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For the new year's first issue, your monthly CMCA newsletter, *Méditerranée Audiovisuelle*, comes to you in a bright new format while still, of course, focussed on the Mediterranean...

Our main story: the first repercussions in Tunisian and Egyptian broadcasting of recent events.

Also in this letter we take a look at the web site of an association for European and international cultural development, www.adcei.org. There is a close-up on the Romanian Astra Film Festival as well as the usual items, Life in the Channels, Programmes, Economy etc....

By now you should have received the invitation for entries for our 16th International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and Current Affairs Film.

You will discover there a few new things and one surprise!

Happy reading to all of you.

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Directeur de publication : François Jacquelin

Rédaction : Valérie Gerbault

CMCA - 96 La Canebière 13001 Marseille Tel : + 33 491 42 03 02 Fax : +33 491 42 01 83

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

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HEADLINES... [Tunisia in turmoil, its television stations as well....](#)

Since the events which led to the downfall of Tunisia's president, Ben Ali, the country has been living a real revolution. One of the spin-offs has been changes at the top of the broadcasting world:



On the 15th January, the deep red of logo of the public television channel TV7 (its name echoing the date of Ben Ali's accession to power: November 7th 1987) disappeared from the screens, replaced by a new name, “*Télévision Tunisienne Nationale*”, and a new logo, red and white, the colours of the country.

On January 21st it became *Télévision Tunisienne 1*.



On **January 23rd**, as part of the same turbulence, Béchir Hmidi (photo), was appointed *Télévision Tunisienne's* new chairman and managing director. In broadcasting circles he is a well known figure: Right at the start of Ben Ali's rule, 23 years ago, he was appointed to the same position. Then, only a few months later, he was fired. A graduate of France's elite administration school, ENA, he preferred to leave public office and set up his own business.



Also on January 23rd, Larbi Nasra, owner of the private channel Hannibal TV, was arrested for “high treason and plotting against the security of the state”. The Tunisian press agency TAP, quoting an authorised source, said that “*Through his TV channel, Larbi Nasra was working to destroy the revolution, sowing disorder, inciting civil disobedience and broadcasting false information with the aim of creating a constitutional vacuum, sabotaging the stability of the country, pushing it towards chaos*”. At the same time his son Mahdi Nasra was also arrested. That same afternoon of the 23rd the channel went off-air without any real explanation.



The next day, January 24th, Larbi Nasra (photo) announced his liberation himself, on his own TV channel, saying that all accusations against him had been dropped and the case definitively closed.

On January 26th, at a press conference, Minister of Justice Lazhar Karoui Chebbi talked about the arrest. He said detectives had received information about both father and son, the state prosecutor had been informed and had issued the arrest warrants, charging the channel's founder and his son with propagating false information. They were kept in custody overnight. “*Later, as soon as it became clear these allegations were based on rumours and lies, they were liberated*”, explained M. Chebbi.



Also on January 24th Habib Belaïd (photo) was appointed chairman and managing director of *Radio Tunisienne*, replacing Mouldi Hammami, who had taken up his post in December.

[# Tunisia / Making a documentary about the Jasmin revolution](#)

On January 21st a documentary about the events of January began filming in Tunis... (see the rest on page 7)

[Egypt in turmoil...](#)



ALJAZEERA

[# Egypt / al Jazeera no longer welcome in Egypt.](#)

On January 30th, Qatar's Al Jazeera was banned from broadcasting in Egypt by the outgoing Minister of Information, Anas el-Fekki. The Nilesat satellites 101, 102, and 201 stopped transmitting. The signal from the channel on other satellites was also jammed. Al Jazeera immediately replied by giving a new frequency on which Egyptian viewers could see their channel.

As a reminder, the operator Nilesat is an Egyptian company, 20% owned by the Egyptian state, 40% by *Radio Télévision*, 10% by the Army, 30% by banks and private Egyptian investors.

On January 31st, 6 journalists from the channel's English-speaking section, Al Jazeera English, were briefly arrested then swiftly released.

On February 3rd a certain number of Western journalists were treated violently by the supporters of President Mubarak, action denounced by Reporters without Borders, which called for press freedom to be respected.

(LAST UPDATED: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 4TH 2011)

LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

[# Algeria / No approval for Nessma TV](#)

[# Morocco / Rise of SNRT in the Euronews capital](#)

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[# Algeria / No approval for Nessma TV](#)

In the end the private Tunisian television channel, Nessma TV, will be not get the approval it wanted from the Algerian government. According to an internal source, (quoted by the Algerian press), the Algerian Embassy in Tunis informed the board of Nessma TV of this decision on January 21st. A few months ago the Tunisian channel made an application to the Algerian authorities to operate in Algeria. As proof of its good faith it had, amongst other things, agreed to use local Algerian production companies to make its current affairs films in Algeria once the agreement to work in Algeria had been ratified.



[# Morocco / Rise of SNRT in the Euronews capital](#)

At February's Euronews AGM, the *Société Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Télévision* (SNRT – Morocco's state radio and TV) proposed an increase of its capital in the channel. It wants to increase its share from 0.33% to 6%. During his presentation of Euronews' strategy for 2011, chairman Philippe Cayla, confirmed that this increase will make SNRT one of the "*major shareholders*". Euronews wants to strengthen its links with the Moroccan public broadcaster, hoping that in return its programmes will be broadcast more widely across Morocco and it will get better coverage of local events.

Philippe Cayla emphasised the channel's ambition is "*to develop the terrestrial transmission of our programmes in French and in Arabic, which at the moment are only available on satellite, so as to reach a wider public*".



[# Qatar / "Oryx FM" increases its programme hours in French](#)

On January 16th "Oryx FM", the public radio station based in Qatar, began transmitting 24 hours a day in French. The station aims "to create a bridge between French-speaking and Arab cultures" and is the fruit of co-operation between *Qatar Media Corporation* (QMC), *Radio France Internationale* (RFI), *Audiovisuel extérieur de France* (AEF) and the French Embassy. This radio station, created in 1985, has until now broadcast 3 hours of programmes in French a day. The station's directors want to broaden transmitting power to include other Gulf kingdoms, where Anglo-Saxon cultural influence is predominant.



[# Turkey / Co-operation agreement signed between TRT and Yemeni Television](#)

During a visit by the Turkish President, Abdullah Gül, to the Yemen at the beginning of January, a co-operation agreement was ratified between the Turkish public broadcasting group and Yemeni Television. Hassan al-Lauzi, the Yemeni Minister of Information, is particularly interested in TRT's Arabic channel, which, for him, "*is a bridge between Turkey and the Arab countries*". The agreement focusses on Turkish technical support and training for the Yemeni station, but also on help with archival material and productions



[# Turkey-France / Distribution agreement for France 24 in Turkey](#)

In a statement, *France 24* announced that it has reached a distribution agreement with the Turkish cable operator *Turksat Teledunya* which will offer English and French versions of the international news channel countrywide. The agreement means *France 24* will reach an additional 200,000 homes in Turkey, bringing to a total of 6 million the number of Turkish homes potentially accessible by *France 24* on either cable or satellite.

PROGRAMMES

[# Tunisia / Shooting a documentary about the Jasmin revolution](#)

[# Tunisia / A women's programme: "Not for men"](#)

[# Turkey / A programme about Suleiman the Magnificent warned](#)

[# Italy / Rai bets on technological innovation](#)

[# France / "Mediterraneo" for February](#)



[# Tunisia / Making a documentary about the Jasmine revolution](#)

The shooting of a documentary directed by Mourad Ben Cheikh and based on the events of January 14th 2011, began a week after the events themselves in Tunis. *"This documentary offers an interpretation of what has happened since that date, through representative people and ordinary citizens. The aim being to understand the impact of these events on the daily life of four people: two women, a man and a family"* according to the

Tunisian producer Habib Attia, also owner of Cinetelefilms. The first scenes filmed are about *"the fear spread by former President Ben Ali in order to hang on to his rule and power"*. The film will also look at the impact of the events on the daily life of Tunisians. Two versions of the documentary will be made: one 60 minutes or more for festivals and the other 52 minutes for television.



[# Tunisia / A women's programme: « Not for men »](#)

"Mamnua al-Rejal" (Not for Men») is Nessma TV's new programme unveiled for female viewers at the end of 2010. Taking as its starting point that the preoccupations of North African women are not the same as those of other women, the programme makers have chosen to let them speak in total freedom. Four female presenters, from Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, welcome well-known personalities from the world of arts and the media. They reply to viewers' questions, give advice on beauty and home management and also give out cultural information.



[# Turkey / A programme about Suleiman the Magnificent warned](#)

The private television channel Show TV has received a warning from RTUK, the Turkish audiovisual watchdog, for “attack on the private life” of the Ottoman sultan, Suleiman the Magnificent, whose reign stretched from 1520 to 1566. The channel has to present a public apology for this drama about the great sultan and everyday life at the Imperial court of the

Sublime Porte.

Davut Dursun, Chairman of the High Council, said that 75,000 people had protested to his council, shocked that a sultan could be shown “*drinking alcohol and behaving lecherously*”.



[# Italy / Rai bets on technological innovation](#)

Rai TV is thinking about the television of the future, making and creating very high quality technological and cultural products.

“*Arlecchino 3D*” is a 15-minute product in 3D.

“*Social King*” is the first episode of an interactive game centred on social networking. This game will be broadcast as from February 12th on Rai2. The programme, made by Rai Ragazzi, is about people caught up in the world of social networking. The public will be able to take part in the game in real time on-line, on all the social networking sites: Facebook, Youtube, Myspace and Twitter. The aim of this programme is to make web material available on TV.



[# France / "Mediterraneo" for February](#)

The contents of "*Méditerranéo*" for February:

Tunisia, the extension of the revolution.

After the sudden departure of President Ben Ali, a look at the French companies embedded in the country for many years. How do they see their future now, with all the changes, in this period of uncertainty but also of hope for the Tunisian people?

Turkey, story of an inside exile.

In the suburbs west of Istanbul we discover the neighbourhood of Sultan Gazi. More than 500,000 people live here, half of whom are Kurds. In this town within a town, the local section of the Peace and Democracy Party has a central place. A left-wing, pro-Kurdish party which organises mainly cultural activities.

Discovering the roofs of Cairo.

A whole way of life with its own economic activity goes on above the buildings in the centre of the Egyptian capital, a way of expressing a precarious existence for many of the city's inhabitants.

A difficult economic situation in Spain.

The crisis has pushed a million people living in Madrid into poverty, claims a report published by one of Spain's major trades unions. To be out of work in Madrid is often to be without any income. Life becomes very hard, particularly for the young and for single women.

Genius of Humanity.

If one were to make a list of the world's greatest geniuses, Leonardo de Vinci would doubtless be high on the list: painter, architect, inventor - his works never cease to fascinate. We meet a group of people passionate about this person.

ECONOMY

[# Spain / Prisa to shed 2,500 jobs](#)

[# Espagne / Prisa sells its Cuatro channel and part of Digital Plus](#)

[# Algeria / 95% DTT coverage by 2014](#)

[# Italy / Very good viewing figures for RAI's 14 channels in 2010](#)

[# Italy / Channel audience after arrival of terrestrial digital](#)

[# France / Orange and Canal Plus merge their cinema channels](#)



[# Spain / Prisa to shed 2,500 jobs](#)

The leading Spanish press group, Prisa, with accumulated debts of nearly €5 billion, has announced that it will shed around 18% of its workforce. In practical terms 2,000 jobs in Spain and 500 in Portugal and Latin America will go, with the redundancies continuing until the first quarter of 2012. To help make them less painful, different solutions are being examined, including voluntary redundancy and early retirement, *“the restructuring is aimed at safeguarding the greatest number of jobs,”* according to the press statement. *“The process reflects the broad shift taking place in the media sector that requires PRISA's transformation into a new company, focused not only on the production and distribution of content in Spanish and Portuguese, but also on building up a comprehensive knowledge of its stakeholders and on the use of new technologies. As a consequence, PRISA must update its production and business model so as to guarantee the future the sustainability of the company.”*

[# Spain / Prisa sells its Cuatro channel and a part of Digital Plus](#)

The Spanish media group Prisa, owner of El País and other newspapers, announced it had sold its Cuatro channel to the Italian Telecinco, owner of Mediaset, and 44% of its pay-bouquet Digital Plus to Telecinco and Telefonica . These sales have received the approval of CNC, the Spanish competition watch-dog.

The sale of Digital Plus splits down like this: 22% to the Italian Telecinco, and 22% to the Spanish Telefonica for a total of €976 millions.

As for the sale of the Cuatro channel to Telecinco, it's for a 17.336% share in Telecinco's capital (Prisa calculated the value of Prisa Television's share of Telecinco on December 17th was €590 millions).



Algeria / 95% DTT coverage by 2014

At the beginning of January, Abdelmalek Houyou, CEO of *Télédiffusion d'Algérie*, announced that between now and the end of 2014 95% of the country would be covered by DTT. The remaining 5% would be covered by satellite. 7 transmitters, all in the north of the country, are already working, at the cost of more than 4 billion dinars – 9 other transmitters will be operational by the end of 2011.



Italy / Very good viewing figures for RAI's 14 channels in 2010

In 2010, the RAI group's channels confirmed their leadership – in prime time they had on average 43.7 % of the audience, an increase of 0.9% against 2009 – while the average viewing figures for for the full day were 41,3%, up 0.7% against 2009. The gap between RAI and Mediaset (the foremost private group) is 6.2% in prime time and 3.7% across the day, with RAI ahead. Among the public group's channels, Rai Uno confirms its position as leader, with 22.4% of the audience in prime time and 20.7% for the full day, respectively 3.8 and 1.9 % more than Canal 5, Mediaset's premier channel.



Italy / Channel audience figures after arrival of DTT

In 2010, 10 new regions were covered by digital terrestrial television, which means 70% of the population now have access to this new technology. Thanks to this better coverage and the increase in the number of DTT channels, the number of DTT viewers has risen to 10 million during the day and more than 25 million in prime time.

RAI's digital channels register a significant increase in their audience, plus 1.4% in prime time and plus 1.7 for the full day. Among the most popular specialised channels there is RaiYoYo, RaiPremium, Rai4, and Rai5, a cultural channel, the group's most recent addition.



[# France / Orange and Canal Plus merge their cinema channels](#)

In the middle of January, *France Télécom-Orange* and *Canal Plus* announced they are planning to merge their cinema channels Orange Cinémax and TPS Star into a single joint enterprise. In a statement,

Orange said the new company's capital *"will be held 50/50 by the two partners and control will be shared equally"*. The new channel formed by Orange Cinémax and TPS Star will be called Orange Cinéstar *"a premium channel offering exclusivity programmes, mainly cinema and drama series"*. It will begin operations before the end of 2011 with an annual programme budget of €100 million. The heads of the two structures also specified what each will bring to the table: *"Canal Plus brings its expertise in buying rights and overseeing content. Orange brings its technological expertise"*. As far as the number of subscribers is concerned, TPS claims to have 600,000, Orange 500,000.

Before it can start operating, however, the new company must obtain the approval of the competition authorities.

CINEMA

- [# Tunisia / Filming "Le Professeur"](#)
- [# Algeria / Resuming filming of "L'andalou"](#)
- [# Algeria / Start of filming a drama-doc](#)
- [# Algeria / Pre-release of "Madjer la légende"](#)
- [# Turkey / Nicolas Cage in Turkey for "Ghost Rider"](#)
- [# Italy / Shooting the documentary "18 ius Soli"](#)
- [# France / Release of "Halal Police d'Etat"](#)
- [# France / "La Pépinière du désert" in the cinemas](#)



[# Tunisia / Filming "Le Professeur"](#)

At the end of 2010 the Tunisian film-maker Mahmoud Ben Mahmoud began shooting his latest feature film, provisionally entitled "*Le Professeur*". It's the true story of Khalil Khalsaoui, a teacher of constitutional law who, in 1977, was given the job by the party in power to show how it conformed perfectly to the new Tunisian League of

Human Rights. The poor man had his work cut out, trying to justify the political trials and the banning of trades unions....

This feature film is produced by Familia Productions and the Ministry of Culture. Its budget is €750,000. It will be released at the end of this year.



[# Algeria / Resuming of filming "L'Andalou"](#)

Shooting "*L'Andalou*", a feature film by directors Mohamed (photo) and Yamina Chouikh, began in 2008, but had to stop when the cash ran out. On February 27th, three years after the first frames went through the gate, the technicians will finally get to complete the filming in Algiers, Oran, Tlemcen and Ténès and then in Spain in Grenada.

Salim is the son of an Islamic lawyer and a Catholic woman from Malaga, born in southern Spain just before the bloody *Reconquista*. Completing his studies in Grenada, he becomes one of the favourite secretaries of Queen Aïcha – until King Boabdil is forced to abdicate to make way for the Christian kings.

Forced to flee, Salim goes into exile with his friend Ishaac, a young Jewish tailor. At first they settle in Andarach, then Salim sets off along the Algerian coast to try his luck elsewhere. His journey will be the same as that taken by whole populations of Muslims, forced along the southern Mediterranean by the advancing Christian forces (the fall of Oran). For a while he follows these forces before the arrival of the Turks and the installation of the Ottoman empire. Filming this Algerian-Spanish co-production should last some ten weeks and the film itself completed by the end of 2011.



[# Algeria / Start of filming a drama-doc](#)

Larbi Lakehal, script-writer and director of “*Cheik Abdlekrim El-Maghili Tilimssani*” began filming his drama-doc about one of the greatest Islamic scholars, born in Tlemcen in 1425. A passionate defender of Islam, he set himself up near Touat where he played a very important part in the teaching and popularisation of Islam amongst the people of the Sahel, particularly in Mali.

This 70 minute film is being produced by the Algerian ministry of Culture, as part of “Tlemcen, capital of Islamic culture”.

An African village has had to be built for the film. The Art Director, Salah Boungab, called on young craftsman from the area of Taghit.



[# Algeria / Pre-release of “Madjer la légende”](#)

“*Madjer the Legend*”, a documentary film about Algerian international soccer player Rabah Madjer, was shown to the public in Algiers at the beginning of January. The sportsman hopes that this film will be “a good opportunity for a new generation of young Algerians to discover the talent of a player who was part of the Algerian team between 1980 and 1990”.

Directed by Yazid Ait El Djoudi, this documentary was shot in Algeria, but also in European cities important in the career of the player who won the Golden Ball of Africa in 1987.



Turkey / Nicolas Cage in Turquie for “Ghost Rider”

According to a Turkish press agency, the American actor Nicolas Cage will shoot the next part of “Ghost Rider” in the Turkish town of Göreme, in Cappadocia.

The region is known for its photogenic landscapes formed by volcanoes and erosion, for its rock-cut churches decorated with frescoes and for its cave dwellings and underground cities. According to the same source, some parts of the film will be shot in the Turkish province of Denizli. This will be the second film in the series, with Nicolas Cage once again as Johnny Blaze, a leather-jacketed righter of wrongs.

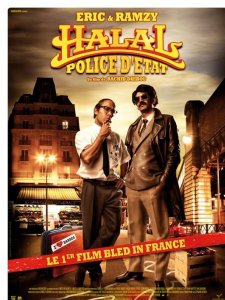


Italy / Shooting the documentary “18 Jus Soli”

Since the beginning of the year, Fred Kuwornu, a Ghanaian film-maker living in Italy, has been shooting a documentary “18 Jus Soli”. It is about the situation of young people born in Italy but whose parents came to the country as immigrants – and their problems obtaining Italian citizenship. The film looks at the legal and cultural debate about the right to nationality for those who are born in Italy.

The expression *Jus Soli* means “right of the soil”, better known as “birthright citizenship” – according to which anyone born in a particular country has an automatic right to its citizenship.

The film is being produced by the *Associazione Amici di Giana, la Cineteca di Bologna, Anolf 2G and Rete Together*.



France / Release of “Halal Police d’Etat”

Rachid Dhibou's film “*Halal Police d’Etat*”, will be released in France on the 19th February. In the principal roles: Ramzy Bedia and Eric Judor, perhaps better known simply as Eric and Ramzy. “*Paris 2011, a serial killer is running wild in the corner shops of the Barbès district. Among his victims, the wife of an Algerian diplomat. This is enough to get the Algerian police involved – they generously offer the services of their very best North African detectives... Inspector Nerh-Nerh and Kabyle, a pair of out-of-their-depth out-of-towners, whose methods are not necessarily in the rule book.*”



[# France / “La Pépinière du désert” in the cinemas](#)

On January 19th Laurent Chevallier's documentary “*La pépinière du désert*” opened in France. It's the story of “two men, Mostafa Affi, a farmer in the Moroccan desert, and Mostafa Gaga, an immigrant from the tower-block estates of Paris, and their fight to create a plant nursery in the middle of the desert. Their long-term goal is to stop the sons of the extremely poor peasants drifting away to the illusory Mecca of Europe by employing them in the nursery, but first they have to sell their shrubs....”

FESTIVALS

CLOSE-UP ON... ASTRA FILM FESTIVAL



astra film
Astra Film

Astra Film is a centre for documentary and anthropological film, in the Romanian town of Sibiu. It produces its own documentaries, tries to encourage Romanian documentaries and organises

training and management schemes. It is also a resource centre for film-makers, academics and social science students, indeed for anyone interested in the use of images to understand, describe, analyse and interpret culture and society as a whole. The centre is run by Dumitru Budrala, film-maker and photographer, who founded it in 1991. He has made several documentaries and anthropological films, published books and articles based on his research.

For the past 11 years, Astra Film has organised the Astra Film Festival for international documentaries. The next will be at Sibiu from October 25th to 30th and the invitation to film-makers and producers world-wide to send their films has just been published. In their desire to encourage quality non-fiction film-making within Romania, the organisers hope their festival will become a meeting place for film-makers from all over the world.

Astra Film Festival is a shop-window showing the realities of our world through the eyes of creative film-makers. A centre for informed debate, open to everyone.

The film-makers can enter their films in four sections:

- The international section (documentary films produced outside Europe)
- The European section (documentary films produced in and about Europe)
- Romanian documentaries (documentaries about Romania)
- Student Docs (final year documentaries from universities and film schools)

For more information: <http://www.astrafilm.ro/>

The other Festivals

[# Morocco / 4th Festival for Young Film-makers](#)

[# Morocco / 6th University Film Festival](#)

[# Morocco / 4th edition of FIFE](#)

[# Turkey / International Festival of Independent Film \(AFM\)](#)

[# United States / 31st Jewish Film Festival](#)

[# France / URTI's International Grand Prix for creative documentary](#)

CINEMA JEUNES TALENTS

FESTIVAL DE FILMS COURTS - CINEMATHEQUE DE TANGER

[# Morocco / 4th Festival for Young Film-makers](#)

From February 16th to the 20th, the Tangier *Cinémathèque* is organising the 4th Festival for Young Film-makers, targeted specifically at young Moroccans, highlighting the possibilities offered by film. The Festival organisers – the French Institute of Tangier-Tétouan and the “*Safinatou el fan*” association – say it is the leading event actively supporting young film-makers, encouraging them to make films. During the event, training workshops will be organised for the young film-makers, most of whom are self-taught. A chance for them to get to know each other, meet people working in broadcasting and create a network. On the Festival fringe ten chosen film-makers will be invited to take part in five days film training in the Tangier *Cinémathèque*.



[# Morocco / 6th University Film Festival](#)

The 6th Errachidia Festival of University Film will take place from March 16th to the 20th, organised by the Al Kabas Association of Cinema and Culture and the Multi-disciplinary Faculty of Errachidia, in collaboration with the Moroccan Film Centre and the Province of Errachidia. This year the festival spotlight will be turned on the works of the film-maker, poet, novelist and script-writer, Ahmed El Bouaanani.

The official competition is only open to films under 35 minutes long, produced in 2010 or 2011 and made by a student or a teacher, permanent or visiting, working in a place of higher education. The film must not have been broadcast or distributed commercially.

Three awards will be given: the Ahmed El Bouaanani Grand Prix, an award given by the town of Errachidia and a third given by the public.

For more information and to register send an email to: ameurcinema@yahoo.fr



Morocco / 4th edition of FIFE

This year the theme of the 4th International Festival of Student Film (FIFE) is “Innovation and Development”. The Festival takes place in Casablanca from March 23rd to the 26th. Created by the “Arts et Métiers” association, the event encourages films conceived and made by film-school graduates (documentaries, drama, animation, experimental and video clip). This year, running in tandem with the Festival there will be a new element – a competition based on the theme “Telecommunication in 2020”, aiming to stimulate creative thought in that fast-expanding area, in particular the relationship young people have with new information and communication

Technology.



Turkey / International Festival of Independent Film (AFM)

The International Festival of Independent Film “If Istanbul” is celebrating its tenth year. This event, the first and only festival in Turkey for independent film, takes place from February 17th to March 5th in Istanbul and Ankara.

Amongst the films in competition, “*Our Day Will Come*” the first full length film by Romain Gavras, son of the famous director, Costa Gavras, “*Le Quattro Volte*” by the Italian film-maker Michaelangelo Frammartino, “*Adrienne Pal*” by the Hungarian Agnes Kocsis,

“*Nuummioq*” the first film from Greenland to be nominated for an Oscar, “*22nd of May*” by Belgian film-maker Koen Mortier, “*R*” a Danish film about prison, “*We are What We Are*” a Mexican film and the Turkish film “*Atlıkarınca*” (Merry-go-round) by the young female director İlksen Başarır.



United States / 31st Jewish Film Festival

The 31st San Francisco Jewish Film Festival will take place from July 21st to August 8th. This is the world's oldest and biggest festival on this subject, pulling in around 30,000 people. The films screened are drama films, documentaries, experimental films and animation, long and short, with a single theme: Jewish culture and identity.

More than just a film festival, the organisers believe it is a way of fighting for independent Jewish cinema.

The dead-line for registering is February 18th.

For more information : <http://www.sfjff.org/>



[www.URTI.org](http://www.urti.org) [# France / URTI's International Grand Prix for creative documentaries](#)

URTI (*Union Radiophonique et Télévisuelle Internationale*) is celebrating its 30th Grand Prix for the Best Creative Documentary. The 2010 figures speak for themselves: 50 countries represented, 183 programmes entered by 112 television channels. This alone, the organisers claim, puts the event “at the top of any list of international festivals”. The competition is only open to broadcasting companies, and this year's invitation to take part has just been launched. However, independent production companies can enter the competition by asking a television channel of their choice to present their film(s).

The event has two phases:

- from April 18th to the 22nd a preliminary jury of professionals from some 15 countries choose ten programmes which then become the Official Selection. Their decision is based on three criteria: choice of subject, imaginative treatment and technical quality.
- from June 4th to 7th the final phase is part of the Monte Carlo Television Festival. The winner receives ten thousand dollars.

For more information: [http://www.urti.org/](http://www.urti.org) (click on the television button)

The deadline to send films is April 1st 2011.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH... www.adcei.org

ADCEI and the EUROMEDINCULTURE(s) network

The *Association pour le Développement Culturel Européen et International (ADCEI)* is an organisation specialising in cultural co-operation both in Europe and internationally. Based in Marseille since 2000, ADCEI keeps cultural organisations in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region informed about European support for culture, giving them help them in putting their grant application together and then managing the project.

With a view to identifying reliable cultural partners abroad, in 2004 ADCEI also set up its own co-operation network: **EUROMEDiterrannée INformation CULTURE(s)**. Made up of cultural bodies, NGO's, public groups, universities and research centres in Europe and around the Mediterranean (actually 29 members in 22 countries), the network **EUROMEDINCULTURE(s)** is a launch-pad for ideas, communication and shared activities in the world of the arts and culture right across the area, fostering dialogue and shared understanding between the people from both shores.

Today, the activities of the network are organised around three principal objectives:

- use the artistic creativity in the Euro-Mediterranean region by fostering the development of projects for co-operation and the circulation of both creators and creations;
- support young artists and people working in culture by encouraging their mobility and professional outlook (for example as part of the European Voluntary Service (EVS));
- encourage discussion about the cultural policies and practice in the region by organising debates and link-ups, along the lines of the EUROMEDINCULTURE(s)

Citizenship Project, an extensive citizen-based survey about the place of culture in Europe, which concluded with a series of recommendations sent to various European institutions.



Based on these ideas, the ADCEI's web-site (www.adcei.org) offers a lot of useful information for people with a project: news about current Euro-Mediterranean cultural events, details of project invitations as soon as they are published – it's a resource space where ADCEI studies and publications can be download freely (funding for cultural mobility, European measures for supporting co-operation or for local cultural projects etc). You can also be kept regularly informed through their newsletter “*eEurope Culture(s)*”.

One section sends the visitor to the EUROMEDINCULTURE(s) site (www.euromedinculture.org), where it is possible to get precise information about the network. You can read the minutes of meetings, review Euro-Mediterranean projects being undertaken by members, or consult the European Voluntary Service's data base of available missions. You can also read reports about cultural organisations or write-ups by young people who have been part of them.

THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY



[# Launch of the Samir Kassir Award](#)

The invitation to take part in the 6th Samir Kassir Award for Press Freedom has just been published. Since 2006 this annual award has been given by the European Union in association with the Samir Kassir Foundation. It honours the memory of the Lebanese journalist and writer Samir Kassir killed in 2005 by rewarding two journalists who have distinguished themselves by the exemplary quality of their work. There are two categories: best opinion piece and best investigation or report.

The competition is open to journalists working for the written press (daily, weekly, monthly, on-line) from around the Mediterranean area, the Middle East and the Gulf States (Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, The Arab Emirates, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, the Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Syria, Palestine, Tunisia, and the Yemen).

The candidates must submit one single article, either about the Rule of Law or Human Rights (good government, the fight against corruption, freedom of expression etc).

The jury is made up of seven voting members, all working either in the media or civil society, plus one observer representing the EU. The names of the jury members are kept secret until the evening of the awards ceremony, June 2nd in Beirut. The winner of each category will receive €10,000.

The competition rules, registration forms and details necessary for registration are available at www.prixsamirkassir.org.

The deadline is March 30th

For any other question: Hotline : + 33 6 37 87 27 18

email: coordination@prixsamirkassir.org



[# Public funding authorised for the Romanian cinema](#)

On the strength of EU rules about state subsidies, the European Commission has authorised grants of €80.68 million for the Romanian cinema in order to support the industry's development, and film culture in general. The Commission came to the conclusion that the subsidy conforms to its communication on the cinema, since it promotes a cultural objective without unduly distorting the competition.

The Commission has therefore given the go-ahead to a series of Romanian subsidies, allocating interest-free loans or non-reimbursable grants for the production of Romanian films or films made with Romanian participation. The Commission has particularly emphasised that the cultural criteria defined by the Romanian authorities will direct the grants towards cultural products. In addition, the measure allows producers to spend up to 20% of a film's budget inside the European Economic Area and not only in Romania itself. (Source Media Desk)



[# Calls for projects - Forum 2011](#)

YML (Young Mediterranean Leaders), one of whose vocations is to help the development of projects in the Mediterranean area, wants to have a meeting during the 2011 [Forum in Marrakech](#), for anyone

putting forward a project who needs contacts, technical advice or financial support.

9 projects will be selected, each project-leader will have **30 minutes** to present their idea and discuss it with the YML. The project must be creative, with a positive impact on society, aiming to help bring the Mediterranean people together. In keeping with the multi-discipline nature of the YML, the projects chosen can be involved in various areas (culture, education, finance, business, new technologies, sustainable development etc.), the key being to offer an original and innovative way to link the two sides of the Mediterranean.

To access the project's page, click on the following link:

http://ymlforum.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=326&Itemid=13

Deadline for registration: February 20th

Contact : Amélie Gaudinat, YML project head amelie.gaudinat@ymlforum.org



[# Mediterranean Viewpoint](#)

On the initiative of Corsica Doc and in partnership with CSJC, the *Ateliers Varan II* are organising a training course for making

documentary films. The course is aimed at people living in Corsica and around the Mediterranean (the South of France, Algeria, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia and Slovenia) and is registered by AFDAS.

Lasting 7 weeks, the course will give each trainee the chance to make a short documentary – the best way of learning the basic fundamentals of film-making. After a brief period of technical initiation, of seeing locations and writing, each trainee will get stuck into making his/her own documentary. The 12 trainees will be accompanied at all times by two instructor-directors, members of *Ateliers Varan*. At the end of the course there will be a public screening of the finished films, as part of the Ajaccio's CORSICA DOC. festival.

This course is aimed at anyone who wants either to take their first steps in documentary film-making or catch-up with current techniques.

Deadline for registration: February 12th 2011 – Course dates: September 5th to October 22nd. For all information: <http://www.ateliersvaran.com/spip.php?article393>



[# Europe / Docs in Thessalonica 2011](#)

The next co-production forum, Docs in Thessalonica, will take place from March 16th to 20th in Thessalonica in Greece, organised by the network of European documentary makers EDN, with the support of MEDIA. As every year, 21 documentary projects have been chosen. The candidates selected will be able to take part in the workshops, where experienced tutors will help them to rewrite and develop their projects over 3 days, before pitching them to representatives of Greek and international television stations (2 days). The organisers expect a panel of some fifteen international commissioning editors with whom individual meetings will be arranged.

INDEPENDENT MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCERS' WAY

L'apimed

Association internationale de Producteurs Indépendants de la MEDiterranée

NEW ACCESS PROGRAMME

The **ACCESS** programme offered by the MEDIA Business School in partnership with APIMED and *Nomadis Images* (Tunisia), has been chosen by **Euromed Audiovisuel III**.

This project is to train people working in Mediterranean broadcasting, particularly producers of drama and documentary films, with the aim of improving their knowledge of financing, marketing and distribution. It will also teach them how to use new technologies and integrate them into their way of working.

The programme stretches over **30 months**, divided into **3 periods**: project preparation (2 months), followed by two training cycles of 14 months each.

3 workshops as well as some on-line sessions will be integrated into each training cycle to develop projects. They will be supervised by experts and tutors experienced in broadcasting production and finance.

ACCESS will train-up a total of 50 Mediterranean producers. Having completed their training cycles, they will have focussed sessions on finance, co-productions, legal aspects, marketing and distribution.

Content and aims of the training modules:

- Training Module 1: Programming, Budget, Finance, Co-production and Legal Aspects.
- Training Module 2 (Virtual): Strengthening and application of knowledge about Finance, Co-production and Legal Aspects as well as how to create web sites both for their companies and their projects.
- Training Module 3 : Marketing and distribution.

APIMED, an active player in this project, is in charge of promoting the project, selecting candidates and carrying out the training modules.

The programme will be launched in March 2011 and is open to producers from countries of the southern Mediterranean: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, the Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia.

PA NEGRE, D'Agusti Villaronga's film nominated for the GOYA

"*Pa negre*" (Black Bread), the latest production by Massa d'Or and Isona Passola, chairperson of APIMED, has been awarded the Catalan Cinema Academy's Gaudi Prize and the prestigious Critics' Award by the magazine Fotogramas.

On February 13th at Madrid's Theatre Royal it also won a record nine Goya Awards given by the Spanish Academy of Film Arts and Science, including Best Film, Best Director (Agustí Villaronga), Best Actress (Nora Navas), Best Supporting Actress, Best Newcomer (Francesc Colomer), Best Script (Agustí Villaronga)...

Co-produced by *Televisió de Catalunya* (TVC) and *Televisión Española* (TVE), the film was released in Spain in October, and so far it has already been seen by more than 150,000 viewers.

A few years after the end of the Spanish civil war in Catalonia, Andreu finds the bodies of a murdered man and his son in the woods. The authorities want to charge Andreu's father and his son has to use every means available to find out who the real murderer is.

For all information about this film, contact *Massa d'Or Produccions* (films@massador.com) or visit their web site : www.panegre.com

For all information: Sergi Doladé, Director de MEDIMED (+ 34 93 244 98 50) Fax: (+ 34 93 247 01 65), info@apimed.org, www.medimed.org – Regular mail: MEDIMED c/ Girona, 20, 5 planta, 08010 Barcelona, SPAIN.

Paule Hérades, at the APIMED office (+ 33 6 07 78 61 04) email: paule.herades@gmail.com

13 Production and Treize Au Sud merge and create 13 ProductionS !

Two of the CMCA's members, both running production companies in Marseille, have decided to merge and form a single unit.

As from January 2011, *13 Production*, created and directed by Paul Saadoun, and *Treize Au Sud*, created and directed by Cyrille and Gilles Perez, are bringing their teams and their strengths together in a new structure called **13 ProductionS**. The new company will continue to work both in France and abroad and its head office will remain in Marseille.

13 Production is a long-standing feature of the French cinema and broadcasting world, a leading light in documentaries and drama. In 25 years, *13 Production* has produced more than 200 films, including the series “*Palette*” for Arte, Paul Cowan's “*Paris 1919*”, “*Rêves de France à Marseille*” by Michel Samson and Jean-Louis Comolli, Paul Carpita's “*Marche et Rêve*”, Béla Tarr's “*L’Homme de Londres*” or Peter Watkins' “*The Paris Commune*”. The films of *13 Production* have been shown at the major international film festivals and have won many awards.

Treize au Sud, created in June 2004, has grown very rapidly making documentaries. In six years, Cyrille and Gilles Perez' production company has drawn a very personal editorial line, creating over twenty films broadcast either nationally on *France Télévisions*, *Arte*, *Canal Plus*...or in the regions on France 3. *Treize au Sud* has made many human documentaries – “*Les Pieds-Noirs, histoire d’une blessure*”, “*Les paysans*”, “*OM : à jamais les Premiers*” - but also many major award-winning international investigations. In 2008, the company received Procirep's prize of Best Young Producer.

13 ProductionS' aims

The company intends to continue making ambitious films, both documentary and drama. This year it has already got 30 films in development for *France Télévisions*, *Arte*, *Canal Plus*, or for the cinema.

Like its predecessors, **13 ProductionS** will fight for personal films while also continuing to develop abroad.

Finally, *13 ProductionS* wants to become more involved in trans-media, making or adapting its productions for the different media available – internet, cinema, television, publishing – thus helping their films reach a wider public. Within a few months **13 ProductionS** will be present in all these different areas.

LES TELEGRAMMES...



- **Ahmad Massa'deh**, secretary general of the *Union pour la Méditerranée* (UpM), handed in his resignation on January 26th. Nominated scarcely a year ago, this Jordanian diplomat, former ambassador to the European Union and to NATO in Brussels, explained that he was leaving his post because "*the conditions under which he accepted it have changed*". As a reminder, the UpM has 43 members including the countries of the European Union, Turkey, Israel and the Arab countries on the Mediterranean.



- The invitation to take part in the third International Mediterranean Journalists Competition has just been published, organised by *Terra del Mediterraneo* in partnership with the Italian region of Apulia, RAI, the province and the commune of Bari.....and several others. The competition is open to Mediterranean journalists and has four categories: Economics and international politics; Women and social integration; Prisons and Humanitarian Law; Religious tourism and regional promotion. More information on the web-site: www.terradelmediterraneo.it . Deadline for submissions: April 12th.



- **Greenhouse** invites candidates to take part in its programme for the development of documentary films, aimed at students finishing their cinema studies and young directors from the south of the Mediterranean: Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria and the Lebanon. Every year Greenhouse chooses 10 to 12 film projects, the film-makers then take part in a series of three seminars in which they learn every aspect of production at an international level. Finally, they pitch their projects to professionals in the business (broadcasters, producers, distributors...).
Deadline for registering: February 28th
For more information : www.ghfilmcentre.org

ENGLISH VERSION
by Tim KING