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MEDITERRANEE AUDIOVISUELLE Monthly News letter

In brief in this issue: the request for proposals for *Maarifa*, a project funding multimedia educational programmes in Arab countries; Morocco's SNRT launches a new broad interest channel in Tamazight (a Berber language); Close Up on *Ayam Beirut Al Cinema'iya* – Cinema Days in Beirut – and on this month's web-site www.Casa-Mediterraneo.es

And above all, please be aware this is your last chance to send your documentary if you wish to take part in the 15th International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and Current Affairs Films in Marseille!

Do it before May 24th!

Happy reading to you all.

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HEADLINE STORY



PRIX INTERNATIONAL DU DOCUMENTAIRE ET DU REPORTAGE MEDITERRANEEN



Last chance to send your films for the 15th International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and Current Affairs Films.

The deadline is May 24th, don't forget!!!

Six awards are given to films selected for the final stage of the competition

- **France Télévisions Grand Prix for the Best Mediterranean documentary in the "Mediterranean Issues" category (6,000 €)**

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

- **"Mediterranean Memories" (5,000 €), sponsored by INA**

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

- **"First Documentary Work" (5,000 €) sponsored by RAI**

A prize for a director who hasn't made more than 3 films, of any kind.

Films made within a school or as part of a training programme may also compete.

- **"Mediterranean Art, Heritage and Cultures" (5,000 €) sponsored by *Marseille Provence 2013***

An award for the documentary film which highlights the region's artistic life (music, plastic arts, live theatre, visual arts), its heritage (sites, monuments, works of art, archaeology, architecture) and other instances of Mediterranean culture (folklore and traditions).

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

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

- **Investigative Documentary (5,000 €), sponsored by *Radio France***

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

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

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

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

To access the Festival's rules in three languages (French, English, Italian) as well as the registration form:

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



[# France – Arab Countries / Publication of the call for projects \[request for proposal\] for “Maarifa”](#)

Maarifa is an ambitious project created by *France Télévisions*, *Canal France International* (CFI) and the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), under the banner of the Union for the Mediterranean. Its purpose is

to support the development of multimedia educational programmes, and at the beginning of April it launched a request for proposals.

The appeal is open to all Arab broadcasting companies, public or private, which are members of the ASBU and which either conceptualize or produce multimedia educational programmes.

The aim is to choose three projects which, under the umbrella of *Maarifa*, will benefit from close, personal guidance over 18 months, either for the conception, writing and making of a pilot for an educational series or for the preparatory stages of a multimedia educational platform.

The aims of the *Maarifa* project are to:

- Re-invigorate educational content by guiding and helping TV companies create innovating audiovisual systems which would be usable on several media
- Consider and adopt new approaches to audiovisual consumption and production by strengthening the role of the broadcasters' content editors, so they can integrate non-linear programming and exploit existing educational content in a context wider than a simple terrestrial broadcast
- Renew and strengthen the artistic, technical or managerial competence of those working in the region's new media and audiovisual industry.
- Mobilise the greatest number of partners interested in education via the media, by helping the region's players network together, exchange experiences and set up co-productions.

Registration forms can be written in French or Arabic.

The deadline for receiving them is the 16th June 2010

For more information: www.maarifa.tv

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LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

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[# Morocco / "Tamazight" – SNRT's new channel in Tamazight \(Berber\)](#)

As part of the diversification of the audiovisual scene in Morocco, SNRT (the country's public TV) launched a new broad interest channel in the Tamazight language in March (Cf. Med audio February 2010). It is called "Tamazight" and is born out of a desire to give Morocco a powerful public broadcasting sector, catering to the wide

spectrum of Moroccan viewers' demands and tastes. The channel is the result of intense, fruitful discussions between the main players of the Moroccan audiovisual sector – that is, the Ministry of Communication, the SNRT, the *Institut Royal de la Culture Amazigh* (IRCAM) and the *Haute Autorité de la Communication Audiovisuelle* (HACA – a senior broadcasting advisory body).

Viewers across the whole country can receive the new channel either on digital terrestrial (TNT) or via the Nilesat satellite.

Programmes are broadcast six hours every weekday, between 6.00pm and midnight, and ten hours on Saturday and Sunday, from 2.00 pm to midnight.

To meet the quality demands of a modern television channel, "Tamazight"'s studios are fitted out with latest generation equipment, operated by a staff of young journalists and technicians trained in all branches of broadcasting. The greatest care was taken over the journalists' recruitment, since the new channel has to keep a balance between the three variants of the Tamazight language (Tachelhiyt, Tarifit and Tamazight). Nearly all the channel's programmes are sub-titled in Arabic.

For its first season "Tamazight" is offering a varied schedule of broad interest programmes aimed at the widest possible public, from political, economic and religious debates to evenings of entertainment, youth-orientated broadcasts, children's programmes and, naturally, sport.



Libya / Launch of a nationalist radio station

It's called "*Watani Kebir*" (My Great Country) and it began broadcasting on the 13th April – celebrating the 22nd summit of the Arab League which took place in Sirt in central Libya. Saïd Touati, *Watani Kebir's* director, explained that it's an Arab satellite radio station aimed at a general public: "*supporting the free, aware voice, it is committed to the unity of the Arab world through the broadcast of unifying patriotic speeches, songs which bear witness to the nation's historic journey.*"



Israel / Plan for a turnaround in the Public Radio and Television office

After several weeks of staff strikes of the Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA), the trades unions and the Treasury managed to find an agreement at the end of March. The agreement,

covering the next seven years, specifies that:

- 700 of the current 1,900 jobs will be suppressed (letting the staff retire).
- A 5-day, 41-hour working week will be instituted
- There will be a 5% wage increase, back-dated to January 2008

The new convention has to be drafted in legal terms by May and then signed by the Treasury, the IBA and the unions.

As a reminder, the IBA is made up of two public television channels and eight radio stations. Its losses are estimated at 100 million shekels (20 million euro).



Moldavia / Creation of a Moldavian channel

Several Romanian newspapers announced at the beginning of April that a new Moldavian channel, *Publika TV* had been launched. Basically a news channel, it will also offer political, economic or social chat-shows. The news programmes will be shown in Romanian and Russian. Within Romania the channel will also be broadcast on cable.

(Source: French embassy in Romania)



[# France / Suspension of transmission of the Al Rahma channel](#)

The French CSA (*Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel* – Higher Audiovisual Council) has asked Eutelsat to suspend transmission of the Egyptian channel *Al Rahma*. The French organisation sent an ultimatum to the satellite operator following remarks made on the 31st October, during a programme about the Israeli-

Palestine conflict. The remarks, allegedly describing the Jewish people in a demeaning and degrading manner, could be construed as hateful, violent or anti-Semitic. Such remarks are contrary to Article 15 of the French law of the 30th September 1986, forbidding the broadcast of any programme inciting hate or violence for reasons of religion or nationality.



[# France / Job offers at France 24](#)

As from the beginning of June, the 24-hour news service France 24, will begin broadcasting in Arabic from 10 am to 3 pm. Because of this, the channel is looking for journalists to bring the news staff up to strength. Candidates must have significant experience in broadcasting (television, publishing) and speak fluent literary Arabic and French. More precisely, there are vacancies for a Senior Editor, Deputy Editor, journalist editor and

web-journalist.

Candidates must:

- have a sound knowledge of international and economic current affairs and a good general culture
- know what is important in a story and have the ability and experience to edit
- be able to work in a hurry and react to unforeseen events (live broadcasts)
- be perfectly fluent in French and literary Arabic (spoken and written).

The jobs currently on offer are basically for freelance journalists, both full and half-time.

The jobs would be based in France at Issy-les-Moulineaux

As a reminder, France 24 is a channel of continuous television news, looking at international events from a French point of view. It broadcasts 24 hours a day on three channels, in French, English and Arabic.

If you are interested, send your CV and a letter of motivation to:

recrutementarabophone@france24.com

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PROGRAMMES

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[#Algeria / Call for programmes for the month of Ramadan](#)

Following the call for programmes in February by EPTV, Algeria's public broadcasting group, more than a hundred production companies responded, submitting 346 proposals. Programmes of every hue are needed to fill the schedules on EPTV's five television channels during the month of Ramadan (this year around the 11th August to the 10th September). A work group analysed the 346 proposals and pre-selected 44 projects,

including dramas, games, competitions, religious programmes, programmes made with a hidden camera, cooking programmes and shorts.

But for those who were not accepted, all is not lost. Their proposals will be examined again for possible inclusion in the 2010-2011 programme schedule, beginning in mid-September 2010.



[# Morocco / Second season of the educational and cultural game-show "Rawabit"](#)

At the end of March *Al Oula*, a channel of Morocco's public television group SNRT, launched the second season of its educational and cultural game-show "Rawabit". Sixteen teams of three candidates, chosen from across the whole kingdom, compete for the prize. The

questions are about Morocco today and its culture, as well as current affairs subjects affecting the country. The game is organised as a tournament going from 16 through quarter and semi-finals down to a final between 2 teams.

The final section of the programme shows items about Morocco and the European Union, illustrating Moroccan projects funded by the EU.

The prize for the winning team includes a cultural and informative trip to Brussels, with a visit to the European institutions, and IT material.



France / Looking for a co-producer for a documentary on Saint Lazarus

Suzel Roche, a documentary director in Marseille, is currently looking for a co-producer for a film she is planning about Saint Lazarus and the cult of his relics around the Mediterranean (Marseille, Larnaka (Cyprus), Jerusalem and Bethany (Israel-Palestine)). Started with the help of ethnologist Alain Monestier

(Mucem), this project has now been written up with the help of anthropologist André Julliard (IDEMEC / *Institut d'Etudes Ethnologiques en Méditerranée*). Now it's a matter of filming religious activities concerning Saint Lazarus, ceremonies shared by Catholics (France), Orthodox Christians (Cyprus) and the new evangelical branches (Israel and Palestine) across the Mediterranean. The programme will implicitly question the religious and political hopes which are expressed in a surprisingly similar way in the different places. Hopes strongly anchored in the current context of crises in both the northern and southern halves of the Mediterranean.

For more information you can contact: suzel.roche@gmail.com or telephone: 00 33 (0)6 09 08 46 07



France / "Mediterraneo" in May

Croatia: a country at peace, able to prove its maturity. For nearly seven years Croatia has been negotiating with the European Union.

Little by little the country is coming up to the

standard required for joining, which could happen quite soon. At its head, a new president, Ivo Josipovic. He epitomises change and the hope of a new economic dynamism.

The forgotten Sahrawi: created in 1976, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic is a landless state. Since its creation, this strip of desert has been the subject of dispute between Morocco and the Sahrawi independence fighters. As a symbol of this conflict, the wall of sand built by the Moroccans. Rarely seen pictures of refugees – the forgotten people of this situation. Yet 35 years on they still have hope of one day getting their land back.

Sicilian heritage: Fought over in ancient wars, a land of legends going back to the oldest civilisations, Sicily still bears signs of its tumultuous past. Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks and Romans – all have left many remains. A heritage of a mythic, fascinating island, unique in the Mediterranean. The example of the necropolis at Pantalica.

Music in the Mediterranean: her background is Arab music, his gypsy music. On stage they bring together darbuka drum, duduk and accordion in a show which perfectly expresses the Mediterranean and its mixed people. At Martigues, near Marseille, Souad

Massi and Eric Fernandez prepare their first work together “*Choeurs de Cordoue*” (Choirs of Cordoba”).

Master glass-maker: If it's seldom seen in the West, it is even rarer in Arab countries. Sadika Keskes is a master glass-maker, an art she learnt in Venice and which she now practises at Sidi Bou Saïd on the Gulf of Tunis. She has brought her glass-work and other creations into one company, where she works alongside many other women.

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[# Italy / Mediaset and Sky Italia in conflict about the soccer World Cup rights](#)

The Italian television group Mediaset, owned by Silvio Berlusconi's family, wants to be able to re-transmit the 2010 soccer World Cup to subscribers of its pay-TV channels. To do this it will have to acquire the rights from Australian magnate Rupert Murdoch's Sky Italia,

which owns them in exclusivity. And Murdoch is refusing to sell. Mediaset has asked that an arbitration judgement be given in its favour. The match has only just begun.



[# Spain / 2010 World Cup: *Telecinco* wins the broadcasting rights](#)

Spanish channel *Telecinco* has won the offers appeal launched in March for the right to broadcast part of the 2010 Soccer World Cup. This acquisition strengthens *Telecinco's* strategy of basing its broadcasting on sporting events. *Sogecable*, which bought the World Cup rights for some 90 million euro, has sold *Telecinco* a

pack of eight programmes: the opening ceremony, three preliminary matches played by the Spanish team, two matches from the last 16, and the quarter and semi finals. In addition *Telecinco* will be able to re-transmit the World Cup Final from South Africa.



Grupo PRISA

[# Spain / Agreement between *Prisa* and *Telecinco* to bring them closer](#)

The Spanish media group *Prisa* has signed an outline agreement with *Telecinco*, a television channel controlled by Mediaset.

Telecinco will absorb *Cuatro*, *Prisa's* unencrypted television channel, and buy into its pay-TV channel, Digital Plus. The agreement covers the different procedures, the calendar and other details to complete

the integration of *Cuatro's* unencrypted television activity within *Telecinco* as well as the sale of 22% of *Prisa's* pay-TV channel, Digital Plus, to *Telecinco*. The total cost of the operation will be 1.05 million euro, to be paid by *Telecinco* in cash and shares. Since *Prisa* is currently weighed down by a debt of roughly 5 billion euro, this should give the group a slight breathing space.



[# Spain / Improvement on private channels' advertising revenue](#)

The two main Spanish private television channels, *Telecinco* and *Antena 3*, saw their advertising revenue rocket in the first quarter of the year, coinciding with the end of advertising on public channels.

Telecinco's revenue increased by 32.2% in the first quarter of 2010 compared to its 2009 figure. *Antena 3's* revenues leapt by 20.3% to 167.89 million euro. As a reminder, the Spanish government decided to get rid of advertising on public radio and television as from last January. This decision provided a shot in the arm for the private channels which had to contend with steeply diminishing revenues caused by the economic recession in which the country has plunged since 2008.



[# Israel / Israeli productions sell well abroad](#)

Ahead of MIP TV, held at Cannes between the 12th and 16th April, Ananey Communications signed a series of agreements for the sale of its discovery programme, "Market Value". Producers from Spain, Croatia, Singapore and the Philippines have purchased the broadcasting rights for this English-language programme, whose

idea is to visit markets across the world. In 2009 Ananey was the first Israeli company to produce English-language programmes for the international market which don't need to be adapted locally.

During MIP TV, Smartoonz a young Israeli company, sold its animation "Monkey See, Monkey Do" to France 5, Walt Disney Company and Al Jazeera Kids.



france télévisions

[# France / France Télévisions: 19.6 million euros net profit](#)

France Télévisions generated a net profit of 19.6 million euro in 2009 – a complete turnaround after predictions that the company would not balance its books until 2012.

In 2008, the public group marked up a net loss of 78.4 million euro.

According to the group, this return to a balanced account is due to three things: an increase of 97.1 million euro net revenue, control over all costs, good performance – particularly in the commercial subsidiaries (+ 30.7 million euro compared to the forecast). The 2009 budget included a deficit of 135.3 million euro.

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[#Algeria / Filming Rachid Benhadj's "Parfums d'Alger"](#)

At the end of April the Algerian director Rachid Benhadj began shooting "Parfums d'Alger" (The Scent of Algiers) in Bouzaréah, a suburb of Algiers. The main role, Karima, is played by the French actress Isabelle Adjani (whose father is Algerian of Turkish origin). Karima is a famous Algerian photographer who has lived in Paris for the last 20 years – she fled her country to escape the tyranny of her father. But now the old man is dying she has to come back to her country, to her family, where she

re-discovers the gardens, these gardens which witnessed a drama....

This return to the past, a sort of therapy, will allow her to unravel the thread of her own life, to re-discover her own roots and the land of her origins.



[# Tunisia / Release of "Manolete" produced by Tarek Ben Ammar](#)

On the 2nd April "Manolete", was finally released in Tunisia. The film was written and directed by Menno Meyjes and co-produced for Quinta Communications by Tunisian producer Tarek Ben Ammar and Spaniard Andres Vicente Gomez. Manuel Rodriguez Sanchez, known as Manolete, was born in Cordoba in 1917. By the 1940's he had become Spain's most famous bull-fighter. Used to spending his life either in lonely hotel rooms or in the arena, this quiet, reserved man's ascetic routine is turned upside down when he meets Lupe Sino, a voluptuous divorced actress. A man who faces death every day allows a woman passionately in love with life to lead him towards the light. Menno Meyjes has said that "it's a

story of contrasts, shadows and light, of life and death, of sand and blood."

In the main roles two living legends of the cinema: Penelope Cruze and Adrien Brody.

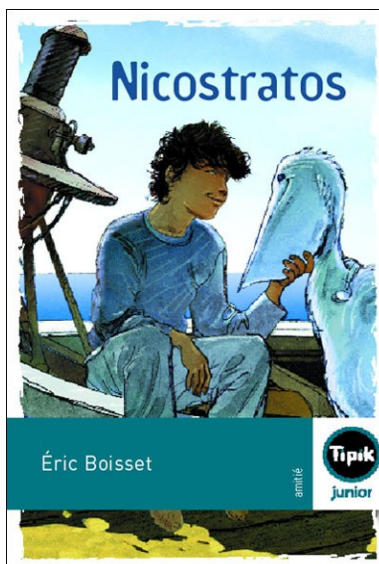


Italy / Release of “Sotto il Celio Azzurro”

The Edoardo Winspeare's documentary “*Sotto il Celio Azzurro*” (Under the Blue Sky) was released on the 30th April. *Celio Azzurro* is in fact a small primary school in the heart of Rome. A small group of teachers fight to give young children an education which will open their minds to different cultures. A fight which is increasingly difficult today, since Italy is becoming more and more distrustful of foreigners.

The children in the school come from 32 different countries, and are between three and five years old. They are taught how to live together, becoming aware of their differences

and what intellectual richness these differences can bring. Not to be afraid of the other, but instead to live with respect for each other.



Greece / Preparing to film “Greek Summer”

French director Olivier Horlait is currently preparing to shoot “A Greek Summer”, taken from Eric Boisset's novel “*Nicostratos*”. It is about the deep friendship between a young Greek fisherman and a pelican.....Yannis lives with his father, a sullen, difficult man since the death of his wife. One day Yanni exchanges his gold cross for a strange bird, thus saving it from being killed. Without telling his father he brings the bird to his bedroom, giving it a magical name:

Nicostratus. A tender friendship grows between the two of them. But Nicostratus quickly grows, it becomes difficult to hide him. What will Yannis' father do when he learns about this bird – and about the loss of the golden cross? Shooting on the Greek islands of Sifnos and Melos (the Cyclades), in Athens and Piraeus, begins in May and should be completed by June.

The film makers borrowed the trained pelicans used in “*Le peuple migrateur*” (The Travelling Birds), Jacques Perrin's documentary about migrating birds. The eight white pelicans were transferred last February from the nature reserve at Villars-les-Dombes. Thibault le Guellec and Emir Kusturica are the main actors in the film.



Egypt / Release of "Pomegranates and Myrrh"

Palestinian director Najwa Najjar's film was released in Egypt in April.

It is about Kamar, a dancer and independent-minded woman living in Ramallah, whose husband is imprisoned soon after they are married because he refuses to give up his land. From then on her life becomes little more than a series of prison visits and she finds herself forced further and further away from everything she loves. Until the day she returns to dance. There she meets Kais, also

Palestinian. Between Kamar and Kais the stars shimmer, as they create something more than a passionate and emotion-filled dance.

At the same time the legal actions against the seizure of her husband's land come up against one obstacle after another. The more Kamar is drawn to Kais, the more her life plunges into torment – driven by her desire to dance, and to over-turn the social and family taboos of being a prisoner's wife. And all this time the occupation makes any sort of life increasingly difficult.

In the main roles: Hiam Abbass, Yasmine Al Massri, Ashraf Farah and Ali Suliman. The film was made in co-production between ZDF (Germany) and Ustura Films (Palestinian Territories).



Israel / A law for more pop corn in cinemas

It is not a joke, nor a game: a member of the Israeli Knesset wants to lower the price of pop-corn in cinemas, claiming it is too expensive, that large families cannot afford it! Consequently cinema owners are screaming because *"it will destabilise the economy of the cinemas. Already we have enough problems making ends meet!"* Quite understandable they should wish to retain their income given the profit margin on a bag of pop-corn is 2,500%. The journalist Dan Assayah speculates that *"the most idiotic law in Israel might actually be passed."*

(Source IsraelValley)



France / Roschdy Zem prepares to film in the Alpes Maritimes

In 1991 one event dominated every legal conversation in France. Ghislaine Marchal, a wealthy woman living in the South of France, had been found murdered in the cellar of her villa at Mougins. On the wall, written in the victim's blood: "Omar killed me". Thus Madame Marchal named the assassin from beyond the grave – her Moroccan gardener, Omar Raddad, known to have money problems and a passion for gambling. He was found guilty and sentenced to 18 years in prison. In May 1996 President Jacques Chirac partially pardoned him, shortening his sentence so that Raddad was released in September 1998. Since then, several

requests for a re-trial have been refused. This is the story which actor/director Roschdy Zem is preparing to film around Nice. The script is based on Omar Raddad's book, published in 2003 "*Pourquoi Moi?*" (Why Me?). Shooting began on the 3rd May and should last 3 months.

In the main roles: Sami Bouajila (Omar Raddad), Maurice Bénichou (the barrister Vergès), Denis Podalydès (the police officer in charge of the investigation) and the actress Salomé Stévenin (a close friend of the accused).



[# France / The Jean-Luc Lagardère Foundation: grants for young talent](#)

Since 1989, the Jean-Luc Lagardère Foundation has launched an annual appeal for grant proposals to fund young creative people in the world of culture and the media.

To date 181 people have been awarded grants in ten disciplines. In the audiovisual sector there are several grants, their principle being to give young professionals of less than 30 time to work full-time on an original project. The endowments are considerable: each year a cinema producer receives 50,000 euro, an animated film-maker 30,000 euro, a documentary maker 25,000 euro and a TV script-writer 20,000 euro.

Applications must be returned to the Foundation before the 11th June 2010.

They should be sent on-line to:

<http://www.fondation-jeanlucagardere.com/10i/Fondation-Lagardere.html>



[# France / Increase in cinema entries](#)

With more than 59 million tickets sold between January and March, the number of people going to the cinema in France rose by 8% in the first quarter of this year (source: *Fédération Nationale des Cinémas Français* –

FNCF). This increase can in part be explained by the success of James Cameron's 3D super-production "Avatar" – the film which had the biggest box-office in the first quarter, selling 8.4 million tickets, making a total of 14.6 million since it opened. The other big hitting films were: "The Princess and the Frog", "Shutter Island" and "Oceans".

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FESTIVALS

CLOSE UP ON.....*Ayam Beirut Al Cinema'iya* – Cinema Days in Beirut – 15th to the 22nd September 2010



With the eyes of the international community turned on the Middle East, independent Arab film-makers are questioning their world, analysing it and, in an attempt to help us understand it, are offering points of view often quite different to the stereotypes we are used to.

Even though their films are made in difficult conditions, the existence and evolution of Arab cinema shows the dynamism of a new generation of artists whose creativity overcomes all

constraints. In the absence of any infrastructure, their films push beyond the limits of the frame and become a determining cultural element in their own right: a mirror of the Arab identity.

A cinema which asks only to be allowed to live, and a Festival, *Ayam Beirut al Cinema'iya*, (Cinema Days in Beirut) which reflects the state of the art.

Created in 2001, *Ayam Beirut Al Cinema'iya* is a non-competitive event for Arab films, taking place every other year in Beirut and lasting a week. It offers the Lebanese public a selection of recent independent films from the Arab world, discussions with film-makers, round tables, retrospectives and workshops. There is one prize, awarded by the public to the best Lebanese short film or documentary. In addition there are various funding supports for the development of projects by cinema professionals.

Ayam Beirut Al Cinema'iya means 8,600 visitors, 100 films screened in one week, 20 premiers, 50 professionals invited, 100 articles in the press, 120 television items, 2,000 flyers distributed both at the Berlin Festival and at Cannes.

And in addition...there are screenings of 20 films selected from the major international festivals.

The *Association Coopérative Culturelle Beirut DC* has been working in Beirut since 1999. *Beirut DC* is a co-operative cultural organisation whose purpose is to fight for Lebanese and Arab independent cinema by:

- Producing non-commercial Lebanese and Arab films
- Promoting independent Arab films – through this biennial festival, through alternative screenings and worldwide through some twenty Arab Film Weeks.
- Organising training workshops on cinema and broadcasting. This in response to an urgent need amongst young Arab film-makers.
- Creating a regional and international network of directors, producers, distributors and festival directors working on the independent circuit.

- Establishing a web-site for Arab cinema (ACDIR), in partnership with the MEDSCREEN programme which is funded by the European Union.
- Setting up a documentation centre to provide books, videos and information on all subjects related to art and cinema, easily accessible to all.

The partners who have contributed to these Cinema Days in Beirut since 2001 are: Arte, the European Commission, the *Mission Culturelle Française* in the Lebanon, the Goethe Institute, Unifrance, Art, Al Jazeera, Dubai Film Festival, the *Agence de la Francophonie*, the Henrich Boll Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

The call for participation in the *Ayam Beirut Al Cinema'iya* Festival has just been launched. Registration is open until June 10th.

For more information: www.Beirutdc.org

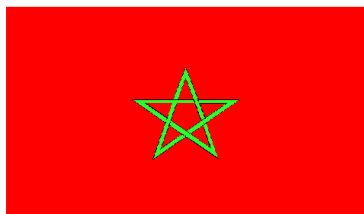
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[# Morocco / 1st national competition for video documentaries](#)

The first national competition for documentaries made on video and either in Tamazight (Berber), Arabic or French will take place on the 15th May at the University Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah in Fez. It is open to all students in or candidates for Morocco's universities or *Ecoles Supérieures*, and is the

chance for them to express themselves on video and learn about the production of video documentaries.

The aim is to get people making films, to encourage innovation, creativity, art, culture and open-mindedness. It is also the occasion to reward and give a high profile to original works of high quality, to discover the best talents among university students and to develop communication with the socio-economic environment and professional demands. The documentaries must not be longer than 15 minutes.



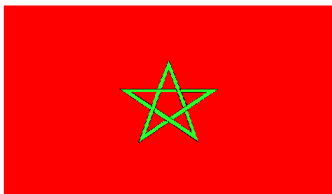
[# Morocco / 10th International Festival of Animated Film](#)

From the 6th to the 14th May the 10th International Animation Festival, created by the *Institut Français*, will take place in Meknes. This year some 80 films will be screened in six different places, giving us the chance to take another look at the evolution of this Festival which has now reached maturity. On the programme this year: screenings of films which have not been shown in Morocco; a series of discussions and round tables; workshops.

As far as the competitions are concerned, the International Short Film Prize brings with it a cheque for 3,000€ and the Aïcha Grand Prix for Best Animation 5,000€ – that's for the most talented Moroccan script-writer of short, animated films.

Children are part of the Festival too, with a programme of 30 films made by internationally famous film-makers and chosen for them. For families, *Ciné Medina* offers the best in French animation and for adults *Ecran Large* (wide screen) will offer pre-release films, themed evenings as well as ciné-concert sessions.

Workshops and teaching projects are also scheduled, notably with the guest of honour, the French director Michel Ocelot, who will give the first public screening of an episode from his new TV series "Dragons and Princesses".



[# Morocco / Appeal to register for the Tangier Festival of Mediterranean Short Film](#)

The Tangier Festival of Mediterranean Short Film is a cultural, artistic and awareness-raising event. Its aims are:

- to create a framework of discussions, meetings, dialogue and cinematographic exchanges
- to encourage a wider awareness of new short films from the Mediterranean countries, and to assure their distribution.
- to encourage young film-makers to fulfil their creative and artistic ambitions
- to initiate and encourage exchanges between film-makers from both sides of the Mediterranean

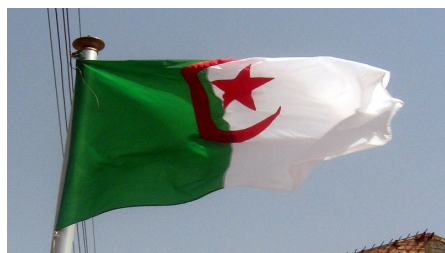
The Festival has just launched its appeal for registration. It is looking for dramas, in their original language, with Arabic, French or English sub-titles. The running length must be more than 5 and less than 35 minutes.

Three awards will be given: the Grand Prix, the Special Jury Award and the Best Script Award.

The Festival will take place between the 4th and the 9th October

The deadline for registration is the 23rd July. For all information: ccm@menara.ma

The registration form is available at www.ccm.ma/



[# Algeria / Béjaïa Doc workshop for documentary films](#)

The next creative workshop for documentary films, *Béjaïa Doc*, will be held in the town of that name from the 1st to the 15th October. It is organised by the *Cinéma et Mémoire* association, in partnership with *Kaïna Cinéma*. The call for candidates wishing to take part in this 4th workshop (2010-2011) was launched at the

beginning of April. *Béjaïa Doc* is a year's training, aimed to help those who already have a documentary project (5 to 30 minutes), teaching them how to master cinematographic language and audiovisual tools.

It combines theory and practice, shared and individual work. Several teaching modules are in place.

- Theoretical and historical analysis of documentary films
- Use of video tools (camera, sound, editing)
- Shooting and editing films
- Public broadcast and discussions with people working in the business

For more information: www.bejaiadoc.com

Deadline for registration: 6th May 2010

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Created in July 2009, "*Casa Mediterraneo*" (House of the Mediterranean) is an organisation dedicated to helping people, cultures and societies of both sides of the

Mediterranean come together. It sees itself as "the link between Europe, the Mediterranean and Africa."

Created by the Spanish Foreign Ministry, the "House" is a place to meet others, to discuss and reflect. A place from which the many and diverse Mediterranean expressions can be gently diffused for a better understanding of the other, in the hope that one day, through the gradual building of political dialogue and social and cultural co-operation, the Mediterranean can become a space of peace, stability, security and shared prosperity.

An appeal for architectural projects was launched to choose the best design for the future home of the *Casa Mediterraneo*. The winning architect is Manuel Ocaña, and a model of his project, called "*Malditos Modernos*", as well as models of the other finalists, will be on show to the public at the head office of the Architects Association of Alicante between the 29th April and the 19th May.

On the 8th April, *Casa Mediterraneo* launched its first international award for environmental journalism – turning the spot-light on people working in the current affairs sector who show us the various alternative ways of protecting the Mediterranean region's environment, and who keep our consciences focussed on the need to preserve it. In conjunction with the Association of Journalists of Environmental Information (APIA) and the Spanish Association of Communication Sciences (AECC), *Casa Mediterraneo* will give an award of 18,000€.

Journalists from any country, working for the written press, digital or broadcasting media, who have published or broadcast articles during 2009 are invited to participate. Whatever their language of origin, their work must be presented in Spanish, English or French. It must be about ecological issues and values which matter to the Mediterranean region, its environmental problems and the initiatives taken to resolve them.

In addition to the 18,000€ award, the jury can give four smaller awards of 1,000€ each. Chaired by Miguel Angel Moratinos, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, the jury is made up of well-known personalities from the world of journalism and the environment.

The deadline for sending articles is May 7th

The results will be announced in May. The awards will be given at a gala event in Benidorm on the 4th June, the eve of World Environment Day

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STOP PRESS



On the 15th April, after 9 years as head of INA, the *Institut National de l'Audiovisuel*, Emmanuel Hoog has been elected chairman and managing director of *Agence France Press* (AFP). The new mandate is for three years. A few days earlier, he had been re-elected Chairman of CoPeAm (*Conférence Permanente de l'Audiovisuel Méditerranéen*) during its 17th annual meeting in Paris.



In mid-April, Hassan Khiyar was nominated chairman and managing director of *Radio Méditerranée Internationale* (Medi 1), replacing Pierre Casalta. He has an engineering degree from Nice university and the *Ecole des Mines* in Paris, an Executive MBA from ISCAE and a management diploma from INSEAD. He has worked for several European and American multinationals in IT and communication.



In January Nawfel Raghay was nominated director of Strategy, Global Development, Marketing, Communication and International Relations at SNRT, (*Société Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Télévision*), Morocco's public television. Previously he had been chief advisor to the chairman of the *Haute Autorité de la Communication Audiovisuelle* (HACA), Morocco's broadcasting regulator, created to guarantee the freedom of Moroccan airwaves. Nawfel Raghay is a graduate of the Mohammedia engineering school at Rabat.

ASPLF - Association des Sociétés philosophiques de langue française

In April the Averroes Award for Mediterranean philosophy was given to Jean Ferrari for his work teaching the values of inter-cultural dialogue on both sides of the Mediterranean. Ferrari is chairman of the *Association des Sociétés de Philosophie de langue Française* (ASPLF) and the award was given during the 9th "*Printemps de la philosophie*" in Fez.

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Translated from the French
by
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