



N°108 September 2012

What's changed, what's new – as another academic year starts.

The “*Semaine audiovisuelle de la Méditerranée*” in June 2013 officially launched!

The France Télévisions group is associated with this event, created on the CMCA's initiative for *Marseille Provence 2013*.

For a whole week, from June 17th to 23rd, all the group's channels will schedule several programmes about Marseille, Provence and the Mediterranean in general.

The key event: the Festival of Music, live and in public from Marseille on June 21st on France 2, offered simultaneously to every television station around the Mediterranean.

During the same week PriMed will be held at Le Mucem and at La Villa Méditerranée (ex Cerem). A chance once again for the CMCA to honour *Mare Nostrum* and show the public images of this part of the world which it rarely has the chance to see.

Do not forget to register your works, the deadline is September 30th 2012

Another item linked to the start of a new academic year – the Mediterranean's broadcasting world is changing, with many new faces at the top of public television groups in Italy, Spain, Romania, Tunisia – and in France with the appointment of Marie-Christine Saragosse as head of *Audiovisuel Extérieur de la France*.

Here, as every month, you can find out what's going on in the Mediterranean broadcasting world.

Happy reading

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HEADLINE NEWS

LAST Call! **17th PriMed,**

from June 17th to 21st 2013 in Marseille, European Culture Capital!
Dead-line for registering and sending your 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 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.](#)

APPOINTMENTS

[#Spain / Ignacio Corrales new Managing Director of TVE](#)

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[#Spain / Ignacio Corrales new managing director of TVE](#)

On July 23rd, RTVE's Board of Directors approved the appointment of Ignacio Corrales as new managing director of TVE. He replaces Santiago Gonzalez, who has left to run Secuoya, a production and communication company.

Ignacio Corrales, 47, is a graduate in Economics. He has worked for the last 20 years in broadcasting, particularly in production and management of audiovisual content (Sogetel, Vertice 360 °...).

Alfonso Nasarre, 53, has in turn been appointed the new Director of Communications and Corporate Relations



[# France / Marie-Christine Saragosse soon to be appointed at the head of Audiovisuel Extérieur de la France](#)

On July 12th Alain de Pouzhilac stepped down as chairman of the *Audiovisuel Extérieur de la France* (AEF), an organization grouping France 24, RFI and Monte Carlo Doualiya. The *Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel* (the CSA – France's broadcasting watchdog) has nominated Marie-Christine Saragosse, director of *TV5 Monde*, to succeed him. Her nomination has been accepted by President François Hollande. To be effective, her appointment has first to be ratified by the CSA – a formality since it was the CSA who proposed her – and then be

accepted by the Cultural Affairs committees of both Houses of Parliament.



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

Anna Maria Tarantola has been appointed chairperson of RAI, replacing Paolo Garimberti. Graduate in economics and commerce, since 2009 she has been deputy managing director of the Bank of Italy.

Luigi Gubitosi, has meanwhile been appointed managing director, replacing Lorenza Lei. A former executive at Fiat

and WIND Telecomunicazioni, he has been running the Italian branch of Bank of America since November.

On 5th July, Italian public television's new Board of Directors was appointed.



[#Romania / A new CEO for TVR](#)

On July 3rd Claudiu Saftoiu became the new chairman and managing director of Romanian television.

Saftoiu is a communications expert in the field of media and politics.

He began his career in 1994 as a journalist. Since then, he has worked in the media and has written numerous political articles for Romanian magazines.

In 1994 he graduated from the Franco-Romanian section of Bucharest University with a degree in philology. In 2001, he obtained a Masters in Human Resources and Communication at the Faculty of Journalism.



[#Tunisia / Imene Bahroune new chairperson and managing director of Télévision Tunisienne](#)

On August 17th the Tunisian government announced the appointment of Imene Bahroune Ben Mrad as chairperson of *Télévision Tunisienne*, replacing Adnane Khedher. A graduate in journalism at La Manouba and in broadcasting at Cairo, she has been a professional journalist since 1993. She worked in the written press (TAP agency) and in radio, before becoming anchor of socio-political programmes for Hannibal TV and especially TWT. Since January 7th she has been director of Wataniya 2. On September 3rd Ms. Bahroun appointed new directors for Wataniya 1 and 2: respectively Abdelaziz Touati and Charfeddine Ben Salem.

LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

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[#Algeria / Nessma TV at last accredited](#)

In early July the Algerian authorities officially accredited the private Tunisian channel Nessma TV. Until then it had only been allowed to broadcast in Algeria, now staff will be allowed to work and produce material filmed on Algerian soil.

Nessma TV is the third private channel to be authorized to work in the country, after Ennahar TV and Echourouk TV. To mark the event Nessma devoted much of its Ramadan programming to Algeria.

"There has always been a close link between Nessma and Algeria," said Nabil Karoui, the station's CEO. "The channel has more viewers in Algeria than in Tunisia."



[#Egypt / A new channel operated by women in headscarves](#)

Launched on July 20th, the Egyptian channel *Mariya* quickly attracted attention. In fact, it is staffed entirely by women wearing the *niqab*, technicians as well as presenters.

To appear on the channel, people interviewed should also wear a *niqab*, if not their faces are blurred. The only man concerned with the channel is its owner, Sheikh

Abu Abdallah Ahmad Islam, who comes occasionally to advise on programming.

Mariya broadcasts six hours a day as part of the Umma Islamic Channel. The aim is to teach married, veiled women the Sunni practices of the Prophet Muhammad (one of whose wives was called Mariya).

Chance or coincidence, on September 3 a journalist on the first national channel, Nabil Fatma, presented the midday news wearing a *hijab*. Since 1952, veiled women have been systematically banned from the channel.



[#Lebanon / Télé Liban sues several dailies](#)

In an official statement on September 3rd the board of the public broadcaster *Télé Liban* announced it was taking legal action against several Lebanese daily newspapers. "*Certain*

newspapers have begun to distort the image of this national institution and its employees," the statement said.

The newspapers have started rumours "*about the dismissal of competent Christians,*" a charge the board of *Télé Liban* categorically denies.



[#Israel / A new news channel on the Middle-East being prepared](#)

Patrick Drahi (photo), a Franco-Israeli businessman, is preparing to launch a French-language 24-hour television news channel devoted to news from the Middle East.

The aim is to present a pro-Israeli perspective, at the same time providing a counterweight to the dominant Al Jazeera,.

The new channel will replace Guysen TV, whose infrastructure has been bought by Patrick Drahi and his partner Haim Slutzky.

An English version is also being planned for North America.

Patrick Drahi is a shareholder of the French internet service providers *Hot* and *Numericable*. Through this new channel he wants "*to show the true face of Israel.*"



[#Spain / Three journalists from RTVE sacked by the government](#)

Three Spanish public broadcasting journalists were sacked this summer on a decision by Mariano Rajoy's government. Ana Pastor (pictured), presenter of the morning show "*Desayunos*", Toni Garrido, presenter of *Radio Nacional*, and Juan Ramon Lucas, a radio journalist, have all been dismissed. The board of RTVE has tried to justify their decision – they claim Ana Pastor refused to host a night show, though she denies this. The opposition Socialists and unions quickly criticized these decisions.

According to Reporters Without Borders, this series of lay-offs "*confirms the worst fears which predicted a political takeover*" of RTVE by the government.

Xavier Fortes, a journalist on *Canal 24 Horas*, and Alicia Montano, director of a magazine *Informe Semanal* have also been accused of showing too much sympathy for the Socialist Party – and so were also fired this summer.



[#Spain / Merger of Antena 3 and La Sexta delayed](#)

Begun last January, the merger between the two Spanish channels *Antena 3* and *La Sexta* has still not been finalised. Both parties consider the constraints imposed by the National Commission of Competence to be “*unfair and unworkable*”.

So at the end of August the Spanish government intervened to modify these conditions, applicable for five years. They concern the advertising market, the acquisition of rights and the obligation to report regularly to the National Commission Jurisdiction.

The merger between the two channels was previously scheduled for June.



[# Spain / 1,300 jobs lost at RTVV](#)

On July 16th dozens of employees of the RTVV (Valencian radio and television) invaded the *Canal 9* studio to protest against the management plan for redundancies, which could affect 1,300 jobs out of the current 1,700.

RTVV's debt currently stands at €1.2 billion. After the redundancies, the group should be privatized, in conformity with the law on public television adopted last April. Among the 1,300 jobs which will go, a thousand are from Channel 9 and 170 from Radio 9. It is also expected that one of RTVV's three channels will be deleted in 2013.



[# Spain / A Moroccan family wins its case against Antena 3](#)

The Tribunal of First Instance in Brussels has condemned the Spanish private channel *Antena 3* to pay €215,000 to a Moroccan family for moral and material damage. In November 2010 the channel broadcast a photograph of four corpses presented as a Sahrawi family killed by the Moroccan authorities during the events of 8th November in Laayoune.

In fact it was a picture of the Rachidi family, who had been killed by a madman in Casablanca a few months previously. The publication of this photograph on *Antena 3* sparked several protests in Morocco, and members of the Rachidi family immediately took legal action.



[#France / A reform for France Télévisions as from January 2013](#)

Rémy Pflimlin, managing director of *France Télévisions*, said the reform of the French public broadcasting group should be completed by January 2013, as well as the signing of the new Contract of Objectives and Means (COM).

France Télévisions is facing a decline in resources:

On the one hand, the advertising revenue shortfall will be about €50 to €55 million by the end of 2012, according to figures announced by management.

On the other hand, the group also sees its public resources decreasing by €21 million compared to COM.

At the last Central Enterprise Committee held on September 11th, Rémy Pflimlin also announced a reduction of personnel, while stressing that there would be no forced redundancies.



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[#France / Agreement renewed for 4 years between France Télévisions and INA](#)

On July 3rd Rémy Pflimlin, managing director of *France Télévisions*, and Mathieu Gallet, managing director of INA, signed an outline agreement renewing their partnership until June 2016. All *France Télévisions*' digital channels and

platforms will have privileged access to the INA archives. In return, INA is committed to preserving and digitizing all the audiovisual archives of the *France Télévisions* group.

The agreement also brings the two entities closer together for initial and vocational training and apprenticeships. Finally, INA will cooperate with *France Télévisions Distribution*, and share its expertise in the commercial field.

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PROGRAMMES

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[#Tunisia / Legal confusion over the Tunisian Guignols de l'Info](#)

Broadcast on Nessma since the beginning of Ramadan 2012, the Tunisian adaptation of the “*Guignols de l'Info*” is already creating a stir. On August 24th the private channel

Nessma TV and the French company Zig Zag, producer of the famous puppets, lost the legal case against them brought by Ettounsiya TV.

Ettounsiya used to hold the exclusive rights on the puppets, but in May Zig Zag decided to terminate their contract for “*non-payment*”, and reassign the exclusive rights to Nessma.

Tunis' Court of First Instance ruled in favour of Ettounsiya, saying Zig Zag had “cheated” the two channels. So in theory Ettounsiya's programme “*La Logique Politique*” (photo) could resume transmission.

But only in theory, since also on August 24th the Tunisian courts issued an arrest warrant for Ettounsiya's owner, Sami Fehri for “*illegal use of resources of the Tunisian Television Establishment*.”

Mr. Fehri believes that this decision is the result of pressure from the government: “*Lotfi Zitoune [Advisor to the Head of Government and a member of Ennahda] contacted me and warned me people were very dissatisfied, that what the channel was broadcasting was unacceptable.*”



[#Arab World / The series about Omar Ibn Al-Khattâb criticised by Islamists](#)

Claimed by producer MBC to be the greatest series ever made in the Arab world, “Omar” has by any standards dominated audiences in the countries where it was broadcast during Ramadan 2012.

But the series about one of the most well-known of Muhammad's companions has also drawn the ire of Islamic fundamentalists. The Sunni institution Al-Azhar, based in Cairo, has issued a fatwa declaring that “*figurative representations of the prophets and their companions is prohibited.*” Faced with growing criticism, MBC has said that several religious leaders were consulted to verify the accuracy of the events shown in the series.

Filmed mainly in Morocco, “Omar” brought together 30,000 actors and technicians from 10 different countries. The 31 episodes needed 300 days of shooting.



france télévisions

[# France / End of the holidays for France Télévisions](#)

Rémy Pflimlin, CEO of *France Télévisions*, said his group's autumn schedule is full of “strong ideas” and “bold strokes”. He quoted the example of the “*Semaine de la Méditerranée*”, which will be shown on every channel of the group from June 17th to 23rd. The programme is focussed on Marseille Provence 2013 and the main events happening in this year's European Capital of

Culture, in particular the *Fête de la musique* on June 21st which will be broadcast live from Marseille on France 2.

Each channel sees its identity reaffirmed:

Jean Reveillon, director of France 2, said his channel will be a “*great popular channel, quality material for all the family*” with priorities “*to inform, educate and entertain*”. France 3's director, François Guilbeau, believes that with its new schedule the audience should be between 9.5 and 10%. As for France 4, its director, Emmanuelle Guilbart, announced “*fifteen new programmes*” in the coming weeks. She also stressed that France 4 is “*the most popular DTT channel*”.



[# France / France 3 Provence Alpes unveils its autumn schedule](#)

Culture and the Internet are two highlights of the season: Culture with Marseille-Provence 2013: as from January Marseille's local edition will be dedicated to the event every Friday, and a new monthly magazine on Saturdays

"*Coulisses et secrets*" (Backstage secrets) will show behind

the scenes of the highlights of this year's European Capital of Culture. Two major events will also be covered: The Opening Ceremony on January 12th and 13th and the show "*La Méditerranée au coeur*" in November 2012 and June 2013, as part of *France Télévisions'* "*Semaine de la Méditerranée*".

Internet: the pages of the web-site are now better looking, easier to read and more participative.

corse VIA
STELLA



[# France / The programmes of "Via Stella": continuity, innovation and – the Mediterranean](#)

For its new season, *France Télévisions'* "Via Stella" channel is offering three complementary areas:

Continuity with the the return of programmes first shown in September 2011, such as "*Prima Inseme*", "*Sera*

inseme", "*Foot et basta*", "*Via cultura*", etc ...

Innovation with a programme for young Corsican children, another on employment "*Mode d'emploi*" and "*Made in Corsica*", which will show portraits of people on the island active in all areas of the Corsican economy and finally "*Galleria*" about the masterpieces in the Fesch Ajaccio museum.

Mediterranean with in addition to the weekly magazine "*Mediterraneo*", the "*Carnets de Mediterraneo*" a monthly look at an issue linked to the situation in the Mediterranean basin, illustrated by reports. "*Maghreb Orient Express*" in partnership with TV5 Monde on culture, politics, economics and media in the Arab world and the Mediterranean News, which offers a look at the whole region through the daily life of the people who live there.

ECONOMY

[#Tunisia / Nessma TV "is not for sale"](#)

[#France / Canal+ purchase of Direct 8 authorised](#)



[#Tunisia / Nessma TV "is not for sale"](#)

The senior management of Nessma TV issued a statement on 25th denying rumours that the channel is being sold. *"Nessma is 50% owned by Karoui & Karoui, 25% by the Mediaset group, and 25% by the Quinta Communications group: the channel is not for sale."*

According to the Tunisian magazine *Entreprises*, Tarek Ben Ammar (photo), owner of Quinta Communications, is however

in talks with Saudi Prince Walid Ibn Talal for the resale of 25% of its shares. Apparently the channel's chairman, Nabil Karoui, has also agreed to sell his shares.

Information refuted by Nessma's management according to which *"the channel's financial position does not inspire concern and is evolving favourably."*



[#France / Canal+ purchase of Direct 8 authorised](#)

On July 23rd the Competition Authority gave its green light to the Canal Plus Group's purchase of Direct 8 and Direct Star. This authorization is nevertheless subject to several conditions which Canal Plus must comply with.

Concerning the original films and series that will be broadcast on the Group's free and pay channels, they can only be purchased from one of the six major Hollywood studios.

Second constraint, Direct 8 must in priority buy films from Studio Canal's production and distribution subsidiary.

Finally, the Canal Plus group may not delegate the broadcast of sporting events in which it has rights directly to Direct 8: it must launch a tender to which all channels can respond, including Direct 8.

Canal Plus must keep to these commitments for a minimum of 5 years. The *Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel* (CSA – the broadcasting watchdog) will also issue an opinion on the acquisition of Direct 8 in September.

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CINEMA

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[#Tunisia / Tunisia has its own Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image](#)

Since July Tunisia has a *Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image* – in legal terms anyway. Only the administrative and financial aspects and management methods have so far been established.

The Ministry of Culture will shortly appoint a managing director and decide how the Centre will be organised. The headquarters of the CNCI should be set up in a northern suburb of Tunis, where until 1992 there used to be film laboratories and the *Société Anonyme Tunisienne de Production et d'Expansion Cinématographique* (SATPEC).

The CNCI will have the job of updating the legislation relating to the film industry, which dates mostly from 1960 to 1980.



[#Morocco / "Persepolis" once again sparks debate](#)

In the autumn of 2011 *"Persepolis"*, Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Paronnaud's animated film, was the focus of a lot of attention in Tunisia after it was controversially broadcast on Nessma TV. This time, the ink is flowing in Morocco.

Three screenings of the film were scheduled at the Tangier Cinémathèque on July 7th, 11th and 15th, as part of the Festival of the Groupama Gan Foundation for Cinema.

But on July 7th *"Persepolis"* was taken off the programme at the last minute and replaced by *"Séminaire du manifeste des voleurs"* and *"Une vie de chat"*. The other two screenings of the film were also cancelled, as was the Israeli film *"Sharqiya"* by Ami Livne, which was to have opened the festival.

The Cinémathèque management has still not made an announcement about this, but it seems to have applied the precautionary principle, as the Groupama Gan Foundation spokesman Gilles Duval explained: *"These cinemas are fragile places. Nobody wants to see the place challenged for its programming or its very existence questioned on the basis of one film, however beautiful it may be."*



[#Spain / The documentary maker Chema Rodriguez moves into drama](#)

Chema Rodriguez (photo) is currently shooting "*Anochece en la India*" (Night falls on India), his first feature film.

Having made over fifty documentaries, most of which have won awards, he adapted his own book, "*Anochece in Kathmandu*" into a road movie about a tour guide who becomes handicapped and decides to live his last days on the banks of the Ganges.

The first part of the filming took place in July in Romania, Turkey and Andalusia. The film crew should complete shooting in October in Almeria and India.

"*Anochece en la India*" is co-produced by *Producciones Sin Duro* and *Jaleo Films*, and the Romanian *Strada Film*. The first videos of the shoot are available on the official website of the film: <http://www.anocheceenlaindia.com/en>



[#Italy / The technicians at Cinecittà on strike](#)

Cinecittà Studios employees have been on strike since July 4th, protesting against the restructuring plan initiated by the Italian Entertainment Group (IEG), the main shareholder. Their project is for the post-production services to be moved

to a new partner, Panalight, then an amusement park will be built, a service area, a luxury hotel and a fitness centre for the film crews.

Cinecittà's technicians fear a gradual dismantling of film activity and therefore lay-offs.

[#Italy / ANICA to launch a VOD web-site](#)



The chairman of the *Associazione Nazionale Industrie Cinematografiche Audiovisive* (ANICA) Riccardo Tozzi, has announced the launch this autumn of a video-on-demand site purely for Italian films.

He hopes to facilitate the distribution and dissemination of Italian films, especially independent works.

The site is possible because the exclusivity agreements which some distributors made with television companies have now expired.

According to ANICA, the Italian films available by VOD have brought in nearly €200 million in 2011 and are expected to generate three times more revenue by 2016.



[#France / 12 Mediterranean projects supported by the Fonds francophone](#)

5 film projects from Tunisia, 3 from the Lebanon, 2 from Morocco and 2 from Egypt have been selected to receive financial support from the French *Fonds*

francophone de production audiovisuelle du Sud. Each of these projects will receive support, from €10,000 (for shorts) to €40,000 (for feature films).

Each year the fund allocates €1.3 million to film projects or TV programmes. Out of the 81 applications received by the Cinema Commission in 2012, 21 projects were selected.

For a complete list of films selected [click here](#).



[#France / Regard Sud takes a second look at 8 films on the Algerian War](#)

The association *Regard Sud*, which organises the *Festival Cinémas du Sud* has scheduled a retrospective entitled “*Guerre d'Algérie, regards croisés*” (The Algerian War, different viewpoints) to mark the 50th anniversary of Algerian independence. The retrospective will run from September 21st to 29th.

Eight films will be screened at the Comoedia cinema in Lyon: Mohamed Lakhdar Hamina's “*Le Vent des Aurès*” (1966), “*R.A.S.*” (1973) by Yves Boisset, Jean-Luc Godard's “*Le petit soldat*” (1963), “*La question*” (1977) by Laurent Heynemann, Okacha Touita's “*Les sacrifiés*” (1984), “*La Chine est encore loin*” (2008, photo) by Malek Bensmail, “*La trahison*” (2006) by Felix Falcon and Gilles Pontecorvo's “*La bataille d'Alger*” (1966).

The majority of directors will be present at the screenings and a discussion is also planned on the theme “How the cinema on both sides of the Mediterranean dealt with the war in Algeria”.

For more information [click here](#).

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FESTIVALS

Festival of the month: the 5th Toronto Festival of Palestinian Film from September 29th to October 7th



The Toronto Palestinian Film Festival was created in 2008 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the "Palestinian Catastrophe" (*Al Nakba*). Organized by volunteers, it introduces Canadian audiences to Palestinian culture through film, music and visual arts.

The 5th TPFF opens on September 29th with Abdallah Omeish's U.S. documentary "The War Around Us", which won awards at the Newport Festival.

After a Palestinian brunch on September 30th, the screenings will resume from October 1st with some memorable films:

- "*Gaza Hospital*", an Italo-Lebanese film by Marco Pasquini, who won an international press Golden Globe in 2010. A documentary on the Gaza Hospital in Beirut, marked by the Sabra and Shatila massacres and which now hosts families of Palestinian refugees.
- "*Love During Wartime*", Gabriella Bier's Swedish film, or the love story of a Palestinian artist and an Israeli dancer in East Jerusalem, who decide to go to Europe so they can get married.
- "*Sacred Stones*" a revealing Palestinian documentary by Muayad Alayan and Laila Higazi about the extraction and trade of stone in Palestine, and its economic, social and environmental consequences.
- "*This Is My Land ... Hebron*" Italian documentary by Giulia Amati and Stephen Natanson about the war for land being waged by Palestinians and Israeli settlers on the West Bank, at Hebron.
- "*Women In The Stadium*" Sawsan Qaoud's Palestinian documentary about a group of female footballers. They are preparing for the first ever game in the Palestinian Women's Soccer Championship.
- "*Pencils Of Askalan*" Laila Hotait Salas' experimental Lebanese documentary about

a Palestinian imprisoned in Israel for 15 years. He survived thanks to his passion for drawing.

- “*Beyond The Walls*” Jordanian animated documentary about the rehabilitation of Palestinian political prisoners released by Israel in the 1970s and 1980s.
- “*Habibi*” by Susan Yussef, or a modern version of the story of Majnun and Leila, seen through the romance of two students in the Gaza Strip.

In closing, the oud player Marcel Khalife and the Al Mayadine Ensemble will present musical arrangements inspired by the work of the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish.

For more information: <http://tpff.ca/>

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[#Algeria / Call for films for the Journées Cinématographiques in Algiers](#)

From October 15th to 19th the third *Journées Cinématographiques* will be held in Algiers, a chance for the public to discover works which have remained outside the traditional commercial circuit.

A national competition for short films and an international one for documentaries are on the programme. A workshop for writing and making documentaries, Docdalger is also scheduled.

The deadline for submitting films is September 15th. To consult the rules and download the entry form, go to this address : <http://www.jcalger.com/index.html>



[#Morocco / Short Mediterranean film at Tangier](#)

The Tangier Festival of Mediterranean Short Film celebrates its 10th edition from October 1st to 6th. On the programme as usual, a competition section which will explore short drama films made by Mediterranean film-makers between 2011 and 2012.

Seven awards will be given to the best works. Among them, an award by a jury of young people.

The Grand Prix for the 2011 Festival was won by Serhat Karaaslan for his short film "*Bicyclette*".

More information: <http://www.ccm.ma/10fcmmt/>



[#Morocco / The Salé Festival honours women film-makers](#)

For its 6th edition, the Salé Festival of Women's Film continued to showcase films by women directors.

From September 17th to 22nd, there were 12 feature films in competition, including “*Androman, de sang et de charbon*” (Androman, blood and coal) by the Moroccan Mharzi Az Alaoui El Arab, “*Asmae*” by the Egyptian Amr Salama and “*Le secret de l'enfant fourmi*” (The secret of the ant child) by Christine Francis from France.

There were other screenings in parallel, with a selection of films supported by ACID between 1995 and 2006, a panorama of Moroccan feature films and a selection of short films made by Moroccan women film-makers. Many tributes were made, including one Nezha Drissi, founder of FIDADOC, who died last December.



[#Egypt / Marianne Khoury, new Artistic Director of the Cairo Festival](#)

Producer/director Marianne Khoury has been chosen as Artistic Director of the next Cairo Film Festival. It will be held from November 27th to December 6th. According to Mme Khoury, this 35th edition is of major importance “*for the image of Egyptian cinema and Egyptian film professionals [...]*

particularly since last year's festival was cancelled.”

A former associate of Youssef Chahine, she now runs the production company Misr Films. Her film “*Zela'*”, co-directed with Mustapha Hasnaoui, was awarded RAI's Broadcasting Award at the 2011 PriMed.

Ezzat Abou Eouf remains the festival director. He has warned that the short time available for his team to organise the festival will have an impact on this 35th edition. It will be shorter and focused on fewer countries.



[##Lebanon / Call for films for the Docu-days in Beyrouth](#)

From April 10th to 14th 2013 the Beirut Docu-days will be back for its 11th edition. As ever its goal is to make the documentary available to the greatest number. 10,000 people

attended the previous edition, at which main award went to "*Tahrir 2011: The Good, The Bad And The Politician*" by Tamer Ezzat, Ayten Amin and Amr Salama.

The call for films for 2013 has been launched and is open to documentaries of any length made after January 1st 2012. The selected films will compete either in the international competition, or in the pan-Arab competition. The deadline for submissions is December 15th.

More information: <http://www.docudays.com/submission.html>



[#France / Call for films for FIGRA 2013](#)

The *Festival International du Grand Reportage d'Actualité* (FIGRA – International Festival of News Reporting), held annually in Le Touquet-Paris-Plage, will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2013. As usual the competition will offer a

selection of reports and documentaries about the world we live in.

Nominations are open, with a form to fill in directly on the festival site. The documents and material required must then be sent before October 31st.

The 20th FIGRA will be held from March 20th to the 24th 2013.

More information: <http://www.figra.fr/inscriptions-2013/>



[#France / A Tunisian documentary major winner of FIDMarseille](#)

The Grand Prix in the international section of FIDMarseille, which ended on July 9th, went to the Tunisian documentary “*Babylon*” by Ala Eddine Slim, Ishmael Louati and Youssef Chebbi.

Shot in a hurry, the film shows the influx of Libyan emigrants into southern Tunisia at a time when the Gaddafi regime was still using military force to fight the insurgents.

Amongst the other films given awards, Ahmad Natche's Palestinian drama “*Two meters of this land*” received a special mention, and “*74, the reconstruction of a struggle*” a Lebanese film by Rania and Raed Rafei, won the *Prix du Groupement National des Cinémas de Recherche*.



[#France / 7th Films Femmes Méditerranée](#)

From September 25th to October 8th, Marseille, La Ciotat, Hyeres and Aix-en-Provence are hosting the 7th *Rencontres Films Femmes Méditerranée*. 20 feature films and 13 short films will be screened, dramas and documentaries.

Mediterranean women will be in the spotlight through these films and 17 film-makers have been invited to discuss their work with the public. Mini-concerts and buffet meals complete the programme which was officially unveiled on September 13th.

These *Rencontres* are twinned this year with Italy's *Salina DocFest: Festival del documentario narrativo* (in Sicily) and the Women's Film Festival of Salé (see above).

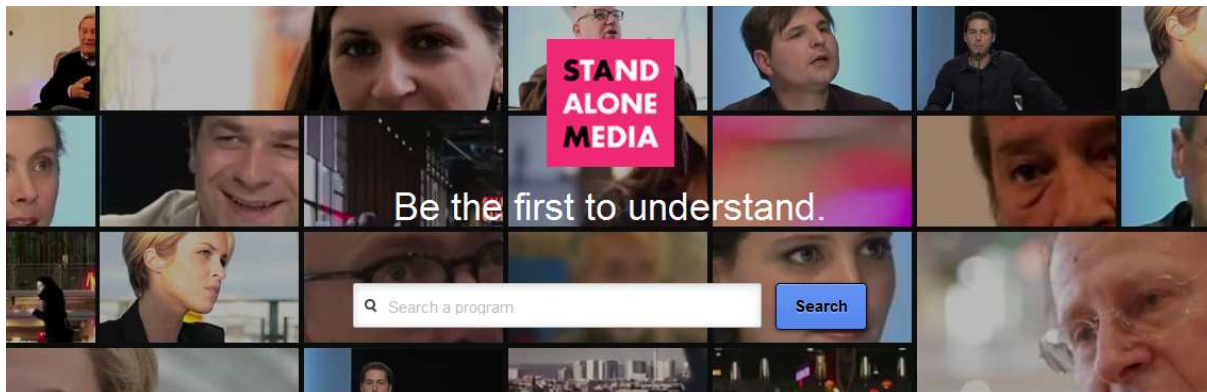
Find the complete list of all the festivals in September on our web-site:

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

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WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH

SAM TV (sam.tv/standalonemedia)



In the words of its founder, Karim Amellal, SAM TV was designed as an interactive “classroom”. The site aims to become an audiovisual equivalent of Wikipedia, offering video content in the form of interviews, and on fundamental issues such as the origins of language, how the brain works ...

Each video is accompanied by a time-line, allowing the user to switch quickly between different chapters. There is also a frame displaying useful information or additional links about the video's subject-matter.

An extension dedicated to the Arab world, Samar Media, was created in June. Content can now be produced and shown in English, Arabic and French, making knowledge accessible to the greatest number of people. At the same time Samar Media should become a laboratory to help understand the current issues in the Middle East and North Africa in the wake of the Arab Spring revolutions.

To inaugurate Samar Media, the site's editors chose to make a series of portraits of cartoonists in the Arab world. Several modules of ten minutes each allow users to enter the world of many renowned cartoonists, such as the Syrian Ali Ferzat, the Egyptian Georges Bahgoury, the Algerian Dilem and the Tunisian Nadia Khiari. This series of portraits was designed and made by the French film-maker Vanessa Rousselot, who won an award in the 2011 PriMed for her documentary “*Blagues A Part*” (Joking Apart). Although the number of videos available on SAM TV is still limited, it should quickly host more content, enabling it to fulfil its claim to become an audiovisual encyclopaedia, attracting ever more people.

THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY

[#Arab world/ A new training session for the Access programme](#)

[#Italy / Call for the “Journalists of the Mediterranean” competition](#)

[#Italy / Call for candidates for the Roberto Cimetta Fund mobility grant](#)



[#Arab world/ A new training session for the Access programme](#)

Funded by Euromed Audiovisual III, in 2013 the Access programme will offer a new training session for producers in the southern Mediterranean. This training will focus on new modes of production in the digital age.

The 2012 session was divided into three phases: one in March in Tunis, allowing each of the 24 participants to develop personal projects with recognized professionals; the second in June, completely on-line; while the final one will be held in October in Amman, focussing specifically on marketing, distribution and the new media.

For the second session in 2013, a new online module is being prepared which will allow those taking part to interact with experts such as Dionyssys Samiotis and Dima Al Joundi. Producers with drama or documentary projects must submit their applications before October 20th 2012.

More information: <http://euromed.mediaschool.org/fr/>



[#Italy / Call for the “Journalists of the Mediterranean” competition](#)

The 4th international “Mediterranean Journalists” competition has been launched. As every year, it is open to any journalist from a Mediterranean country. Two themes are put forward for this 2012 edition: “The Arab Spring” and “Openness and Solidarity”.

Written press journalists must submit an article on paper with a digital copy. TV or radio journalists must provide a DVD of their report, which must have a maximum duration of 30 minutes. As for web and new media journalists, their topic must be submitted on DVD, with a maximum of 5 minutes for audio and / or video material and a maximum of 3,500 characters for texts.

The call is open until September 29th. The winners will be announced at a ceremony on December 1st at Bari.

For more information: <http://www.terradelmediterraneo.it/index.php>

[#Italy / Call for candidates for the Roberto Cimetta Fund mobility grant](#)

The Roberto Cimetta Fund launched its fourth and final call for nominations for 2012. It is for a mobility grant, open to all artists and culture professionals living or working in the Euro-Mediterranean area, who want to have some experience abroad which they can then use in a local cultural development.

Three specific funding lines have been opened by the Bouches-du-Rhône General Council, Marseille-Provence 2013 and the Puglia region of Italy.

Applications are open until September 30th.

For more information: <http://www.cimettafund.org/article/index/rubrique/2/lang/fr>

[INDEPENDANT MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCERS' WAY](#)



[#Palestine / “NossBalad”, first Palestinian web-series](#)

Filmed in East Jerusalem, “NossBalad” is the first Palestinian series developed exclusively for showing on the web.

It centres round the absurdity of life in Jerusalem, seen through the daily life of a moderately wealthy family: a single mother, four children and their grandfather.

At the moment only one episode is available, but nine others are in

preparation. Marianna Bianchetti, Italian creator of the series, is trying to raise the necessary finance to continue the project.

Made jointly by Ahmad Bakri and the Italian Pietro Bellorini “NossBalad” is based on the lives of people involved in the creation of the series, but also on “*Sharon and my mother-in-law*”, an autobiographical novel by Ramallah architect Suad Amiri.

For more information: <http://nossbalad.com/>

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IN THE REST OF THE NEWS



France / Jérôme Cathala new chairman of CFI's Board

Jérôme Cathala, head of *France Télévisions'* current affairs magazines, has been elected chairman of the Board of Canal France International. He takes over from Jean Reveillon, appointed to the head of France 2 in April.

Graduate of the *Centre de formation des journalistes* (CFJ), Jérôme Cathala began his career in broadcasting in 1986. He has been, among other things, head of France 3 television news, director of the local news and, since 2010, in charge of editorial content and development of *France Télévisions'* current affairs magazines.



#Syria / A director and an actor arrested in Damascus

On August 23rd Syrian producer/director Orwa Nyrabia (photo) disappeared at Damascus airport as he was preparing to fly to Cairo. Egyptair said he did not board the plane, which his family believed meant he had been arrested by the Syrian authorities. Founder of the Dox Box

documentary festival, at the last Sarajevo Film Festival he received the Katrin Cartlidge Foundation Award. He was released on September 12th.

The actor Mohammad Omar Oso has also been reported missing. According to several Syrian opposition activists, the secret police conducted a search of his home and then allegedly took the actor and his family, known for their opposition to the regime of Bashar Al Assad, to an unknown destination.



#France / Call for nominations for the Free Speech Award

The *Press Club Marseille Provence Alpes du Sud* is looking for nominations for the 5th International Free Speech Award, in partnership with Reporters Without Borders. The award is for an article or report by a journalist which "provides a free and independent viewpoint [...] on an event or a situation of political, social, economic or environmental nature". The articles must have been published between January 1st 2011 and September 1st 2012. Articles, TV or radio reports, photos, drawings, web articles...any form of journalism is accepted. The deadline for applications is October 1st.

For more information: http://fr.rsf.org/IMG/pdf/reglement_prix_2012.pdf



#France / Submit your radio programmes on the theme of love!

This year the 24th International URTI Radio Grand Prix is for programmes on the theme of love. The competition is open to all radios stations, associations or institutions

specializing in broadcasting – each one can submit a maximum of two programmes of less than 60 minutes each. The winner will receive a grant of \$5,000 (€4,000).

The deadline for entries is September 16th.

For more information: <http://www.urti.org/grand-prix-radio-en>

**Translated from the French
by
Tim King**