



N°105
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As you read these lines, the 65th Cannes Film Festival will be under way, and with it the glitter, the sequins, the celebrities, the scandals. But first and foremost the films, the film-makers and technicians from the four corners of the globe. Whether in the Official Competition or in the parallel sections, the Mediterranean will be present at Cannes as it is every year, represented by a string of talented film-makers, some experienced others budding. Discover them in [Festival of the Month](#).

In this issue you will also find recent news about broadcasting in the Mediterranean. Events both fascinating and turbulent in Tunisia and even Spain, where the crisis is not sparing television and cinema.

All your usual sections are here, with this month [a zoom on France Télévisions' new current affairs platform, FranceTVInfo](#).

Happy reading to you all!

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CONTENTS

LIFE AT THE CMCA	3
LIFE IN THE CHANNELS	8
PROGRAMMES	12
ECONOMY	14
CINEMA	16
FESTIVALS	21
Festival of the month: Cannes Film Festival	21
Other festivals	23
WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH: FranceTVInfo	25
THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY	26
WEB-DOCUMENTARIES	26
INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS' WAY	27
STOP PRESS	29

LIFE IN THE CMCA

CMCA Board elects a new president

Following Jean Réveillon's nomination as managing director of France 2, **Yves Rolland** was elected CMCA's new president at the April 18th Board meeting.

Since August 2010 Yves Rolland has been General Secretary of *France Télévisions*.



A partir de la gauche : **Eren EKE** représentant de **Kerem BALCI** (TRT- Turquie)
Vice-président du CMCA,
Maria Du Bessé (RAI - Italie) Secrétaire générale du CMCA,
Yves ROLLAND (France Télévisions) Président du CMCA,
Ahmed DJABRI (EPTV- Algérie) Vice-président du CMCA.

Two vice-presidents were also elected: **Ahmed Djabri**, deputy director of external relations at EPTV (Algeria) for another term and **Kerem Balci**, vice chairman of international relations at TRT (Turkey).

Maria Du Bessé, from RAI (Italy), was re-elected General Secretary, and **Karim Abdelhamid**, from 2M (Morocco), elected deputy General Secretary.

Jacques Hubinet, Chairman of the *Films du Soleil*, was re-elected Treasurer.

A new Board of Directors elected for 3 years

The CMCA's AGM met on April 18th and nominated 8 new members who will sit on the association's Board for the next three years.

The elected members are: **Karim Abdelhamid**, from the documentation service at 2M (Morocco), **Kerem Balci**, deputy chairman of international relations at TRT (Turkey), **Ahmed Djabri**, Deputy Director of external relations at EPTV (Algeria), **Paule Héradès**, of Apimed (*Association des Producteurs Indépendants de la Méditerranée*), **Jacques Hubinet**, Chairman of *Films du Soleil*, **Pier Luigi Malesani**, General Secretary of CoPeAM, **Marie-Christine Saragosse**, Director of TV5 Monde, and **Tatjana Simic**, Co-ordinator of international projects at HRT (Croatia).

Two new members

Two new members were introduced at the AGM: the *Ecole Supérieure de Journalisme* at Lille, through its subsidiary [ESJ Pro](#), and *Groupe Médias du Sud*.



Lille's [Ecole Supérieure de Journalisme](#) – **ESJ or Higher School of Journalism**, founded in 1924, is a tertiary institution ranked in France and abroad as among the best of its kind. As well as teaching journalism and providing on-going training opportunities, the ESJ has been running different co-operation programmes for the past 20 years, in Asia, central and eastern European countries, in Africa and at the heart of the Mediterranean area. It started the Théophraste network (which today groups some twenty French-language centres for teaching journalism), with training facilities in Lille and Paris, at the same time strengthening its trans-Mediterranean ambitions by the setting up a TV studio in Montpellier for teaching audiovisual techniques.

[Groupe Médias du Sud](#) is already strongly represented in the Languedoc-Roussillon and the Bouches-du-Rhône with *TV Sud* in Nîmes and Montpellier, and *LCM* in Marseille. It wants to increase its coverage in the Mediterranean area with future channels at Nice, Toulon and Perpignan, concentrating on programmes with a Mediterranean flavour. By belonging to the CMCA, it hopes to benefit from an exchange of programmes and join co-productions, as well as being part of the debate about which direction Mediterranean media should be going in. The group works not only in television, but has a mix of internet and free print newspapers.



Two new administrators nominated by *France Télévisions* at the CMCA Board Meeting

Rémy Pflimlin, chairman of *France Télévisions*, founder member of the CMCA, nominated two new administrators to the association's Board of Directors : Yves Rolland, General Secretary of *France Télévisions* and Hervé Michel, head of international affairs at *France Télévisions*.

They replace Jean Réveillon, new head of France 2, and Jean-Marie Belin.



Yves ROLLAND has been General Secretary to the chairman of *France Télévisions* since August 2010. A graduate of the *Institut d'Etudes Politiques* in Paris, an MA in public law at Paris University and a former pupil of the prestigious *Ecole Nationale d'Administration*, he began his professional career at the *Cour des Comptes*. He has been a technical advisor to several ministries and chaired important broadcasting production companies.

Hervé MICHEL is director of international affairs at *France Télévisions*. He has an MA in business law and also graduated from the *Institut d'Etudes Politiques* in Paris. During his career Hervé Michel has occupied jobs as European Marketing and Sales Director at Walt Disney Productions as well as Director of International Sales at *France Télévisions Distribution*. Since May 2007 he has been deputy director of international affairs at *France Télévisions*



Framework Partnership Agreement Signed between MuCEM (*Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée*) and the CMCA (*Centre Méditerranéen de la Communication Audiovisuelle*)



Yves Rolland and Bruno Suzarelli, with, from the left: François Jacquel Managing Director of the CMCA, Ahmed DJABRI (EPTV- Algeria) CMCA vice-chairman, Maria Du Bessé (RAI – Italy), CMCA General Secretary, Julie Basquin, MuCEM's head of communication, Eren EKE, representing Kerem BALCI (TRT- Turquie), CMCA vice-chairman

On April 18th, the director of MuCEM, Bruno Suzzarelli and the new chairman of the CMCA, Yves Rolland, General Secretary of *France Télévisions*, signed a framework partnership agreement between the two institutions. This framework agreement clarifies the areas of collaboration between MuCEM and the CMCA. It will give the general public access to the Mediterranean broadcasting heritage. Films, images and broadcasting archives will be made available by MuCEM. Every film which has won a award at the CMCA PriMed festival will be made available and broadcast by MuCEM.

Through this partnership, the two institutions will be able to organise joint public meetings and other events (screenings, debates, training, the award ceremony, Mediterranean Week), using mainly MuCEM's premises and facilities. The first initiative under this framework agreement will be “*La Semaine de la Méditerranée*” to be held at MuCEM in June 2013 for the museum's inauguration.

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



The CMCA has decided to organise the next PriMed from **June 17th to the 21st 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 element of 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
- The **PriMed web-site**: 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

[#Tunisia / Habib Belaïd sacked from Tunisian radio](#)

[#Tunisia / Soon a professional conduct code for Télévision Tunisienne](#)

[#Tunisia / Verdict in the "Persepolis" trial](#)

[#Morocco / New specifications for SNRT and 2M](#)

[#Romania / The private channel OTV collared for electoral propaganda](#)

[#Spain / RTVE even deeper in crisis](#)

[#Spain / Xplora replaces LaSexta2](#)

[#France / France 3 Corse ViaStella and TV5Monde commit themselves to the French language](#)



[#Tunisia / Habib Belaïd sacked from Tunisian radio](#)

Habib Belaïd (*photo*), who has been managing director of *Radio Tunisienne* since the end of the revolution, was relieved of his post on April 20th. He learnt the news when he looked at the Tunisian Republic's Official Journal – on April 24th. M. Belaïd says nobody informed him of the decision, he discovered it for himself. "I learnt it by chance, through one of my staff. Then it was confirmed when I looked at the Official Journal," he explained. Several heads of public radio stations have resigned out of solidarity. Habib Belaïd has been replaced by Mohamed Meddeb, previously a controller in the technical suite



[#Tunisia / Soon a professional conduct code for Télévision Tunisienne](#)

On May 4th in Tunis *Télévision Tunisienne's* boss, Adnen Kedher, presented a new document "Editorial policy at *Télévision Tunisienne*", which is set to be the journalists' code book for professional conduct.

He made it clear that this document is not definitive and he is open to criticism and suggestions from all parties concerned in the news media. The code book was drawn up by the journalists themselves in collaboration with the BBC and in particular its regional director in Tunisia, Nejla Al Amri.

In this hand-book of professional conduct, the accent is on a commitment "*to respect the credibility of the information and the right of the citizen to transparent information.*"

This announcement comes after several months of bitter clashes between journalists and Islamic protesters in front of the *Télévision Tunisienne* building. On April 29th three female news readers decided not to appear on the channel any more, exhausted by the moral pressure exerted by the protesters..



[#Tunisia / Verdict in the "Persepolis" trial](#)

Twice delayed, the trial of Nessma TV for broadcasting the animated film "*Persepolis*" in October 2011, was finally held on April 19th. Nabil Karoui (*photo*) was in court as the channel director and principal accused. The tribunal's verdict was given on May 3rd which, irony of fate, was also the World Day for Freedom of the Press. M. Karoui was sentenced to pay a fine of 2,400 dinars (1,200 euros) for "disturbing public order and public decency."

Hedi Boughenim, head of screening, and Nadia Jamel, who had overseen the dubbing of the film into the Tunisian dialect, were each fined 1,200 dinars. Nabil Karoui's lawyer, who had been hoping for a total acquittal, said the judgement was "*an attack on press freedom*". On the other hand several Salafists demonstrated their anger at the verdict, considering it too lenient.

A group of lawyers had filed a civil complaint for "violation of the sacred" and were demanding the death penalty for the director of Nessma TV



[#Morocco / New specifications for SNRT and 2M](#)

The Communication Minister, Mustapha El Khalfi, created controversy at the end of March when he unveiled the new specifications for Moroccan public television. Among new measures there is a ban on advertising for gambling, which could cause a shortfall of 27 million dirhams (2.4 million euros) for the public broadcasters. There is also a new obligation to broadcast calls to prayer 5 times a day and an extra 52 minutes of religious programmes each week. There will be fewer programmes in French. "*The French language will be maintained with a percentage of 20 to 25% in 2M's programming,*" said M. El Khalfi. "*There will still be a news programme in French on 2M, although it may be delayed if the channel judges it necessary.*" The Spanish news programme will be stopped.

Many working in Moroccan media see these announcements as a sign of a growing Islamisation in broadcasting, orchestrated by Abdelilah Benkirane's government. Voices at 2M were raised in protest against the new specifications, and managing director Salim Cheikh (*photo*) said "*The content of these new specifications is dirigist and interventionist.*" He considers the government did not "*consult channel management enough*".



[#Romania / The private channel OTV collared for electoral propaganda](#)

The private Romanian channel OTV was sanctioned at the end of March by the country's television watchdog. The channel is accused of broadcasting election propaganda about Dan Diaconescu (*photo*), OTV's owner and a candidate in the 2014 presidential elections. His licence to transmit has been halved. Now OTV will not be able to broadcast after September 28th, when it will have to seek a new licence. Recently the channel received several formal notices, in particular for inciting racial hatred. Dan Diaconescu is one of the most controversial figures in Romanian broadcasting and politics. In a separate case he was convicted of blackmail and extortion.



[#Spain / RTVE even deeper in crisis](#)

While the Spanish public broadcasting group is still without a chairman, the director of TVE, Santiago Gonzalez (*photo*), has announced he is leaving his job in June. He has been there since January 2010 and his decision plunges the group into even greater uncertainty. RTVE's new chairman should be announced before the summer, but there is still considerable doubt since the agreement between the *Partido Popular* (PP) and the *Partido Socialista Obrero Español* (PSOE) is no longer valid. So it's possible the new chairman will be chosen only by Mariano Rajoy's government, while the PSOE has begun a procedure to enable parliament to name the chairman. The bad news keeps coming on the financial side too. Because of state-imposed restrictions, RTVE has 150 million euros less than in 2011 to buy new programmes. Which means the group will lose certain rights to broadcast sports, films and series.



[#Spain / Xplora replaces LaSexta2](#)

Since May 1st, the Antena3 Group has replaced the general interest channel LaSexta2 with a themed channel exclusively given over to the documentary Xplora. Most of the programmes come from the BBC, National Geographic and the History Channel. Like the Franco-German channel Arte, there is a prime time theme every evening. According to José Miguel Contreras, advisor of the LaSexta group, this change is happening to diversify the offer on DTT and offer another prime time option to the general interest channels. In terms of audience, the Xplora channel aims to reach 1% of the market.



[#France / France 3 Corse ViaStella and TV5Monde commit themselves for the French language](#)

TV5Monde and France 3 Corse ViaStella, the Corsican and Mediterranean channels, have joined the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*, and more precisely its broadcasting production fund. They will now pre-purchase respectively three and two programmes a year from the catalogue of films supported by the Fund (drama, documentaries, series). The Fund finances around fifty programmes a year in 38 countries in America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific with a global annual budget of 1.3 million euros.

[Return to Contents](#)

PROGRAMMES

[#Morocco / 2M launches a new cultural magazine](#)

[#Italy / The Spanish series "Física o Química" creates controversy on RAI 4](#)

[#France / The contents of May's Mediterraneo](#)



[#Morocco / 2M launches a new cultural magazine](#)

On two Sundays a month since March 25th the Moroccan channel 2M has been broadcasting a new magazine about cultural news, "2M Mag". Presented by Monsef Sakhi (*photo*), this twice monthly 26-minute programme looks at cinema, music, literature and art. *"The idea is not just to look at major cultural events, but also to turn the spot-light on events which pass-by unnoticed,"* M. Sakhi explains.

The second national channel has also launched a short programme specifically about literature, "Annaqid", broadcast on Tuesdays around 11.00 pm and presented by Ahmed Zaid.

With these two programmes, the second national channel fulfils its promise to give more exposure to culture.



[#Italy / The Spanish series "Física o Química" creates controversy on RAI 4](#)

Carlo Freccero, director of RAI 4, was laid off for ten days in early April for strongly criticising an article in the conservative newspaper *Libero Quotidiano*. In the article, journalist Francesco Brogonovo accused the Spanish series "Física o Química", (Physics or Chemistry) of showing almost pornographic scenes and mentioning drugs and sex on prime time. In Italy the series is transmitted by RAI4. Carlo Freccero allegedly replied by calling *Libero Quotidiano*'s editorial staff "fascists". RAI's Human Resources' committee decided to suspend Freccero for disciplinary reasons.

Física o Química", broadcast in Spain on Antena3, is a series about young high school teachers. RAI4 stopped transmission on April 5th. However the production company, Boomerang, claims the series' last two seasons will be broadcast on the channel between now and the summer.



[#France / The contents of May's *Mediterraneo*](#)

The damage done by the economic crisis can provoke terrible despair and hardship: in March a 77 year old man shot himself in broad day light just a few yards away from the Greek parliament. The death of this elderly pensioner shocked his countrymen. National emotion about an event which statistics make even more worrying: in four years the number of suicides in Greece has increased by 57%. The economic crisis is at the heart of these tragedies. We meet a man who, by losing his job has also lost his reason for living.

Turkey: The Armenian genocide of 1915 is a taboo on which the Turkish nation was founded. An act of war, according to the authorities who have always denied the organised massacre of a whole community. In Turkey, even today, those who try to remember it are imprisoned and killed. We go to Istanbul where the largest Armenian diaspora lives.

On the economic front, though, Istanbul is city full of life, attracting more and more people. Turkish or foreign investors do not hesitate to pay large sums for flats in districts which until now have been working-class. Result: the price of property is sky-high.

Slovenia and culture: History is being written in a sleepy Slovenian town. Maribor (photo) is this year's European Culture Capital. A once-in-a-lifetime chance for this town to reinvent itself. Culture for all, that's the challenge the Slovenes have set themselves.



Two reports on "*Mediterraneo*" about sustainable development:

In Morocco, the urgent need to preserve the Rif mountains, over-exploited and threatened by intensive farming. First in line to protect the area, the farmers themselves with an organisation for the protection of the environment.

Recycling: What is common denominator between sheep's wool, ashes in a pizza oven and raw earth? Well, each of them could end up in the dustbin, but in fact each can be re-used to make other objects. The idea was daring, it came from an organisation in Guspini, Sardinia: don't throw anything away, recycle everything locally. 40 villages joined the scheme.

"Mediterraneo" is broadcast every Saturday at 11.30a.m. on France 3 Corse-ViaStella, every Sunday at 11.30a.m. on France 3 Provence-Alpes and France 3 Côte-d'Azur, and each week also on TV5 Monde.

ECONOMY

[#Italy / Television frequencies put out to auction](#)

[#Spain / Half the DTT frequencies soon going to digital telephone](#)

[#Spain / Towards the privatisation of local public service broadcasting](#)

[#France / TF1 wins the tender for Al Jazeera Sport's advertising](#)



[#Italy / Television frequencies put out to auction](#)

The Italian Ministry of Economic Development is currently organising an auction for the six television frequencies Silvio Berlusconi wanted to give away freely when he was prime minister. In November his successor Mario Monti said he wanted to revise the way the frequencies were attributed. They will be auctioned as “packets of frequencies, probably of different lengths,” said Corrado Passera (photo), Minister of Economic Development. The sale should put about an extra billion euros into the state coffers.



televisión
digital
terrestre

[#Spain / Half the DTT frequencies soon going to digital telephone](#)

On April 24th Secretary for state for telecommunications, Victor Calvo-Sotelo confirmed a plan would be drawn up “within the next few weeks” to halve the number of free frequencies on DTT. Installing digital terrestrial television could cost Spain 800 million euros, too high a cost in the context of the economic crisis. Instead the ministry of industry wants the frequencies re-distributed to telephone operators so they can create a 4G network. The state could thus recuperate two billion euros and re-launch the public service broadcasting advertising market, currently in the doldrums. The television channels however have protested loudly at these measures, considering the decision as an “expropriation”.



[#Spain / Towards the privatisation of local public service broadcasting](#)

On April 20th, the Council of Ministers approved a modification to the law about audiovisual communication. This law allows Autonomous Communities to privatise their local television stations. Valencia, Madrid and Castille-La Mancha were the first Communities to announce they were going to put this privatisation into operation with their respective television groups, RTW, Telemadrid and CMT. The Communities of Estramadura, Galicia, Andalusia and Catalonia have decided to maintain their public television service. The 13 television stations in the country's Autonomous Communities currently have a budget of 1.4 billion euros, of which 75% comes from public funding and 25% from advertising.



[#France / TF1 wins the tender for Al Jazeera Sport's advertising](#)

In March Al Jazeera Sport launched a tender to manage the advertising on its new channels *Be in Sport 1* and *Be in Sport 2*, which will start transmitting in France as from June 1st. TF1 won the tender over *France Télévisions*, *Lagardere* and *Amaury*. The Qatari group was asking for a guaranteed minimum, given the uncertainty about how many paying subscribers the two channels will attract when they are launched. The tender also specified that the priority target for advertising is the male audience between 25 and 49 years old. According to a study done by Greenwich Consulting, 3 million viewers could be potentially interested in subscribing to these two sporting channels.

[Return to Contents](#)

CINEMA

[#Algeria / Green light to make a film about Krim Belkacem](#)

[#Algeria / The Minister of Culture announces a renovation of cinemas](#)

[#Egypt / Algerian animation given award](#)

[#United Kingdom / A British researcher interested in Algerian cinema](#)

[#Italy / The Taviani brothers and RAI crowned at the David di Donatello](#)

[#Italy / Agreement signed between RAI and Cinecittà Luce](#)

[#Spain / The government gets rid of several cinema grants](#)

[#France / The history of Egyptian cinema revisited at the Cinémathèque Française](#)



[#Algeria / Green light to make a film about Krim Belkacem](#)

The Ministry of Moudjahidine, the only authority able to judge the suitability of scenarios for films about the Algerian War, has given the go-ahead for a feature film about Krim Belkacem (photo)

Ahmed Rachedi, who made "*L'Opium et le Bâton*" (1969) and "*Le Moulin de Monsieur Fabre*" (1986), will direct the film, with a scenario by Rabah Zerari and the journalist Boukhalfa Amazit. He explained in 2011 that

the government had misgivings about the film's title – "*Darguez*", meaning "It's a Man" in Tamazight – and certain passages in the original script.

Krim Belkacem, founder member of the *Front de Libération Nationale* (FLN), was one of the most illustrious figures of the Algerian War. He took part in the negotiations and signing of the Evian Agreement in 1962. In 1970 he was murdered in his Frankfurt hotel room in mysterious circumstances



[#Algeria / The Minister of Culture announces a renovation of cinemas](#)

On April 26th Khalida Toumi (*photo*), Algerian Minister of Culture, announced that very soon the country's cinemas would be completely renovated as part of a government programme. Once that was completed they would be "*managed primarily by unemployed university teachers*".

This would generate 2,300 jobs nationwide. Mme Toumi announced these measures when she was inaugurating the Colisée at Tlemcen, a cinema renovated as part of Tlemcen, Islamic Culture Capital 2011. In the 1960's Algeria had 400 cinemas, now there are less than 20, which naturally harms the distribution of Algerian films, and encourages pirating films off the internet.



[#Egypt / Algerian animation given award](#)

The Algerian producer and director Djilali Beskri (*photo*) won the White Pharaoh given by the *Association Internationale du Film d'Animation* (ASIFA). His trophy was given to him on March 30th in a ceremony in Cairo. It is to reward the work of the Dynamic Art Vision studio, which is run by M. Beskri and has produced a series of animated films "*Papa Nzenu against Africa*". ASIFA is an association grouping the best of the world's animation studio (Pixar, Dreamworks or Paramount) and this is the first time an African or Arab animated film has received its White Pharaoh.

Djilali Beskri explains how his project works: "*I am developing a series of animated films with a new concept. Each time, I find a young African film-maker to whom I teach animation skills. Then he goes back home to develop the films. I develop innovative animated films with other forms of design, African sounds, different atmospheres.*"



[#United Kingdom / A British researcher interested in Algerian cinema](#)

In September this year Manchester University Press will publish "*Algerian National Cinema*" by Guy Austin, a British university researcher. The book opens with a history of modern Algeria and then describes and analyses the way the Algerian film industry has developed since independence. By looking back at films like

Mohammed Lakhdar-Hamina's "*Le Vent des Aurès*" (*photo*), "*La Montagne de Baya*" by Azzedine Meddour, Yamina Bachir's "*Rachida*", or Lyès Salem's "*Mascarades*", Guy Austin is helping the English-speaking public discover Algerian cinema.

Guy Austin is a film and digital media researcher at the University of Newcastle. He has already published several books on French cinema..



#Italy / The Taviani brothers and RAI crowned at the David di Donatello

"*Cesare deve morire*" (Caesar Must Die – *photo opposite*), by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, already winner of the Golden Bear at last February's Berlin Film Festival, has won five of Italy's top cinema awards: Best Film, Best Directors, Best Producer, Best Editor and Best Sound. This adaptation of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar"

filmed in a prison in Rebibbia is the second film by the Taviani brothers to be given the Italian Best Film award, following their 1983 film *La Notte di San Lorenzo* (The Night of the Shooting Stars).

Paolo Sorrentino and Umberto Contarello won the Best Screenplay award for "*This must be the place*", which also won the prize for Best Make-Up, Hair, Photography, Music and Original Song. Nanni Moretti's "*Habemus Papam*" had to make do with awards for Best Actor (Michel Piccoli), Best Script and Best Costumes.

Great satisfaction for RAI3: Stefano Savona's "*Tahrir, place de la libération*" won the Best Documentary award. Filmed in Tahrir Square during the Egyptian revolution the documentary was co-produced by RAI3 and broadcast in June 2011 on Doc3, the only Italian public broadcasting programme for creative current affairs documentaries. The director Stefano Savona spent ten days and ten nights on Tahrir Square, symbol of the fight against Mubarak, capturing the growing enthusiasm of the protesters, their conflicts but above all their solidarity.



The award confirms the quality of the documentaries chosen for the Doc3 cycle (15 out of some 400 submitted). As from the month of June *Tahrir* will be distributed in the USA and has already been sold in more than 15 countries. It was released in French cinemas, with a critical and box-office success, and has been shown at several festivals, like Locarno, New York and Istanbul.

Coming back to this 56th award ceremony, RAI's managing director, Lorenza Lei, welcomed the success of the films produced by RAI Cinema: "*It is certainly a victory for auteur cinema, but also without a doubt a success for RAI, which has today received 13 out of the possible 21 awards. RAI Cinema has believed in and invested in projects which are not always obvious, often daring.*"

CINECITTÀ LUCE FILMITALIA

[#Italy / Agreement signed between RAI and Cinecittà Luce](#)

During MIP TV, which was held at Cannes from April 1st to 4th, RAI and Cinecittà Luce, owners of the Cinecittà studios outside Rome, signed an agreement for the sale, promotion and distribution of Italian films abroad. It includes Cinecittà Luce's catalogue of library films, including major works by Italy's finest film-makers like Roberto Rossellini, Michelangelo Antonioni, and Ermanno Olmi. RAI has now purchased the distribution rights of these films.

Valid for the next ten years, the agreement also provides for the restoration and transfer to High Definition of several major classics of Italian cinema..



[#Spain / The government gets rid of several cinema grants](#)

Spanish cinema will not be able to escape the drastic budgetary restrictions imposed since the arrival of the new Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy. Starting this year, eight areas of financial support for the cinema will be cut – that was the main thrust of the announcement made on April 13th by Susana de la Sierra (*photo*), head of ICAA (*Instituto de la Cinematografía y de las Artes Audiovisuales*): grants for scripts, project development, short film production, new cultural projects and training for TV films, television documentaries, for animated series, publicity and researching new technologies.

These cuts represent a 35% reduction in the cinema protection fund, managed by the ICAA. Concerning tax breaks given to companies investing in film, they will barely increase. From the current 18% they might go up to 20 or even 25%, according to Senora de la Sierra – still a far cry from the 40% the industry wanted.



[#France / The history of Egyptian cinema revisited at the Cinémathèque Française](#)

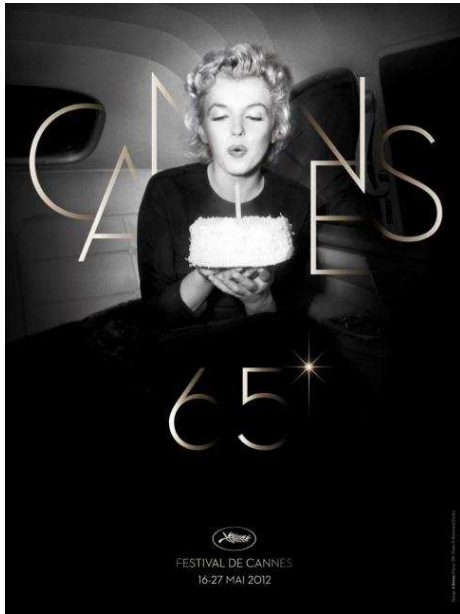
From June 13th to August 5th the *Cinémathèque Française* in Paris will offer a special programme on Egyptian cinema, Ciné-Egyptomania. By screening around 50 films and organising a round table, the head of programming Magda Wassef will make it possible to (re)discover the films of Henri Barakat, Youssef Chahine, Salah Abu Seif (*photo*), Yousri Nasrallah, Mohamed Khan, etc. The opportunity for a rich retrospective going from the 1940's to recent productions.

For more information: <http://www.cinematheque.fr/>

[Return to Contents](#)

FESTIVALS

Festival of the month... The Cannes Film Festival, from May 16th to 27th



The Cannes Film Festival is 65, and to celebrate the candles are being blown out by Marilyn Monroe...at least on the official poster

This year there are 22 films in the competition and once again the Mediterranean is well-represented with 6 films in the running:

- *Après la bataille* (Egypt / France) by Yousri Nasrallah: the director of "*Femmes du Caire*" (2010) tells the story of a meeting between one of the "horsemen of Tahrir Square", beaten and humiliated for charging the protesters on February 2nd 2011, and a young divorced woman who works in advertising and is an active supporter of change in Egypt.
- *De rouille et d'os* (France / Belgium) by Jacques Audiard: winner of the Grand Prix in 2009 for "*Un Prophète*", Jacques Audiard will again be amongst the favourites with this drama filmed in Cannes and Antibes, reuniting Marion Cotillard and Bouli Lanners.
- *Derrière les collines* (Romania / France) by Cristian Mungiu: already winner of the Palme d'Or in 2007 for "*4 mois, 3 semaines, 2 jours*", Cristian Mungiu comes back to Cannes with a story about exorcism.
- *Holy Motors* (France / Germany) by Leos Carax: 13 years after his last feature film ("*Pola X*"), Leos Carax has made a film based on a strange idea. It is about a one night in the "life" of Monsieur Oscar, a being who goes from life to life...
- *Reality* (Italy / France) by Matteo Garrone: the director of "*Gomorra*" this time attacks TV-reality: or when the boss of a fishmongers begins to live as though he were taking part in "*Grande Fratello*" (the Italian equivalent of "*Big Brother*").
- *Vous n'avez encore rien vu* (France / Germany) by Alain Resnais: given an award in 2009 for the totality of his career, Resnais once more brings together his favourite actors (Sabine Azéma, Pierre Arditi, Lambert Wilson) for a story about theatre actors.

Several co-productions will also be in the competition, such as "Amour" (France/Germany/Austria), by Michael Haneke, David Cronenberg's "Cosmopolis" (Canada/France/Italy/Portugal), or Ken Loach's "Angel's Share" (UK/France/Italy/Belgium).

The jury will be chaired by the Italian actor-director Nanni Moretti (*photo*), whose film "Habemus Papam" was in the competition last year. Among the other members of the jury there will be two French people, the actress Emmanuelle Devos and the couturier Jean-Paul Gaultier, and one Palestinian actress-director, Hiam Abbass.



Outside the competition Claude Miller, who died on April 4th, will be remembered with a screening of his latest film, "Thérèse Desqueyroux". Bernardo Bertolucci will present "Io e te". Dario Argento will be there at the *Séance de Minuit* with his 3D adaptation of "Dracula".

In the parallel category *Un certain regard*, there is the Moroccan Nabil Ayouch's "Les chevaux de Dieu", the Franco-Spanish film "7 jours à La Havane", Aida Begic's Bosnian "Djeca", and four French films, including Benoît Delépine and Gustave Kervern's much-anticipated "Le Grand Soir". The jury will be chaired by the English actor Tim Roth.



The *Quinzaine des Réalisateurs* will show "Le Repenti" (*photo opposite*), by the Algerian Merzak Allouache, the Spanish "Sueño y silencio" by Jaime Rosales, as well as five French films, including "Rengaine", first feature by Rachid Djaïdani.

Lastly, the *Semaine de la Critique* will show amongst others the Israeli film "Les voisins de Dieu" by Meni Yaesh, the Spanish "Aquí y allá" by Antonio Mendez Esparza, and the French "Au galop" by Louis-Do de Lencquesaing.

And even though it is not represented in the official selection this year, Algeria will have an official pavilion in the International Village to promote its recent national production, a first in the history of the festival. Until this year it was the only North African country not to have a pavilion.

[Return to Contents](#)

THE OTHER FESTIVALS...

[#Qatar / An Egyptian film wins the Golden Award at the Al Jazeera Festival](#)

[#Italy / Candidate call for MedFilm Festival 2012](#)

[#Turkey / The winner of TRT's Documentary Days](#)

[#France / Third birthday for La Première Fois Festival](#)

[#France / The films pre-selected for the URTI Grand Prix](#)

[#Belgium / Appeal for films for the Festival du Cinéma Méditerranéen](#)



[#Qatar / An Egyptian film wins the Golden Award at the Al Jazeera Festival](#)

The Egyptian film "*½ Revolution*" (*photo*), made by the Danish Palestinian Omar Shargawi and the American-Egyptian Karim El Hakim, won the Golden Award (in the feature film category) at the 8th Al Jazeera International Festival of Documentary Film. The film is about a group of young Egyptians in the working class districts of Cairo, a few days before the January 25th Revolution.

Among the other winners, a Jury Prize for "*This Is My Land... Hebron*", by the Italians Giulia Amati and Stephan Natanson, while the Al Jazeera Documentary Channel Award in the long film category went to "*Mercedes*" by the Lebanese Hady Zaccak. The Festival was at Doha from April 19th to 22nd.



[#Italy / Candidate call for MedFilm Festival 2012](#)

The 18th MedFilm Festival will take place this year in Rome between November 10th to 18th. Specialising in Mediterranean and European cinema, it will be part of the European Year of Active Ageing and Inter-Generational Solidarity. Registration is open until July 16th. Candidates must complete the form and send a DVD copy of their film. [Click here](#) to download the rules and candidate form.



[#Turkey / The winner of TRT's Documentary Days](#)

The Lithuanian director Egle Vertelyte received the award for Best Documentary in the International Category for her "*Ub lama*", in the closing ceremony of TRT's 4th Documentary Days on May 7th. 32 productions from across the world (out of 340 received) were in competition in the three categories: International, National Professional (won by Bülent Oztürk's "*Beklemek*" – Wait) and National Amateur. "*We note with joy that every year the interest shown for this event keeps growing, both in the number of films submitted and in the number of people who attend,*" said Zeynel Koç, TRT's deputy managing director.



[#France / Third birthday for La Première Fois Festival](#)

Les Films du Gabian launched an appeal for films for the third *La Première Fois* Festival, which will take place in Aix-en-Provence from October 16th to 20th. Specialising in distributing and publicising first documentaries, the festival is non-competitive. It is open to all first documentaries of less than 60 minutes, made since January 1st 2010, either in French or with French sub-titles. Registration is open until July 15th.

[Click here](#) to download the rules and registration form.



[#France / Announces the films pre-selected for the URTI Grand Prix](#)

At the beginning of May URTI (*Union Radiophonique et Télévisuelle Internationale*) announced the ten finalists which will compete for the 31st International Grand Prix of Creative Documentary. The jury met in Paris at the end of April, and among the documentaries chosen, four come from the Mediterranean area: "*Stéphane Peyron: Le voyage à l'envers*" (France), made by Stéphane Peyron for Planète Plus Thalassa; "*Sayome*" (Greece), made by Nikos Dayandas for ERT; "*Jerusalem Calling*" (Palestine), made by Raed Duzdar for PBC; and "*Sunday in Brazzaville*" (Spain), made by Enric Bach and Adria Monès for TV3.

A final jury will judge the films during the Monte Carlo Television Festival from June 9th to 11th. The Grand Prix will be award at a ceremony on Monday June 11th at 7.00 pm.



[#Belgium / Appeal for films for the Festival du Cinéma Méditerranéen](#)

Between November 9th and 17th Brussels will host the 12th Festival of Mediterranean Cinema. The call for films is open until September 1st for all feature films produced by a Mediterranean country or whose director comes from the Mediterranean area or whose subject is about the Mediterranean. The films shown must be in French, or with English or French sub-titles and must have been finished in 2011 or 2012 and not have yet been shown in Belgium.

To consult the rules and download the registration form, [click here](#).

WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH... www.francetv.fr/info

francetvinfo



Launched in November 2011, the *France Télévisions* News platform, *FranceTVInfo*, has an inter-face designed to encourage inter-activity with users and paves the way for connected television.

The site's main asset is its “Live” section, a thread of continuous news up-dated every 5 minutes, including of course breaking news.

Texts, photos, videos, graphics all

illustrate what is happening in real time. This makes *FranceTVInfo* one of the best ways of staying informed about the very latest developments (in French).

As well as this continuous thread, the site offers another section more specifically orientated to in-depth articles. Current events are cut into 6 major categories: French, World, Economic, Sport, Discovery (science, nature, the unusual) and a category named Buzz which covers culture and multi-media. It is also possible by clicking on the tab “*Les tops*” to go directly to the most popular articles: those which have received most comments, which have been shared most either by email or on the social networks such as Facebook.

Faithful to its public service broadcaster remit, *France Télévisions* has also put in place a section enabling users to follow regional news.

Lastly a very complete multi-media section brings an indispensable addition to the articles: videos, slide-shows and streamed re-transmissions of events give you a fuller picture of what is going on. *FranceTVInfo* is also available now as a smart-phone app and will soon also be available on digital tablets and on web-TV.

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY



#France / CeReM has chosen the producer of its video content

CeReM (*Centre Régional de la Méditerranée*), which will open its doors in Marseille in 2013, has just announced the company which has won the tender to produce its videos: *Films du Tambour de Soie*, a Marseille-based company specialising in documentaries. Directors Régis Sauder ("*Nous, Princesses de Clèves*"), Bruno Ulmer ("*Welcome Europa*") and Alain Bergala ("*Bleu Méditerranée*") were chosen to be the narrators of these videos and suggest themed tours for CeReM's visitors.

Situated in Marseille's dock-land CeReM will be a showcase for the Mediterranean area's creative and innovative capacities, promoting dialogue between cultures and societies and mobilising youth for the future of the Mediterranean.

WEB-DOCUMENTARIES



#France / A fine success for "17 Octobre 1961, La Nuit Oubliée"

Last October two young French film-makers, Olivier Lambert and Thomas Salva, put on-line a web-documentary about the events of the night of October 17th 1961 in Paris when thousands of FLN protesters were massacred by French police. Produced with a budget of 27,000 euros by Darjeeling and France 3 Ile-de-France, "*17 Octobre 1961, La Nuit Oubliée*" has been viewed more than 50,000 times since it was up-loaded, making it the most viewed web-doc since Bruno Masi and Guillaume Herbaut's "*La Zone*". Based on three eye-witness accounts plus archival footage, it was made in only three months using 3wdoc software, with the help of the Hans Lucas Creation Studio and the *Ecole des Métiers de l'Information* in Paris.

To view the web-documentary, [click here](#).

[Return to Contents](#)

INDEPENDENT MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCERS' WAY



MEDIMED 2012 - SITGES, 12-14 OCTOBER
THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN DOCUMENTARY MARKET
13th edition – DOC REVOLUTION!

The 13th MEDIMED will take place from October 12th to 14th 2012. MEDIMED is the professional market for Euro-Mediterranean producers. It is a launching forum to help independent documentary producers from Europe and the southern Mediterranean, as well as their commercial partners, find co-finance in the international market. For buyers, there are 25 pre-selected projects which are either in development or in production.


Launched in 2000, every year MEDIMED brings together more than 60 important international distributors from Europe, the United States and Canada. The event offers a limited number of places so advance accreditation is obligatory.

MEDIMED is mainly interested in [documentary projects with a](#) social, cultural or political character. The producers working on films about history, the environment or science and who are looking for additional partners can also take advantage of MEDIMED's unique format to promote their projects in front of an audience of international buyers. To take part, each project must have a partner in the business (TV broadcaster) who will come and co-present the project if it is selected.

Over two days, [25 projects](#) in development or at the beginning of production will be presented in a series of 14-minute presentations or during private meetings. Each year the projects are pre-selected by an [international committee](#) and are chosen among the propositions from the Euro-Mediterranean

OBSERVERS

Although places are limited, in addition to those already reserved for the presentation teams and TV broadcasters, there are 50 places available for people in the business who want to attend as observers. The forum is a unique opportunity to present a documentary project to key players in the international market and an excellent way of having access to a mine of recent information about the market, whether one is a producer or broadcaster.



As far as **Finished Programmes** are concerned (**documentaries of all lengths and types**), they must be recent (**2011 or 2012**) and have been made in a European or Mediterranean country.

The "**6th Ahmed Attia Award for Dialogue between Cultures**" (value 1,000 euros) will be given to the best finished documentary which was pitched at one of the previous years' markets. The jury will be elected by the members of the APIMED Bureau.

Deadline to submit a project and/or a film completed in 2011-12 : **SATURDAY JUNE 30th 2012**.

For all information:

Sergi Doladé, Director of MEDIMED (+ 34 93 244 98 50 - medimed@apimed.org).

Fax: (+ 34 93 247 01 65).

Mail: MEDIMED c/ Girona, 20, 5 planta, 08010 Barcelona, Spain.

www.medimed.org

MEDIMED is organised by the Association of Mediterranean Producers (APIMED) and supported by the European Union's Media Programme.

[Return to Contents](#)

STOP PRESS...



#The Lebanon / The cameraman Ali Chaaban killed on the Lebanese-Syrian border

On April 9th, while he was filming with a news team in the area of Wadi Khaled (North Lebanon), Ali Chaaban (photo), a cameraman for the Lebanese channel Al Jadeed was killed by shots coming from the Syrian Army. Another member of the team was wounded in this difficult zone on the borders of the Lebanon and Syria. According to the Syrian press agency, their army mistook the group of journalists for terrorists and opened fire.

The Lebanese president and prime minister have firmly condemned this attack, demanding an inquiry from both sides of the border.



#United Kingdom / A new programme to support journalists

BBC Media Action has just launched a new project, Media Neighbourhood aimed at supporting journalists in countries bordering the European Union. Financed by the European Commission, this project with 4.5 million euros is aimed mainly at journalists in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria Tunisia. It aims to improve journalists' training and networking. The project, led by BBC Media Action with IREX Europe, Fondation AFP, L'Orient-Le Jour, CFI, France Télévisions, LDK and the Media Development Center, will be spread over 3 years and hopes to reach 1,200 journalists.



#Algeria / A DVD box-set of 5 documentaries about the Algerian War

On July 5th the association *Au Nom de la Mémoire* will release a DVD box-set series of 5 documentaries about the Algerian war of independence. The 5 films were made by the association's chairman Mehdi Lallaoui (photo). The films are "*Porteur d'espoir*", "*Les parfums de ma terre*", "*En finir avec la guerre*", "*Le manifeste des 121*", and "*Vu de l'autre côté*". The director is hoping to show these films as he travels round France this summer, and also in Algeria: "*We foresee [...] a 'Traversée of brotherhood', a journey which will take us from Marseille to Algiers, to meet the two peoples with whom we wish to build the brotherhood which happens when memories are shared*".

**Translated from the French
by Tim King**