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## MEDITERRANEE AUDIOVISUELLE Monthly Newsletter

In the summary of this edition: the International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film celebrates its 14<sup>th</sup> year by introducing a new category – for documentaries and news reports on sport;

the Euromed Heritage IV programme, presenting the project for the Med-Mem web-site, involving 18 partners including 10 Mediterranean television companies;

the new audiovisual channels – particularly in Morocco, in Turkey and in Qatar;

the close-up this month is on the web-site Qantara, launched by the Arab Institute; and finally the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of Morocco's 'European Film Weeks'.

Happy reading to you all.....

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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

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## HEADLINE STORY

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



The International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film is becoming involved in sport – one of the novelties of this year's edition, with the creation of a prize for a documentary or news film on sport. A celebration of the Festival's partnership with the Mediterranean Games, being held from the 26<sup>th</sup> June to the 5<sup>th</sup> July this year in the town of Pescara in the Italian Abruzzo Region. Pescara, birthplace of the writer Gabriele d'Annunzio, but also of such sporting personalities as Fabio Grosso (who plays in France for Olympique Lyonnais) and Massimio Oddo (who is playing this season for Bayern Munich) or again the F1 racing driver Jarrjo Trulli. Pescara hosts this year's Mediterranean Games, a multi-sport event held every four years, in which some 3,000 athletes from 21 Mediterranean countries compete.

The new category “Sport in the Mediterranean” and its award is for documentaries and news films which look at sport, or any of the issues associated with it, from any angle.



Sport takes a privileged place in the television schedules: in a few years it has become a major financial factor, guaranteeing large audiences. Alongside current affairs programmes, talk shows and the retransmission of major events, there is now a raft of documentaries and news reports on the different facets of sport and on the ordinary or extraordinary stories of the athletes themselves. Whether about team or individual exploits these films are essentially human stories which also touch on fundamental truths about our society, our history and our politics. A documentary about a sporting event can be a way of explaining historical changes or the pretext to take a fresh look at a major event of the past.

The aim of this “Sport in the Mediterranean” prize is to reward works which raise the issue of what sporting culture in the Mediterranean basin really means. Works which underline the positive values of sport, which show that sport is an opportunity for dialogue, for peaceful confrontation. Sport as a catalyst for memorable moments of social bonding, transcending barriers of language, culture, race – sport as a means of forgetting, at least for the duration of the competition, the tensions between people.

The **“Sport in the Mediterranean”** Prize will be for **5,000€** and will compliment the **six** other well-established awards.

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

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

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

This prize rewards the documentary which, with or without archives, brings to life past events concerning the Mediterranean: individual or collective stories of men and women or places of symbolism and memory.

– **“First Work” (Value 5,000€)**

This prize rewards 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 rewards the 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).

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

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

– **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>

**PLEASE NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR SENDING THE FILMS IS THE  
16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009**

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## Three questions for.....



**Mireille Maurice, regional representative of INA Méditerranée about the “Med-Mem” project, chosen as part of the Euromed Heritage IV programme and devoted to the Mediterranean heritage, both material and immaterial.**

**“Med-Mem” – the entire memory, or almost, of the Mediterranean audiovisual world....can we attribute the name of this web-site to the title of a short film by Alain Resnais? (La Mémoire du Monde – Memory of the World, 1956)**

Well at any rate the memory which links all Mediterranean women and men, through their shared culture and history.

Med-Mem is a project to put on-line archive images from the countries surrounding the Mediterranean, on a web-site freely accessible to the widest possible public.

There will be six major themes: cultural sites; customs, traditions and crafts; landscapes and the environment; cultural and artistic expression; the history of the Mediterranean and lastly everything concerned with tourism.

We hope that the web-site will make Mediterranean culture better known, by sharing opinions and experiences, and that by understanding one's own history and the history of others better, the site will contribute to dialogue between different cultures.

Experts in the field will provide analysis for the videos, setting the images in their historical and cultural context while at the same time offering a scientific perspective.

Organised by date, theme and maps the site will be simple to navigate, and there will be the choice either simply to look at the images or, for students, teachers or those interested, to dig deeper by going into the articles.

In addition the CMCA has offered to create a calendar for the web-site, giving the main cultural events in the whole Mediterranean area.

By giving the documents from Mediterranean television archives such a high profile, Med-Mem is encouraging companies to safeguard and digitise the Mediterranean audiovisual heritage. It will also offer technical tools and legal guidelines to help them.

### **In practice how will the 18 partners of the project, with INA at their head, share out the work, and what public are you aiming at?**

Amongst the 18 partners there are 10 Mediterranean public television companies (Algeria, Croatia, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Palestinian television), three professional organisations (the EBU, COPEAM and the CMCA) and four high-level cultural and scientific organisations (the MMSH – *Maison Méditerranée des Sciences de l'Homme*, Alexandria University, Italy's UniNett1 – *Università telematica internazionale* – and the Palestine Digital Library).



The most immediate tasks concern the content (selecting the audiovisual items and editing the articles about them); translating everything into three languages (French, Arab and English); digitising the videos; developing the site architecture and how it works; developing a network of diffusion to help access.

It's a project dependent on partners from both sides of the Mediterranean because it will open up each and every Mediterranean audiovisual archive.

The project has many innovative aspects: the shared tools for documentation, method and computer technology; the policy of preserving the audiovisual heritage; the respect for copyright and other legal elements.

For the six members of the Consortium (Italian, Algerian, Moroccan and Jordanian television, COPEAM and INA) there are the immediate responsibilities – technical, IT, documentation, translation and the maintenance of the site.

For the other partners – the television companies, scientific and professional organisations – there is the work of making Med-Mem a culturally rich site, of giving it as high a profile as possible.

Med-Mem is aimed at the widest possible public, particularly the young, but also researchers, teachers, students and cultural institutions such as museums and libraries. But it is also aimed at those who have audiovisual archives, particularly Mediterranean radio broadcasters. They now have the chance to digitise their archives, and I hope that will encourage them to establish the good habit of preserving their audiovisual heritage and respecting copyright. At the same time, by putting their archives on line, these broadcasters will themselves benefit from greater visibility.

### **What's the time-scale for this project on the Mediterranean memory?**

Starting this month, the project will take us three years.

We are organising the first meeting of all the partners in Marseille on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of February.

Then we shall meet again in April during the AGM of COPEAM in Cairo – that will be after the official launch of the Euromed Heritage 4 programme at the beginning of March in Marrakesh.

Then in a few months' time we have to show a preliminary mock-up of the site. But you know, the work between the partners of the North and South will go on in total synergy for the whole duration of the project.

## LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

[#Morocco / The Tamazight television channel launch in September 2009](#)

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[#Morocco / The Tamazight television channel launch in September 2009](#)

The Tamazight television channel, on the cards for so long, should begin broadcasting in September of this year. In any case that's what it says in a new clause in the launch contract signed last December. The Moroccan Minister of Communication, Khalid Naciri, said this amendment makes it possible to set up both a legal framework and the necessary practical arrangements so that this major media project can

become a reality. According to the Minister there is a real political will for this project to succeed, especially since it's important for the Berber language "*to constitute a component of the Moroccan identity*". A budget of 500 million dirhams (€4.5 million) has been allocated, destined to cover the broadcasting costs for four years.

The setting up of the channel is being done by the *Société Nationale de Radio et de Télévision* (SNRT) which has already begun work on the project: recruiting staff is under way, invitations to bid for the technical contracts are being prepared, discussions about the content of the programmes are being held with production companies and much thought is being put into training schemes. According to Khalouki El Alami, SNRT's man in charge of production and programmes, the channel will be ready in nine months. The Royal Institute of Tamazight Culture, through its director Ahmed Boukous, has said it is ready to offer its expertise in the Tamazight language and culture to this new general interest channel. Exclusively in the Tamazight language, it will tackle a wide range of subjects through drama, sport and music, as well as political and cultural programmes.



[#Turkey / First television channel entirely in Kurdish](#)

A first: the launch on January 1<sup>st</sup> of a State television channel entirely in Kurdish. The national channel TRT-6, that's its name, is now part of the public institution of Turkish radio and television (TRT). As a reminder, the Kurdish language was forbidden after the military coup

in 1980 until 1991. It was only in 2004 that TRT began a 30 minute programme in the Kurdish language, consisting of documentaries and news. Private channels then took up the idea and now there are a dozen or so broadcast by satellite.

This new channel broadcasts 24 hours a day and according to the channel's DG, Ibrahim Salin, it will not impose "*the ideology of the State*". A general interest channel, it offers news programmes, films, series, talk shows as wells as video-clips of Kurdish artists.





### [# Europe / Al-Aqsa TV will not broadcast in Europe](#)

Al-Aqsa TV, produced by the Islamic Hamas organisation and broadcast from Gaza, announced it would operate from Europe as from the 7<sup>th</sup> January, via the European satellite Eurobird (Eutelsat), a French company. But in fact broadcasting lasted only 24 hours.

Alerted by several of its European partners, the *Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel français* (CSA), the French television regulator, sent a warning to the broadcaster that some of its programmes contravened the law on incitement to hatred or violence on the grounds of race, religion or nationality. Eutelsat passed the CSA's warning on to the channel's distributor, Noorsat, asking it "to respect all international and national laws concerning the content of channels." The French regulator finally received assurances that the channel would not be broadcast in Europe. However using other satellites it will continue to broadcast in the Middle East.



ALJAZEERA

### [# Qatar / A new children's channel for Al-Jazeera](#)

The Qatar group Al-Jazeera continues to expand. Three years after it launched the Al-Jazeera Children channel, a pan-Arab television channel aimed at children, the broadcaster is offering its young public a new channel, aimed more particularly at the 3-6 age group. "Baraem" (Buds) offers its youngest viewers programmes full of colour and music, with tales, songs and games adapted to their age group. According to the Executive Director General of Al-Jazeera Children, Mahmoud

Bouneb, the channel is "the first of its kind in the Arab world, where there are some 550 television channels, "Baraem" is aimed at pre-school children, their parents and their teachers and hopes to contribute to the forming of the Arab child's identity."

"Baraem" today produces 15% of its programmes, the other 85% being acquisitions. The aim is to increase its own production to consolidate the programme's Arab identity.

The new channel is broadcast from Doha from the "Al-Jazeera Children" building 18 hours a day. It is broadcast into 22 Arab countries on Atlantic bird 4, Nilesat and also on Hotbird.



### [# England / Launch of a Farsi channel on the BBC](#)

On the 14<sup>th</sup> January the BBC launched a new channel in Farsi (local name for Iran's majority language, formerly Persian), which will be broadcast across Iran and Afghanistan. "BBC Persian TV" is transmitted by satellite and is aimed at the roughly one hundred million Farsi speakers, of whom there are some 70 million in Iran, 20

million in Afghanistan and around 10 million in Tadjistan and Central Asia. According to Nigel Chapman, head of the BBC's World Service, this new channel hopes to reach "7 million viewers by 2011". His budget will be £15 million a year (€16.8 million) financed by the British government. It is the second BBC channel in a language other than English, coming a year after the launch of BBC Arabic television (March 2008) covering the Middle east and North Africa.



### [# France / Canal + beamed over the Maghreb](#)

On the 31<sup>st</sup> December Canal + suspended broadcasting over the Maghreb in order to relaunch its pay-TV offer over a region of 45 million French-speaking people (until that date the private group had been received on pirate systems via the TPS signal).

Its objective was achieved on the weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> January. Using the Arabsat satellite Algeria was the first country to benefit from the new cover, Tunisia and Morocco will follow. Pre-paid cards, lasting either 6 months or a year, are on sale and for 20€ a month subscribers can access a bouquet of 27 channels (the Canal + channels naturally, as well as France 2, France 3, TV Breizh, I Télé, LCI...).



### [# France / TV5Monde announces a new strategic plan](#)

A new look, new programmes, new schedules, new signals, new themed channels on the web, new non-linear offers of catch-up on demand, new mobile sites, a 50% increase in the number of sub-titled programmes. There really is a whole new dynamic

driving TV5Monde, which now has the proclaimed ambition of becoming a global media. That at least is the challenge they have set themselves, it is their response to an audiovisual landscape turned upside down by the digital revolution, the increase in competition and the arrival of the new inter-active media which is both personal and can be enjoyed on the move.

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## PROGRAMMES

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[# France / Broadcast on Orange of the series "House of Saddam"](#)

After its success in Britain on the BBC, "House of Saddam" was broadcast by Orange TV in January. Written by Alex Holmes and Stephen Butchard, this four-episode series is based on two years detailed research, including extensive interviews with members of Saddam's regime, those who worked within his palaces, eyewitnesses and academics. From the

beginning the idea was to describe the private life of the dictator. Alex Holmes, who also directed three of the four episodes, explained he wanted *"to examine how Saddam Hussein remained in power for 24 years despite being hated by many of his own people and the world. It was a chance to delve into the complex nature of a man with whom many Iraqis had such an ambivalent relationship involving respect and loathing. It also was a chance to examine the political and moral values at play in Iraq, values which gave rise to Saddam Hussein and which he in turn was hostage to. Values like loyalty, strength, honour and pride."*

The first episode opens in Baghdad in 1979 : vice-president Saddam Hussein and his allies force president Ahmed Hassan al-Bar to resign. At the first congress of the Baath party the new president begins a bloody purge of its members. It is at that moment the war with Iran erupts.

The second and third episodes cover the years 1988-95.

The fourth and final episode starts in March 2003 with the American president Bush announcing that the day of liberation for the Iraqi people is at hand. Saddam sends his family to Syria and goes to hide in a hut near Tikrit. When he learns that there is a price of 25 million dollars on his head he knows it is the end.

The outstanding performance by the Israeli actor Igal Naor as Saddam Hussein makes the series utterly convincing.

The series will be re-broadcast on Orange Cinemax from the 21<sup>st</sup> February.



[# Spain-Morocco-Italy / "Linatakalam", a Moroccan-Spanish-Italian co-production](#)

On the 14<sup>th</sup> January *Linatakalam* (Let's talk) was screened at the Cervantes Institute in Rabat. Shot in several Mediterranean countries, this 6-episode series looks at serious issues, such as women's rights, immigration, inter-

religious conflicts, children's education, drought and the problems of water.

The programme, which received the Gold Medal at the World Media Festival at Hamburg, is co-produced by Morocco, Spain and Italy, under the umbrella of the Alliance of Civilisations. Using a mixed crew from Galicia (Spain), Morocco and Turkey, it was filmed in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey, Sicily and Valencia and is distributed in Galician, French, Arab, Spanish and Italian.

Many personalities took part in the filming: the Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu, the former Iranian president Mohamed Khatami, the Spanish president, José Luis Zapatero, the former Moroccan prime minister, Driss Jettou as well as the co-presidents of the Alliance of Civilisations, Federico Mayor and Mehmet Aydin.



[# Morocco ' New series on 2M](#)

**Hajiz Assamt** – this series, aired from Monday to Friday, looks at a taboo subject in the Arab world: Aids. Selma, a sociologist, heads a United Nations mission to fight Aids. Her job is working with people who have Aids, helping them to face up to it. She does not yet

know her own life is about to change. Her son, supposed to be studying in Paris and from whom she has heard nothing for months, is hospitalised.....

**Qissat Houb Hazina**, first Korean series to be broadcast in Morocco. For many years Yo-han Yong and Hayin have lived out a simple love story, united, they imagine, forever. But nothing is simple: Hayin, blind, has to leave the man of her life to go to the USA....

**Qalb Mayit** – from Monday to Friday. Reda Abou Chama is a young man from a working class district of Cairo, crazy about car racing. He earns his livelihood illegally organising amateur races for kids from wealthy families. His dream is to make a fortune...unfortunately an accident causes several deaths and he finds himself behind bars....

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## ECONOMY

[# France / France 4: big increase in its programme budget 2009](#)

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[# France / France 4: big increase in its programme budget 2009](#)

During a press conference on the 15<sup>th</sup> January, Claude-Yves Robin, Director General of France 4, announced the programme budget in 2009 would increase by 35%: €29 million against €21.5 million in 2007, out of a total budget of €44.5 million (€39 million in 2008). As for the 2008 result, the channel made a profit of more than €2 million thanks to advertising revenues which reached €10 million against 5 million in 2007



[# France / Agreement between Orange and Canal Plus](#)

Orange and Canal Plus have signed an agreement allowing Orange's triple play customers, who are not eligible for Broad Band TV, to subscribe to Canal Plus and/or Canal Sat. As the operator explains "in 2009, using the Astra satellite, Orange customers with satellite TV will be able to receive these offers directly on a single ADSL/satellite hybrid set-top box provided by Orange." All of which strengthens Canal Plus' presence with Orange subscribers.



[#France / Conditions agreed for TF1 and France Télévisions to pull out of France 24](#)

On the 12<sup>th</sup> January the members of France 24's social fund unanimously approved the agreement negotiated by the French TV and Radio World Service (*Audiovisuel extérieur de la France*) with TF1 and *France Télévisions* over the conditions of the latter two companies' withdrawal from France 24's capital. The agreement provides:

- that the two groups will each receive €2 million in exchange for giving up their 50% holding in France 24's capital;
- that agreements will be set up between TF1 and France 24 to provide archive images and sport for an overall sum of about €1.6million;
- that *France Télévisions* will provide images for the news programmes of France 2 and France 3 for €1 million.

These last two clauses will be effective for 7 years.

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## CINEMA

[# Algeria / Pre-release screening of “El Manaâ”](#)

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[# Algeria / Pre-release screening of “El Manaâ”](#)

The film by Algerian director Fouzi Delmi was shown in pre-release at Constantine in mid-January. It's a story which combines modernity with obscurantism. Lyès is a young man typical of his age, running an internet-café. His life is tranquil, well-ordered until the arrival of a charlatan. The meeting leads him into a frantic search for imaginary treasure, using black magic and inciting him to commit crimes.... The originality of Fouzi Delmi's film lies in techniques rarely used in Algeria: chases through the back streets of the old town, fight scenes on the edge of precipices.... The actors are from amateur theatre and are little known: Ahmed Ryad, Meliani Abdelhamid and Boudissa Abdelhakim.

It's the first full-length feature by this man from Constantine and the first production by Meri Mark Groupe, a production company based in Constantine.



[# France / Release of “Gerboise bleue”](#)

“Gerboise bleue” (Blue jerboa) was the name of the first French nuclear bomb detonated on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 1960 in the Algerian Sahara – it is also the title of the first film about these secret tests, directed by Djamel Ouahab and due for release in French cinemas on the 11<sup>th</sup> February. “Gerboise bleue” tells the story of the French veterans and Algerian Tuareg who were victims of these French atomic tests in the Sahara between 1960 and 1966.

For the first time the last survivors reveal the true conditions in which the tests were held and tell the story of their subsequent fight to have their illness recognised.

For the first time the director goes to *Gerboise bleue's* ground zero, forbidden by the Algerian authorities for 47 years. For this French atmospheric nuclear test was four times more powerful than Hiroshima and by far the largest first-test bomb at that time.

The documentary is produced by Kalame films and co-produced by Bladi Films.



### [# Germany / World premier for the film "London River"](#)

"London River", made by Rachid Bouchareb (photo), a French director of Algerian descent, will be given its world premier at the 59<sup>th</sup> Berlin Film Festival. It is about the London bombings in July 2005. In the principal roles Brenda Blethyn (Elizabeth), Sotigui Kouyate (Ousmane) as well as Marc Bayliss, Bernard Blancan, Sami Bouajila, Roschdy Zem...

He: Ousmane, sixty, a forester. Lives in France. Muslim.

She: Elizabeth Sommers, fifty five. Lives on Guernsey, in the Channel Islands. Speaks French. Catholic.

Ousmane's son Ali lives in London with Jane, Elizabeth's daughter. Neither parent has any news of their off-spring since the London bombings.

Ousmane goes to Elizabeth in the hope they can find them together. A painful meeting which nevertheless rekindles their frustrated desires.

A simple story where barriers disappear; only human beings remain, their differences nothing when faced with pain.

A co-production : ARTE France, 3B Productions, The Bureau.



### [# Morocco / Uproar over the film "Amours Voilées"](#)

The film "*Amours voilées*" (Veiled Loves) from the Moroccan director Aziz Salmi has caused uproar in his home country. It tells the story of Batoul, a young doctor of 28 for whom everything seems to be going well. She leads a happy family life and has a brilliant career mapped out. Until she meets a certain Hamza in a fashionable restaurant during a girl's night out. Brought up in a middle-class but conservative household where

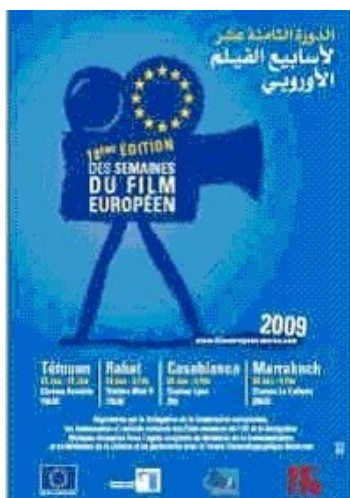
there is no question of spending time with a man before marriage, she breaks all the rules...

The film should be banned, according to Abdelbari Zemzmi, member of parliament for the Renaissance and Virtue Party: "*this young woman is shown with a young man, an illegal relationship, which ends in pregnancy....and some scenes show young women in head scarves smoking.*" For him the message is clear, this film "*is a call to abandon the veil*".

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## FESTIVALS

### CLOSE-UP ON.....Morocco's European Cinema Weeks – the 18<sup>th</sup> edition



The 2009 European Cinema Weeks – now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year – is taking place until the 6<sup>th</sup> February in Tétouan, Rabat, Casablanca and Marrakesh, with a menu of ten films to give a flavour of last year's European films. Created in 1991 on the joint initiative of the EU Delegation in Rabat and the Embassies and Cultural Institutes of the member states, in collaboration with the Moroccan Ministries of Culture and of Communication and the Cinematographic Centre, these two weeks embody the principles of the Barcelona Declaration. The European Cinema Weeks are the opportunity for the Moroccan public to discover the diversity, quality and dynamism of European film production. Films which, by their strength and commitment, have marked several festivals in 2008: Laurent Cantet's "Between the Walls", winner of the

*Palme d'Or* at Cannes, a film of rare intensity which follows a class of 13 year-olds in a difficult area; "Lorna's Silence" by the Dardenne brothers which takes us into the world of a young Albanian woman, Lorna, caught up in a sordid story of a sham marriage organised by a mobster and involving the Russian Mafia; Matteo Garrone's "Gomorra", a violent and shocking film which describes with incredible precision the hellish circles of the Neapolitan Camorra, a no-holds barred portrait of an Italy being bled by the Mafia.

But there are also lighter films, such as British director Mike Leigh's film "Happy-Go-Lucky", a true lesson in optimism. Poppy is a young teacher in a London primary school, intelligent, honest, single, funny, a free spirit. She wants to see the best in life and is in a good mood whatever life throws at her – even if it's not always good.....Sally Hawkins as Poppy was awarded the Silver Bear for Best Actress at the last Berlin Festival.

"Christopher Columbus, the enigma", the film by the world's oldest director, Manoël de Oliveira, who passed his century last December. Part humorous, part historical hypothesis, the film claims Christopher Columbus was not from Genoa at all, but from Portugal... Also there is the film by the Czech director Jiri Menzel "I who have served the King of England", the story of Jan Dite who after 15 years in prison settles in an abandoned village in Germany. There, in the silence, he remembers his youth and his burning ambition at that time....to be a millionaire. These European Cinema Weeks also give Moroccans the opportunity to see films by emerging directors: Gonzalo Lopez-Gallego and his film "*El Rey de la montaña*" (King of the Mountain), Andrzej Jakimowski's "*Sztuczki*" and Andreas Dresen's film "*Wolke Neun*".

And finally a special Moroccan programme was introduced this year, with six short films.



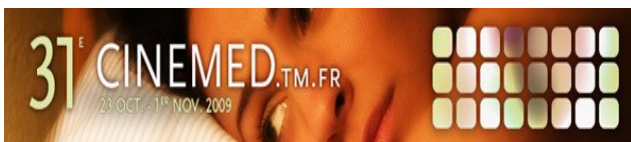
## The Other Festivals

[# France / Entries for the 31<sup>st</sup> Cinemed](#)

[# Turkey / Forum on "City and Art" at the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University](#)

[# Romania / Opening of registration for the Astra Film Festival](#)

[# France / Short Film Market at Clermont Ferrand: Euro connection – 19 projects chosen](#)



[# France / Entries for the 31<sup>st</sup> Cinemed](#)

The 31<sup>st</sup> Cinemed, Montpellier Festival of Mediterranean Cinema, will open its doors on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October for 10 days, to discover

the most recent productions from the Mediterranean, with 27 prizes awarded in the competition (long and short drama films, documentaries and experimental).

To take part in the 2009 selection, the on-line registration of films will be available on the festival web-site [www.cinemed.tm](http://www.cinemed.tm) as from the 10<sup>th</sup> February. For projects needing development money, registration should be on the paper forms.



[# Turkey / Forum on "City and Art" at the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University](#)

The "City and Art" Forum will take place in Istanbul between the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> March at the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. It will consist of conferences, discussions, presentations and workshops as well as artistic and cultural

activities. The Forum aims to bring together European art and design academia with the cities' cultural players, in order to question the present and future role of the art university in the cities where they are located and in relation to their citizens. To get an accurate picture of present and future trends, European cultural and educational policies will be examined and their influence on metropolitan culture discussed. The Forum will then focus on the notion of art in the public space and public intervention in art

For more information: [www.cityandart.org](http://www.cityandart.org)# Romania



[# Opening of registration for the Astra Film Festival](#)

The Astra Film Festival is an international documentary film festival focussing on Eastern European productions which tackle contemporary issues from a broadly anthropological angle. There is no restriction, films can

be about any subject in the four different competition categories: International, European, Romanian and First Work. The documentaries will be judged on their cinematographic and artistic quality, and whether in their form and content they express their director's point of view. The total prize money is €25,000.

This is the tenth year of the festival, and it will take place from the 26<sup>th</sup> October to the 1<sup>st</sup> November at Sibiu in Romania.

To register and access the rules: [www.astrafilm.ro](http://www.astrafilm.ro)



## [# France / Short Film Market at Clermont Ferrand: 19 projects selected](#)

For the 1<sup>st</sup> short-film co-production forum, Euro Connection, 19 projects for European short films will be pitched as part of the **Marché du Film Court de Clermont Ferrand** (Clermont Ferrand

Short Film Market). Each of the 19 projects, selected for their artistic quality, has a producer on board who has already found some of the finance. The Euro Connection forum aims to encourage co-production partnerships across Europe which can then complete the financing and enable the film to be made. Organised by “Sauve Qui Peut le Court Métrage” (Stampede to Save the Short Film), in collaboration with MEDIA Desk France and the *Centre National de la Cinématographie*, the presentation of the projects will take place over 4 pitching sessions on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

Programme, registration documents and book of projects: <http://www.clermont-filmfest.com/00templates/page.php?m=259>

To round off this day of presentations and help you turn your dreams into reality, MEDIA Desk France is organising individual meetings with producers on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, at the MEDIA stand Rendez-Vous du Marché du Film.

Please communicate what you want by email to: [info@mediadeskfrance.fr](mailto:info@mediadeskfrance.fr)

Contact: Laurent Crouzeix – Sauve Qui Peut le Court Métrage, La Jetée, 6 Place Michel de l'Hospital – 63058 Clermont Ferrand cedex 1 Tel: 04 73 14 73 12: Fax: 04 73 92 11 93 email: [l.crouzeix@clermont-filmfest.com](mailto:l.crouzeix@clermont-filmfest.com) Web-site: [www.clermont-filmfest.com](http://www.clermont-filmfest.com)

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## WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH.....QANTARA

<http://www.qantara-med.org/qantara4/public/index.php>



### A web-site for finding out about the Mediterranean cultural heritage

This web-site was created as part of the Euromed Heritage IV programme, focussing for 2008-2011 on education and access to information about this cultural heritage as well as its use by everyone. Through exchanges at the human, scientific or technological level, the programme aims to encourage mutual understanding and dialogue between Mediterranean

cultures by supporting the promotion and preservation of the shared historical and cultural heritage of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The web-site was launched at the beginning of December 2008 at the Arab World Institute, and benefited from initial funding from several prestigious sources: as well as the Arab World Institute in Paris, they include the Lebanese Ministry of Culture and *Direction Générale des Antiquités*, the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, the Spanish *Legado Andalusi* Foundation, the Tunisian National Heritage Institute, the Moroccan *Direction du Patrimoine Culturel* and *Institut National des Sciences de l'Archéologie et du Patrimoine*, the Algerian Ministry of Culture and two invited partners: Mohamed Abbas, director of the Islamic Art Museum in Cairo and Talal Akili, architect-historian and lecturer at Damascus university.

#### *"Refuse fatalism"*

For Dominique Baudis, president of the Arab World Institute, this project is *"first of all a political project that clearly targets Mediterranean identity as a unifying and interdependent identity. Often torn apart during its history, the Mediterranean has never been a frontier, but something which connects multiple civilisations and cultures in time and space: it remains the crucible of our unity, based on values which are of far greater importance than any apparent disagreements. It is by refusing to consider these disagreements as inevitable that all of our partners of this project and the European Union are seeking to establish and encourage our Mediterranean identity....The project's format enables the circulation of objects, arts and ideas to be fully appreciated and their origins, often mixed, to be analysed."*

#### *A rich and well informed body of work*

The Internet site contains a database of 1,000 references: objects, sites, monuments, architecture – there is a thesaurus of 100 articles in three chapters: history; materials and technology; culture. An approach through time and space, from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century – or an approach through six major themes: the art of living, religions, city and commerce, science and knowledge, power and diplomacy, war.

Two hundred authors and specialists have prepared the entries, which are available in four languages: French, Arabic, Spanish and English. They are enhanced by 4,000 images, videos and maps.

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1. Parallel to the web-site seven multimedia exhibitions will be organised simultaneously in seven partner countries and at the Arab World Institute: Qantara multimedia, Mediterranean heritage, Western and Eastern crossings and the publication of a book with CD-ROM on those same six major themes: the art of living, religions, city and commerce, science and knowledge, power and diplomacy, war.

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## MEDITERRANEAN WAY



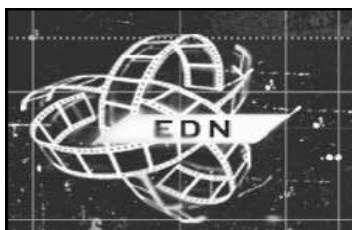
### **ADOPTION OF THE NEW MEDIA MUNDUS PROGRAMME**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> January the European Commission adopted the MEDIA Mundus programme which aims to strengthen the cultural and commercial ties between European film and creative people in the developing world. This programme will support projects from people working in the audiovisual profession either in the European Union or developing countries.

MEDIA Mundus covers the period 2011-2013 and has €15 million. Its aims are:

- to develop information exchange between professionals, particularly through training and grants to encourage the creation of industry networks reaching from Europe to non-European countries. These networks make access to foreign markets easier and they create long term commercial confidence.
- to increase the competitiveness and transnational distribution of audiovisual works in the world by helping international co-productions.
- to ease the spread and visibility of audiovisual works in the world and address the demand for culturally diversified content, from the public (especially the young public)

MEDIA Mundus Programme: [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/media/mundus](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/mundus)



### **EDN guidelines for the international financing of documentaries**

The EDN network (European Documentary Network) has just published the 2009 edition of its guidelines on international financing for documentaries.

An essential tool for documentary makers, producers, distributors and programme sellers looking for finance, the

Guide offers information on more than 100 European TV channels (profile, editorial policy, number of documentary slots – commissioning editors and buyers....) but also the distributors, sales agents, Video on Demand (VOD) platforms, public funds....

To order the Guide : <http://www.edn.dk>



## Film Development at the MFI script workshops

The **Mediterranean Film Institute** in Greece offers, with the support of

MEDIA, two training workshops for writing and project development. The aim of this training is to allow those taking part to develop scenarios which have real international potential, from the first draft to the final product, by emphasising analysis, re-writing and all other aspects of the craft which may help improve the artistic quality of the narrative. The participants are also encouraged to see the whole development process through to the end (presentation, pitching, raising finance, production strategies).

Two workshops have been organised on the Greek islands of Nissyros from the 22<sup>nd</sup> June to the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and on Samos from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2009. These two 'live' sessions will be combined with two on line sessions in September and December. The programme is open to individual European script-writers and to writer-director-producer teams who have a feature-length script in development.

The deadline for applying is the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Contact : Mediterranean Film Institute – Varvaki 38, Athens 11474 – Greece. Tel/Fax: 00 30 210 645 7223. email: [infor@mfi.gr](mailto:infor@mfi.gr) – web-site: [www.mfi.gr](http://www.mfi.gr)



## Euromed Heritage 4 Programme – Calendar and Projects

Following a selection process by the European Commission, with the help of RMSU, 12 projects

have been chosen as part of Euromed Heritage 4 for the next three years (*see the interview on the Med-Mem project, pages 6 and 7*). These projects cover a wide spread of heritage issues, including Archives, Audiovisual, Manuscripts, Archaeology, Conservation and Restoration, Cultural Tourism, Museums, Exhibitions, Legal Norms, Legislation and Stock-lists.

The project's activities will develop specifically in the nine partner countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria and Tunisia. There will be a regional opening conference in Marrakesh on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March, during which the Euromed Heritage 4 programme and projects will be officially presented.

Additional information on the conference, the projects and the activities are available on the web-site: [www.euromedheritage.net](http://www.euromedheritage.net)

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## INDEPENDENT MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCERS' WAY

### NOTRO FILMS – Barcelona works on several projects:

#### In pre-production and development

##### **JENNIFER CAN** Romantic drama

José María is a lonely man working as caretaker in a hospital. His side-line is stealing from briefcases, then selling the contents back to the owner, or stealing medicines which he sells to immigrants or the poor. In one of the briefcases he discovers photographs of a young woman who, because of a rare skin disease, has to live inside a water tank. Despite the distance between them, a strong connection develops that will change their lives forever.

An original tale of love and redemption, **JENNIFER CAN** is written and directed by Luis Alejandro Berdejo (whose short films “La Guerra” and “For(r)est in the Des(s)ert” were both well-received), with a second feature “New Daughter” starring Kevin Costner now in post-production. Berdejo is also an established scriptwriter, including [REC], one of the recent box-office hits of Spanish cinema.

Shooting starts June 2009. The film is produced by: Notro Films (Spain), Versus Entertainment (Spain), Videntia Frames Producciones (Spain), La Fabrique de Films (France)

##### **INNER SPACE** Thriller drama

As he gets into his car one morning to go to work, Mexican architect Lázaro de la Mora is beaten up, blindfolded and thrown into the back of a van. When he regains consciousness he is in a bright white room three metres square, naked, with nothing but a bucket of water and some food. Lázaro feels weak, helpless, worried for his family. He stops eating and waits patiently for death. But then a slight change in the way he sees things makes him realize the only solution is to face up to his situation, and confront the people who keep him trapped.

Based on the real-life experiences of a Mexican businessman kidnapped by a professional gang, **INNER SPACE** is a gripping psychological thriller set in the streets of Mexico City. A Spain-Mexico co-production directed by first-time film-maker Carlos Parlange and line produced by Rafael Cuervo, production manager on “Frida”, “Master & Commander” and “Troy”.

Provisional Cast: Benicio del Toro, Diego Luna, Eduardo Noriega

Shooting: June 2009

Production Companies: Notro Films (Spain), Glorieta Films (México)

### **GOLPE DE EFECTO** (Working title) Thriller

A young bank robber – Ariadna – forces a bank employee – Victor – to collaborate in holding up the bank where he works. She does this by threatening to kill his wife. When the police arrive, Ariadna takes the customers and employees as hostages – then makes an unusual demand: all the negotiations, the freeing of the hostages and her escape are to be broadcast live on television.

From the directors of the acclaimed “Fermat's Room”, this is an entertaining film, full of setbacks and surprises. Each twist in the plot makes the spectator re-think the characters' intentions and motivations.

Production: Notro Films (Spain)

### **In Post-Production**

#### **OCEANS** Documentary

From the producers of the acclaimed “Microcosmos”, “Winged Migration/Travelling Birds” and “The Chorus/Choir”, OCEANS is a spectacular and astonishing documentary that shows the wonders of the sea and its creatures as never before. Released in USA by DISNEY NATURE with overwhelming success.

Directors: Jacques Perrin and Jacques Cluzaud

Budget: 50 m Euros

Production Companies: Galatée Films (France), Notro Films (Spanish co-financir

### **Completed**

#### **A CERTAIN TRUTH** Documentary

This is the story of six people, six stories emerging out of the same world of corridors, cells and waiting rooms, of distressed faces and lost looks, of absurd and enigmatic gestures – for all six are patients in Barcelona's mental health hospital. All suffer from the same illness: acute schizophrenia.

The director Abel Garcia Roure takes us on a journey to the other side of our mind, the secret territory where schizophrenics live; to the origin of our deepest consciousness and our primitive desire to be – and to be in the world. Abel Garcia Roure was assistant director on “*La Leyenda del Tiempo*” and Rotterdam Film Festival winner “*El Cielo Gira*”.

Production Companies: Evohé Films (Spain), Notro Films (Spain)

Valladolid International Film Festival 2008; Leipzig Festival for Documentary and Animated Film 2008 - official competition



# apimed

Association internationale de producteurs indépendants de la méditerranée

## A new full-length film by Agusti Villaronga in 2009

Massa D'Or Productions is preparing its next feature film project, "Black Bread", directed by the prestigious film-maker Agusti Villaronga ("The Sea"). Seen through the eyes of a child it is a magical tale, but it's also the bitter, disenchanted saga of that period seen through the eyes of his mother.

Not long after the end of the Spanish civil war the child Andreu discovers the corpses of a man and his son in a wood. The authorities accuse the boy's father of the murder, and that drives Andreu to go in search of the true killer. On his journey the boy discovers morality and conscience in an adult world based on lies. To survive he betrays his origins, discovering the monster within himself.

For additional information:  
MASSA D'OR PRODUCCIONES. S.L.  
c/ Sant Pere més Alt, 66, pral. 1<sup>a</sup>  
08003 Barcelone (Espagne)  
Tel. (+34) 93 310 35 10  
Fax: (+34) 93 268 81 99  
[films@massador.com](mailto:films@massador.com)  
[www.massador.com](http://www.massador.com)

## Manaba Films: production of a documentary on a perfume maker

**"Bambao Queen of the Comoros, the perfume of colonialism"** is a 52 minute documentary made by Denis Buttner and co-produced with RFO Paris. It tells the story of a perfume maker from the town of Grasse, Georges Chiris, who went to the Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean in 1907. There he became the associate of two other settlers on the island of Anjouan and together they created the *Société Coloniale Bambao*.

That was the start of a fabulous colonial adventure which was to mark the Comoros archipelago for decades. Even today these four islands to the north of Madagascar bear the marks of their colonial hold. For half a century the *Société Coloniale Bambao* dominated the entire economic and political life of the Comoros, indeed the story of the company is the story of the colonial annexation of the islands.

Seeing this remarkable story of French colonialism in the Comoros gives us a better understanding of the convulsions which plague the Comoros even today, and the very particular situation of Mayotte.

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For more information on this project

MANABA FILMS

2 rue Fauchier – 13002 Marseille Tel: + 334 91 22 08 – [nb.manaba@orange.fr](mailto:nb.manaba@orange.fr)

### Third edition of the Roman Gubern International Prize

Given by the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona* (Barcelona Autonomous University), the Roman Gubern International Prize is unique amongst film festivals. There is a prize of 5,000€ for the best film 'essay' and another of 1,200€ in the separate category for University students. The closing ceremony will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> March, the two awards will be presented by the German film director Harun Farocki.

Works submitted must have been produced since the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 and the deadline for sending films is the 27<sup>th</sup> February.

For more information: <http://cultura.uab.cat/premi/normativa.htm>

<http://cultura.uab.cat/cinemaassaig.htm>

[cinema.assaig@uab.cat](mailto:cinema.assaig@uab.cat)

tel. 935 812 756

The films should be sent to:

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Cultura en Viu

Edifici d'Estudiants-ETC (Plaça Cívica)

08193 Bellaterra

Spain

**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 mail:**

**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)**

## STOP PRESS....

On the 11<sup>th</sup> January **Ali Bouzerda** took up his functions as Director General of Maghreb Arabe Presse (MAP), replacing Mohammed Khabbachi, who had been in the job since 2003. A journalist, Ali Bouzerda is a prize-winning graduate of Rabat's *Institut supérieur de journalisme*. He began his career in Moroccan television as News Editor before becoming North Africa correspondent for the international press agency Reuters in 1989. From 2002 until March 2004 he was North Africa bureau chief for Canal Abu Dhabi TV. He was then nominated Director of News for national Moroccan television before being promoted again to Director General of News for the *Société Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Télévision* (SNRT).

**Mohamed Oubaha** has been nominated Director of News at Al Oula, part of the Moroccan SNRT group. Graduate of Rabat's faculty of Law and Political Studies, he nevertheless knows the world of television very well, having worked there since 1988. His first job was as News Editor, responsible for content, then editor-in-chief and finally in charge of coordinating SNRT's different news programmes.

**The first international competition for “Mediterranean journalists”** will take place at Bari in Italy on the 30<sup>th</sup> March. There are seven sections: “Protection of Minors”, “Foreign and International Policy”, “Ecomafias, Public Safety and the Protection of Citizens”, “The Vincenzo Fragassi Economy Award”, “The Mediterranean Award”, “The Wojtyla Award” and the “ANSO Award” (Associazione Nazionale Stampa Ondine – for the on-line press)

For more information: [info@terradelmediterraneo.it](mailto:info@terradelmediterraneo.it)  
or the web-site: [www.terradelmediterraneo.it](http://www.terradelmediterraneo.it)

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