



N° 75  
March 2009

## MEDITERRANEE AUDIOVISUELLE Monthly Newsletter

**This issue in brief: the International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film (you have until the 16<sup>th</sup> March to send your films) and the launch of the MedMem project in Marseille .**

**The reform of French public broadcasting adopted by Parliament and the creation of two Algerian thematic channels; a close-up on the *Cinéma du Réel* in Paris and news of the Arab Image Foundation website, based in the Lebanon, which promotes photographic culture in the Middle East and North Africa.**

**Happy reading to you all.**

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Méditerranée Audiovisuelle-La Lettre. Dépôt Légal 26 décembre 2008. ISSN : 1634-4081. *Tous droits réservés*

Directeur de publication : Martine Viglione

Rédaction : Valérie Gerbault, Martine Viglione

Traduction anglais : Tim KING

CMCA - 96 La Canebière 13001 Marseille Tel : + 33 491 42 03 02 Fax : +33 491 42 01 83

<http://www.cmca-med.org> - [cmca@cmca-med.org](mailto:cmca@cmca-med.org)

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## HEADLINE STORY

# 14<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film



## PLEASE NOTE:

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING FILMS

**16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

#### **As a reminder here is the list of the different Awards:**

– **CMCA Grand Prix “Mediterranean Stakes” (6,000€)**

This prize is given to the best film (documentary or news report) on a current Mediterranean subject. The category singles out productions which improve our understanding of the present situation in the Mediterranean and the award pays tribute to a director’s skill at questioning and putting events into perspective, as well as his ability to listen to the principal characters.

– **“Mediterranean Memories” Prize (5,000€)**

This prize rewards the documentary which brings to life an event in the past concerning the Mediterranean, with or without archive material: stories of an individual or a group of people, or films about places epitomising a collective memory.

– **“First Work” (Value 5,000€)**

This prize recognises a director who hasn’t made more than 3 documentaries, or a work produced within a school or training programme.

– **The Mediterranean Art, Heritage and Cultures Prize (Value 5,000€)**

This prize honours the best documentary film which promotes 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).

– **Mediterranean Sports Prize (Value 5,000€)**

This prize is for the best documentary or news report about a sporting event or personality within the Mediterranean region, promoting individual or collective effort.

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- **Special Jury Prize (Value 5,000€)**, any category.

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

**The above awards are for the director and author of the winning work**

- **The Faro d'Oro Prize for the best magazine programme (4,000€)**

This prize rewards the best television magazine programme covering Mediterranean news subjects (society, geopolitics, environment, economy and culture). It will take into account the quality of the initial idea, the investigative work, its content and its presentation.

The particularity of the International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film is that three awards may be given to the finalists in any category by representatives of

**France 3 Méditerranée** (France)

**RAI TRE** (Italy)

**ENTV** (Algeria)

The winners of these awards will be chosen only by representatives of the television companies. The broadcast of any work thus rewarded has to be agreed individually between the broadcaster and the makers of the film.

**You will find the rules for this 14<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film as well as the entry form on the CMCA web-site:**

<http://www.cmca-med.org/fr/le-prix/edition2009/php>

For more information on the Festival since its creation:

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

<http://www.prixcmca.org>

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[# France / “Foundation Stone” for MedMem, a project supported by the European Union as part of the Euromed Heritage programme.](#)

The MedMem project was launched at a meeting held in the Marseille offices of *INA Méditerranée*, the project's pilot, on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February. It brought together all the partners and associates of the project, 18 in all, including a dozen

Mediterranean television companies. The project is to create a web-site which will make the Mediterranean's audiovisual heritage available to everyone. For this first working get-together there was a detailed over-view of the project, each player's role was defined, technical issues explained – and throughout the work-sessions intense inter-changes on all the issues. Now each of the television companies will select items from their audiovisual archives, these will then be enriched by the cross-cultural viewpoints of researchers, teachers and authors specialised in the Mediterranean, whose work will be coordinated by the *Maison Méditerranée des Sciences de l'Homme*, thanks in particular to the network set up as part of the Ramses project.

The CMCA will maintain a Mediterranean cultural diary on the site and, as part of its International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film, will award a special “Euromed Heritage” mention to a film specifically about the Mediterranean heritage.

## LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

[# France / Reform of Public Broadcasting – the bill becomes law](#)

[# Algeria / Return of Al-Jazeera to Algeria?](#)

[# Algeria / Two new channels will enrich the Algerian broadcasting landscape](#)



[# France / Reform of Public Broadcasting – the bill becomes law](#)

The public broadcasting bill was passed on the 4<sup>th</sup> February by the French Parliament. After very lively debates, the principal measure announced by Nicolas Sarkozy early last year was adopted: the end of advertising on public service channels after 8pm. The main clauses of the new law are:

- The holding company *France Télévisions* becomes the *Société Nationale de Programmes*, controlling France 2, France 3, France 4, France 5 and RFO and the on-demand services;
- No advertising on the above channels between 8pm and 6am (in fact this had been in force since the 5<sup>th</sup> January, following the decision of the Administrative Council of *France Télévisions*). When analogue broadcasting ends in 2011 advertising on these channels will cease entirely in mainland France. To compensate for the loss of advertising revenue, €450 million has been guaranteed for the next three years. After that, an amount will be decided each year in the Finance Bill. In addition, two new taxes have been created: one on advertising turnover for private channels and the other on electronic communication operators.
- The president of *France Télévisions*, a 5 year tenure, will be chosen by the Head of State, subject to the agreement of the Administrative Council of *France Télévisions* (CSA) and the Parliamentary Cultural Affairs Commission. He (or she) can also be replaced by the Head of State, after consultation with and the majority agreement of the CSA and after public consultation with the Parliamentary commissions. Whether for naming or replacing, the agreement of 3/5<sup>th</sup> of parliament will be necessary.

The same method of selecting and replacing will also apply to the heads of *Radio France* and the company running external broadcasting.



### [# Algeria / Return of Al-Jazeera to Algeria?](#)

The offices of the Qatari television channel were closed “provisionally” in July 2004, just after the transmission of the programme “*Al Itijah Mouakiss*”, in which two ex-patriot opponents of the Algerian regime expressed their opinions. However, Al-Jazeera correspondents were given special dispensation to cover the 2002 and 2007 elections. There is a rumour in Algiers, spread by several newspapers, that Al Jazeera will be able to re-open an office in the capital after this April's presidential election. “*According to certain sources,*” claims “*L'Expression*”, a newspaper, “*the accreditation file has already been received and names are already being discussed for the bureau personnel*”



### [# Algeria / Two new channels will enhance the Algerian broadcasting landscape](#)

Executive decrees about the creation of two new television channels have been signed. The minister for religious affairs, Bouabdellah Ghlamallah, announced that a satellite television channel exclusively for religious programmes will be launched before the end of March – eventually with 24 hour coverage. A Tamazight-language channel should also be launched this month.

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## PROGRAMMES

[# France-Algeria / the documentary “Vent de sable” soon on TV screens](#)

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[# France-Algeria / the documentary “Vent de sable” soon on TV screens](#)

The documentary by Algerian director Larbi Benchiha, should be broadcast soon on *Corse via Stella* and on *Télé Rennes*. The film is a co-production by *24 Images* and *TV Rennes*.

1960: in the north of Algeria the war was at its height. Meanwhile 2,000 kilometres away, in the Hoggar Desert, officers and scientists were setting up the first French atomic testing station. As well as the scientists and career soldiers, there were national servicemen and local workers working on this enormous project. On the 13<sup>th</sup> February 1961 at four minutes past seven in the morning, France joined the very exclusive club of atomic powers. This film tells a true story, whose consequences even today affect the daily lives of many families, both in France and Algeria. To persuade national servicemen, career soldiers and Tuareg nomads to say the unsayable is not easy... the director takes each one back in time through the maze of facts and memories, dreams and lies, feelings and thoughts. He gives each one the chance to speak, so that we can understand every aspect of the French atomic tests, but in their words, from their point of view. Their photographs, films and writings, their memories and their histories lived over there in the Sahara: they are all elements which help us to look at and make sense of the past, which is also our past. (This documentary will be in the 14<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film)



[# Morocco / New programme schedule for Medi1 Sat](#)

The private Moroccan television channel Medi1 Sat is changing its schedules, with the slogan “*to inform and entertain differently*”. There will be new programmes, such as “**Nikach**”: discussions chaired by experienced journalists with political personalities – slated to become one of the channel's key programmes.

“**Emission artistique et culturelle**”: weekly, will offer news about what's happening in North Africa's cultural and artistic world.

“**Ils ont réussi ailleurs**”: short documentaries about men and women from the Maghreb who have made a mark abroad.

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**“Une Journée avec....”**: a monthly programme in both Arabic and French, will look at the career of a distinguished person from the region.

**“Deux rives”**: twice monthly discussion about issues important to people on both sides of the Mediterranean.

**“7 jours au Maghreb”** : weekly coverage of the region's news, with studio guests.

**“Le Match”** : a weekly sports programme covering the region and the rest of the world.

Medi1Sat has further enhanced its schedules with major news programmes at midday, between noon and one o'clock, and in the early evening between 6pm and 7pm, followed by another new-comer, a daily sports bulletin at 8pm.



#### [# Morocco / “Jidar Al-Qalb” a new series on 2M](#)

“Jidar al Qalb” (Walls of the Heart) is a new series broadcast by 2M every Thursday at 9.20pm. Karima Abdeddaher has the most ordinary of lives – head of a psychiatric unit and, since the death of her husband, a single mother with two children. She is respected in her circle for her honesty and loyalty. But her life is turned upside down when a very wealthy businessman is committed to her unit. She

suspects he is only pretending to be mad to avoid being sent to prison for the murder of his wife. With the help of her daughter, a journalist, she decides to set up her own enquiry – and that is where the trouble starts....

The series is directed by Ahmed Saqr



#### [# Morocco / Filming “Majid” or stolen childhood](#)

The Moroccan director Nassim Abassi is shooting “Majid”, a television film for 2M, in the town where he grew up. Mohammedia is a large port, known as the “City of Flowers”, Majid a young orphan who spends his days combing its back-streets searching for his father – of whom only one precious souvenir remains: a photograph. In order to survive, the little hero has to fight against all sorts of social injustice...

Nassim Abassi returned from studying in a London film school in order to make this film.



[# France / Méditerranéo in March](#)

**The running order of this weekly magazine programme:**

**Kosovo:** exactly one year after the declaration of independence what is the

state of play between the Albanian majority and the Serbian minority? What about Eulex, the European Union's mission to supervise the police and justice in the new State? Is there a viable economy and society yet? Is there a future for the Kosovars? As it travels through the country, *Méditerranéo* tries to answer these questions.

**Greece**, after the events of December and the riots following the death of a young student, the magazine programme goes to Athens to try to understand the reasons which, apart from the tragedy itself, provoked this anger amongst the young. Unemployment, an economic situation becoming more and more difficult, scandals in the world of politics and finance.....

**Finally Tunisia**, despite the crisis, the tourist sector did well in 2008, even if the signs of a downturn have been making themselves felt. Having encouraged mass tourism for so long, the sector is now coming to rely more and more on top-end accommodation. In 2008 investment was more than €10 million.

**In April**, *Méditerranéo* will look particularly at the house-market crisis in Morocco

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## ECONOMY

[# Spain / Reorganisation of Prisa](#)

[# Italy / Agreement between Eutelsat and Telespazio](#)

[# France / 18 million euro for football rights](#)



[# Spain / Reorganisation of Prisa](#)

Last December negotiations began between Vivendi and the Spanish media conglomerate Prisa for the sale of Digital Plus, a pay-TV digital platform. The talks were not finalised due to a failure to agree about money, even though the Spanish group had lowered the asking price from €3.8 billion to €2.6 billion. To resolve this delicate and difficult situation Prisa decided to include temporarily its pay-TV activities in its broadcasting package. Which means that it includes all the activities of its former subsidiary Sogecable (which contains Digital Plus and the free analogue channel Cuatro). The four sections initially offered were Cuatro, CNN+, 40 Latino and TVI in Portugal (all free channels), plus production in Spain, Portugal and the US, with control over common operations. To these has now been added a branch of pay-TV, completing the package which makes up the revised Digital Plus offer.



[# Italy / Agreement between Eutelsat and Telespazio](#)

A contract has been signed between *Telespazio* and *Eutelsat*. It concerns the lease of two transponders for broadcasting a wide range of television channels and radio stations produced by RAI, the Italian public service broadcaster. The transponders will transmit RAI's flagship national channels (*RAI, Rai Uno, Rai Due, Rai Tre*), its seven thematic channels (*RAI News 24, Rai Sport Più, Rai Gulp, Rai Med, Sat 2000, Senato TV* and *Camera dei Deputati*) and four of its educational channels (*Rai Edu 1 and 2, Rai Nettuno Sat Uno* and *Rai Nettuno Sat Due*). All of these can be received in more than 7 million Italian homes equipped for Eutelsat's Hot Bird satellites. The transponders will also transmit RAI's eleven radio stations.

The satellite signal also feeds several cable networks across Europe, North Africa and the Middle East (all within the footprint of the Hot Bird satellites).



[# France / 18 million euro for football rights](#)

The Professional Football League sold the international rights to League 1 soccer to Canal+ Events (a new subsidiary of Canal+). The contract guaranteed a minimum of €15 million from sales – in the end the season brought in more than €18 million. A risk that paid off, since when the offer closed in May there were only two months to sell the 2008-2009 season, starting in August. These good figures are explained by profits made essentially in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

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## CINEMA

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- [# Spain / 67.8 million frant for the cinema in 2008](#)
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### [# Israel-France / "Z32" the new film by Avi Mograbi](#)

"Z32", the latest film by the Israeli director Avi Mograbi was released in France on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, the fifth feature by a director who for years has focussed on, and constantly denounced, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A former Israeli soldier takes part in a revenge mission in which two Palestinian policemen are killed. He tries to ask forgiveness for what he has done, but his girl-friend does not think it will be that easy – she raises questions that he cannot yet face up to. He is willing to make a statement to camera – as long as his identity is hidden. The film-maker, trying to find an adequate solution to preserve the soldier's identity, questions his own political and artistic stance.



### [# Morocco / Filming "Enfants Terribles de Casablanca"](#)

The filming of the latest feature by the Moroccan director Abdelkrim Derkaoui (photo) began in Casablanca in the middle of February. "*Les Enfants terribles de Casablanca*" is about Abdallah, a young marketing and management graduate. He returns to his home town to look after his father's business but very quickly comes up against the wheeler-dealer mentality which prevails both within and around the company. In a world dominated by corruption and intrigue he tries to remain faithful to his ideals, concentrating on "cultural" and "artistic" ventures, pushing innovative ideas. In this way he manages to launch several young people: Saïd, a young musician who becomes a celebrity, Tayeb, a painter who shows his work on pavements and Rachid, who sells cigarettes on the street.

Abdallah comes into conflict with Hamza, a scheming, devious young North African who specialises in hijacking foreign investments in Morocco.

This 90 minute film, shot on 35mm, has received 3.7 million dirhams (€334,000) in advance box-office sales from the Funding Commission of Morocco's *Centre Cinématographique*. Shooting should last two months in Casablanca.



### # Morocco / Filming "Mary, Mother of Christ"

The Argentinian director Alejandro Agresti is due to start filming "Mary, Mother of Christ" in May. The film is about Mary, mother of Jesus, just after the nativity. Herod is there, so is the angel Gabriel and Lucifer as well....Camilla Belle is cast as Mary – some of Hollywood's finest have also signed on: Jonathan Rhys-Meyers will be playing both the angel Gabriel and the Devil, Peter O'Toole is cast as Simeon, Al Pacino as Herod and Jessica Lange as the prophetess Anna. The film will be shot entirely in Morocco and is due for release in April 2010.



### # Morocco / Filming a short film at Ouazazate

Students from London's art schools, working with students from Ouazazate's *Institut spécialisé aux métiers du cinéma* (ISMC – Institute for Cinema Crafts) began shooting a short film "Zadig" on the 9<sup>th</sup> February. The technical and production crew are the students themselves, as are some of the actors. In the main roles are two professional actors, Ben Peel and Daphne Alexander. Alexander Graziani is directing the film, which will be shot in the Taourirt Casbah in Ouazazate. It is about a young man who lives in Babylon, "endowed by nature with uncommon genius, immense wealth and remarkably handsome". However, when it comes to realising his dreams, Zadig is too optimistic, and fails to marry Sémira, his beloved.



### # Morocco / First Young Film Critic competition

GRECA – the *Groupe de Recherches, d'Essais Cinématographiques et Audiovisuels*, which is affiliated to Morocco's University of Abdelmalek Essaadi, is organising the first national competition for Young Film Critic of 2009, in partnership with the *Association des critiques de cinéma*, Marrakech's *Ecole Supérieur des Arts Visuels* and the *Institut Français du Nord*. This competition is open to students from Moroccan universities and other places of Higher Education. Those taking part must submit one or several written pieces of film criticism in Arabic or French, maximum 3,000 words. They must fulfil the four conditions set by the organisers: present a well-argued opinion, develop a point of view about the use of cinema, show they can write an article and demonstrate an understanding of style and quality of language. The deadline for receiving the pieces is the 30<sup>th</sup> April. Email address: [greca.uae@gmail.com](mailto:greca.uae@gmail.com) The awards will be made in May at the *Institut Français* in Tétouan.



### # Algeria-France / Editing the film "Harraga"

The Franco-Algerian director Merzak Alouache, well-known for his films "Chouchou" and "Babeloud City", is in the final stages of editing of his film "Harraga", part of which he filmed at Mostaganem in

Algeria. 'Harragas' are clandestine emigrants, boat-people, people who burn everything – papers, borders, their lives – to get away. In his film, Merzak Alouache follows the adventures of a group of them, including a girl, who have chosen to confront death, emigrating on a boat from the town of Mostaganem on the West coast of Algeria. Their troubles begin when the boat breaks down. The director has chosen young actors, including some amateurs from Algiers and Annaba.



#### [# Spain / 67.8 million frant for the cinema in 2008](#)

Spain's *Instituto de la Cinematografía y de las Artes Audiovisuales* invested €67.8 million in film funding in 2008 (6.6 million more than in 2007). 319 companies received finance: 50.25 million went to paying off the loans incurred by feature films – nine of which

received a million euro each, amongst them “*My Name is Juani*”, “*Volver*”, “*Perfume*”, “*Pan's Labyrinth*” and “*Alatriste*”.

€10 million went to finance the production of 43 other feature films: including “*Bestezuelas*” and “*El ano de las Lluvias*”. (Source Cineuropa)



#### [# France / Shooting “L'immortel” in Marseille](#)

In Marseille at the end of February Richard Berry began shooting “*L'immortel*”, from Franz-Olivier Giesberg's novel of the same name. It's his fourth feature and is set in the Marseille gang wars of the 1970's. The town's last godfather, Jacques Imbert, known as Jacky le Mat, confronts his former accomplice Tony Zampa. Jean Reno plays Charlie Mattei, known as the Immortal. Also in the cast: Kad Merad, Jean-Pierre Darroussin, Joey

Starr, Richard Berry and Marina Fois.

The shooting in Marseille should last six weeks with eight more in Paris. The film's budget: 20 million euro. A EuroCorp Production

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## FESTIVALS

### CLOSE-UP ON.....CINEMA DU REEL INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL



During the past few years the *Cinéma du Réel* (Cinema of the Real) has become a landmark in the French documentary scene. In 1978 the *Bibliothèque publique d'information* created the Festival to encourage documentary film, supported by the CNRS and the *Comité du film ethnographique*. Ever year since then it has taken place in the Centre Pompidou in Paris, building-up a committed public, eager to see films which are not shown elsewhere, curious to discover the many different ways of thinking about and making documentaries.

The Festival takes place between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> March, and the programme includes:

- **The International Competition:** some twenty short and long films, all pre-release, as well as discussions with the film-makers
- **The French panorama:** a survey of the best French films of the year, screened in the presence of their directors
- **Homage to Pierre Perrault:** one of the masters of French-Canadian documentary, who died 10 years ago.
- **Exploring Documentary: technical dissent, open praxis:** a programme of work by film-makers, video and plastic artists who refuse to limit their work to the limitations of the hardware imposed by the industry.
- **One Thousand Sites:** some twenty films take us on a subjective journey helping us reflect upon film-makers moving around the world. How to live the world in movement? With films by Pier Paolo Pasolini, Robert Kramer, Danièle Huillet...
- **Television in the Vanguard:** In collaboration with INA a small detour through public service broadcasting, from the time when it was a creative and visionary medium.

Nine awards, including the Grand Prix of the *Cinéma du Réel* (8,000€) and the International Prize of SCAM (Civil Society of Multi-Media Authors – 4,600€). The international jury consists of Maryline Watelet (film-maker and producer – Belgium), Luciano Barisone (director of the Dei Popoli Festival – Italy), Yves Jeuland (Film-maker – France), Charlotte Garson (Film critic – France) and Cesar Paes (Film-maker – Brazil).

In the international competition there are films from the Mediterranean region, including: “*Bagatela*” by Jorge Caballero (Spain), Malek Bensmail's “*La Chine est encore loin*” (Algeria), “Creative Chaos: Round One” by Hassan Zbib (the Lebanon), “Defamation” by Yoav Shamir (Israel), Simon Lereng Wilmont's “Above the ground, beneath the sky” (Denmark/Egypt), “*Preparativi di fuga*” by Tommaso Cotronei (Italy), Simone Bitton's “Rachel” (France) and Sandra Madi's “Perforated Memory” (Jordan).

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In the French Panorama section: Emmanuel Vigier's "J'ai un frère" will be screened. The film "follows the careers of two brothers, Drazan and Dejan, whose lives were turned upside down by the war in Bosnia. The two men made different choices, now they are trying to find each other and put back together a few fragments of their past and their country – which no longer exists."

This film was chosen (from among 300) for the final selection of the CMCA/RAI TV International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film in Turin last June.

## The Other Festivals

[# France / 28<sup>th</sup> International Festival for Author's Documentaries](#)

[# Morocco / 3<sup>rd</sup> National Festival of Amateur Film](#)

[# Morocco / First "Imal" festival](#)

[# Greece / 11<sup>th</sup> Thessaloniki Documentary Festival](#)

[# France / 7<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Films about Human Rights](#)



[# France / 28<sup>th</sup> International Festival for Author's Documentaries](#)

The 28<sup>th</sup> International Grand Prix for Author's Documentaries, organised by the *Université Radiophonique and Télévisuelle*

*Internationale* takes on a particular importance this year because it will be part of that organisation's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Last year's festival was marked by the record number of films taking part: 105 films were selected for the competition, representing 66 organisations from 38 countries on five continents. The award is open to all television companies, whether public or private, as well as to associations and institutions working in broadcasting. Any programme of a documentary nature can enter, as long as it was made less than two years before the date of the prize-giving. It can be of whatever length, in French or English, with a maximum of two documentaries per organisation. In early April (6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>) a pre-selection jury will meet in Paris to choose ten films for the official selection (on the basis of three criteria: subject, creativity and technical quality). Those ten films will all feature on a pamphlet distributed internationally – thus promoting them and helping sell them. Then, in early June (5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup>), the International Grand Prix itself will take place as part of the Monte Carlo Television Festival. Three awards will be given: the Grand prix, for the best creative documentary, a silver and a bronze medal. The winning director will receive €1,525.

The deadline to send the films is the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009

For more information and for on-line registration: <http://www.urti.org/>





### # Morocco / 3<sup>rd</sup> National Festival of Amateur Film

The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Festival of Amateur Film (FNFA) will take place from the 31<sup>st</sup> March to the 4<sup>th</sup> April at Settat (Morocco). It is organised by an association called “7<sup>ième</sup> art” and the town council. On the programme: an official competition, open to amateur film-makers who are either Moroccan or living in Morocco and whose

films are not longer than 18 minutes; in addition, three training workshops on production techniques for amateur films: “script writing”, “shooting”, “digital editing”; forums and discussions about issues concerning amateur films – whether in Morocco or anywhere else in the world; and finally a panorama of amateur films in other countries.



### # Morocco / First “Imal” festival

The first “Imal” Festival (from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> March) was dedicated to Moroccan actresses and took place at Ouarzazate – cinema city. Organised by the *Espace Régional Imal-Ciné Souss-Massa-Drâa*, the event was the occasion for three days of festivities, meetings and discussions with the public. The aim was to enable Moroccan actresses to get to know each other, to

discuss issues which concern them and to create a forum where they could talk directly to film-goers.

The programme was full of good things: as well as the film screenings there were tributes for two actresses, Fatima Ouchay and Fatima Jettane – the latter making films in Tamazight. There were three workshops for trainees from the *Institut Spécialisé dans les Metiers du Cinéma*, students from Ouarzazate's multi-disciplinary faculty and the public.



IMAGES OF THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY THESSALONIKI DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

### # Greece / 11<sup>th</sup> Thessaloniki Documentary Festival

The 11<sup>th</sup> Thessaloniki Documentary Festival – Images of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – will take place from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> March under the umbrella of the

Tessaloniki International Film Festival. The documentary section puts on retrospectives of film-makers recognised internationally both for their contribution to the genre and for their unique, personal vision of the world. In previous years there have been tributes to Werner Herzog, Bruce Weber, Monika Treut, Kim Longinotto, Barbara Kopple, Arto Halonen... This documentary festival was created at the dawn of the new century, March 1999, just as the world of broadcasting and IT was going through huge turmoil – as indeed were other sections of our society – with the rapid development of digital technology, globalisation and all the rest.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Thessaloniki Documentary Festival opens its doors on the 13<sup>th</sup> March with more than 160 Greek and international films taking part. This year's festival looks in particular at African documentaries and films made by African directors. There is also a section on Austrian film production. In principle the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival is not competitive, however there are prizes given by outside organisations:

- Two Audience Awards for films longer than 45 minutes (one Greek and one foreign), each of €4,000
- Two Audience Awards for films of less than 45 minutes (one Greek and one foreign), each of €4,000.

Every year two FIPRESCI awards are given by the International Federation of Film Critics – for the best Greek documentary and for the best foreign documentary.

There is an Amnesty International award, for a film from the “Human Rights” section, and an award by the Greek WWF for a film from the “Habitat” section.



### [# France / 7<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Films on Human Rights](#)

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Films on Human Rights continues in Paris until the 15<sup>th</sup> March. For the organisers: “*This festival is the most important cultural event in France on the theme of Human Rights. It is the annual and unmissable rendez-vous for all those who consider that respect for and promotion of Human Rights is the essential challenge at the start of this new century.*” Some thirty films will be screened (most of which have not been seen in France), among them films from the Mediterranean: “**Close up Kurdistan**”, Yuksel Yavuz links his personal story of immigration with

the present conflict between Turkey and the Kurdish people. “**D'une seule voix**”: Israelis and Palestinians, Jews, Christians and Muslims – but above all musicians. Since it is now impossible for them to meet either in Israel or the Palestinian Territories, Jean-Yves Labat de Rossi invited them to France for a three week tour – with astonishing results. “**L'or bleu**” the issue of water in Marrakech is at the heart of the difficulties of Moroccan economic development. “**Transitland**”: despite the efforts of the UN and the international media coverage of the war in Iraq, the appalling reality of refugees in Jordan is passed over in silence, indeed is still unknown to most people. “**Un république en exil**” for three decades 160,000 Sahraouis have lived in refugee camps in south-western Algeria. Now the region has become a permanent place of exile for them.

The films will be divided into two categories:

- Creative documentaries (members of the jury: Stéphane Hessel (amongst other things involved in drawing up the 1948 Declaration of Human Rights), Bruno Gaccio, Simone Bitton)
- News films (members of the jury: Marie-Monique Robin, Robin Shuffield, Frédéric Debomy)

Two major awards will be given (including €3,000 for the best creative documentary) as well as two special awards – an award given by the student jury and the €2,500 *Chaîne Planète* Prize.

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## المؤسسة العربية للصورة Arab Image Foundation



<http://www.fai.org.lb/CurrentSite/index.htm>

Data base: <http://fai.cyberia.net.lb/>

The history of photography is closely linked to the Arab world. 1843 saw the first Egyptian daguerreotypes, while the Near East was criss-crossed by many European photographers. The Arab Image Foundation (FAI) was created in 1997 in Beirut. A not-for-profit organisation, it promotes the photographic culture of the Middle East and North Africa, hoping to make it better known. Its specific function is the preservation and dissemination of the Arab photographic heritage, from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. It has several aims:

- To research and acquire private collections from institutions, studios and family albums (professional or amateur work in all Arab countries).
- To restore and make inventories of all types of photograph.
- To offer biographies of the photographers, explaining their working methods and publicizing their work.



The Foundation wants to make its collection available to everyone via its internet site, exhibitions, publications and videos. Through its work, the Arab Image Foundation encourages the study and understanding of Arab culture – it also finances visual production in the Arab world today. It has brought together a collection of 300,000 original photographs covering the period 1850 to the present day from the following countries: the Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Morocco, Senegal, Mexico and the Argentine.

The Foundation's objective is to assemble, preserve and deepen knowledge about both this photographic heritage and the region's various artistic currents. Once acquired, the collections are digitised and archived in an on-line data base for the general public, researchers, artists and historians. 9,000 photographs are already on-line at FAI's web-site: once registered, simply type a key-word – photographer, place, date, name or collection – into the site's search engine to find any photograph. The photographs come up in low resolution, tagged with documentary and technical information. They can be saved in folders (up to four folders per user) and a link to that folder can be sent by email, allowing several people to work together.



The FAI is also setting up a Research Centre in its offices in Beirut. Apart from the documents and books assembled over ten years, the Research Centre will include different resources for photography and the Arab world (e.g. a data base on contemporary Arab photography). The idea is to catalogue everything in its collection to create an on-line resource centre.

A new web-site, being prepared at the moment, should come on-line in the early summer (Homepage is available: <http://www.fai.org.lb/>)

The FAI also operates as a photographic agency, selling reproductions of photographs and/or their publishing rights, passing on a percentage to the photographers or collectors.

The Foundation is keen to make numerous Arab collections known to the wider world, for example the work of the Lebanese photographer Hashem El Madani, or the Arabs who worked in Mexico and Senegal, or the Egyptian photographer Van Leo, whose disciples Armand and Alban are considered masters of the studio portrait in Cairo during the 1940's and 50's. Or again, the more recent photographs taken in the Palestinian refugee camps in the Lebanon (particularly hard to assemble with so many photographers and so many conflicts).

The data base is available free of charge, only in English.

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## THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY



### **MEDIA INTERNATIONAL: 2ND YEAR OF WORK!**

The European Commission is continuing the preparatory work it began last year on "MEDIA International", publishing a new appeal for propositions aimed at examining and testing cooperation between the audiovisual industries of European Union member states and those of third countries.

With a budget of €4.96 million this work has three objectives: to improve the exchange of information and knowledge about audiovisual markets; to improve the competitiveness of films and make it easier to distribute them between third countries and Europe and vice versa; finally, to improve circulation and build up the audience for these films.

Bearing this in mind, five kinds of project can attract MEDIA's support:

1. Training for audiovisual professionals: this support is for training projects aimed at students/professionals/trainers. Support is awarded either for new continuous training projects or for an extension of projects already approved under the MEDIA 2007 programme.
2. Promotion of cinematographic/audiovisual works: finance will be given to initiatives which help make films accessible to the international market, either at the development or production stage. In other words finance for co-production markets, pitching sessions, professional forums and similar projects.
3. Distribution of cinematographic works: this finance is aimed at facilitating and improving the distribution of third countries' films in European cinemas and, vice versa, the distribution of European films in third countries. The projects should lay the foundations for sustainable cooperation between professionals, for better use of new technologies etc.
4. Screening films in cinemas: this is aimed at encouraging cinema operators in the EU and in third countries to increase the scheduling of exclusive first release films – increasing also the length of time a film is on the programme and the number of screenings it is given.
5. Audience: finance for projects which sustainably increase the potential audience for foreign films. Projects which increase film literacy generally will be included in this category.

To be eligible, a request must come from a group whose coordinator is from an EU member state and which includes at least one organisation whose main office is in a third country.

Depending on the nature of the activity, the support (given as a grant) could be 50%, 75% or 80% of costs.

The deadline for submitting proposals is the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009.

Please take note! Every request must be pre-registered by email, and that pre-registration must be sent to the following address by 25<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at the latest:

[info-MEDIAinternational@ec.europa.eu](mailto:info-MEDIAinternational@ec.europa.eu)

The appeal for proposals is down-loadable at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/media/prep\\_action/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/prep_action/index_en.htm)



## PUBLICATION OF THE APPEAL FOR INITIAL TRAINING

Since 2007 the MEDIA programme has funded places of Higher Education which set up training projects to help future professionals of the audiovisual industry understand and integrate the European dimension in their work.

This year the call for proposals has a budget of €1.9 million and concerns cooperation projects offered by pan-European consortia consisting of at least three Higher education establishments and representing at least three MEDIA countries. Lasting 12 months (up to 18 months when duly justified), the projects must occur between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

These projects are aimed at students and trainers from film schools or any other Higher Education establishment where skills/competences applying to the audiovisual industry are taught (for example business schools in the case of future film producers). They must aim to improve expertise in the programme's three principle fields: economic, financial and commercial management; new technologies; training in script development.

This funding takes the form of a grant which cannot exceed 50% of the total eligible costs (75% if one of the partners comes either from one of the 12 countries which joined the European Union after the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2004 or from Croatia).

Deadline for sending in forms: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Contact : EACEA – Aurélie Varin – MEDIA Unit (P8) – Avenue du Bourget 1 – B – 1049 Bruxelles – Belgique – Tel : 00 32 2 298 09 39 – E-mail : [aurelie.varin@ec.europa.eu](mailto:aurelie.varin@ec.europa.eu)



## Seven films financed by MEDIA nominated for Oscars

Seven films financed by MEDIA, the aid programme for film production within the EU, were nominated for Oscars this year. "Slumdog Millionaire" won 8 Oscars, including

Best Film and Best Director. Three films were nominated for Best Film in a Foreign Language – including "Entre les Murs" (France), winner of the *Palme d'Or* at Cannes in 2008. Last year two films financed by MEDIA won Oscars. Since 2006 MEDIA-funded films have won sixteen Oscars in all.

*"The diversity and richness of European cinema is well-reflected in this year's Oscar nominations,"* said Viviane Reding, EU Media Commissioner. *"I see this as a great pay-off for the EU's efforts to make European cinema more competitive by supporting the development of films made or co-produced in Europe, their distribution across border as well as the use of new digital technologies."*

The total contribution of the MEDIA programme for these seven films adds up to more than €3 million, with even more finance likely to follow to help distribution.

The EU's MEDIA programme plays a crucial role in supporting Europe's audiovisual sector through the development and distribution of thousands of films. Nine out of every ten feature films in Europe distributed outside their home country receive MEDIA support.

**More information:** <http://ec.europa.eu/media> or <http://www.oscar.com>



## Film Investment Piedmont

Film Investment Piedmont (FIP), a new Italian investment company, was presented at the Berlinale in early February. Combining the Turin Piedmont Film Commission and Endgame Entertainment, an independent Los Angeles-based production company, FIP will finance feature film production

by mixing private capital with public funding.

With an initial budget of €12 million, FIP will invest in 2 to 4 features a year, choosing those which have international potential. It will provide up to 25% of budget with the proviso that 20% of that be spent in Piedmont. The projects must pass through two selection committees, one in charge of the financial analysis, the other looking at cultural aspects.

All information will soon be available at: [www.fipentertainment.com](http://www.fipentertainment.com)

**Contact** : Davide Bracco, Director - *Film Commission Torino Piemonte* – Via Cagliari 42 - 10153 Turin – Italie – Tel : 00 39 011 2379201 – E-mail : [info@fctp.it](mailto:info@fctp.it) - Web-site :

[www.fctp.it](http://www.fctp.it)

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# THE INDEPENDENT MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCERS' WAY

## apimed

Association internationale de producteurs indépendants de la méditerranée

### Abdelhaï Laraki's new drama project

The Moroccan producer and director, Abdelhaï Laraki is currently preparing his next feature film: "**Morceaux de choix**", adapted from the novel of the same name by Mohamed Nédali, Grand Prix Atlas 2001. It will be among the projects looking for potential co-producers in Monaco's International Cinema and Literature Forum, from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> March. Some 65% of the film's budget has already been found.

The theme is the initiation of a young man who loves fresh meat. Coming from a highly respected family of religious lawyers in Marrakech, Thami risks his father's anger by becoming a butcher, drawn by its sensuality. Manipulating meat, however, he discovers another passion just as inadmissible to a religious tyrant of a father: women.

To obtain more information:

Abdelhaï LARAKI

**Casablanca Films Production**

T. + 212 22 981 991 / F. + 212 22 981 958 / [cinema@casablancafilms.ma](mailto:cinema@casablancafilms.ma)

[www.casablancafilms.ma](http://www.casablancafilms.ma)



**Real Productions, member of APIMED**

Created in 1990, the film and television production company **REAL PRODUCTIONS** has become a member of APIMED. Since 1998 it has focussed mainly on creative documentaries, looking at such diverse, though interrelated areas as:

- Society and its new challenges
- International issues, often films defending a cause or allowing a minority to express themselves, or which question history and human rights.
- Artistic or cultural subjects – music, painting, circus...
- Finally, over the past three years, an editorial line on sport

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Méditerranée Audiovisuelle-La Lettre. Dépôt Légal 26 décembre 2008. ISSN : 1634-4081. *Tous droits réservés*

Directeur de publication : Martine Viglione

Rédaction : Valérie Gerbault, Martine Viglione

Traduction anglais : Tim KING

CMCA - 96 La Canebière 13001 Marseille Tel : + 33 491 42 03 02 Fax : +33 491 42 01 83

<http://www.cmca-med.org> - [cmca@cmca-med.org](mailto:cmca@cmca-med.org)

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



REAL PRODUCTIONS also produces corporate videos and works as a consultant or executive producer on feature films, television films, documentaries and recording shows.

**For all information : Sergi Doladé, Director of MEDIMED (+ 34 93 244 98 50)**  
**Fax: (+ 34 93 247 01 65), [info@apimed.org](mailto:info@apimed.org), [www.medimed.org](http://www.medimed.org) - Postal:**  
**MEDIMED c/ Girona, 20, 5 planta, 08010 Barcelone, ESPAGNE.**

**Paule Héradès, Bureau de l'APIMED (+ 33 6 07 78 61 04) Email :**  
**[paule.herades@gmail.com](mailto:paule.herades@gmail.com)**

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## STOP PRESS

- In the middle of February the president of Medi1Sat, Abdeslam Ahizoune, nominated Mustapha Mellouk as the channel's CEO. Before that Mustapha Mellouk had been Deputy Director General of Al Jazeera's Children's Channel, broadcasting edu-tainment programmes via satellite to children across the Arab world. He began his career in 1988, working for the Moroccan television channel 2M as Director of programmes, news and sport for more than 8 years. He then created Media Com, a company working in audiovisual and multimedia production, which he managed for almost 5 years. He is also a member of several associations and committees busy in the broadcasting world both in Morocco and abroad.
- At the end of January Mouna El Bana was nominated Editor-in-Chief of *Monte Carlo Doualiya*, an international radio station, in charge of relaying the morning news. She will be working alongside Georges Naufal, the other Chief Editor. A graduate in political science from the American University in Beirut, Mouna El Bana began her career as a presenter of French news on the public service channel *Télé Liban*, then she was Cairo correspondent for *Le Monde* and *Ansa*, the Italian press agency. She has also been a journalist for *Radio France International* (RFI). A subsidiary of RFI, *Monte Carlo Doualiya* is a French-owned radio station broadcasting in Arabic over the Near and Middle East.
- On March 20th International Francophonie Day will be celebrated in Beirut, in the presence of the Secretary General of the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF). The day is dedicated to the French language, uniting the 200 million French-speakers across the world and including 803 million people from the 70 states and governments which belong to OIF. The organisers say they chose Beirut partly because it is synonymous with diversity and dialogue between cultures, and partly because this autumn the country is hosting the 6th Francophonie Games.