



**N°106**  
**June 2012**

Unavoidably, given the crisis, finance is taking a bigger and bigger place in managing public broadcasting. Two examples from the beginning of June: the appointment of a new chairperson at RAI (Italy) and at RTVE (Spain), respectively [Anna Maria Tarantola](#) and [Leopoldo Gonzalez Echenique](#): two figures from finance and business, both managers, able to juggle between budget cuts and balancing accounts, while continuing to maintain the quality level of their programme schedules.

Directors and producers also face a lack of means, but there are some new solutions for them. As from this month *Euromed Audiovisuel* offers a co-production guide aimed at film-makers in the southern Mediterranean. Everywhere on the web the business of "[crowd-funding](#)" is growing, the idea that the general public can directly finance films in production. And new funding methods are being put in place, as at the [FPCA](#) (*Fonds Panafricain pour le Cinéma et l'Audiovisuel*).

Also in this issue, all the usual items, with a focus on the [Ismailia Festival](#), an assessment of [Cannes 2012](#), the winner of the [URTI International Grand Prix for Creative Documentary](#), and a glimpse of [Web Series TV](#), first platform for web-series from the whole world.

Happy reading!

Méditerranée Audiovisuelle-La Lettre. Dépôt Légal 2 avril 2012. ISSN : 1634-4081. Tous droits réservés

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



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## IMPORTANT REMINDER!

**17<sup>th</sup> PriMed,**  
**from June 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2013 in Marseille, European Culture Capital!**  
**Deadline for registering and sending films: September 30<sup>th</sup> 2012**



The CMCA has decided to organise the next PriMed from **June 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> 2013**, so as to be part of Marseille Provence 2013, European Culture Capital.

**PriMed – the International Award for Mediterranean Documentary and Current Affairs Film** is for film-makers, directors, producers and broadcasters who, through their films and programmes, help to improve the public's knowledge of the countries of the Mediterranean in its widest sense, from the Atlantic coast to the Black Sea.

The films presented look at the culture, heritage, history, societies and life of the men and women living in Mediterranean countries. They must not contain any advertising or propaganda.

**Nine Awards** will be given:

- ⤴ **The France Télévisions documentary Grand Prix "Mediterranean Issues" (6,000 €)**
- ⤴ **The "Mediterranean Memory" Award (5,000 €)**
- ⤴ **The "First Documentary" Award (5,000 €)**
- ⤴ **The "Mediterranean Art, Heritage and Cultures" Award (5,000 €)**
- ⤴ **The "Mediterranean Reportage" Award (5,000 €)**
- ⤴ **The Special Jury Award (5,000 €)**
- ⤴ **The Young Public Award (5,000 €)**
- ⤴ **The Award for the best Mediterranean short film (2,500 €)**
- ⤴ **The Mediterranean Multimedia Award (2,500 €)**

**There are two web-sites for more detailed information:**

- **The CMCA web-site:** [www.cmca-med.org](http://www.cmca-med.org)
- **The PriMed web-site:** [www.primed.tv](http://www.primed.tv). You will also find on this site videos, interviews and news films from previous PriMeds.

**[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.](#)**

## LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

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### [#Morocco / Mohammed VI names a new chairwoman for the CSCA](#)

On May 10<sup>th</sup> Ahmed Ghazali was replaced by Amina Lamrini El Ouahabi as head of the CSCA, the Moroccan TV watchdog (*Conseil Supérieur de la Communication Audiovisuelle*), part of the HACA (*Haute Autorité de la Communication Audiovisuelle*). According to the Telquel

web-site, Ghazali learnt he had been replaced.....by chancing to read a text message while he was chairing a meeting of the Council. He had been heavily criticised over the past few weeks, notably for the speed with which the HACA had given the go-ahead for the adoption of new specifications for Moroccan public broadcasting.

His successor, Madame El Louahabi (pictured left), was a member of the Advisory Committee on Human Rights. Until 1995 she had been active in the *Parti du Progrès et du Socialisme*. She is also a founding member of the *Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc*.

Her appointment as CSCA chairperson was announced at the same time as a new CSCA managing director: Jamal Eddine Naji (*photo, right*), a member of the World Council of Radio and Television.

In addition, the Government council announced they were going back to the earlier specifications for 2M and Al Aoula, passed in 2009, even though both public channels have already begun to change their programme schedules. New specifications will be put forward by a ministerial committee.



#### [#Tunisia / Conflict between the chairman and the editors of Radio Tunisienne](#)

The head of *Radio Tunisienne*, Mohamed Meddeb, announced on May 20<sup>th</sup> that he considered the group's new Editorial Board to be "null and void", since their election a few days earlier. He said Tunisian Radio "*does not tolerate illegal bodies being created to serve personal interests and supporters.*" He accuses some journalists elected of being

faithful to the old regime.

Reacting to this decision, Hichem Snoussi, member of the National Forum for the Reform of Information and Communication, said there was a need for "*clear and distinct separation between the administration and programme editors,*" stressing the importance of these elections which have led to "*a consensus among all Radio journalists.*"



#### [#Tunisia-Libya / A Tunisian-Libyan channel soon on air?](#)

At a meeting in May, Abderrahman Habil, Libyan Minister of Culture and Civil Society, and Mehdi Mabrouk, Tunisian Minister of Culture, talked about a possible joint Tunisian-Libyan television channel.

Once created, both countries would like it to become a satellite channel truly reflecting North Africa.

The ministers also agreed to make it easier for journalists from both countries to work together, and to increase training programs so Libyan and Tunisian professionals can exchange ideas and experience.



#### [# Tunisia / Threats and insults against the El Hiwar El Tounsi channel](#)

The headquarters of the privately owned channel El Hiwar El Tounsi, in a suburb northwest of Tunis, was vandalised on the night of May 26<sup>th</sup>. According to channel head Tahar Ben Hassine, the perpetrators did not steal anything but destroyed film equipment. He added the previous day there had been an announcement on Facebook that there would be an attempt to "conquer" El Hiwar El Tounsi's offices. Ayman Rezgui, Senior Editor, believes broadcasting a news item about "*a series of incidents involving Salafists in Mahdia, Jendouba and Kef*" could have caused the attack. The editorial staff have also received several death threats.





#### [#Senegal / A new channel in French from Dakar for Al Jazeera](#)

Over the last few weeks the rumour had been growing, then it became official. After the launch of its two sports channels in French, Be In Sport 1 and 2, the Qatari group Al Jazeera is now working on a French-language news channel, available in France and North Africa by satellite. To get round French administrative rules, Al Jazeera has decided to base the headquarters in Dakar, Senegal. A competitor for France 24, the channel should be on air in

late 2012.



#### [#Italy / Anna Maria Tarantola, RAI's new chairwoman](#)

On June 8, Mario Monti, Chairman of the Italian Council, appointed Anna Maria Tarantola, 67 (photo) Chairwoman of RAI, replacing Paolo Garimberti. An economics and trade graduate, since 2009 she has been Deputy Managing Director of the Bank of Italy. Luigi Gubitosi, 51, has been appointed as managing director, replacing Lorenza Lei. A former executive at WIND Telecomunicazioni and Fiat, he became head of Bank of America's Italian branch last November.

The head of RAI4, Carlo Freccero, and a journalist, Michele Santoro, had applied for these positions, but as Mario Monti explained, the choice fell on people *"who can give RAI economic and financial stability."*

Sources : ANSA, TG1, La Repubblica.

Both appointments require confirmation by the competent institutions in the coming days.



#### [#Italy / The state found guilty in the Centro Europa 7 affair.](#)

The European Court of Human Rights has found the Italian state guilty of violating the right to freedom of information, and of breach of copyright, ordering the state to pay €10 million to the Centro Europa 7 group which owns the Europa 7 television station.

The government is accused of favouring Berlusconi's Mediaset group. In 1999 Europa 7 had obtained permission to transmit on a frequency at the time being illegally used by one of the Mediaset channels. In 2005, because the frequency had still not been given up, Centro Europa 7 turned to the European court. Europa 7 finally got its frequency in 2008 and began broadcasting the following year.



### [#Spain / At last a chairman for RTVE](#)

On June 4<sup>th</sup> the PP (*Parti Popular*) appointed Leopoldo Gonzalez Echenique chairman of RTVE. Parliament should approve his nomination in the week of June 18<sup>th</sup>. Since July 2011 when Alberto Oliart resigned, the members of the public service broadcasting group's board had changed chairman each month by rotation. Sign of the times, an economist was chosen to take the reins of RTVE. Leopoldo Gonzalez Echenique, a state lawyer, graduate in law and economics, was general secretary of NH Hotels.



### [#Spain / Eugeni Sallent replaces Monica Terribas at the head of TV3](#)

In early May Eugeni Sallent, 50, became head of TV3, replacing Monica Terribas, who had been in the job since 2008. Previously Sallent had headed a radio channel, RAC, belonging to the Catalan *Grup Godó*. His task looks tricky though, since *Televisió de Catalunya* has cut TV3's budget by 13%. *"The budget has been getting smaller for two years,"* he says. *"Obviously in this context it is more difficult to achieve objectives, but we will always try to ensure that TV3 is a reference and the leader in Catalonia, both in terms of quality and quantity, even if it has fewer means."*



### [#Serbia / Wages unpaid and strike action at TV Avala](#)

On June 1<sup>st</sup> employees of TV Avala, a private general-interest channel, and their colleagues at Pink 15, a Macedonian channel, protested in Belgrade outside the headquarters of International Pink. They are demanding several months' worth of unpaid wages.

The staff of TV Avala, whose the majority shareholder is Pink International, had already held a 65 day strike between December 2011 and February 2012. Group management had ended the strike by paying three months back-pay and promising to pay the remaining unpaid wages by April 1<sup>st</sup>. But the promises were not kept. The Union of Serbian Journalists supported the protests and felt the authorities should force *"Pink International to pay all its debts without delay."*



### [#France / Merger between France 24 and RFI suspended](#)

It was one of François Hollande's campaign promises. The new Minister of Culture and Communication, Aurélie Filippetti, confirmed the merger of France 24's editorial staff and RFI

would be re-examined. *"It would be logical to stop the process, which sometimes leads to making radio on television and television on radio,"* she announced.

On June 5<sup>th</sup> the process was temporarily frozen for a month, pending the results of an assessment mission which will allow a *"deep review of the file,"* as Ms Filippetti and Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs announced.

The mission is being led by former CEO of RFI and Radio France, Jean-Paul Cluzel. He should hand in his report to Ministers by June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The aim of the merger, decided by Nicolas Sarkozy's government and begun in February, was to give France a news channel capable of competing with Al Jazeera or CNN. RFI staff had quickly shown their hostility to the project, fearing for their working conditions and their channel's identity.

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## PROGRAMMES

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[#Algeria / Egyptian soaps disappear from the Ramadan schedules](#)

In May a new diplomatic incident rekindled tensions between Algerians and Egyptians. Algerian media have strongly criticized Cairo airport staff for carrying the coffin of singer Warda Al Jazairia (photo) on a forklift truck on its way to being repatriated in Algeria. Al Jazairia died in

Egypt on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Coincidence or consequence, according to the daily newspaper *L'Expression* two Egyptian soap operas which had been programmed on Algerian television for the month of Ramadan 2012 (from July 20 to August 19) were suddenly removed from the schedules.

The Egyptian journalist and writer Mahmoud Maârouf had just started production of a series about the Algerian diva's life. Before she died he had obtained the singer's consent during the long conversations on which he based the script. The series, which should be transmitted during Ramadan 2013, will no doubt be closely watched in Algeria.



[#Sweden / CIRCOM rewards regional television programmes](#)

At a ceremony in Malmö, May 18, CIRCOM (European Association of Regional Television) honoured the best programs produced by European regional channels over the past year. The Spanish channel TV Galicia won the Best Drama Award with "Matalobos". Languedoc-

Roussillon France 3 won the Best Documentary Award for "Parasols and Crustaceans" by Laure Pradal, while France 3 Poitou-Charentes won Best Magazine Award for "Investigations of Regions". The Rising Star Award went to Raluca Chirila, a presenter at TVR Iasi (Romania).

The Grand Prize went to a German programme, "Lost Honour: The Story of the Surucu family", broadcast on Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg. By examining the murder of a young Turkish woman killed in Berlin by her brother, this documentary takes another look at the issue of integration in Germany.



### #France / The "Mediterraneo" programme for June

In June, "*Mediterraneo*" takes us to the Middle East, Greece and France to discuss conflicts, trends and political careers, but also the way music can create friendships between people.

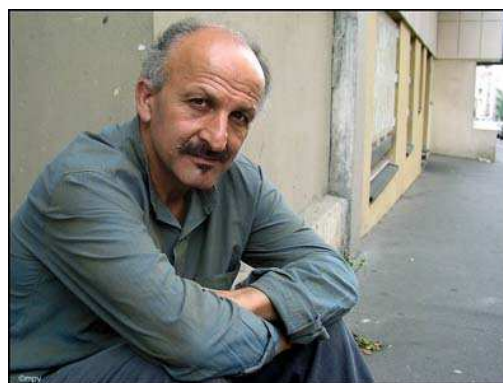
The first report comes from Jordan and looks at Syrian refugees given shelter in the border town of Ramtha, where local people have shown them great solidarity.

"*Mediterraneo*" then goes to the Lebanon to meet the Christian community in Beirut, people who fled Iraq and Egypt in particular, and who now fear for their future in the Lebanon.

In Greece, the third film is about Manolis Glezos (pictured above). At 90 he is still fighting injustice, a battle he began as a teenager.

When music unites Israeli and Palestinian: the group Boogie Balagan, whose texts convey a message of peace. A group the "*Mediterraneo*" team first came across at the Babelmed festival in Marseille.

"*Mediterraneo*" also offers a gallery of portraits of Mediterranean artists. Reza (photo) is one of the best known photographers, especially for his portraits of Commander Massoud. Now living in Paris, he was a member of the resistance in his home country, Iran, before being arrested, tortured and forced into exile. In Marseille, what with oriental spices and walks by the sea, he feels quite at home.



In Portugal, where discretion is an absolute rule, very few voices have been raised against the difficulties of everyday life. For that reason Pedro Abrunhosa's voice resonates with particular intensity. In this time of crisis, this world famous musician puts his writing talent at the service of those who have least and are suffering the most.

Writers, painters, film-makers: Sicily attracts artists from all round the world but very few settle there permanently or even to transform their fascination into their work. Peter Sciortino is an exception. Painter and gallery owner, passionate about religion and history, he knows Sicily's contradictions better than any other. His paintings are reminiscent of the post-impressionism of Toulouse-Lautrec. The old quarter of Vucciria, typically Sicilian and in the 1950's bustling, is what Montmartre in Paris must have been like in the Belle Epoque.

***Mediterraneo is broadcast every Saturday at 11:30 on France 3 Corse-ViaStella, every Sunday at 11:30 on France 3 and France Provence-Alpes Cote d'Azur 3, and also weekly on TV5 Monde.***

## ECONOMY



### #France / France Télévisions' accounts adopted unanimously

Meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup>, *France Televisions'* Board of Directors approved the accounts for the fiscal year 2011. Although the net result is a surplus of nearly €6 million, that is largely “*due to a 7.1% drop in non-programme expenses*” according to an official statement.

While state funding was cut by €28 million, programme costs have increased by 2.7% just as *France Televisions* strengthened its commitment to production.

At the same time advertising revenue was higher than expected (€424 million against €410 million), but nevertheless it is much less than in 2010 (€441 million). Elsewhere the group indicated advertising revenue for the beginning of 2012 was €35 million less than forecast, but that the situation should become more favourable with the Summer Olympics.

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## CINEMA

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[#Algeria / Bachir Derrais AFPA's new chairman](#)

On April 7<sup>th</sup> the producer Bashir Derrais ("Inshallah Sunday" by Yamina Benguigui, "Another World" by Merzak Allouache), was elected chairman of ARPA (Association of Algerian Directors). *"It was time to take control, ARPA had been on standby,"* he told the daily newspaper *Liberté*. *"We decided to come back with a new team to take another look at the main problems."* He said he wanted early discussions with the authorities to work on improving cinemas, easing off censorship and getting better distribution for the national film production.

He wants in particular to give more time for cinema films on Algerian television. *"The television companies refuse to broadcast films, even though they were funded by the Ministry of Culture."*



[#Tunisia/ The FPCA headquarters will be in Tunisia](#)

Tunisia has been chosen as the home of the administrative headquarters of the future *Fond Panafricain du Cinéma et l'Audiovisuel* (FPCA). The news was announced on May 19<sup>th</sup> during the Cannes Film Festival. Tunisian Minister of Culture, Mehdi Mabrouk, was there to lobby the International Organisation of Francophonie (OIF), which is handling the FPCA's creation.

At the request of several African film-makers, he proposed the creation of a Council for allocation of funding, made up of experienced professionals, and also the creation of a

Foundation for African cinema, which would be an executive body.

The FPCA will aim to support the production of African films for cinema and television, to encourage quality pan-African films and series, and develop co-operation between the countries of the south.





#### [#Spain / Beginning of the end for the Ciudad de la Luz studios?](#)

After a full enquiry into a possible breach of competition rules, the European Commission ordered *Ciudad de la Luz* studios in Alicante to pay back the €265 million that had been invested by the *Generalitat Valenciana*, arguing that it was “*illegal public financing*”. According to the Commission “*no private investor would have agreed to invest on the*

*same terms*”, and this funding by the Region “*greatly upsets the balance of competition between European studios.*”

The Commission has given the studios four months to return the €265 million. The chairman of the *Generalitat Valenciana*, Alberto Fabra, has in turn announced that the region would appeal the decision, which would probably permanently ruin the company, already in deficit.

The *Ciudad de la Luz* studios were opened in 2005. Since then more than sixty features have been made there, including Alex de la Iglesia's recent “The Last Circus”.



#### [#France / Rachid Bouchareb and Gérard Depardieu in the Israeli-Palestine conflict](#)

At the last Cannes Film Festival the French actor Gerard Depardieu agreed in principle to appear in Rachid Bouchareb's (photo) next film, “Foreign Affairs”. It will look at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by following a retired French diplomat brought back by the U.S. government to negotiate a peace treaty between Israel and Palestine.

The scenario has already been finalized, the Algerian director is now casting. No start date has yet been given for shooting, but it is hoped the film will be released in 2013.

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## FESTIVALS

### **Festival of the month:**

### **The 15<sup>th</sup> Ismailia International Documentary and Short Film Festival , from June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2012**



For its 15th edition, the Ismailia festival has a new section, "Egyptian Nostalgia". The festival chairman, Amir El Emry, announced this parallel programme which will show the first films of famous Egyptian directors. The idea is to project restored copies of these films so that a wider audience can get to know them, with screenings in cultural centres and theatres.

Among the films opening the section this year, spectators can (re)discover Mohamed Khan's "Watermelon" (short film), Atef Al-Tayeb's "El Mokayda", "Hayah Gadida" by Ashraf Fahmi, Said Marzouk's "Toboul", "Meataf" by Hussein Kamal, and Ali Badrakhan's "Abbas, the inventor". Each of these films will be transferred to digital and the screenings will be free.

Other special sections are planned, including one on "The Revolution seen from elsewhere". It will include screenings of Stefano Savona's "Tahrir, Liberation Square", and "Revolution ½" by Omar Alsharqawy and Krim Alhakim.

The Ismailia Festival will also have its usual sections: documentary, short film and animation. The organizers received over 240 films this year, 56 will be in the competition.

More information and the whole programme: <http://www.ismailiafilmfest.com/>

## OTHER FESTIVALS

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[#Monaco / The URTI Grand Prix for ERT's "Sayome"](#)

The 31st URTI International Grand Prix for Creative Documentaries, presented on June 11<sup>th</sup> in Monaco, was awarded to Nikos Dayandas' "Sayome". This 56-minute Greek documentary from ERT follows a Japanese woman who left home at 18 to live on the island of Crete with a sailor. 35 years later, learning her mother has died, she returns to Japan with her son.

The Silver Medal went to "Sunday in Brazzaville", by Enric Bach and Adria Monès and made by TV3 (Spain), a film centred around three people in the Congolese capital: a king of sapa (a West African fashion for men to wear ultra-smart clothes), a rapper and a wrestler.

255 documentaries were sent in by 182 TV channels from 72 different countries. The jury which had to decide between the 10 documentaries in the final selection was chaired by Claude Lelouch (pictured, right).

Interviewed by Jean-Luc Hees (photo, left), chairman of URTI and Radio France, Lelouch gave the public his vision of the documentary: *"A documentary film-maker must have a point of view, he or she must fix a particular target, pursue it relentlessly and reach it. [...] In the cinema, we choose what film we're going to see. We usually come across documentaries by chance. If it grabs us in the first 5 minutes, we'll stick with it [...] Documentary and television are made for each other."*



He also said, in the Festival magazine: *"A documentary film-maker has to be in the right place at the right time. He or she must possess inordinate curiosity and work 24 hours a day. I would like to travel round the world for a year or two taking the planet's pulse to see where we have gone wrong. I would travel with a tiny camera hidden in my glasses, because as soon as people see a camera their attitudes change, so does what they say. Spontaneity disappears. I would like to dig deep into humanity because it's there we can understand the great global turmoil."*



#### [#Morocco / Call for films for the Khouribga Documentary Festival](#)

The fourth edition of FIFDOK (Khouribga International Documentary Film Festival) will be held from August 29<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. There are 5 awards for the films in competition. This year Turkey will be the festival's guest of honour.

All film-makers, Moroccan or foreign, can take part. All applications must be received before June 30<sup>th</sup> 2012.

More information: [www.afidok.org](http://www.afidok.org) / [afidok@gmail.com](mailto:afidok@gmail.com)



#### [#Romania / A new festival about politics](#)

From June 11<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, Bucharest will host the first Cinepolitica, a festival specializing in political film. Twelve drama films and documentaries will compete for the Cinepolitica Trophy and the Cinepolitica Special Award. France is well represented by Luc Besson's "The Lady" and Pierre Schoeller's "The Exercise of State", but it'll also be a chance to discover Stevan Filipovic's Serbian drama "Skinhead" and the Bulgarian documentary "The Boy Who Was King" by Andrey Paounov.

Workshops, discussions and special programs are planned, a Costa-Gavras retrospective and a chance to see (or see again) Paolo Sorrentino's "Il Divo".

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



### [#France / Michael Haneke wins award for the second time at Cannes](#)

The jury of the 65th Cannes Film Festival, chaired by the Italian director Nanni Moretti, awarded the *Palme d'Or* to "Love", a film by the Austrian Michael Haneke, about a couple of octogenarians facing physical handicap. Haneke had already received a *Palme d'Or* in 2009 for "The White Ribbon". Italian director Matteo Garrone won the Grand Jury Prize for "Reality" (photo). The Romanian film "Beyond the Hills" by Cristian Mungiu took Best Screenplay and Best Actress (a tie between Cosmina Stratan and Cristina Flutur). "Silence", by the Turkish director L. Rezan Yesilbas was Best Short Film. Mediterranean films got awards in a different section, *Un Certain Regard*: that jury's special mention went to "Children of Sarajevo", a Bosnian-Turkish-French co-production by Aida Bagic. In the Directors' Fortnight section, "Rengaine" by the Franco-Algerian Rachid Djaïdani won the FIPRESCI Prize. Finally, the Algerian Merzak Allouache left with the Europa Cinemas Label for his film "Le repentir".



### [#France / Final chance to send films for the 34<sup>th</sup> Cinemed](#)

July 13<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for registering short films, documentaries and experimental films for Montpellier's 34th Cinemed Festival. Projects for a bursary to help finance a film's development must also be filed before that date. Feature films can be registered until August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Films made during or after 2011 are eligible. By theme or treatment they must add to and enrich the way the Mediterranean is shown on film. The director must be from a Mediterranean country, the Black Sea, Portugal or Armenia.

[Click here to register your film.](#)





### [#Switzerland/ "Asmaa" given top award at FIFOG](#)

The Egyptian film "Asmaa" by Amr Salama received the Gold FIFOG in the feature film category at the 7th Geneva International Festival of Oriental Films, held from April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 6<sup>th</sup>. Based on a true story, this feature film is about a woman's struggle to get medical care when she is HIV positive. The Tunisian Moez Kamoun took the Silver FIFOG for his film "The End of December" about life in a Tunisian village.

In the documentary category, an Iranian film won the Golden FIFOG, while Moroccan director Abdelilah El Jaouhary won the Silver FIFOG with "The Dancer", about the double life of a transvestite, man by day, female "dancer" at night, living in a society of conservative moral values. Special mention went to "Tahrir 2011: The Good, the Bad & the Politician" by Tamer Ezzat, Ayten Amin and Amr Salama, another look at the January 25<sup>th</sup> Revolution in Egypt.

Thirty feature films and about twenty documentaries were in competition. There were also 20 short films competing for an award, including Amin Sidi Boumediene's "Tomorrow, Algiers?" which took away a Silver FIFOG.



### [#United States / South-East Europe cinema celebrated in Los Angeles](#)

Thirty films, mainly from Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia, Croatia and Greece, were screened from May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles, as part of SEE Fest, the Festival of Southeast European Film. The 'Bridging The Borders' Award for Best Picture went to the Turkish

"Time Takes a Long Time" (photo) by Ozcan Alper about the trauma of the Kurdish people.

Slovenian director Miha Mazzini won the Best Short Film award with "The Visit". Best Short Documentary went to a news report by the Serbian Milan Miletic, "Murder Revisited" about hooligans.

Finally, a Romanian romantic comedy by Alexandru Maftai "Hello! How Are You?" clearly wowed the American audiences, since it won the Audience Award.





[The United States / Plural+ encourages young directors](#)

The UNAOC (United Nations Alliance of Civilizations) and IOM (International Organisation for Migration) are organizing a festival called Plural+ specially for young film-makers (between 9 and 25). It is open to any short video from 1 to 5 minutes long which deals with the issues of migration, diversity and social integration. There will be three age categories (9-12 years, 13-17

years, 18-25 years) and the winner of each will be selected by an international jury. The three winners will be invited to New York to present their work. Registration is open until July 1<sup>st</sup>.

[Click here for more information.](#)

**Find the list of all the June festivals on our website:**

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

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## WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH

**Web Series TV** ([www.webseriestv.it](http://www.webseriestv.it))



Web Series TV is an Italian site featuring series which have been specifically conceived for viewing online. Starting from the premise that although there are hundreds of web-series on the Net there is no effective, centralized platform for them, a team of experts, professionals and film fans created this site to make it easier to find them. Currently there are about a hundred web-series on the site.

An impressive number for a site that is still in beta. You can find series which have been running for several seasons as well as mini-series of just a few episodes. The series are classified according to where they were made (Italy / rest of world), but also by type. At the moment comedy is the most popular, with about thirty comedy series on webseriestv.it. Some genres are not yet represented, like documentaries, but Web TV Series hopes to include and list every type of series, from westerns to science fiction through children's programmes.

The site uses the principle of "crowd-sourcing", increasing its database through the participation of Internet users, film-makers and enthusiasts, who can provide or upload content directly via YouTube.

Putting series on the well-known video-sharing site enables you to see some episodes with subtitles in several languages. But to enjoy everything the site has to offer you have to be able to read either Italian or English...until its final version is launched, which should not be long.

## THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY

[#Palestine / Become a co-producer of the documentary "Route 60"](#)

[#Croatia / Launch of the Balkans' Memory project](#)

[#France / Call for candidates for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Web Pitch](#)

[#France / Call for directors for a Mediterranean project in Marseille](#)

[#France / CFI supports seven bloggers from southern Mediterranean countries for the Cannes Film Festival](#)

[#France / Marseille will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anna Lindh Forum in 2013](#)

[#Méditerranée / Publication de deux études sur la production](#)



[#Palestine / Become a coproducer of the documentary "Route 60"](#)

Alaa Ashkar, a Palestinian director but Israeli citizen, is currently in post-production of his new documentary, "Route 60 - The Path of Self through the Other". Having grown up on Israeli territory, 25 kilometres from the border, he left the area for the

first time in his life to go and discover the West Bank. During the trip he filmed his encounters with ordinary Palestinians, which led him to question who he is, his origins, and the relationship of man to the modern world.

The general public can help finish the production. A page has been created on the site Touscoprod so that anyone can donate (minimum €10). In return donors will receive several advantages, such as a DVD of the finished film or free participation in a director's workshop.

[Click here to become a co-producer of the film.](#)



[#Croatia / Launch of the Balkans' Memory project](#)

In Zagreb on June 1<sup>st</sup> INA launched the Balkan Memory project, to safeguard and promote the audiovisual heritage of seven Balkan states

(Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia). Conferences, seminars and regional training sessions will be the basis of Balkan Memory, which is happening in partnership with CoPeAM, the Croatian Audiovisual Centre and the Centre of Film Archives in Tirana (Albania).

The short term goal is to encourage politicians and donors to "*start an ambitious preservation and digitization policy*" of broadcast and cinema films. In the longer term, INA hopes to create an image bank available to everyone, better distribution for the films and efficient networking for the region's professionals.



### [#France / Call for candidates for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Web Pitch](#)

PRIMI, the network of film professionals working in Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur and the Marseille Web Fest, in partnership with the CMCA, are organizing the second Web Pitch:

- ✧ **A unique opportunity** to pitch your web project, whether a web fiction, a web series or a web doc at any stage of development, before a panel chaired by Boris Razon, director of New Writing and Transmedia at *France Télévisions* with Daniel Khamdamov (ARTE), Amel Cogard (*France Télévisions Education*), Morgan Bouchet (Orange), Pierre Block de Friberg (France 5), Nicolas Thorin (M6), Fadilha Mehal (ACSE) and Jean-Marc Merriaux (CNDP).
- ✧ **A workshop pitch** for the 8 projects selected, led by Kathie Fong Yoneda.
- ✧ **€ 5,000 for the best pitch**

As well as the pitch, which aims to foster new collaborations for the selected projects, the call is also an opportunity to find creative and innovative projects, to bring out new talent and reveal the potential of what is on the Web. **All professionals from Europe and the Mediterranean are invited to reply to this call for projects as from today. The deadline for applications is June 30<sup>th</sup>.**

[Click here to consult the call for projects](#) and [here to download the registration file](#)  
**Contact & information:** Amalia Germain / [pitch@marseillewebfest.com](mailto:pitch@marseillewebfest.com)



### [#France / Call for directors for a Mediterranean project in Marseille](#)

The production company Constellation Factory and Marseille's Junior Chamber of Commerce are looking for five Mediterranean directors to make an ambitious film project about Marseille and the Mediterranean. All starting from the same basis,

which will be a fictional situation, each director will have to write a scenario for a short film centred round one central character. A feature film will then be made by intersecting and intertwining these five characters.

Candidates must have the support of a producer from their country of origin, and they must have been selected or won awards at one or several international festivals since 2009. They must submit a completed application form, including a CV of the producer and the director, a synopsis of one to two pages written around the fictional basis proposed, and a statement of intent. The deadline for applications is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

For more information: Telephone: +33 (0)1 77 19 37 80

email: [medit.light@gmail.com](mailto:medit.light@gmail.com) / Web-site: [www.lumieres-sur-mediterranee.org](http://www.lumieres-sur-mediterranee.org)



### [#France / CFI supports seven bloggers from southern Mediterranean countries for the Cannes Film Festival](#)

Canal France International (CFI) sponsored seven southern blogger journalists from Georgia, Egypt, the Lebanon, Tunisia,

Uganda, Togo and Madagascar) at the 65th Cannes Film Festival. During the 10-day festival the operator gave over its site "Cannes seen by ..." to the seven journalists. They covered the event, gave their opinion on the films, interviewed some of the directors... This different take on the festival was also a chance to look at and discuss films which the traditional media scarcely mention.

All the articles are still consultable here: <http://www.cannesvupar.com/>.



### [#France / Marseille will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anna Lindh Forum in 2013](#)

On May 30<sup>th</sup> a memorandum of intent was signed by the Anna Lindh Foundation's president, André Azoulay, and the CEO of Marseille-Provence 2013, Jean-Francois Chougnet, to make it official that the Anna Lindh Forum will be held in Marseille next year. This second forum will be held from April 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, and it's planned to accommodate about a thousand people discussing and debating citizenship and inter-cultural dialogue in the Mediterranean.

The first forum was held in Barcelona in March 2010.

The Anna Lindh Foundation for Dialogue between Cultures has been working since 2005 to bring the people on both sides of the Mediterranean closer together.





### [#Mediterranean / Publication of two studies about production in the Mediterranean area](#)

The Euromed Audiovisuel III programme, through its Capacity Development Support Unit (CDSU), had made public the results of a study on co-productions in the southern Mediterranean countries ([click here](#)). Led by Lucas Rosant, co-ordinator of the Dubai Film Connection, it presents practical information about 221 co-productions with Tunisian, Algerian, Moroccan, Libyan, Egyptian, Jordanian, Palestinian, Israeli and/or Lebanese partners. For each project, data about the film-maker, producer and co-producers can be consulted, as well as the way each film was financed and its subsequent success at international festivals and in the market-place.

CDSU also published another study about the funding available for film and broadcasting production in the Mediterranean's southern countries ([click here](#)). This guide is an inventory of the different grants, tax incentives and other sources of funding available to producers in the southern Mediterranean.

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## STOP PRESS

[#Jordan / Final chance to register for the Rawi Screenwriters Lab](#)

[#Spain / Call for projects for the San Sebastian Co-production Forum](#)

[#France / Second 4M conference at Montpellier](#)

[#France / The 2012 Albert Londres Award in memory of Gilles Jacquier](#)



[#Jordan / Final chance to register for the Rawi Screenwriters Lab](#)

Every year since 2004, the Jordanian Royal Film Commission has organized a workshop for Arab writers working on their first or second drama film.

This year the workshop will be held in Wadi Feynan,

from November 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. Selected candidates will be able to work on their scenarios, finalizing them with experienced professionals.

The deadline for submissions is July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.

For more information: [www.film.jo](http://www.film.jo) / [rawi@film.jo](mailto:rawi@film.jo)



FESTIVAL DE SAN SEBASTIÁN

[#Spain / Call for projects for the San Sebastian Co-production Forum](#)

As part of the San Sebastian International Film Festival, there will be an annual forum on documentary co-production on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> 2012. The aim of this eighth edition is yet again to provide somewhere for those working in broadcasting to meet up and work on collaborative projects

with producers from other regions of Europe.

There is also a candidate call for producers wishing to see their latest projects reviewed by a panel of experts. The selected projects will be discussed at a preparatory workshop two days before the forum. Applications are open until July 10<sup>th</sup> and the form can be downloaded from the IBAIA site (Association of Independent Producers from the Basque Country): [www.ibaia.org](http://www.ibaia.org)

The San Sebastian Festival itself will be from the 21<sup>st</sup> September to the 29<sup>th</sup>.



#### [#France / Second 4M conference at Montpellier](#)

CFI continues its partnership with ESJ Pro Montpellier (*Ecole Supérieure de Journalisme*) and Rue89 for the 4M symposium, focussing on journalism and new media. This second edition will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at Montpellier's Paul Valéry University, and will bring together more than 150 media professionals from around the world. The programme includes 16 workshops, two plenary sessions and four debates: "Is the Internet a new kingmaker?", "Can news on the web pay its way?", "From Citizen Journalism to professional journalism: the keys to a change over" and "Presidential election: a victory for the internet." Among the guests who will take part: Pierre Haski of Rue89, Andy Carvin, from the American public radio NPR, Wael Abbas, Egyptian journalist, Louis Dreyfus from *Le Monde* and Alexandre Brachet from the production company Upian.

More information: [www.4m.cfi.fr](http://www.4m.cfi.fr)



#### [#France / The 2012 Albert Londres Award in memory of Gilles Jacques](#)

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> the 2012 Albert Londres Award was presented at a ceremony at the Senate in Paris. The winner of the print category was Alfred de Montesquiou (photo, left) a reporter for Paris Match who covered the Arab spring revolutions, including Syria and Libya. The winners in broadcasting were Audrey Gallet and Alice Odiot (photo, right) for their documentary "Zambia, Who Gets the Benefit from the Copper?", broadcast on France 5 in 2011.

This edition of the Albert Londres Award was in memory of Gilles Jacques, the France 2 reporter killed at Homs on January 11<sup>th</sup> during shelling by the Syrian army. He won the Prize in 2003 for his news report "Nablus, ghost town" filmed on the West Bank.

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**Translated from the French  
by Tim King**