



## N°102 February 2012

### **Gilles JACQUIER...Death at his camera**

He was one of the speakers at the “Screens during the Arab Spring” conference during the last PriMed in Marseille, his contribution both remarked and remarkable .

He was one of the best of us, one of the most experienced journalists and cameramen in the *France Télévisions* team. He had worked in many war zones, and since 2011 had covered all the main events of the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions.

Working for France 2's “*Envoyé Spécial*”, Gilles JACQUIER was killed on January 11<sup>th</sup> by a mortar shell at Homs in Syria in circumstances still unclear. He was reporting from there, on a journey organised by the Syrian regime, a project which he was working hard to make as impartial as possible – “*even though,*” as he told us during the discussion in Marseille, “*the exercise is extremely complex*”.

The CMCA team dedicates this issue of the Newsletter to Gilles Jacquier and to all those who have paid with their life or who today are taking a calculated risk to keep us informed.

A tribute to a professional with rare qualities, among which a deep sense of humility. A JOURNALIST in capital letters

François JACQUEL  
Managing Director of the CMCA

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## TUNISIAN SPECIAL

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[# In early January the Tunisian government announced many nominations in the media](#), including the presidents of both Tunisian Television and the official Tunisian News Agency TAP:

**Adnane Kheder** was nominated chairman and managing director of Tunisian Television, having previously been head of Channel 1.

**Mohamed Taïeb Youssefi** was nominated chairman and managing director of TAP. He began his career at TAP in 1981, having previously run the prime minister's office

There were other nominations in the media news programmes, but since some provoked strong protests from journalists, the government put further nominations on hold.



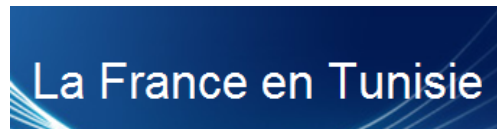
### [# Training in documentaries for young Tunisians](#)

Every year Docmed offers training sessions to a dozen documentary makers from various Arab countries, the idea being to help them develop their projects, get them into production and then distribute the finished film across the southern countries of the Mediterranean and Europe

This year DocMed launched a candidate-call for DOC-med Local Tunis 2012, a training session for young Tunisian producers and directors with documentary projects. For those selected it will be an opportunity to think hard about their ideas during a five-day training course, learning from experienced Arab and European producers.

The requests for candidature must be sent in before February 17<sup>th</sup>. For more information:

<http://www.docmed.me/fr>



### [# Screenings at the Charles de Gaulle Médiathèque](#)

Launched in January, a three-month cycle of screenings and discussions in the Charles de Gaulle Médiathèque

offers a selection of French films every other Friday. Entitled "Let's Live Together", the screenings will be followed by discussions lead by Abderazak Sayadi, an academic. Eight films, including Rabah Ameur-Zaimche's "*Le dernier maquis*", "*Le chant des mariées*" by Karin Albou and Alexandra Leclère's "*Les sœurs fâchées*" will be shown between January and April.



### [# Al Qalam, an Islamic television in Tunisia?](#)

The Tunisian press is rumouring the possible creation of an Islamic television channel "*Al Qalam*" (the feather). The project, announced by a group of imams from the town of Sfax, already seems well under way, since the Minister of Religious Affairs, Nouredine El Khadmi, formerly imam at the al-Fath mosque in Tunis, is the godfather. The people behind the channel claim it's a better way of teaching Tunisians the precepts of Islam, using highly qualified

theologians.

The authorisation to launch the channel has already been agreed by the government. Its main office will be at Sfax.



### # TV5 Monde – first French-language channel in Tunisia

According to the latest TNS Maghreboscope poll, TV5 Monde has increased its Tunisian audience by 10.8 points. Among viewers of 15 and over, it now has nearly 18% of the weekly audience, making it the most-watched French-language channel in the country.



### # The documentary “Chroniques de la Révolution, une histoire racontée par les jeunes” was presented in mid January

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, the first birthday of the Tunisian revolution, the documentary “*Chroniques de la Révolution, une histoire racontée par les jeunes*” was shown to the Tunisian public for the first time. The film is an 80-minute montage of extracts from short and full-length films, some of them video images and even sequences filmed by children and exchanged on Facebook. The sequences were filmed in different regions: Regueb, Kasserine, Gabès, Sousse, Ariana, Kram, Jbel Lahmerà. The views of the young and the not so young. There are also first-hand accounts by well-known Tunisians: Michel Boujenah, Claudia Cardinale, Georges Wolinski, etc... The film, made by Habib Mestiri, is a Franco-Tunisian co-production by Lassaad Goubantini of *Ciné 7<sup>ème</sup> Art* (Tunisia), and Alain Souffi of *Deep Vision* (France).



### # National Channel 2 becomes Channel of the Regions

On January 2<sup>nd</sup> *Chaîne Nationale 2* changed its name and is now called *La Chaîne des Régions*. Every day it broadcasts from 7.00 am to midnight with programmes aiming to make the different regions aware of the wealth and diversity of the country's environmental, cultural and architectural heritage. The Tunisian television establishment has decided to make a general interest channel, focussing on local news, and to prevent the content coming only from the administrative centres it will ask for contributions from “citizen-journalists” within each region. Every communication technology will be used: telephone, webcam, terrestrial TV. The established television units will look after the technical side of the broadcasts.



### # Radio Oasis FM, officially launched

Launched at the end of December, *Radio Oasis FM* is based in Gabès and covers not only that province, but also neighbouring ones. Broadcast 24 hours a day, it offers 20 hours of live programming. Most of the schedule is given over to social, recreational and animation programmes, and to a lesser extent news, sport and politics. The radio station's headquarters has two studios: one for live broadcasts and the other for production. A third studio is scheduled for Tunis, for discussions which would be fed down the line to the Gabès headquarters.



### [# Test broadcast of Radio Sabra FM](#)

*Sabra FM*, a private radio station, began test broadcasts last January at Kairouan. It broadcasts 21 hours every day, from 6.00 am to 3.00 am, and covers the provinces of Siliana, Kasserine, Sidi Bouzid and Kairouan. Brain-child of film-maker Amor Nagazi, the project is part of a trend to decentralise and diversify Tunisian media. The schedules include regional news with an emphasis on the history of the four provinces, their main historical monuments, their culinary, artistic and scientific specialities, their customs and traditions, their craftsmanship, their famous people and their literature.

Sabra's founder wants to make *"the way news is treated transparent, pluralist, independent and credible."*

Eventually the station will have 24 correspondents at local, regional and national levels. Two recording studios and a broadcast studio will be set up in the centre of Kairouan.



### [# The Saphir centre offers forty training sessions for journalists in 2012](#)

The Tunisian Saphir centre, a place for journalists and people in the media to study and train, has just published a guide in Arabic, French and English. It lists forty training sessions in different areas of journalism and communication. Published on CD, it is an attempt to help journalists to improve their professional and knowledge capacities and to promote a free press, *"after the revolutions for the freedom and dignity in the Arab world"* adds a note from the Saphir Centre



### [# Training for media coverage of political events](#)

In January the Press and Information Science Institute (IPSI) organised a second training session for television journalists on how to cover political events after the National Constituent Assembly elections. Aimed at television journalists from both public and private broadcasting, the five day training is being done in partnership with the *Deutsche Welle Akademie* and with support from the European Commission, and is one aspect of an 18-month partnership between IPSI and *Deutsche Welle*

*Akademie* signed last July. Amongst other things there will be training sessions for journalists from television, radio, the written press and internet about media coverage of political events.

## LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

[# Morocco / Médi1TV – assesment after one year's terrestrial broadcasting](#)

[# Algeria / Launch of “Jil FM” radio](#)

[# Turkey / Turkey asks Denmark to shut down Roj TV](#)

[# The Lebanon / Future TV being restructured?](#)

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[# Morocco / Médi1TV – assesment after one year's terrestrial broadcasting](#)

At the end of 2011, *Medi1TV* celebrated one year of terrestrial broadcasting, the opportunity for its CEO, Abbas Azzouzi, to assess his channel's viewing figures. According to him the station reaches 17 million viewers a month, 6.5% of the Moroccan population. Studies made by specialised firms (the channel has not yet signed up to *Marocmétrie*) found that 80% of Moroccan homes watch the channel and it draws 2.3 million viewers a day. A market penetration the CEO

puts down to innovative programming: 6 hours of daily news, discussions on current events and investigative magazine programmes. The trend should continue into 2012, since some exclusive drama films and new entertainment programmes are already in the pipe-line.



[# Algeria / The launch of “Jil FM” radio](#)

In January the *Entreprise Nationale de Radio-Diffusion Sonore* (ENRS) launched a new music channel aimed at youth “*Jil FM*” (Generation FM). It will broadcast 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will be present on all the social networks.

The first programme “*Jil Morning*” was broadcast on Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup> at 9.00 o'clock. With 65% of air-time, music will have pride of place, followed by programmes about the socio-professional issues of young people, culture and news (5% of air-time).



[# Turkey / Turkey asks Denmark to shut down Roj TV](#)

According to the Turkish media, Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Davutoglu has asked his Danish counterpart to close down *Roj TV*, a Kurdish-language channel said to be close to the PKK – the Kurdish Workers' Party

This request follows the 5.2 million krona fine (roughly 340,000€) imposed by the Danish courts for broadcasting terrorist propaganda. The court established that through its financial, structural and operational links *Roj TV* is part of the PKK. The court declared *Roj TV* guilty of helping or inciting people to join a terrorist organisation.

Consequently, to avoid accusations of being an accomplice to terrorist activity, Eutelsat suspended *Roj TV*'s presence on its satellites and asked operators who lease out space to it on their satellites to stop broadcasting this Kurdish channel. The PKK has for several years been on the European Union's list of terrorist organisations



### # The Lebanon / Future TV being restructured?

According to the financial magazine "Le Commerce du Levant", sources close to the Future TV group confirm there has been a restructuring of *Future TV* (The Blue Channel)

and *Future News* (the Red Channel) over the past year. A new format should appear at the beginning of Ramadan in July. According to the paper, "The aim is to keep the channel's commercial and family aspects while adding enough flexibility to cover events in the Arab world".

As a reminder, *Future TV* was created in February 1993, an initiative of the former prime minister and businessman Rafic Hariri..



### # France / Euronews on DTT in Greece and Cyprus

In January, Euronews began broadcasting on DTT in Greece and Cyprus. The aim: to cover both countries entirely by the end of this year. In Greece, English Euronews is already available to nearly 4 million viewers in the Attica region, which includes the capital Athens and Thessalonika. ERT, the Greek public television broadcaster, offers the channel in English on DTT as part of its commitment to provide digital technology across the country. In Cyprus, English

Euronews is available 24 hours a day on DTT.



### # France / The channel Via Stella available on DTT in Corsica since early January

In January the Corsican channel Via Stella was granted a frequency to broadcast on DTT. Whereas before it was only available on cable, satellite or broadband, now all Corsicans can now watch Via Stella free. As a reminder, *France 3 Corse Via Stella* began broadcasting in December 2006 before its official opening in October 2007.



## PROGRAMMES

[# Palestine / "New Star" forbidden by Hamas](#)

[# Tunisia / Nessma TV choses the African Nations Handball Cup](#)

[# France / Mediterraneo's February programmes](#)

[# France / Soccer: the African Nations Cup on TV5 Monde](#)



[# Palestine / "New Star" forbidden by Hamas](#)

Following a decision by Hamas, the producers of "New Star" have announced that no one living on the Gaza Strip will be able to take part in the Palestinian version of the programme. The Muslim group, which has governed the Strip since 2007, decided to forbid people living in the Palestinian Territories to take part in the programme, although auditions had already begun in December, when nearly 130 boys and one girl were auditioned via a video conference. 13 were selected.

According to Hamas the channel which broadcasts "New Star" is damaging to "Gaza, the government and our daily life."



[# Tunisia / Nessma TV choses the African Nations Handball Cup](#)

Nessma TV has broadcast 40 live matches of the African Nations Handball Cup. That is 40 live and 8 retransmitted, plus the commentaries and analysis programmes. Several handball experts, Tunisian and from other Arab countries, have collaborated with the channel. The retransmission rights have been sold to channels in several countries: Angola, the Gabon, Tunisia, Egypt and Morocco. However, for television channels with limited financial means, the African Handball Federation has agreed the retransmission rights should be made available free of charge.



[# France / Mediterraneo's February programmes](#)

**The press in Tunisia:** one year after the popular uprising in Tunisia and the ousting of Ben Ali, journalists and editors are little by little discovering their professional dignity. In a country where censorship was total and press

freedom constantly ignored, this means finding a different way of working. Now Tunisians queue up to buy their daily newspaper. Working conditions in radio and television have changed, but problems remain. Journalists must still fight to get recognition and credibility.

**Marsa Matrouh the town of hope:** Within the past year the town of Masra Matrouh has experienced two revolutions. First the Egyptian revolution, which has relaxed the iron grip on the town's mostly Bedouin inhabitants. Then their Libyan brothers' revolution, which had many repercussions in this frontier region. Thanks to the new political context, however, people now dare hope there will be major economic advances in their region, which has a lot going for it.

**Multi-ethnic Istria:** Istria, which includes parts of Croatia, Slovenia and Italy, has a rich and turbulent history. Several nationalities, several languages, a mix rare in Europe and a quite unique multi-ethnic character. Thus the region also celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Italian unity, for if administratively it is Croatian, Istria is a place where three European peoples have come together. So today how does this population view the future?

**The situation in Syria remains very tense.** Even as the opposition forces in Syria put on the pressure, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon stresses the importance of the UN “*speaking with one voice and acting in a coherent fashion*” as far as Syria and its president are concerned. Some of those opposing the regime have taken refuge in Turkey and at the frontier of these two countries there are hundreds of refugees piled up together, living in very difficult conditions.

**Palestine and the UN:** the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas is still working for his country to be admitted to the United Nations and for the Israeli occupation to be officially condemned. Palestine, 194<sup>th</sup> state of the United Nations: that hope is visible on the walls of the West Bank. What would it change? Are the Palestinians themselves in agreement with this initiative? We met the residents of Ramallah and Naplouse, the two principal urban centres of the Palestinian Territories.



#### [# France / Soccer: the African Nations Cup on TV5 Monde](#)

TV 5 Monde not only mobilised its crews for the event but also created a dedicated web-site: [www.tv5monde.com/can](http://www.tv5monde.com/can). On every match day between January 21<sup>st</sup> and February 12<sup>th</sup> TV5 Monde's editorial team offered a special item in the morning's international news and the evening's African news: news reports, extracts of matches, results, meetings, duplex with the channel's special correspondents in the Gabon and in Guinea where the ANC took place.

In addition, all the news about the tournament was streamed as it happened on to the site with data, photos, stories filmed in the countries concerned, a competition and quizzes.

## ECONOMY

[# First commercial agreement between Israel and Euronews](#)

[# Spain / Antena 3 and La Sexta join forces](#)

[# Qatar / Al Jazeera Sport takes the last 6 matches of French soccer's Premier League](#)



[# First commercial agreement between Israel and Euronews](#)

Euronews, the international news channel, has signed an agreement with HOT, Israel's leading cable operator, to gain transmission across the country. English and Russian Euronews (two of the eleven Euronews versions) will both be broadcast 24 hours a day. For Sylvia Paulin, head of Euronews' regional distribution, *"this launch is an essential stage, strengthening Euronews' presence in the Middle East in more than 16 million homes. We know that Euronews has a role to play in this region."*



[# Spain / Antena 3 and La Sexta join forces](#)

In a press release, *Antena 3* has announced that it and another Spanish television channel, *La Sexta*, are joining forces, the first absorbing the second. The merger will make the group the second largest private operator after *Mediaset*

When the merger is complete the shareholders of *La Sexta* (the *Mediapro* group) will receive 7% of the capital of the new group with the possibility of increasing that to 14% (according to targets reached between 2012 and 2016). For *Antena 3* this merger will create *"a new order in the Spanish broadcasting market, with the Antena 3 Group seeing its position as operator of reference consolidated"* The new group will control up to 8 TV channels and

about 42% of the advertising market, according to the calculations made by the media.



[# Qatar / Al Jazeera Sport takes the last 6 matches of French soccer's Premier League](#)

In the end the Qatary channel is going to broadcast 8 out of the 10 meetings of French football's League 1. After the Professional Football League's TV rights auction last June, one lot remained: the six matches of League 1. Finally, at the end of January, that was sold to Al Jazeera Sport – back in June Al Jazeera had bought two other matches for 90 million euros. The amount paid for this final deal is yet to be announced, the LFP and the Qataris having negotiated alone. So in the end Al Jazeera Sport has bought the rights to 80% of France's League 1 Championship.

## EURO-MEDITERRANNEAN

[# “JOUSSOUR” project for 12 docu-magazines](#)

[# 7th Samir Kassir Award for press freedom](#)

[# Méditalents : Call for projects for young writer/directors](#)

[# European project for Palestinian women film-makers](#)

[# ASBU moves its activities from Syria to Jordan](#)



### [# “JOUSSOUR” project for 12 docu-magazines](#)

A conference to launch the European project JOUSSOR was held in Tunis on December 16<sup>th</sup> last year. With a budget of 497,044€, JOUSSOR is a ground-breaking project, hoping to co-produce 12 docu-magazines made by young professionals, informing the public about the environmental challenges in the Mediterranean regions. The project will encourage mobility and the exchange of skills in the Euro-Mediterranean area, strengthening broadcasting cooperation since the series will be made both for television and the web.

JOUSSOR is financed out of the [IEVP CTMED programme](#)

[“Mediterranean Region”](#) and managed by the region of Sardinia (Italy). The coordination of the project is led by COPEAM (the Permanent Conference on Mediterranean Broadcasting) with the following partners:

- ASBU – Arab States Broadcasting Union (Tunisia)
- PBS - Public Broadcasting Services Ltd (Malta)
- RAI - Radiotelevisione Italiana / RAI Educational
- EBU – European Broadcasting Union (associated partner)

The *IEVP CT Bassin maritime Méditerranée 2007-2013* programme is a multilateral programme for cross-border co-operation, co-financed by the European Union as part of the European Instrument for Neighbourhood Partnership (EINP).

For more information:

[http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=27581&id\\_type=1&lang\\_id=469](http://www.enpi-info.eu/mainmed.php?id=27581&id_type=1&lang_id=469)



### [# 7<sup>th</sup> Samir Kassir Award for Press Freedom](#)

The call to take part in the 7<sup>th</sup> Samir Kasser Award for Press Freedom was launched in Beirut by the EU's Lebanese delegation. Journalists from the Mediterranean region, the Middle East and the Gulf are invited to take part. As the head of the EU delegation in Beirut, Angelina Eichhorst said, *“the memory and the values of Samir Kassir are more relevant than ever in this period of transition in the new Mediterranean region.”*

Created in 2006 by the European Union, the Samir Kassir Award for Press Freedom, is a tribute to the Lebanese journalist and writer Samir Kassir, killed in 2005. There are two categories:

▲ Best Opinion article

▲ Best investigation or report

and the awards will be given to one journalist in each category.

The competition is open to journalists working in the written press (daily, weekly, monthly and on-line) from one of the following countries: Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, the Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Syria, Occupied Palestine, Tunisia and the Yemen. There is no age limit.

The journalists are asked to send their dossier before March 30<sup>th</sup>. The winner of each category will receive 10,000€.

Candidates must send one article only, and it must either be about the state of law or human rights (good governance, the fight against corruption, freedom of expression etc). Since the Samir Kassir Award for Press Freedom was first given 5 years ago, 634 journalists have taken part in it.

For more information: <http://prixsamirkassir.org/>



#### **# Méditalents : Call for projects for young writer/directors**

The Ouarzazate Film Commission, the *Association 1000 visages* ([www.1000visages.fr](http://www.1000visages.fr)) and CFI ([www.cfi.fr](http://www.cfi.fr)) are launching the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for projects for *Mediatalents*.

Through several workshops spread over a year, the project aims to help young Mediterranean writer/directors develop their first full-length drama project. By supporting and encouraging young film-makers, *Mediatalents* hopes that new talent will emerge from the

southern countries of the Mediterranean. The workshops will be held in Ouarzazate, Morocco

For more information about the candidate call:

<http://www.meditalents.net/Appel%20Candidatures%202012.pdf>

Web-site: [www.meditalents.net](http://www.meditalents.net)



#### **# European project for Palestinian women film-makers**

"*I am a Women from Palestine*" is a project financed by the European Union and run by a Palestinian NGO, Shashat. It is for Palestinian women film-makers who want to make short films about women.

To take part, applicants must already have produced three videos, of which at least one must have been screened at an international festival.

These short films, between ten and twenty minutes long, can be either documentaries or drama.

For more information: <http://www.shashat.org/new/etemplate.php?id=632>



#### **# The ASBU moves its activities from Syria to Jordan**

The Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) decided at its AGM in Tunis last December that, given what is happening in Syria at the moment, they must move all their training work from that country to Jordan.

## THE INDEPENDENT MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCERS' WAY

# Apimed

Association internationale de producteurs indépendants de la méditerranée

### # A new documentary production by Cyclope Productions

Angelos Abazoglou's documentary "*Mustafa's Sweet Dreams*", produced by Les Films du Cyclope and Al Jazeera English, has been given its first international screening – in the Generation 14Plus category of the recent Berlin Festival. The film was pitched at the 2008 MEDIMED by producer Olga Abazoglou, a member of the APIMED office.

As a reminder, the Berlin programme was as follows:

Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm at Haus der Kulturen der Welt 1

Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> 3.30pm at Cubix 8

Friday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 am at Haus der Kulturen der Welt 1

<http://vimeo.com/34702193>

### # ACCESS has announced the names of those chosen for its training programme

The names of the producers selected for the ACCESS training programme were announced by the MEDIA Business School at the beginning of January. As a reminder, the ACCESS is a project based training initiative for film and documentary producers from the southern Mediterranean ENPI countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia) who have a film project. The training is focussed on production strategies for developing projects.

#### **FICTION**

Hossam ELOUAN - Egypt

Saad DARWAZEH - Jordan

Buthina KHOURY - Palestine

Yousef DEEK - Palestine

Mohamed ELTOHAMI - Egypt

Michel GHOSN - Lebanon

Kamel LAARIDHI - Tunisia

Mohamed CHRIF TRIBAK - Morocco

Hicham HAJJI - Morocco

Rachida SAADI – Morocco

#### **DOCUMENTARY**

Amel BOUZID - Tunisia

Ismail EIMOKADEM - Egypt

Mostafa ALY - Egypt

Guevara NAMER - Syria

Rula SALAMEH - Palestine / Israel

Hisham ZREIQ - Palestine / Israel

El Kheyer ZIDANI - Algeria

Wesam MOUSA - Palestine

Asma BESEISO - Jordan

Karina ZOUBIR - Morocco

Abdelhouab TOUZENE - Algeria

Nizar RIABI - Tunisia

N. M. Lamine RACHEDI - Algeria

Rim MEJDI - Morocco

Kaouther DRIDI - Tunisia



Co-organised by *Sud Ecriture*, the first training module will take place in Tunis from March 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. This module will be about developing documentary projects or full-length dramas: financing, co-financing, co-production, legal aspects and negotiation parameters. Those taking part will have discussions, workshops and one-on-one meetings with experienced industry professionals from the EU and ENPI countries. As well as the training modules, those taking part will also have on-line support for the whole length of the training cycle.

To find out more about the programme: [www.euromed.mediaschool.org](http://www.euromed.mediaschool.org) or contact: [access@mediaschool.org](mailto:access@mediaschool.org)

For more information, please contact the APIMED office: Tel: + 34 93 244 98 50 / Fax: + 34 93 247 01 65 / [info@apimed.org](mailto:info@apimed.org)

## CINEMA

[# Lebanon / “Beirut Hotel” censored in the Lebanon](#)

[# Tunisia / Release of “Winou Baba”](#)

[# France / The documentary “El Gusto” in cinemas](#)

[# Morocco / Nourredine Lakhmari's latest film opening soon](#)

[# Algeria / Filming “Deux policiers en mission”](#)



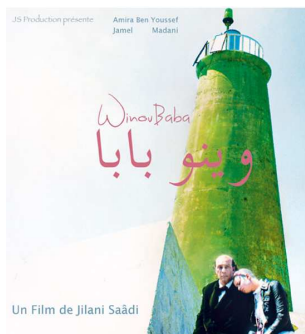
### [# Lebanon / “Beirut Hotel” censored in the Lebanon](#)

The Censorship Committee of the Lebanese Security Services has banned Danièle Arbid's latest film “*Beirut Hotel*” because it refers to the murder of former prime minister Rafic Hariri while the investigation for that crime is still on-going. This third feature film by the French director with Lebanese roots should have been shown on January 19<sup>th</sup> in the Lebanon. According to the producers, the Censorship Committee judged the film dangerous for the Lebanon's security and insisted that any sequences mentioning Hariri's murder be removed.

The film is about Zoha and Mathieu who meet one evening in Beirut. She is a young Lebanese singer trying to break free of her ex-husband's control, he a French business lawyer, under surveillance and then suspected of spying. They live a passionate few days of

fear and desire, intrigue and violence.

The film was shown in France on Arte on January 20<sup>th</sup>.



### [# Tunisia / Release of “Winou Baba”](#)

“*Winou Baba*” (Where's Dad) by the Tunisian director Jilani Saâdi was released in Tunisia on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The 90-minute feature is about forty-year old Halim and the young woman who is being forced to marry him, twenty-two year old Ons. A marriage arranged by Ons' family. But things do not go as expected – Ons refuses to go to her wedding. Halim, the groom, shamed in public, takes this as a terrible injustice. He spends several days locked in his house, then decides to give up everything to do with his former life and drop out of society. Punished and locked up by her parents, Ons manages to escape. An outcast, she wanders around the town, finally coming across Halim. The question is, will they be able to live

a better life in this marginal world than in the 'normal' one?



### [# France / The documentary “El Gusto” in cinemas](#)

After 8 years of relentless research, Irish-Algerian film-maker Safinez Bousbia has finally managed to get her film “*El Gusto*” on the screen. It's a documentary about a form of Algerian music, Chaabi, and it's taken her that long to trace the musicians or, since many are dead, their families.

Good humour – *el gusto* – is an integral part of this popular music created in the mid-1920's in the heart of Algiers casbah by the great musician of the time, El Anka. It pervaded the childhood of his students at the music academy,

Arabs and Jews alike. Friendship and their common love for this music which “*helps people forget poverty, hunger and thirst*” brought them together, for years they played in the same band – then the war came, with all its consequences. *El Gusto*, an Algerian Buena Vista Social Club, tells with great feeling – and good humour – how the music unites people history separated 50 years ago.





#### **# Morocco / Nourredine Lakhmari's latest film soon in the cinemas**

"Zéro" is the latest film by the Moroccan film-maker Nourredine Lakhmari and should be released in the first quarter of 2012. In the principal roles Mohamed Majd, Bouchra Ahrich and Raouia, all of whom were in Lakhmari's previous film "Casanegra". The new film lays bare Man's paradoxes and contradictions – it's about a

policeman, Zero, who out of his urban chaos becomes a lone seeker for justice in a personal quest for redemption. Caught between his desire to rise above himself, and his tendency to sink back, this anti-hero is fighting his own demons. A woman, Doctor Ghita, and his domineering father's death, push Zero to become aware of his actions as well as his environment. It is then that he decides to push himself to the utmost and save a young fifteen-year old girl from the pitiless life of prostitution. The film was made with an advance of 4.5 million dirhams (about 403,000€) from the *Centre Cinématographique Marocain* (CCM).



#### **# Algeria / Filming "*Deux policiers en mission*"**

The Algerian director Amar Chouchène, is currently filming "*Deux policiers en mission*" in the district of Boumerdès. The 90-minute feature is being filmed for the most part in authentic locations. It is about two police officers who, pleased with themselves for breaking up a ring of car thieves, are given another, far more complex assignment...

Azazna Ahcène and Ahmed Ben Adjal have the main roles as the two policemen. The film is being produced by the cooperative Vasara Films and financed by the popular Assembly of the district of Boumerdes. Cinema release in Boumerdes is

scheduled for May.

## FESTIVALS - Close Up on the

### 31<sup>st</sup> URTI International Grand Prix for Creative Documentary the Arman Trophy

#### 31<sup>ème</sup> Grand Prix International du documentaire d'auteur **URTI**



Les inscriptions sont ouvertes  
Soyez au rendez-vous !

The *Union Radiophonique et Télévisuelle Internationale* (URTI) is preparing its 31<sup>st</sup> International Grand Prix! A true recognition for creative documentaries (which includes dramatised docs). Every year this Grand Prix attracts more and more films: last year 223 documentaries were selected representing 81 countries and 140 channels.

The aim is to:

- Encourage creative documentaries, including dramatised ones,
- Reward originality of subject and its treatment – to be selected by URTI for the Grand Prix, a film must reflect the personal approach, style and point of view of an “author”,
- Contribute to the humanist values of tolerance, respect between men, peace, friendship and understanding,
- Reject all forms of propaganda in whatever form,
- Guarantee a wide, international distribution of the films chosen for the finals, particularly the award-winners.

The Grand Prix is open to any international television organisation, public or private and any organisation or institution working in broadcasting. Producers or directors of documentaries wishing to compete must submit their programmes through an eligible organisation and only films made after June 11<sup>th</sup> 2010 are eligible.

**Each television channel can register one or two documentary films free of charge. Deadline to register films: April 6<sup>th</sup> 2012.**

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

## THE OTHER FESTIVALS

[# The Palestinian Territories / The Festival of Human Rights launches a call for projects](#)

[# Morocco / 9th Agadir Festival of Cinema and Migration](#)

[# Morocco / Call to take part in the 1st North African Festival of Documentary Film](#)

[# France / Call for candidates for the official selection of FIDMarseille 2012](#)

[# France / "Ici on noie les algériens – 17 octobre 1961" nominated for the Césars](#)



### [# The Palestinian Territories / The Festival of Human Rights launches a call for projects](#)

The Palestinian Association for Art and Cinema invites directors and producers from the whole world to send in their films or documentaries for the second Human Rights Festival at Ramallah. A mobile cinema will show the winning films in more than 100 towns and villages throughout Palestine. The festival also organises a forum of young film-makers, helping young

Palestinians meet people working in the industry in other countries.

For more information: <http://www.euromedaudiovisuel.net/2012/Files/2012/01/03/1325595648932.doc>

To download the registration form:

<http://www.euromedaudiovisuel.net/2012/Files/2012/01/03/1325595663690.doc>

Deadline for registration is March 30<sup>th</sup> 2012.



### [# Morocco / 9<sup>th</sup> Agadir Festival of Cinema and Migration](#)

The 9<sup>th</sup> Agadir Festival of Cinema and Migration was held between the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> February, presided by Moroccan writer Tahar Benjelloun.

The festival screened some thirty films about all aspects of migration, including: "Notre étrangère" by the Franco-Burkinabée Sarah Bouyain, "Illégal" by the Belgian Olivier

Masset-Depasse, "Andalousie Mon amour" by the Moroccan Mohamed Nadif and "Beur sur la ville" by the Franco-Algerian Djamel Bensalah. There were also Italian films on the same subject: Agostino Ferrente's "The Orchestra", "The Golden Door" by Emanuele Crialesi and "L'America" by Gianni Amelio. There were also tributes to several artists, including the Moroccan singer, song-writer and actor Younès Migri. This festival is organised by the Moroccan organisation "Cultural Initiative" in collaboration with the *Centre cinématographique marocain* (CCM).



### **# Morocco / Call to take part in the 1st North African Festival of Documentary Film**

From May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Oujda's *Centre des Etudes et Recherches Humaines et Sociales*, is organising the first North African Festival of Documentary Film with the theme: the documentary and North African society. An official competition to choose the best film is open to film-makers from Morocco and the rest of North Africa.

The deadline for registration is March 10<sup>th</sup>. For more information: [http://fmfdo.cerhso.com/default\\_fr.html#](http://fmfdo.cerhso.com/default_fr.html#)



### **\* # France / Call for candidates for the official selection of FIDMarseille 2012**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> FIDMarseille International Film Festival, will take place between July 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Films for the official selection can be registered directly on the festival's web-site – to be eligible they must have been produced after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011. Any medium and all lengths are acceptable. The copies submitted must be in their original language version, sub-titled in French or English.

Deadline for registration is March 18<sup>th</sup>. On-line registration: [www.fidmarseille.org](http://www.fidmarseille.org).

Running parallel to the official selection, FidMarseille also organises FIDLab, a platform helping professionals find co-production. FIDLab was set up to champion and encourage sensitive or unusual films at any stage of development, from writing to post-production. This year it will take place on July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.



### **# France / "Ici on noie les algériens – 17 octobre 1961" nominated for the Césars**

Yasmina Adi's documentary "*Ici on noie les algériens*" (Here We Drown Algerians) has been nominated for Best Documentary at the *Césars* (French equivalent of the American Oscars or the British BAFTA awards) which will take place in Paris on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Her film has already won awards at last December's Dubai International Film Festival and had its cinema release in October. It looks at the events of October 17<sup>th</sup> 1961: thousands of Algerians from Paris and the surrounding region, called out by the FLN (*Front de Libération Nationale*), demonstrated against the curfew imposed on them.

This peaceful protest march was heavily put down by French security forces. 50 years later the film-maker sheds light on an event which is still taboo.

Combining eye-witness accounts, the past and the present, history and memories, the film retraces the different stages of that fateful day. It also shows the strategy and methods used at the highest level of state: manipulation of public opinion, denial of all accusations, all information closely guarded so as to prevent any investigations.

Adi won an award for her film "The Other 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945" at the 2008 International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film (PriMed) organised by the CMCA.

WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH : [WWW.LARELEVE.MA](http://WWW.LARELEVE.MA)



[www.lareleve.ma](http://www.lareleve.ma) is a news site edited by [la.releve.com](http://la.releve.com) which already has experience in running news sites in Arabic such as [www.telexpresse.com](http://www.telexpresse.com) and [www.chaabpress.com](http://www.chaabpress.com). Created at this major turning point in Morocco's political life, "*lareleve.ma*" is for general news. With an editorial team of experienced journalists, well-used to modern investigative techniques, its main aim is to show breaking news. The difference between *lareleve.ma* and other web-sites is that it is wide-ranging, offering a wide spread of news about the most varied subjects – economic, political, social and artistic. Indeed the intention is to leave no area of today's information on the side-lines.

The creators' idea is not only to inform in the usual sense but also to set news within its context, to analyse it and provide a background which then puts subsequent events into perspective.

Launched in January 2012, this digital news source is now scarcely more than a month old. The site is independent, a flagship of universal values of freedom and democracy.

## STOP PRESS



- At the beginning of January Martine Viglione was nominated General Secretary of INA. Formerly managing director of the *Centre Méditerranéen de la Communication Audiovisuelle* (CMCA), she has left her job as Director of Global Media Coordination at *France Télévisions*. Now she is head of INA's international and institutional relations, regional delegations, study projects and prospects, as well as guiding film understanding and coordinating the executive committee.

- Two film-making giants have died:



Théo Angelopoulos, one of the great Greek film directors, a key figure of the Greek New Cinema in the 1970's, died in a car accident at the end of January. Winner of the 1988 Silver Lion at Venice for "Landscape in Fog" and the 1998 *Palme d'Or* at Cannes for "Eternity and a Day", he was preparing a film about the crisis in Greece and Europe, "The Other Sea", when he was killed.



Vittorio De Seta, Italian grand master of documentaries, died at the end of 2011. Ten short films made between 1954 and 1959, with all stages of production mastered by himself: production, camera work, editing, sound. These films made his reputation as a great film-maker of human geography. Winner of many prestigious awards in Italy, he also won a top prize at Cannes in 1956 for his short documentary "*Isola di fuoco*" (Island of Fire)

**Translated from the French  
by  
Tim King**