technology and knowledge, the programme breathes fresh life into the cinema business and thus creates jobs. It also works towards harmonizing the different national legislative frame-works and professional practices.

It also will prepare the ground for a regional support mechanism for the film industry, which in turn will examine the implementation of a regional financial support mechanism, updating existing finance systems and making co-productions easier between partner countries and Europe



LAUNCH OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR EUROMED AUDIOVISUEL III

With an overall budget of 5 million euro, Euromed Audiovisual III has just launched its call for proposals. Managed by the European Commission as part of its co-operation activities beyond the

borders of Europe, the aim of this call is to develop and strengthen the cinematic and audiovisual industries of the southern Mediterranean countries, to foster the complementarity and integration of the region's film and audiovisual industries and to encourage the free circulation of cinematic goods and services. To do this, the call for offers covers the three following domains: training professionals; strengthening distribution capacity and supporting the development of new models of distribution and

broadcasting media; developing audiences in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

A consortium can submit a project in one of these three areas only if it has at least three partners (NGO's, public sector operators, regional authorities, companies or organisations of the broadcasting sector, inter-governmental organisations), including at least two from partner countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia).

The proposed initiatives must involve at least three of the above countries or territories.

Grants of between 400,000 euro and 1 million euro will be given, but they must not be more than 80% of the project's total budget.

The projects submitted must last between 30 and 36 months

The deadline for submitting applications: 1st June 2010

Guidelines and forms :

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/onlineservices/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&nbPubliList=15&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&searchtype=RS&aofr=129593> (reference: 129593).

Information sessions about this call will be organised in March 2010 in Brussels (in English) and at Rabat (in French). To take part, applicants must register by fax or email (see the contact below) before the 8th March 2010.

Contact : European Commission - EuropeAid Co-operation Office –

Rue Joseph II J-54 04 / 227 - 1049 Brussels – Belgium –

E-mail: EuropeAid-euromed_audiovisuel@ec.europa.eu (object : Euromed Audiovisuel III)

Web-site: http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=334&id_type=10&lang_id=469

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INDEPENDANT MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCERS' WAY

Apimed

Association internationale de producteurs indépendants de la méditerranée

APIMED schedules a cycle of documentaries

As part of the Anna Lindh Forum 2010 which took place in Barcelona between the 4th and the 7th March, APIMED screened a programme of Euro-Mediterranean documentaries selected from MEDIMED's Documentary Market. Amongst others there were two productions from Marseille: Feriel Ben Mahmoud and Nicolas Daniel's "Oum Kalthoum: Star of the Orient", made by *Treize au Sud* productions; Dima Al Joundi's "*Bonne à Vendre*" (Maid for Sale), a co-production between *Films du Soleil* and Crystal Films. More than 700 representatives of organisations and institutions registered for the Forum.

PA NEGRE

The Barcelona-based company *Massa d'Or* has produced "*Pa Negre*" (Black Bread) with Serge Lopez and Laia Marull in the main roles. It's a feature film, taken from Catalan writer Emili Teixidó's best seller.

Some years after the end of the Spanish Civil War in Catalonia, Andreu discovers the corpses of a man and his son in a wood – both have been shot. The authorities put the blame on Andreu's own father, and he has to try by whatever means he can to find out who the real killer is.

The film will have its premier soon in an international festival.

For more information: films@massador.com - www.massador.com

A Lebanese co-production

NextVision is looking for a European co-producer for its up-coming film project "111 Days in Beirut". Beirut is where most of the film will be shot, with some scenes set in other parts of the Lebanon and some in Paris; the story is spread over 25 years – from the beginnings of the Civil War to the present day, although most of the film is set between 1974 and 1977, from the assassination of Maarouf Saad to that of Kamal Joumblatt. It's a troubled period in the country's history, with the Lebanese killing each other over ideological differences. Based on factual events, the script weaves a fictional story drawing on all the principal elements of the conflict, a form of docu-drama.

For more information: NEXTVISION – Tel: 00 961 1 75 00 99 – Fax: 00 961 1 75 00 99
m_chabbani@yahoo.com

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<http://www.cmca-med.org> - cmca@cmca-med.org

Le CMCA est soutenu par les cotisations de ses membres, la Ville de Marseille, le Département des Bouches du Rhône et la Région Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur

DIMA AL JOUNDI

The Lebanese producer Dima Al Joundi has just been made a consultant on the Euromed Audiovisual 2 programme. Since 1997 she has been managing director of Crystal Films, a company producing and distributing films which, with Circuit Empire, inaugurated the first theatre as part of the "Europa Cinemas" programme launched by the EU to encourage Euro-Mediterranean films in MEDA countries. Crystal Films has distributed more than 25 films.

c/o Crystal Films – email: crystalf@cyberia.net.lb

For all information : Sergi Doladé, MEDIMED Director (+ 34 93 244 98 50)

Fax: (+ 34 93 247 01 65), info@apimed.org, www.medimed.org

Mail: MEDIMED c/ Girona, 20, 5 planta, 08010 Barcelona, SPAIN.

Paule Hérades, APIMED Office (+ 33 6 07 78 61 04) email:

paule.herades@gmail.com

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STOP PRESS



The European Union has just launched the fifth “Samir Kassir Award for Freedom of the Press”, open to journalists of the written press from all around the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Gulf states who are an example to others by the quality of their work. There are two categories: the best opinion piece and the best investigative article. The candidates can submit only one article, which must be on a subject connected with the rule of law or Human Rights. The jury will be made up of nine voting members from the media and civil society and one observer representing the EU.

Deadline for registration is the 30th March 2010

For more information a hotline has been put in place on 00 961 70 14 17 19 and an email address: coordination@prixsamirkassir.org.

The complete regulations are available on two web-sites : www.prixsamirkassir.org or www.samirkassiraward.org



The call to take part in the second International “Mediterranean Journalists” Competition, supported, amongst others, by the European Parliament, the Italian region of Apulia, RAI Television and ANSA. The

competition, for Mediterranean journalists, was launched at the beginning of February. There are four categories: Italian peace missions abroad; Civil solidarity, help and commitment; Immigration, integration and welcome; Young talents and the web. Further information on the web-site : www.terradelmediterraneo.it . The deadline for sending films is the **12th April 2010**.

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Text translated from the French
by
Tim King