



**N°101**  
**December 2011-**  
**January 2012**

**Marseille, capital of the Mediterranean in pictures!**

In everyone's opinion, **PriMed** 2011, organised by the CMCA in partnership with *France Télévisions*, RAI and ASBU, has fulfilled its promise: a new name for greater visibility, more public screenings, larger audiences at each viewing, a symposium about the Arab revolutions as seen through the lenses of various Mediterranean television companies and, as each year, an exemplary list of award winners for the best documentaries and news films about the Mediterranean

5 days of meeting people, kicking ideas around and viewing films which shed light on the Mediterranean Broadcasting Landscape in all its forms of expression. Thank you to all those who contributed to its success: the directors, producers, distributors, juries, discussion leaders, partners and local authorities.

**PriMed** 2011 is now over – long live the next one, the 17<sup>th</sup> edition! It will be in 18 months' time, from June 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2013 – one of the major events of *Marseille Provence 2013*, European Culture Capital.

Directors, producers and distributors: we count on your documentaries and current affairs films for the pre-selection which will take place in Italy at the end of 2012.

Stay tuned to our Letter which, between now and then, will keep you informed about the organisation of the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of **PriMed** – indeed about all the news of the MBL – the Mediterranean Broadcasting Landscape. Many thanks.

Happy reading and Merry Christmas to all our readers.

**François Jacquel**  
**Managing Director CMCA**

## CONTENTS

<u>HEADLINE STORY</u>	3
<u>PriMed 2011</u>	3
<u>PriMed selection 2011</u>	4
<u>The winners</u>	5
<u>Symposium "The Screens during the Arab revolutions"</u>	23
<u>Major events</u>	24
<u>Revolution and evolution in the Arab world... it continues</u>	25
<u>LIFE IN THE CHANNELS</u>	26
<u>PROGRAMMES</u>	27
<u>ECONOMY</u>	28
<u>CINEMA</u>	30
<u>FESTIVALS</u>	31
<u>WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH : TV5 Monde +</u>	32
<u>EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY</u>	33
<u>STOP PRESS</u>	34



Photos : Anaïs Ginoux



## **The PriMed selection 2011** **(the winners are in blue)**

### **MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES**

- HYMEN NATIONAL by Jamel MOKNI
- THE HUMAN TURBINE by Danny VERETE
- ZELAL by Marianne KHOURY and Mustapha HASNAOUI
- [WOMEN OF HAMAS by Suha ARRAF](#)

### **MEDITERRANEAN MEMORY**

- 70 YEARS OF SILENCE – SPAIN , MEMOIRES ET TRANSMISSION by Emile NAVARRO
- [ABDELKRIM ET LA GUERRE DU RIF by Daniel CLING](#)
- FRANCOIS MITTERRAND AND THE ALGERIAN WAR by Frédéric BRUNNQUELL
- INSULO DE LA ROZOJ – FREEDOM FAIT PEUR by Stefano BISULLI and Roberto NACCARI

### **MEDITERRANEAN ART, HERITAGE AND CULTURES**

- [DAMASCUS ROOF AND TALES OF PARADISE by Soudade KAADAN](#)
- FORTUNY AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP by Claudio ZULIAN
- MOUSS AND HAKIM, ORIGINES CONTROLEES by Samia CHALA
- MY SWEET CANARY by Roy SHER

### **FIRST WORK**

- [JOKING APART by Vanessa ROUSSELOT](#)
- DIARIES by May ODEH
- PARADISE HOTEL by Sophia TZAVELLA
- UNFINISHED ITALY by Benoît FELICI

### **INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

- KADHAFI, NOTRE MEILLEUR ENNEMI by Antoine VITKINE
- LES IMAMS VONT A L'ECOLE by Kaouther BEN HANIA
- THE LAST BREATH by Sameh MOUSSA
- TUNISIE, LES NAUFRAGÉS DE LA REVOLUTION by Alexandra DENIAU, François RENAUT and Christophe KENCK
- [WOLVES PLATE by Mona IRAQI](#)

### **MEDITERRANEAN SHORT**

- LIBYE, LES FEMMES DE LA REVOLUTION by Marie-Laure BAGGIOLINI WIDMER
- MON VELO DE REVE by Serda YALIN
- [MOTHERS 15 CENTS A MINUTE by Marina SERESESKY](#)
- SAYDA by Michael ABI KHALIL
- WARSHEH by Lucile GARCON

### **MEDITERRANEAN MULTIMEDIA AWARD**

- GEOPOLIS - MAGHREB
- [IL VIAGGIO DI MOHAMMED](#)
- LES AMANTS D'ALEXANDRIE
- UNE OASIS SUR LA COLLINE
- UN SOMALIEN A PARIS

## The PriMed 2011 award winners

Strong subjects, rich in emotion, the 2011 PriMed boasts an impressive list of award winning films – with a decidedly feminine stamp : eight of the nine winning films were made by women!

### **Grand Prix France Télévisions "Mediterranean Issues"**

Sponsored by France Télévisions



### **WOMEN OF HAMAS**

56 minutes, 2010

**Director:** Suha ARRAF (Israel / Palestine)

**Production :** Belssan Productions, Cinephil, SWR (Israel / Palestine / Germany)



Four Palestinian women, members of Hamas – the political organisation which surprised everyone by defeating El Fatah in the 2006 elections. A victory led by women. For despite Hamas' conservative opinions, it offers women in Gaza many opportunities to become political, social and even military leaders.



### **Suha ARRAF**

Suha ARRAF is producer, director and script-writer. She has studied anthropology, philosophy and literature. She has written the scripts for Eran Riklis' "The Syrian Bride" and "The Lemon Tree". Her most recent documentaries as director are: "Hard Ball" (2006, 52 minutes), "Good Morning Jerusalem" (2004, 53 minutes), "Volunteers" (2002, 40 minutes), and "The Cinder Keepers" (2001, 24 minutes).

**Suha Arraf :** *"I am so happy with this award because in Israel my film is having a very hard time. No Israeli channel wants it – neither the Arabs nor the Jews understand the film. They don't see it as a film but as a political statement. For some it is pro-Hamas, for others anti-Hamas. But in Europe people understand the film, they see the human story."*

[Return to Contents](#)

## "Mediterranean Memory " Award

sponsored by the Institut National de l'Audiovisuel (INA),

ina

## TV5 Monde Broadcasting Award

and

## France 3 Corsica – ViaStella Broadcasting Award

TV5MONDE

corse VIA  
STELLA

france  
3

### ABDELKRIM AND THE RIF WAR

50 minutes, 2010

**Director:** Daniel CLING (France)

**Production :** ISKRA (France), Cinémaat Productions (Morocco), Real Productions (France), ARTE France, CRRV Nord-Pas-de-Calais (France), CNC (France)



CLIQUEZ ICI POUR VOIR UN EXTRAIT DU FILM

The Rif War, from 1920 to 1926 in the depths of Morocco, put down a tribal rebellion led by Abdelkrim. But who remembers it now? While the wars of Indochina, Vietnam and Algeria have been the subject of many written or filmed reminiscences, the Rif War was forgotten as soon as it was over, despite the involvement of several hundred thousand soldiers and despite it being the only 20<sup>th</sup> century colonial war won by France. What demons does this page of history awake? The war set several trends: it was the first time the French colonial system was threatened by the indigenous people, it was also where barbarous acts of war which have now become commonplace were first used.



## **Daniel CLING**

Daniel CLING was born in 1963. He studied at the *Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts* in Paris, before doing a director's course at the Anatoli Vassiliev School of Dramatic Art in Moscow and a Master II in art theory.

Amongst his films are: *"Heureux qui communiste"* (2005, 60 minutes), *"Il faudra raconter"* (2004, 58 minutes), *"L'attente des pères"* (2002, 56 minutes), *"Je ne suis pas un homme pressé"* (2001, 52 minutes), and *"Héritages"* (1996, 56 minutes).

**Daniel Cling :** *"**Abdelkrim et la Guerre du Rif**" was a very difficult film, taking several years of my life, so winning these PriMed awards is doubly meaningful. I see them as recognition for all that work and I am so pleased the film will now reach a wider audience.*

*A people's struggle to emancipate is still a very current subject, deserving to be more widely known. All this encourages me to push on with the projects I am developing in Morocco for films and for training in documentaries."*

[Return to Contents](#)



## "Mediterranean Art, Heritage and Cultures" Award

sponsored by the town of Marseille



### **DAMASCUS ROOF AND TALES OF PARADISE**

52 minutes, 2010

**Director:** Soudade KAADAN (Syria)

**Production :** Al-Jazeera Documentary Channel (Qatar / Syria)



Syria has a strong tradition of stories and folk tales: full of colourful images – flying fish and friendly serpents, they are passed down from father to son.

However, as the years go by these stories are being lost. In the old part of Damascus the familiar landscape of souks and casbahs, the backdrop of so many stories, is being modernised, raising the fear that the tales themselves will disappear.



### **Soudade KAADAN**

Soudade KAADAN is a Syrian director, born in France in 1979. She studied theatre in Syria and film in the Lebanon. She has made films for the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), UNICEF and Aljazeera's Documentary Channel.

In 2010 her first documentary "Looking for Pink" won the Martine Filippi Award at the 29<sup>th</sup> URTI Grand Prix. Her second documentary "Damascus Roof and Tales of Paradise", won second prize in the Muhr Arab Documentary

category of the Dubai Film Festival.

**Soudade Kaadan :** *"Many thanks to Marseille and PriMed, a place that really celebrates Mediterranean culture. I am honoured to receive this award and would like to dedicate it to Syria and its brave people."*

[Return to Contents](#)

## "First Documentary Film" Award

sponsored by RAI – Radiotelevisione Italiana



and

## The Young Public Award

sponsored by Marseille Provence Métropole (MPM)

JOKING APART

54 minutes, 2010

**Director:** Vanessa ROUSSELOT  
(France)

**Production :** ÉO Productions  
(France)

Can laughter stand up to any tragedy? If yes, how? Very early on Vanessa Rousselot, a young French director, had the intuition that laughter has no frontiers. In 2005 she travelled across Palestine studying Palestinians' sense of humour. Her method is simple: ask each new person you meet "Do you know a Palestinian joke?" The first answer unsettles: "Our whole situation is a joke". Then tongues are loosened, humour rises to the surface, jokes abound.... The Palestinians'

favourite targets? The people of Hebron (like jokes about the Irish in Britain) and of course the Israelis. "Joking Apart" is a moving take on the forces of survival at the heart of a conflict. We discover a people's humour, but also their infinite tenderness.





### **Vanessa ROUSSELOT**

Vanessa ROUSSELOT, studied the languages and history of the Arab world then spent a year on the West Bank continuing her studies in Arabic. She is co-author and actor in a comic double-act "*Duo des pâquerettes*", and has made current affairs films for television. "Joking Apart" is her first film.

**Vanessa ROUSSELOT :** *"A huge thank you to everyone at PriMed for these two awards. I am particularly touched by the Lycéens Award since with "Joking Apart" I have tried to make a film which allows a wide public, even those who know little about the Middle East, to make a step towards the Palestinians. As for the award for First Film, it's a huge encouragement for my next films."*

[Return to Contents](#)



**"Investigative Report" Award**  
sponsored by Radio France



**WOLVES PLATE**

30 minutes, 2010

**Director:** Mona IRAQI (Egypt)

**Production :** Otv Channel (Egypt)



According to Egyptian law, dangerous waste material from hospitals must be burnt within the hospital itself, but in reality rubbish collectors steal most of it and recycle the items as new. Often these rubbish collectors are contaminated by the Hepatitis C virus – which is why Egypt has the fastest rate of increase in this virus in the world.



## **Mona IRAQI**

Mona IRAQI is an Egyptian investigative journalist. She began as a reporter for Sudanese television. In 2010 she produced and made her first documentary "Somalia, The Land of Evil Spirits". "Wolves Plate", her first investigative film, has won several awards, in particular the ARIJ Award for Investigative Journalism. She works currently for the Egyptian satellite channels (OTV Egypt, Alhayat).

**Mona IRAQI :** *"It was very difficult to film the deals [which we see in "Wolves' Plate" ed.]. Even after the revolution it still is. Thanks to my film they [the waste collectors] are now in prison. Investigative journalism is a great hope for change in Arab countries."*

[Retour au sommaire](#)

## Special Jury Award

sponsored by the Collectivité Territoriale Corse (CTC)



### PARADISE HOTEL

54 minutes, 2010

**Director:** Sophia TZAVELLA (Bulgaria)

**Production :** Agitprop (Bulgaria)



Young Demir dreams of getting married. But there is not much room for dreams on the outskirts of the Bulgarian town where he lives with other Romany.

25 years ago the tower block he lives in had everything he needed: from the polished wooden floor to the entry-phone, from the hot water to the light fittings, with benches set round the apple trees. Someone called the place Paradise Hotel, and the name stuck. But as the years have gone by the wooden flooring has gone, water no longer flows from the taps and the lights don't work.

But each of the 1,500 inhabitants has their own plan of how to regain their paradise lost.

The documentary is about integration, love, poverty, dreams – and a gypsy wedding.



### **Sophia TZAVELLA**

Sophia TZAVELLA est auteur, réalisatrice, journaliste et scénariste. Elle a étudié le journalisme, la philologie grecque, l'histoire des Balkans ainsi que les sciences sociales.

Elle a travaillé comme auteur à la télévision nationale bulgare pendant cinq ans, et a jusqu'ici réalisé trois documentaires.

**Sophia Tzavella:** *"Someone in a film once said 'Any day which brings us closer to France is a good day.' I am very excited that, after the "Golden Magnolia 2011 Award", the Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival awards and some others around the world, "Paradise Hotel" has won this major award. It touches me even more because when I think of France I am reminded of Albert Camus' words: "In the midst of winter I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer!" Thank you, Marseille and the jury, for your awareness, for hearing the voices of those 1,500 people, and for bringing me the happiness of sharing the story of this Paradise Lost with you."*

[Return to Contents](#)



## "Mediterranean Short Film" Award

sponsored by Marseille Provence 2013

### **MOTHERS 15 CENTS A MINUTE**

28 minutes, 2011

**Director:** Marina SERESESKY (Argentina)

**Production :** Teatro Meridional S.L. (Spain)



Is it possible to be a long-distance mother? Can one educate one's child from a phone box?

Women who go miles away to provide a better future for their children tell us how they live their roles as mother using a telephone or a computer.



### **Marina SERESESKY**

Marina SERESESKY was born in 1969 in Buenos Aires (Argentina). She is an actress and director in both theatre and film. Her short film "El Cortejo" has been shown in several festivals, winning several awards. Currently she is working at the Teatro Meridional in Madrid as well as the Centro Dramatico Nacional.

[Return to Contents](#)

**"Mediterranean Multimedia" Award**  
**sponsored by Orange**



**MOHAMMED's JOURNEY**

**Director:** Debora SCAPERROTTA

<http://www.my-story.it>



"Mohammed's Journey" takes us through the mind of a young man discriminated against because of his diminutive stature – his thoughts and reflections on the meaning of life.

At the age of 23, Mohammed decided to leave his native Morocco to go in search of himself. He arrived in Bolzano, in northern Italy, where he was given asylum on humanitarian grounds. He found work, friends and for the first time in his life he felt accepted.

In the web-documentary Mohammed's meditations are expressed in a series of 80 brief video sequences, and these become arranged in a personal map created by each viewer's choices.



### **Debora SCAPERROTTA**

After training as a child psychologist, Debora SCAPERROTTA has been working as an educator in several establishments in the province of Bolzano. In 2004 she enrolled in Bolzano's Zelig documentary school, getting her diploma in 2007. Then as a trainee she took part in EsoDoc, a seminar about social documentaries, and there she learnt the techniques of "participative video".

In 2007 she had a notable success with her 63-minute documentary "Casa Mia" (My House)

about the street kids of Bucharest, awarded "Best Italian Documentary" at the 48<sup>th</sup> Festival of the People of Florence.

**Debora Scaperrotta :** *"I want to emphasise the importance of festivals focussed on territories, on human stories and the journeys people make. The decision to have a multi-media category is hugely important too.*

*For me the importance of PriMed lies in its being created by people who have an artistic, social, political, human commitment...they give life to an event which encourages the documentary, its content and its messages. With joy I discover that a single man's story, a portrait, a journey, the one which Mohammed and I made together, can be appreciated, can move people, can speak to other people.*

*On the same web page you will also find a 53 minute documentary "Dalla testa al Cielo" about the same subject. Mohammed and I thank you with all our heart."*

[Return to Contents](#)



Rai 3 Broadcasting Award

## ZELAL

90 minutes, 2010

**Director:** Marianne KHOURY (Egypt) and Moustapha HASNAOUI (Tunisia)

**Production :** Misr International Films (Egypt)



"Zelal" is an often frightening journey, plunging into the daily lives of patients at two of Cairo's psychiatric hospitals. By closely following these men and women, left to their own devices in a labyrinthine world reminiscent of concentration camps, with no hope of return, the film is a portrait of contemporary Egyptian society seen through its murkiest aspects.

## Marianne KHOURY and Mustapha HASNAOUI



Marianne KHOURY is a director and producer. Having studied at Cairo's American University and read Economics at Oxford, she moved very quickly into the world of cinema. For more than 20 years she collaborated closely with the Egyptian director Youssef Chahine. She made her first documentary "The Time of Laura" in 1999, followed by "Women who Loved Cinema" in 2002, two films about the protests of rebellious and pioneering women in Egypt which received critical acknowledgement.



Mustapha HASNAOUI was a director. His work is characterised by documentaries on social subjects and family histories. He was also particularly interested in the lives of socially committed composers, with films like "Max Deutsch, a rebel teacher" (2006) and "Essyad, musician" (1994). Among his other films are "Margaret Garner" (2006), based on an opera by Tony Morrison about racial segregation in the US. He often used to contribute to Arte's magazine programme "Métropolis". He died in January 2011

**Marianne Khoury :** *"I am so thrilled to receive the RAI 3 Broadcasting Award. More than a film, "Zelal" was for me a life experience....and with this award, this extremely rich experience will be shared with TV audiences who will hear for the first time the voice of these people cut off from our world but who nevertheless are so similar to us."*

From December 12th 2011 to February 28<sup>th</sup> 2012,  
find all the films chosen for PriMed's 16<sup>th</sup> edition,  
in Video on Demand on the 150 computers at the Bibliothèque de l'Alcazar (58,  
cours Belsunce – 13001 Marseille).

Discover as well the interviews with members of the jury and the directors, films about PriMed, photographs as well as all the award winners and extracts from the films on our web-site:

[www.primed.tv](http://www.primed.tv)

## Discussion "The Screens of the Arab Revolution"

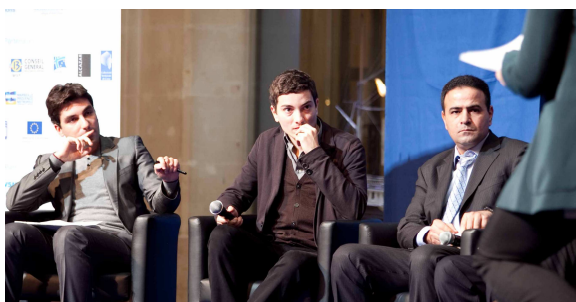


On December 9<sup>th</sup>, as part of the 16<sup>th</sup> PriMed, there was a discussion about **"The Screens of the Arab Revolutions"** at Marseille's Chamber of Commerce

Led by **Sylvie Depierre**, a journalist at France 3 Provence-Alpes, and organised by **Jean-Paul G rouard** (France T l visions), the audience included

members of the two juries, the directors and prestigious guests such as **Mokhtar Rassa **, CEO of Tunisian Television, **Ali Oudjana**, senior editor of France 24 in Arabic, and **Lotfi Hajji**, Bureau Chief of Al-Jazeera in Tunis. The conference was split into three parts:

- ✧ The first discussion, "The Arab Spring seen from Europe, North Africa and Turkey" gave the audience the chance to find out how the different Mediterranean television companies had covered events in Egypt and Tunisia at the beginning of 2011.
- ✧ The second part, given over to international networks, invited the audience to think about that recent addition to Arab media: opinion.
- ✧ The third and final discussion, "Tunisia, Egypt: Springtime for Television?" looked at the way the former State television companies in those two countries were being transformed into public service broadcasters.





Among the other major events of this PriMed 2011:

- **A special evening at the Bibliothèque de l'Alcazar, featuring documentaries and news films about the Arab Spring**

- with in particular the screening of Mourad Ben Cheikh's "*Plus Jamais Peur*", participation of guests such as **Thierry Pardi**, senior editor of "*Méditerranée*", a current affairs programme, **Estelle Mathieu**, a France 3 journalist, and **Roseline Ughetto**, from Amnesty International.



- **A session screening films from Corsican broadcasting** in the presence of **Céline Ceccaldi**, a director (photo left, "*Terra Vecchia, Demain*"), and producer **Dominique Tibéri** ("*Le Journal d'une Orange, Aller Simple*").

- **An Awards Ceremony**, on December 9<sup>th</sup>, hosted by **Carine Aigon** (France 3). More than 300 people came to Marseille's Chamber of Commerce and Industry in a festive atmosphere, with musicians and singers from La Compagnie Rassegna. The ceremony, like the discussion, was shown live on the websites of [PriMed](#), [Mativi Marseille](#) and [France 3 Provence-Alpes](#).



Crédits photos : Anaïs Ginoux

[Return to Contents](#)

## HEADLINE STORIES

### **Revolution and evolution in the Arab nations... it continues.**



#### **#Tunisia / Three sub-committees will establish a black list of journalists**

The National Union of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT) announced in a November press release that three separate sub-committees would be asked to compile a black list of journalists implicated in unethical professional practices under the former regime of Ben Ali.

The sub-committee on corruption will draw-up a list of corrupt journalists who worked with the former regime's services

The sub-committee investigating information archives will list every violation committed by the media and journalists to the Tunisian public.

The third sub-committee will hear journalists who have damaged their colleagues' reputation or broken ethical rules.

The committees will also produce a white book detailing the 23 years of news information controlled by the dictatorship.



#### **#Tunisia / Nessma TV audiences fall off**

Nessma TV, the private Tunisian channel run by Nabil Karoui, lurches from one problem to another. Already shaken by the *Persepolis* affair ([see last month's Letter n°100](#)), (the trial has been put back to January 2012) it now finds that in October its audience dropped considerably.

During Ramadan 2011 Nessma had the highest viewing figures, but by October it had dropped to 5<sup>th</sup> position with only 5.6% of the audience, far behind Al Wataniya 1 (37,7%), Hannibal TV (12,2%), MBC4 (8,8%) and Al Jazeera (7,2%). In the category of most viewed programmes you have to go to 6<sup>th</sup> position to find the first sign of this secular channel, with "*Dhayf Al Ousbou*". Finally, at only one million dinars (€500,000), October's advertising income was also very disappointing.



## LIFE IN THE CHANNELS



### #Qatar / the lawsuit against Al Jazeera rejected

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> the criminal court in Paris dismissed the charge against Al Jazeera that it had incited the murder of former Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

Last February Youssef al-Qaradâwî (**photo**), the Qatari channel's religious consultant, declared on air: *"I proclaim a fatwa. The officers and soldiers may kill Muammar Gaddafi. Let those who can, shoot him."* The Voice of

Libya filed a complaint, demanding that all Al Jazeera's programmes be banned in Europe.



### #Greece / Broadcasting hard hit by the crisis

After the recent vote of a law intended to downsize government agencies, thousands of employees of ERT (Greek public television) and ANA (Greek News Agency) will be laid off by the end of the year. At the same time average wages have shrunk considerably.

Nor is the private sector immune to the crisis: for example the 650 employees of the channel Alter have not been paid for 7 months. Employees of all private and public radio stations in Greece were on strike at the end of November to protest, according to their unions, against *"the tempest of dismissals, violating collective agreements."*

Other moves for a general strike against the austerity measures, called by several unions, are forecast for the end of 2011

[Return to Contents](#)

## PROGRAMMES



### #Italy / Michele Santoro does well with a “public service” web-emission

Michele Santoro, until last September presenter of RAI's "*Anno Zero*", has launched his own programme on a dedicated web-site "*Servizio Pubblico*" (public service). The site is being financed through a national appeal to the public which has raised €1 million. When the Italian channel took "*Anno Zero*" off air, M. Santoro decided to continue broadcasting the programme on the web – creating record audiences.

Broadcasting every fortnight, the web-site makes its programmes available to certain local TV stations and private satellites. Each edition of "*Servizio Pubblico*" has exclusive interviews with people making the headlines in Italian politics. Across all the different media it attracts some 3 million viewers.



### #Spain / The web-series "Malviviendo", a surprise success and festival star

Launched in 2008 by a small team in Seville, the web-series *Malviviendo* has rapidly become a phenomenon across the Spanish internet. The series is about a group of people who earn their

living by almost any means (watching parking spaces, dealing in cannabis). The pilot episode, shot in 2008 and produced for €40, has been seen more than 10,000 times. The series is at the moment in its second season and has managed to create a large and faithful audience, with each new episode generating more than 600,000 hits. Its success has gone beyond the Spanish borders: having received the award for Best Video Blog at the 2010 BOBs (Best of Blogs), it won the Public Award in Marseille's Web Fest last October. In fact the series only survived thanks to a Dutch producer (Canna, a manufacturer of fertilisers) providing finance for the final four episodes of the second series.

<http://malviviendo.com/>

[Return to Contents](#)

## ECONOMY

[#Spain / Mariano Rajoy wants to privatise the regional channels](#)

[#France / Budget cuts for public broadcasting](#)

[#France / LCM to join Médias du Sud](#)



### [#Spain / Mariano Rajoy wants to privatise the regional channels](#)

Winner of November's elections in Spain and now Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy wants to reduce the cost of regional public television. The right-wing candidate made it clear in his election campaign that he wanted to *"put into effect the necessary legislative reforms to allow autonomous local administrations to adopt new models for public television, enabling them to join forces with the private sector."*

M. Rajoy is aiming particularly at Canal 9, Valencia's local channel which employs 1,800 people but whose audiences are slipping (5.8% at the moment against 12% two years ago). *"We cannot farm out our services since wage costs absorb 85% of our budget,"* explains José Lopez Jaraba, Canal 9's director.



### [#France / Budget cuts for public broadcasting](#)

Now the 2012 budget has been passed by the French parliament, public service broadcasters in France will have to play their part in reducing national expenditure. The *France Télévision* budget will thus be cut by €20 million in 2012, from €443 to €423 million. However, since the group receives €5

million from the licence fee, the amount it actually has to cut will be €15 million. For its part Radio France will contribute €2 million, while Arte, AEF (*Audiovisuel Extérieur de la France*) and INA (*Institut National de l'Audiovisuel*) will see their grants cut by a million euro each.



### [#France / LCM to join Médias du Sud](#)

The *Médias du Sud* group, already owner of 2 television stations (*TV Sud Montpellier* and *TV Sud Camargue-Cévennes*), has negotiated with the shareholders of *La Chaîne Marseille* (LCM) to acquire the local channel covering the Bouches-du-Rhône. If the move comes off – the CSA has yet to agree the deal – it would give *Médias du Sud* a turnover of €6 million.

*"While the channel has enjoyed financial balance since April 2011, LCM considers that being part of a regional media group is essential so we can continue developing and consolidate our recovery,"* according to a press release. According to Christophe Musset, CEO of *Médias du Sud*, *"the idea is to create a network of local channels, aimed at Mediterranean advertisers. We have a potential audience of 5 million."*

[Return to Contents](#)

## CINEMA



### #Spain / Ten Italian films invade Spanish screens

Following an agreement signed between the Italian company Intramovies and the Spanish distributor Sherlock Films, about ten Italian productions will be screened in Spanish cinemas within a few weeks. The agreement applies to cinemas in several large towns such as Madrid, Barcelona and Santander. Sergio Rubini's "*Colpo d'Occhio*" (**photo**) and Massimo Natale's "*L'estate di Martino*" are already being shown.

"*L'Uomo Fiammifero*" by Marco Chiarini, on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and Gianfranco Lazotti's "*Dalla Vita in Poi*" on January 13<sup>th</sup> are next in line. Between 4 and 6 extra titles will follow at the beginning of 2012.



### #France / France broadens its funding for the world's cinemas

In November Frédéric Mitterrand (**photo**), Minister of Culture and Communication, announced the creation of a new programme "Help for the World's Cinemas". Taking over from Southern Funds, it aims to encourage support for foreign films. "*It will have generous means since its budget will be doubled with an extra €6 million,*" says Eric

Garandeau, Chairman of the *Centre National de la Cinématographie* (CNC) which will co-finance the fund by chipping in €5 million in 2012. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, via the *Institut Français*, will also support the system, giving €1 million.

Any foreign director can apply to "Help for the World's Cinemas", though priority will be given to projects from countries with fragile film-making facilities. There will be grants for 50 or 60 projects every year, against a dozen today.

[Return to Contents](#)



## FESTIVALS



### #France / The Algerian Revolution commemorated at Nîmes

The Algerian Revolution will be the theme of the 6<sup>th</sup> Panorama of Algerian Cinema, held at Nîmes from January 25<sup>th</sup>. The programme for the 2012 festival was announced in early November by El-Hadj Bensalah, the festival's artistic director and international consultant for the Algerian cinema. There will be some

twenty films, including Gillo Pontecorvo's "Battle for Algiers" (1966) for a long time banned in France, Mohamed Lakhdar Hamina's "*Chronique des Années de Braise*" (**photo**, 1975, Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival) and Ahmed Rachedi's "*Ben Boulaid*" (2008). The previous Panorama of Algerian Cinema, organised by France-El Djazaïr, focussed on Algerians actresses and directors.



### #Algeria / FIFAO 2011, under the sign of the Lion

From December 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> Oran will host a festival on Arab cinema, the Oran Film Festival, formerly called FIFAO (*Festival International du Film Arabe d'Oran*). The names of the awards will change as well,

instead of being presented with a Golden Ahaggar, winners will receive a Golden Lion.

The only festival in the Arab world given over entirely to Arab cinema, the Oran Festival 2011 will be inaugurated at the Convention Centre before moving to the Cinemathèque and the Essada cinema for screenings. A cinema workshop for adults and a training workshop are on the menu. Finally an exhibition on calligraphy will complete the new features of this year's festival. Last year Abdellatif Benamar's Algerian-Tunisian "*Les Palmiers Blessés*" (**photo**) won the main award.

**Find the list of all the festivals of the month by clicking on this link:**

<http://www.cmca-med.org/fr/festivals-et-marches/>

## WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH

**TV5 Monde+ :** [www.tv5mondeplus.com](http://www.tv5mondeplus.com)



November 25<sup>th</sup> was launch date for the on-line platform TV5 Monde+, the French-language station's first global platform for catch-up and video-on-demand. Developed by Interval, the service is available on the Internet and on touch tablets.

The "TV5 Monde+7" section lets you see any of TV5 Monde's programmes shown during the previous seven days as many times as you like (as long as the rights are available in your area). A system of geo-location directs you to the videos matching your area's TV5 Monde signal.

Several tools help the user find the video he is looking for: a classic search engine, but also an interactive world map which classifies videos by geographic zone. The tab "My Selection" allows the web-surfer to keep his favourite videos in memory.

One part, "Événements" groups programmes of every major event broadcast by TV5 Monde, while a carousel on the Home Page highlights the most recently available videos and the most frequently viewed.

Another major attraction is that TV5Monde+ is interactive – surfers are free to comment on and discuss programmes offered on the site. The content of the site can naturally be shared on the social networks

[Return to Contents](#)

## THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY



### # Israël / Candidate call for the Greenhouse 2012 programme

The call has been made for the Greenhouse 2012 programme. This project, funded by Euromed Audiovisuel III (European Union), offers up-and-coming directors and audiovisual students from the southern Mediterranean the chance to develop their documentary projects. Thus the Greenhouse Film Centre invites young directors from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia to put forward their projects, whatever state of production they are in.

Dossiers have to be sent in by February 20<sup>th</sup> 2012. Candidates should apply in teams of two (director/producer). Each dossier must include a CV, a synopsis, a director's statement, a provisional budget, two professional or professorial references and any previous cinematic work (on DVD).

The candidates must have made at least one short film (though not more than two) or a feature length documentary. All the seminars, workshops and training sessions will be in English.

Greenhouse is co-ordinated by the New Foundation for Cinema and TV (Israel), l'ESAV-Marrakech (Morocco's *Ecole Supérieure des Arts Visuels*), the Ankara Film Association (Turkey), Zebra Productions (Spain), and Appel & Honigmann (Holland).

For more information:

[http://www.ghfilmcentre.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=305&Itemid=65](http://www.ghfilmcentre.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=305&Itemid=65)

[Return to Contents](#)

## STOP PRESS



### #Morocco / Death of the producer Nezha Drissi

The founder and director of the International Documentary Festival of Agadir (FIDA Doc'Souss) Nezha Drissi, died in a car accident at Casablanca on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Since 1996 she had produced some fifty documentaries for *France Télévisions*, Arte, Canal Plus and other international channels. Having directed *Les Films Grain de Sable* for five years she founded TACT Productions in 2001, adding a Moroccan branch in 2007 to develop North-South dialogue and Franco-Moroccan co-productions.

The CMCA team knew Nezha well, amongst many other things she helped with the selection of PriMed films in 2008. She was a great professional appreciated by us all.



### #Algeria / A television centre planned at Tamanrasset

The Minister of Communication, Nacer Mehal (**photo**), has announced that a television centre would soon be built in the provincial district of Tamanrasset in the south of the country. The centre will ensure that the major events taking place in the district can be covered by the media.



### #Algeria / 62 scripts received for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence

Abdelkrim Aït Oumeziane, head of cinema at the Algerian Ministry of Culture, announced at the end of November that he had received “*sixty two scripts as part of the programme to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Algeria's independence.*”

Among the 62 projects are full-length feature films and documentaries. A reading committee will judge the scripts and then decide which are eligible for financial help from the ministry.

There will be very little time to produce and make the films, however, since all the works chosen must be ready for screening by July 2012. The call for broadcasting and cinema projects about the colonial period in Algeria was launched in June 2011 by the ministry of culture to prepare for the 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

[Return to Contents](#)

[Translated from the French](#)  
by  
[Tim King](#)