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MEDITERRANEE AUDIOVISUELLE Monthly Newsletter

In the summary of this spring issue two births, two websites – “*Repères méditerranéens*”, a web-site with an interactive mosaic showing 50 years of Mediterranean history, created jointly by INA and the PACA region; and *mativi.fr*, the site of Marseille's very own web TV with, as the driving force behind it, Marseille-Provence 2013.

Other important items: the 20th anniversary of the Moroccan channel 2M and the agreement between Euronews and Turkish television (TRT) to launch a Turkish version of the European news channel in 2010.

Also for your enjoyment and edification, our usual items: the Web-Site of the Month is about an initiative by young independent Egyptian film-makers, *sematcairo.com*. The Close-Up is on the Istanbul International Film Festival.

Happy reading to you all.....

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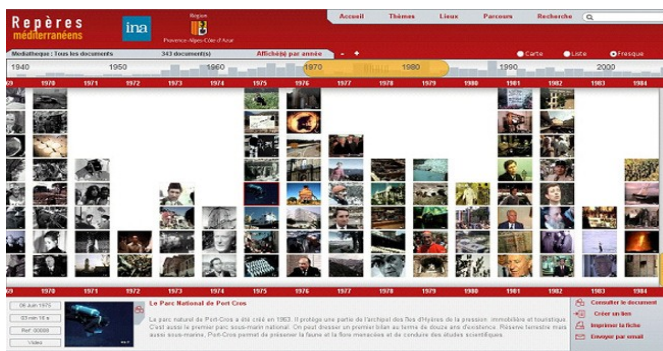
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HEADLINE STORIES



INA – "*Repères méditerranéens*" : an interactive mosaic showing 50 years of the region's history

An inter-active web-site on the Mediterranean, making the region's audiovisual heritage available for everyone – a project created by *INA Méditerranée* in partnership with the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region.

The interactive mosaic "*Repères méditerranéens*" (Mediterranean Landmarks) represents the audiovisual memory of the Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur Region over the last fifty years, news footage selected from audiovisual archives currently held by INA. Each item has been placed in its historical and media context by historians of the Telemme Laboratory of the *Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme*. Landmarks in pictures, but the items are also clustered by theme: historic, cultural, architectural, musical etc.....there are many ways into the site, reflecting the richness of this region.

There are more than 360 news items, each set in its historical and social context and categorised according to one of seven themes: Art and Culture, Economy and Society, Open Spaces and Landscape, International Relations, Politics, Science and Technology and Sport.

Simple and intuitive, the interface helps the visitor get around the site, find and consult the items they want. Hover the cursor over an image in the chronological mosaic to see its brief synopsis, click on the image to access the item.

"List Mode" narrows the search and "Map mode" allows the visitor to search and situate the items geographically.

Using the search engine in Simple mode a single word is enough to give a selection of items, or in Advanced mode several criteria can be combined or a search initiated using the list of relevant elements.

The items can be viewed using a hypermedia player, while factual notes, contextual commentary and a transcription are displayed on the side.

To move around within the item, click on the shot-by-shot strip underneath the viewer or click at the desired point on the synchronised transcription.

"*Repères méditerranéens*" is available for everybody - the public, students and teachers, and it is **accessible free** on: <http://www.ina.fr/edu/repmed/> and on <http://www.regionpaca.fr/>



CMCA-RAI - 292 documentaries submitted for the 14th International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film

Success does not lie. Directors, producers and broadcasters are again in place for this 14th edition of the Festival. 292 films have been received from 33 countries and will soon be viewed.

This year it's the "Mediterranean Stakes" category which has most films. Pre-selection will take place in Marseille at the beginning of May, in each category 4 films will be retained for the final phase. There are seven prizes:

- **CMCA Grand Prix "Mediterranean Stakes"** (6,000€) for the best film on a current Mediterranean subject. It picks out productions which improve our understanding of the present situation in the Mediterranean.
- **"Mediterranean Memories" Prize** (5,000€) rewards the documentary which most successfully brings to life past events: individual or collective stories of men and women or places of symbolism and memory.
- **"First Work"** (5,000€) for a director who has not made more than 3 documentaries.
- **"The Mediterranean Art, Heritage and Cultures Prize"** (5,000€) This prize rewards the documentary film which promotes all expressions of culture.
- **New for this year: the Mediterranean Sports Award** (5,000€), for the best film about a Mediterranean sporting event or personality.
- **Special Jury Prize** (5,000€), any category.
- **The Faro d'Oro Prize for the best magazine programme** (4,000€)

Finally there are three awards for finalists in any category, given by by **France 3 Méditerranée** (France) **RAI TRE** (Italy) and **ENTV** (Algeria)

<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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Birth of web tv at Marseille

After mativi La Rochelle, it's the turn of mativi Marseille – on-line since the 27th March. A launch hosted by Michel Drucker, who also helped mativi in the Charente-Maritime, launched two years ago by Jean Cressant, well-known to the people of Marseille.

THREE QUESTIONS FOR... Jacques HUBINET President of *Films du Soleil* and director of Mativi Marseille



How did the idea of a Marseille-based web-TV come about?

For several reasons: first, for Marseille 2013. There has to be a channel for the people of Marseille, whether they are resident here or have moved elsewhere, indeed a channel for anyone anywhere in the world, to be able to pass ideas and comments to the creators of this enormous event, to the committee and to the people who live here.

During the days of empire-building Marseille's unique geo-strategic position gave it the epithet Gateway to the East, nowadays its cosmopolitan population and commercial activity make it an irreplaceable player throughout the Mediterranean. Nevertheless

as a town we must get the message across to our partners here in the Mediterranean and in the wider world that we want these exchanges to flow in both directions, that in this town where different cultures come together and can forge a genuine identity we welcome others with openness and brotherhood.

Another reason is that only the Internet, with its almost free exchange of information, is viable economically. Indeed, using the web or 3G phones anyone can access *mativi-marseille.fr*, and using its various search engines be connected immediately with images of the town and information about it.

Again, Internet television can provide between four and six subjects each week, without the production restrictions faced even by local TV, and this catches people's attention. Another appreciable saving.

However, without Jean Cressant's experience setting up *mativi.fr* at La Rochelle we could not have over-come the problems starting up here. For the 18 months of its life, *mativi La Rochelle* has been a full-time job for the technicians working every day to improve it. Sharing their knowledge and thus avoiding costly mistakes has enabled us to put this complex machine in place. Its success: more than 1.4 million visits since it began. That's very encouraging.

What public are you aiming at and how do you position the channel within the media environment?

Our public is, first of all, the people of Marseille – helping them understand their town better, its hidden corners and little-known foibles. By people of Marseille I mean people

from every corner of the planet: Corsicans, Armenians, North Africans, Lebanese, from the Comoros islands or anywhere else – people who want to be part of the town and part of the life of their community. This diaspora spread around the world is an enormous pool of spectators which it's difficult to reach any other way.

After a culture of restless zapping, viewers now want to be able to look at the document they want, where they want and when they want, to choose, and then to choose again.

The Internet allows us to snuffle about and graze where we want and when we want.

This media can carry the image of Marseille to anyone around the world who hears about it and wants to know more about it.

So Internet TV is not in competition with conventional TV channels, but helps spread the town's fame, in a way, like those ships described by Albert Londres which *labour for Marseille in the most distant seas*.

What can one see on this Web TV ?

Subjects about every Mediterranean culture, about the utopian ideas of our creators, the unusual places, the ground-breaking initiatives in social development and understanding, about technological advances in everyday, sustainable things, about the direction forged by our ethical leaders.....and up until 2013, of course, the progress of this enormous and admirable project – so that Marseille is not a fortress under siege but a centre and focus for cultures, a catalyst for the energy of men of good will in the Mediterranean.

LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

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[# Turkey / Launch of Euronews in Turkish in January 2010](#)

At the end of February Euronews and TRT (Turkish Radio & Television) reached an agreement to launch a ninth language version of Euronews – and for the Turkish public broadcasting group to become a shareholder in the international news channel. The Turkish language version will be launched in January 2010 and will

be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on Euronews' worldwide satellite network, reaching some 253 million homes across 142 countries. It is aimed at Turkish-speaking people around the world – particularly in those countries close to Turkey such as north Cyprus, the Caucasus, Central Asia, and of course the Turkish communities within Europe, specifically in Germany.

The Turkish version will also be broadcast within Turkey itself by TRT, and so be available across all the existing distribution networks: analogue and digital broadcast, cable, satellite, Broad Band, mobile phones etc.....in fact every Turkish home will be able to receive the channel – and that's more than 17 million homes.

The Euronews web-site <http://www.euronews.net> will also have a Turkish version. For the **Director General of TRT, Ibrahim Sahin**, *"Euronews is the leading pan-European news channel, and a public service with an editorial policy of great quality. Thanks to this agreement TRT offers a new channel in Turkish for all viewers. Euronews in Turkish is a real chance for a better understanding of Turkey in Europe and the rest of the world. It will allow TRT to build a basis to cover its deficiencies by cooperating with the internationally powerful broadcasters. Moreover, this service will enable the Turkish public to have access to more detailed and accurate information about the EU during Turkey's EU process."*



[# Morocco / 2M celebrates 20 years of existence](#)

The television channel 2M this year celebrates its twentieth anniversary. Morocco's first private television channel was launched in March 1989, a time when there was little competition. Things are different today with the plethora of satellite channels, but 2M has adapted well, creating programmes which are very popular at home. Programmes like *"Moukhtafoun"*, *"Al wajh Al Akhar"*, *"Studio 2M"*, *"Grand Angle"*, *"Challenger"* have a large and loyal following. Over twenty years the channel has experienced many changes, the most important of which was in 1996 when its status changed from private to public. Today its Director General, Salim Cheikh wants the company to invest more in the production of home-based drama, *"which gets the highest audience ratings and is the main-stay of 2M's programming"*: films

for television, series, sitcoms, full-length features. The channel also wants to boost local items by producing magazine programmes and films looking at Moroccan society and its problems. 2M is very close to its Arab-speaking public, 70% of the schedule is in Arabic. 2M's reputation for energy and dynamism has spread far beyond its borders. The channel's crews are often asked for by foreign television companies, including TF1, France 2 and TV5 Monde. The opening of a new branch at Essaouira will strengthen the regional network which in turn feeds the national schedules. Between now and May the number of news bulletins will increase to 11 a day: 4 televised news programmes, 2 sports programmes, 2 programmes focussed on the economy and 3 weather forecasts.



[# Morocco / Decisions on the attribution of TV and radio licences](#)

On the 23rd February Morocco's Higher Council of Audiovisual Communication (CSCA) announced its verdict on whether to grant 2nd generation television and radio licences. It has decided that there will be no new national television or radio licences, but four multi-regional radio stations will be created: Radio Mars, for sport, Medina FM, aimed at the rural population, Radio Luxe focussed on art and high-end crafts, and Radio Med, for mediation and social concerns.

The CSCA considers that *"the arrival of any new national television project presents a major risk of unbalancing the sector"*, instead preferring *"to postpone granting any television licence"* in *"the expectation of better visibility on the balance of the sector"*. As a reminder, it was on the 11th August last year that an appeal for competition was made, aiming to create two new national television services, one national radio service and four multi-regional radio services.



[# Tunisia / Modernisation of the infrastructures of Tunisian Television and TV7 on Internet](#)

Tunisian television has signed a contract with Grass Valley to modernize the former's infrastructures. The principal work will be to create a new HD production facility and playout centre, complete with news studio and virtual production studio; graphics, audio and post-production facilities; newsroom automation; two playout control rooms and a central apparatus room. Much of the interconnection between production, post-production and storage will be based on IT connectivity.

At the same time the national channel TV7 will be available on the Internet via Babnet. (<http://www.babnet.net>)



[# France / TV5 Monde launches an Internet service on mobiles and offers themed VOD](#)

During Francophone week, the French-speaking channel *TV5 Monde* announced the launch of a free “French-language” Internet service for cell-phones. Aimed at people anywhere in the world who want to learn French by using games, this cell-phone site offers a conversation guide for beginners, available in five languages. It uses 100 key phrases (both written and on audio) to help beginners to get by in French-speaking countries, there is also a quiz (to test your level) and a dictionary,

The site is accessible from a cell-phone connected to the Internet. It is part of the channel's web-site and its French-language inter-face.

TV5 Monde is also preparing themed offers for its Video-on-Demand service, available both on the Net and IPTV (direct television, video-on-demand or catch-up sessions). In April the French-language channel will offer a VOD service aimed particularly at youth (but only in certain parts of the world, depending on broadcasting rights), using programmes offered by its partners. And in the second half of the year it should put on-line a VOD offer for Africa.

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PROGRAMMES

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[Morocco / Filming a new television film for 2M](#)

Narjiss Nejjar (photo), the Franco-Moroccan director, began shooting a television film for 2M in March, "*Les Casablancaises*" (The Women from Casablanca). The story opens with the death of a wealthy businessman, a dramatic moment which plunges the lives of several women into an inextricable chaos. Each has to prove her innocence, and for all of them that involves exposing their lives while at the same time trying to protect themselves, their family and, for some, their social standing. The exteriors will be filmed in Casablanca. There are a number of well-known actors in the main roles: Asmaa Khamlichi, Hayet Belhalloufi, Bouchra Ahrich (as a taxi-driver, powerful and popular), Ghita Tazi, Anas El Baz etc.... The shooting should last three weeks

Narjiss Nejjar will then start preparing her next feature "*L'Amante du Rif*" which has just been given development money by the Moroccan *Centre cinématographique*.



[# Croatia / Shooting two documentaries](#)

The award-winning Czech director Jiri Menzel is going to make two documentaries about Croatia, featuring particularly the towns of Makarska and Dubrovnik, with some other tourist centres. The films will be a light-hearted look at Czech tourists who come to Croatia via its Adriatic coast and are completely enchanted by what they find. At a deeper level Menzel wants to discover why the Czechs love Croatia so much. The two films should be ready for the end of the year and will be called "Our Sea, Your Sea" and "My Croatia".



[# France-Mediterranean / "Mare Nostrum" a documentary series with Claudia Cardinale](#)

According to two sources (*Satellifax* and *TV Grandes Chaines*), Charles Maman's Muses Productions is preparing a series of thirteen 26-minute documentaries, "*Mare Nostrum*". The Italian actress Claudia Cardinale, who has spent her life in Tunisia, Italy and France, will present the series, visiting every Mediterranean country, meeting the people who live there, discovering their culture and their way of life – another way of moving towards a union between the various different Mediterranean cultures. The project has been bought by several countries where the filming will take place. *France Télévisions* is considering its options for France.



France / Preparation of an original documentary series

The Franco-Moroccan director-producer Mohamed Ulad Mohand is setting up a ten-part series of half-hour documentaries to be shot this summer in the south of France. Its subject: a dozen 18 year-old Israeli's and Palestinians will spend a month in deep discussions together to see whether they can arrive at a viable peace agreement (although that is not a *sine qua non* of the series). The film-makers insist this is not a reality show: nobody will be eliminated and there will be no audience participation – above all there will be no filming of personal moments. No camera will be allowed into the participants' living space. The young people will be chosen during April – they will all come from religious or secular backgrounds. The discussions will be held in Hebrew, Arabic and English, using interpreters. Two mentors, one Israeli and one Palestinian, will monitor the group to inform, advise and above all keep the young people calm and on track. Discussions have begun for *France Télévisions* to broadcast the series and contacts have been made to show it on the web.



France / Partnership between France Télévisions and French TV

“For the first time in France a major television channel and a producer have become partners for the production and international distribution of a game-show” - that was how *France Télévisions* and French TV announced a collaborative venture on a family game show “My Family Against France” - a format already being developed in Spain, Greece and Great Britain. For the moment there are two options – a 52-minute programme in prime time or a 45-minute daily programme. The idea of the programme is that a family of four answers questions sent in by French viewers. If they don't answer correctly the studio audience wins the day. In their announcement *France Télévisions* and French TV add that *“this collaboration underlines France Télévisions' overwhelming commitment to foster French productions”*



France / Mediterraneo in April

The April subjects for *France 3 Méditerranée* and *France 3 Corse's* programme “*Mediterraneo*”:

Morocco, the housing crisis: there are probably between 500 and 1,000 hotels and guest houses in Marrakesh. By 2012 Morocco aims to attract 10 million tourists a year, and to achieve this building and tourist projects have been booming. But the world financial crisis has already caused a 30% drop in tourists since January, and the top-end hotels especially might remain empty. Most of the tourist establishments in Marrakesh are owned by foreigners.

Tunisia, to discover Tozeur: down in the south of the country, Tozeur is opening up more

and more to tourism. The town is known mainly for its huge palm grove, its dates providing the town with a living. But it is also known for its houses decorated with bricks made by local craftsmen.

Egypt, to discover the treasures of Ancient Egypt found during underwater archaeological work and now on display at the palace of Venaria Reale near Turin. More than 50 works can be seen in a superb setting.

In May *Mediterraneo* will look principally at the economic crisis in Spain and the changes within Sardinia's social and political situation.

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ECONOMY

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[# Algeria / ENTV, the channel most watched by Algerians](#)

According to the latest study by the audience ratings agency SIGMA, the most popular television channel in Algeria is ENTV with 17.6% of the audience, followed closely by TF1 with 13.4%, A3 with 9.4%, MBC 8.7% and M6 8.1%. During Ramadan, when viewers watch a lot of television, once again ENTV leads with 38% of the audience, followed by A3 with 25.4%.



[# Italy / Eurosport will continue to broadcast the Giro](#)

Eurosport has renewed its broadcasting contract for the Tour of Italy with RCS, founder and organiser of the race, and RAI, the Italian radio and television company, which handles media and marketing rights. This four-year contract dealing with TV and Internet rights will allow Eurosport to broadcast Italy's four major cycling events: the Giro, the Tirreno-Adriatico, Milan-San Remo and the Tour of Lombardy.



[# France / 300,000 subscribers for Orange TV](#)

Orange TV, subsidiary of the French telecommunication giant France Telecom, has announced a considerable increase in the number of subscribers. It went from 130,000 at the end of December to 300,000 by the end of February. This figure however does not specify how subscribers are divided between Orange Sports (which has exclusive rights for the Saturday evening League 1 match) and its bouquet of cinema and series channels. France Telecom says the increase is due to new subscribers who had never subscribed to a pay-TV service.



[# France / No agreement for football broadcasting rights](#)

Following the drop in viewers and advertising revenue, fees paid for sporting broadcasting rights will also drop – for the first time in 20 years. That is the bitter conclusion of those responsible for the football League Cup. When the French Professional Football League made an appeal for offers the highest bid came from current holder, *France Télévisions*, although with a much reduced sum of money. The public television group offered €10

million for the next three seasons' rights whereas they paid €12 million for the present contract. Since their new bid fails to meet the reserve price set by the Football League, the auction has been held open. A second round will be organised.



[# France / Vivendi: profits up by 4.9%](#)

At the beginning of March the media and communication group Vivendi announced that its turnover for 2008 was up by 17.2% (€25,392 million), with adjusted earnings up by 4.9%. Jean-Bernard Lévy, Vivendi's CEO, announced proudly "*We reached the goals we set at the beginning of 2008*", adding that he expects "*strong growth*" in 2009. As for Canal Plus, the Group's audiovisual subsidiary, its operational profit has increased by 42% to €568 million in 2008, thanks in part to over €350 million in synergies and savings linked to the TPS merger. To adapt to the crisis, though, Canal Plus is considering launching offers at lower prices.

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CINEMA

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[# Tunisia-Algeria / "L'avenue des palmiers blessés"](#)

The Tunisian director Abdellatif Ben Ammar (photo) worked for ten years on the script of "L'avenue des palmiers blessés" (The avenue of wounded palm trees) before being able to start shooting. Finally cameras rolled on the 21st February. His theme takes him back to the blockade and subsequent battle of Bizerte, an armed conflict between France and Tunisia in the summer of 1961. Tunisia had gained independence from France five years previously, but France held on to the naval base at Bizerte. The battle is set against the Algerian War, raging at the same time, and the Cold War – the Berlin Wall was built in the same year. The film takes place thirty years later, in 1991, during the preparations for the war in Iraq, with the two conflicts interwoven. The heroine of the film is Chama, a young out-of-work Tunisian sociologist. Her Algerian girl-friend Nabila lives in Bizerte and offers her a room, finding her work typing the manuscript of someone writing about Bizerte. The story is not new to Chama – her father was killed in the battle. But very quickly she realises that history has been completely falsified. The road to truth will be long and painful.

In the main roles Tunisian and Algerian actors: Leïla Waz, Rym Takoucht, Hassan Kachach, Aïda Kechoud, Mohamed Yargui.

Shooting this Tunisian-Algerian co-production should last two months between Tunis and Bizerte and the film will be released in 2010.



[# France / Preparation for shooting "Un balcon sur mer"](#)

The actress and director Nicole Garcia is putting the finishing touches to the casting of her next film "Un balcon sur la mer" (Balcony on the Sea). Topping the billing: Jean Dujardin, Marie-Josée Croze, Sandrine Kiberlain, Claudia Cardinale and Michel Aumont. The film is about a 40 year-old estate agent, Marc, married, father of two, living quietly and happily in a small village on the Cote d'Azur. Until the day he falls under the charm of one of his female clients. In fact she was one of his very first romances, back in his youth when his family lived in Algeria. Forced to leave during the war, he lost touch with her.... The filming should begin on the 13th April and continue for 13 weeks between Aix-en-Provence, Nice, Oran and Morocco. Release is scheduled later this year.



[# Canada / Filming "Incendies" in Canada and Jordan](#)

Denis Villeneuve's film "Incendies" (Fires) began filming in mid-March. It is taken from the play by Wajdi Mouawad and is about twins, Jeanne and Simon. When their mother Nawal dies, the family solicitor gives each an envelope: one twin has to go to a father they believed dead while the other has to go to a brother they did not even know existed. In this enigmatic legacy Jeanne sees the key to her mother's silence – for years, confined to a hospital bed, she had obstinately refused to speak. Jeanne

decides to leave immediately for the Middle East to dig up the past of this family she knows almost nothing about.

At first young Simon refuses to have anything to do with these posthumous caprices of a mother who was so meagre with her love, who spent her life poisoning their existence. But his love for his sister soon drives him to join Jeanne in the Middle East on the trail of a mother very different from the one they thought they knew.

In the roles of Jeanne and Simon, Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulain and Maxim Gaudette. The filming began in March and should continue until the beginning of April in Montreal, then in Jordan for 5 weeks in May. Release is due for spring 2010.



[# Catalonia / Possible law on dubbing films in Catalan](#)

Catalan politicians have tabled a law (as part of the first law on the cinema passed by this autonomous region) making it obligatory for some copies of all foreign films to be dubbed into Catalan. The law wants to

force distribution companies either to dub into Catalan or sub-title half the copies of foreign films shown in the region's cinemas. This measure is to compensate for the domination of Castilian Spanish in distributed films. The figures are quite clear: 89% of the 466 titles distributed in 2007 were only available in Castilian Spanish.



[# France / Rachid Bouchareb is going to film "Hors-la-loi"](#)

In July the Algerian director Rachid Bouchareb will start filming "Hors-la-loi" (Outlaw) – a follow-up to his "Indigènes" (Best Actor at Cannes in 2006). The new film opens with the terrible massacres of the 8th May 1945 in and around Sétif, focussing on three brothers whose family is subsequently dispossessed of everything it owns.

Ten years later they come together in France to carry the fight for freedom on to French soil, setting up the first FLN cell. In the casting Sami Bouajila, Roschdy Zem and Bernard Blancan. The film will be shot in Germany, France, Tunisia, Algeria and New York (the United Nations).

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FESTIVALS

CLOSE-UP ON THE...28th Istanbul International Film Festival – from April 4th to 19th



The Istanbul International Film Festival began as a week of film screenings during the 1982 Istanbul International Festival. Two years later it became an event in its own right. Five years after that the Festival was co-opted by the *Fédération Internationale des Associations des Producteurs de Films* (FIAPF-Paris), making it an internationally renowned event, providing a shop-window for Turkish productions and a place to meet for Turkish and international producers and directors. The organisers' aim is *“to encourage the development of Turkish cinema, to help it achieve an international reputation and to promote quality films on the Turkish market-place.”*

The 28th Istanbul International Film Festival takes place over two weeks with two competitions:

- **national**, with four classic awards: Best Film, Best Director, Best Actress and Best Actor. To these will be added this year Best Script, Best Cinematography and Best Music. The jury of the national competition is presided by the Turkish director Kutlug Ataman.

Also in this category the FIPRESCI jury (*Fédération Internationale de Critiques de Films*) awards a prize;

- and **international**, with the Golden Tulip award for Best Film and, as for the national category, a FIPRESCI award.

There are two other prizes for films in either category: the “Face” award (Council of Europe Prize), given to the film which best expresses respect for human rights and an award given by the public.

For the second year a series of workshops, “Meetings on the Bridge”, at which chosen directors present a project for a film, will run in parallel with the Festival. At the end of these seminars the best project is rewarded.

<http://www.iksv.org/film/english/film.asp?cid=386>

The other Festivals

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[# Portugal / International Youth Film Festival](#)

The International Youth Film Festival will take place from the 21st to the 28th June in the towns of Espinho and Santa Maria da Feira in Portugal. It is for directors who are not yet 30, with works completed after the 1st January 2007. Organised by the cultural association FEST, its main aim is to develop tomorrow's

cinema by showing and promoting new film talent.

There are five competitive sections: drama, documentary, experimental film, animation and musical video. As a reward for their work the winners will receive a trophy and diploma given by the organisers.

The deadline for registering films is the 20th April

For all additional information and to download the registration form: www.fest.pt



[# Morocco / Creation of a new festival AFIFDOK](#)

Khouribga's first international festival of documentary film will open at the end of May. Why chose this town south of Casablanca to show a selection of documentary films? For the organisers "*today there is the whole question of the globalisation of the voice and image, both of which have become symbols of cultural life. The documentary can be*

educational, scientific, artistic and aesthetic."

This festival will contribute to the cultural, economic and social development of the town and the organisers hope by teaching the public about the culture of image and sound they will reject violence, resist extremes and establish bridges between the Moroccan culture of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Digital training workshops will also be organised for the region's young people and also those outside Morocco.

For more information : www.afidok.org or afidok@gmail.com



[# Morocco / 9th International Animation Festival at Meknès](#)

The 9th Meknès International Animation Festival (FICAM), the leading animation event in Morocco, indeed the whole of Africa, will take place between the 7th and the 15th May. This year's festival will be marked by the first international competition for a short animation, while British animated films are the special theme. The great names of British animation will show their works for the first time in Morocco. There will be retrospectives and *carte blanche* for the studios which have made British animation

internationally famous. As each year, short and full-length features will be given their first screenings, the world of animated film will be explained, there will be exhibitions, including a New Technologies theme. The Festival will welcome many Moroccan and international artists, for the event also serves as a spring-board for Moroccan creative work. For example the Festival will open with a screening of "Révolution", an animated short being made by the young Aziz Oumoussa, an award winner at the 2008 Aicha Animation Grand Prix. In partnership with the kingdom's various art schools there will also be a training centre and a series of conferences and workshops run by Moroccan and foreign professionals.



[# Italy / Drama at the centre of the RomaFictionFest](#)

This international festival of television drama is celebrating its third year, from the 6th to the 11th July in Rome. Four categories of film may take part: television films between 70 and 120 minutes long; mini-series (a drama of at most 4 parts); longer series or sitcoms of between 4 and 8 episodes, each being between 90 and 100 minutes

long; and finally documentaries or dramatised documentaries. The works presented must have been produced and/or broadcast between May 2008 and April 2009. At the same time as the festival there will be 15-minute speed-dating sessions between directors, producers and broadcasters and a pitching session giving producers the chance to present their projects to those responsible for international dramas.

The deadline for registration is the 20th April. Web-site: : www.romafictionfest.it



[# Belgium / 9th Festival of Liberties](#)

The 9th Festival of Liberties will take place in Brussels from the 22nd to the 31st October. The organisers are looking for documentaries and docu-dramas (26 minutes minimum), which fit in with the festival's central theme: the liberties and the rights of the human being. Two prizes will be

given, aimed at getting the films distribution: the *Prix du Festival des Libertés*, the 5,000€ prize-money is exclusively intended for the promotion of the winning film and the *Prix Lichtpunt TV*, 5,000€ is remuneration for a showing on VRT (*Vlaamse Radio en Televisieomroep*).

Proud of its success last year (more than 25 films received distribution offers), *Bruxelles Laïque*, creator of the project, is renewing Operation Screenings to support the distribution of the selected films. Buyers from the main public television companies of the EU (RTBF, ZDF, Arte, France 2, BBC, NOS amongst others) as well as international distributors will be invited to come to Brussels to screen all the selected films.

Deadline for registration: 1st June

For additional information: rudi.barnet@skynet.be or on the web-site

<http://www.festivaldeslibertes.be/>



[# France / Festival Corto Del Med](#)

The third Corto Del Med festival will take place in Avignon in the *Cité des Papes* between the 11th and the 14th June. Its aim: to publicize the audiovisual creation of young people in the Mediterranean area and create professional links between the region's countries. Those coming to the festival will see short films made by young people from countries around the Mediterranean, films which look at political, economic, social, cultural and inter-cultural questions. Two prizes will be given: the Corto Del MED prize and a prize given by the public. Web-site: www.altermediterranee.org

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WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH.....SEMAT <http://www.sematcairo.com/>



At the heart of the SEMAT project is a group of young Egyptian directors dissatisfied with their country's film production, which they judge too commercial and superficial – like the worst Hollywood films, a far cry from the creativity and freedom of expression they yearn for.

From that dissatisfaction came the idea to form a group and found SEMAT – which they did in October 2001. As the first Egyptian organisation for independent films, SEMAT's aim is to make documentaries and short films, parallel to the existing cinematographic establishment, but independent of it. SEMAT also wants to encourage young people to become interested in more progressive films, stressing the role of cinema as a means of awakening consciences and cultural awareness. The situation of independent cinema is improving in Egypt, which is encouraging. The presence of institutions supporting independent work encourages film-makers to be freer and take risks in their work, whether or not they are working through one these institutions.

So for nearly eight years SEMAT has been working to create a true private sector in Egypt, improving the quantity and quality of their work, promoting their films on foreign distribution circuits and generally encouraging the development of an alternative Egyptian cinema.

In 2006, with the support of the *Institut du Monde Arabe* in France, it set up the “Caravan of Euro-Arab Cinema” as part of the Euromed Audiovisual 2 programme. A series of events in Europe and the Arab world promoting cultural dialogue through film, helping audiences on both sides of the Mediterranean discover Arab and European cinema.

Early on SEMAT realised the importance of training, and that is why in the Egyptian provinces and certain other Arab countries like the Lebanon and Jordan it organises workshops for young people, children and women.

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THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY



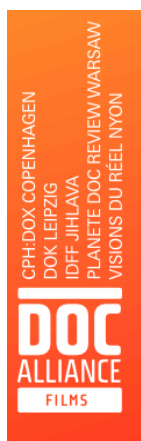
[# International Conference “Culture and Creation as Vectors of Development”](#)

On the 2nd and 3rd of April the European Commission organised a symposium at Brussels on EU cooperation with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP), in the presence of the ministers of culture of those countries. The conference had two aims: firstly to highlight the importance of culture for the identity of people, peace and stability of societies and the economic development of ACP countries. Secondly to create a basis of dialogue between people working in culture and the political authorities, to help the development of the cultural sector. The conference organised discussions and workshops between professionals, politicians and financial backers. It closed with the presentation of the EU's FESPACO Prize 2009 and a declaration by people working in the industry which made recommendations for the EU's policy of cultural cooperation. At the same time several cultural events (African cinema, theatre, fashion and music) demonstrated the creativity of the ACP countries.

Contact : Direction Générale du Développement et des Relations avec les Etats d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique, Unit B3 – Brussels

Email: dev-culture@ec.europa.eu

Web-site: www.culture-dev.eu



[# Doc alliance films: documentaries in VOD](#)

Doc Alliance Film is an Internet portal offering more than 200 major documentaries from the whole world, with particular emphasis on European cinema. Supported by the MEDIA programme, it has been operational since 1st March. The result of cooperative effort between 5 European documentary festivals (CPH:DOX at Copenhagen, DOK Leipzig, IDFF Jihlava, Planet Doc Review at Warsaw and Visions of the Real at Nyon), this project offers access to films either by streaming or downloading – at very affordable prices (from 1 euro!). 20 new films are added each month, so that in the long run there will be an important archive. Film-makers, producers, distributors and students can upload their work.

Another Doc Alliance initiative is that each of the 5 festivals singles out a documentary. The 5 films chosen, known as the Doc Alliance Selection, will then benefit from additional publicity in these festivals and compete for a prize given by the international jury as part of DOK Leipzig 2009 (26th October to the 1st November).

Contact : Nina Numankadic - Doc Alliance Films - Š kolská 12 - 110 01 Prague 1 - The Czech Republic – Tel : 00 420 222 954 526 - Fax : 00 420 224 214 858 - E-mail : info@docalliancefilms.com - Site web : www.docalliancefilms.com

[# MEDIA launches an appeal to French producers as part of the Transylvania International Film Festival](#)

On the 4th and 5th of June, during the Transylvania International Film Festival in Cluj-Napoca, the French and Rumanian MEDIA Desks will organise a conference to bring together producers from the two countries so they can exchange ideas and practices, notably in requesting grants from the MEDIA programme. The Transylvania International Film Festival runs from the 29th May to the 7th June.

French producers who have projects and are interested in taking part in this event are invited to contact the MEDIA Desk France before the 15th May.

Additional information on the Transylvania International Film Festival: www.tiff.ro

Contact : Bérengère Quercy – MEDIA Desk France – 9 rue Ambroise Thomas – 75009 Paris

- Tel : 33 1 47 27 77 69 – Fax : 33 1 47 27 04 15 – E-mail : bquercy@mediafrance.eu
- Web-site: :www.mediafrance.eu



[# 15 projects at the Cinéfondation 2009 workshop](#)

The 5th *Atelier de la Cinéfondation* has selected **15 projects for feature films** from 14 countries. Accompanied by their producer, the chosen film-makers will meet film professionals

at Cannes from the 15th to the 22nd May, and their discussions should help them complete the finance of their project and speed up its production.

Five of the 15 projects come from Europe: “*L'Homme qui cache la forêt*” (The Man who Hides the Forest), from the Frenchman Bertrand Mandico, “Shun Li and the Poet” from the Italian Andrea Segre, “*Chambres d'Hotel*” (Hotel Rooms) from the Franco-Lebanese Danielle Arbid, “Sponsoring” from the Polish Malgoska Szumowska and “Red Cross” from the Portuguese Hugo Vieira Da Silva

The Book of the Projects as well as details of the meetings will be available as from the 15th April on *Cinéfondation's* web-site.

Contact : Agnès Durvin – l'Atelier du Festival - 3 rue Amélie - 75007 Paris - Tel : 33 1 53 59 61 26 - E-mail : latelier@festival-cannes.fr

Web site: www.cinefondation.com



[# Calls for proposals for the Anna Lindh Foundation](#)

Two appeals have been launched to fund cooperative projects between organisations on different sides of the Mediterranean. As part of its mission, the “Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures” finances projects which foster a better mutual perception of others, or which support the mobility of cultural operators and artists or which build coexistence in difficult areas, all within the Mediterranean region. The projects can be short or long term. To be eligible to apply for a grant, the project leader must be a member of one of the 43 national networks within the Foundation. For more detailed information:

<http://www.euromedalex.org/fr/subventions>

INDEPENDENT MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCERS' WAY

apimed

Association internationale de producteurs indépendants de la méditerranée

APIMED at the 8th International Forum for Cinema and Literature in Monaco.

A delegation of producers from APIMED went to the International Forum for Cinema and Literature in Monaco from the 19th to the 21st March. Among them were: Ahmed Atef (Egypt Films), Mohamed Charbagi (Alif Productions), Sergi Doladé (General Delegate), Paule Herades (member of the Apimed administration), Patricia Hubinet (Les Films du Soleil), Abdelhaï Laraki (Casa Films), Dominique Le Pivert (Grenade Productions), Isona Passola (Massa d'Or Productions) and Mohamed Taan (Crystal Films).

This Forum has become the place to discuss written works being adapted for the screen; an international ideas' bank for people working in film, literature, television, comic strips or video games. It is also special for the people of Monaco, a place where they can meet personalities from all over the world. From the outset the Forum's aim has been to bring people in publishing and the audiovisual world together for creative and fruitful discussions.

This year, keen to open its doors to the wider world, the Forum joined with Apimed so that producers from all over the Mediterranean could hear about the Forum, encouraging the inter-change of ideas between Europe and Mediterranean countries.

The programme included round tables between authors, film-makers and script-writers; lessons in cinema and a master-class with the film-maker Amos Gitai; public lectures and screenings of pre-release films in the presence of their makers.

On Saturday 21st there was a discussion on the Mediterranean Union at which the representatives of the following organisations put forward ideas: APIMED, Eurimages, *Film Commission de la Wallonie* and the *Instituto Luce*.

Existing programmes for cinema were examined, such as those funding training for writers, directors and image industry technicians and those giving guidance to productions or which help distribute the finished work. But it was the first-hand experiences of those taking part which opened the discussion to ways of improving these programmes. The unimpeded and unselfconscious exchange of ideas and works, written or in images, underlined the diversity of the cultures present and helped each to discover more about the other.

More information : www.forum-cinema-litterature.com

For any more information : Sergi Doladé, Directeur de MEDIMED (+ 34 93 244 98 50)

Fax: (+ 34 93 247 01 65), info@apimed.org or www.medimed.org

Postal mail: MEDIMED c/ Girona, 20, 5 planta, 08010 Barcelona, SPAIN.

Paule Héradès, Bureau de l'APIMED (+ 33 6 07 78 61 04) Email :

paule.herades@gmail.com

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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

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

STOP PRESS....



On the 26th March RAI's Council of Administration elected Paolo Garimberti president of the Italian public broadcasting company. His election was unanimously confirmed by RAI's supervisory Commission. Paolo Garimberti began his career on Genoa's **Corriere Mercantile**, then on **La Stampa**, where he was Moscow correspondent from 1970 to 1976 and chief editor in the Rome office from 1979 to 1986. From 1986 to 1992 he had editorial jobs, becoming chief political editor on **La Repubblica** newspaper, first on the national desk, then the international. In 1992 he was named professor of comparative constitutional law at Genoa University and in November of the same year Director of Television News for Italy's 2nd channel, TG2, a job he held until 1994. At which point he returned to **La Repubblica** where he was Director of the Express group's weekly *Il Venerdì* until 2000 and deputy director of the daily from 2000 to 2004, at the same time directing the on-line *CNN Italia*. Since February 2005 he has hosted the radio talk-show of **La Repubblica** every morning from 10am till 1pm.

- The next Bayeux-Calvados Award will take place between the 5th and the 10th October. The call for applications for the reports section has just been launched. New this year: the possibility of taking part with a news report broadcast on the Internet. Reports about a conflict situation or its consequences on civilians should be sent before the 8th June. They can be photographic, written, for radio or television, but they must have been made between the 1st June 2008 and the 31st May 2009. A €7,600 prize is awarded in each category. For more information:

<http://www.prixbayeux.org/index>

- France 24 is increasing its Arabic programme time. On the 29th April the French international news channel France 24 should increase its daily output in Arabic from 4 hours a day at present to 10 hours a day.

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Translated from the French by Tim King