



N°89
October 2010

MEDITERRANEE AUDIOVISUELLE Monthly News letter

In this issue, as part of the run up to the 15th International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and Current Affairs Film (November 28th to December 1st) we present the documentaries selected in the Investigative Documentary category.

For those wanting to follow how the Festival comes together, take a look at our daily blog www.prixcmca.wordpress.com – (at present only in French) or for those of you who like social networking, subscribe to **our page on Facebook “prix cmca”**.

And, as every month, you'll find the newsletter's usual items: “Life in the Channels”, “Programmes”, “Economy”, “Cinema”, “The Euro-Mediterranean Way” and all the rest....

Happy reading to you all.

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HEADLINE STORY



PRIX INTERNATIONAL DU DOCUMENTAIRE ET DU REPORTAGE MEDITERRANEEN



The 15th International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and Current Affairs Films will take place in Marseilles from November 28th to December 1st at the *Palais de la Bourse*. Once again this beautiful and historic building will host not only the juries as they work, but the final award-giving ceremony as well.

Between them, two juries will screen the films pre-selected last June: one for documentaries, the other for current affairs films and First Works (these juries are being put together at the moment and we'll have more information about who they are and what they do in the next letter)

As a reminder, there are **6 awards** given to the best films in competition:

- France Télévisions Grand Prix for the Best Mediterranean documentary in the "Mediterranean Issues" category (6,000 €)

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

- **"Mediterranean Memories" (5,000 €), sponsored by INA**

This award is for the documentary which, with or without archives, most successfully places in a present-day context historical events concerning the Mediterranean, stories of men and women, whether individual or collective, or places of symbolism and memory.

- **"First Documentary Work" (5,000 €) sponsored by RAI**

A prize for a director who hasn't made more than 3 films, of any kind.

Films made within a school or as part of a training programme may also compete.

- **"Mediterranean Art, Heritage and Cultures" (5,000 €) sponsored by *Marseille Provence 2013***

An award for the documentary film which highlights 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 Award (5,000 €)**, all categories combined.

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

- **Investigative Documentary (5,000 €)**, sponsored by *Radio France*

The award for the best filmed investigation which gets to the heart of an event, past or present, within the Mediterranean region.

These awards are for the directors and authors of the work concerned.

In addition, broadcasting awards may be given by representatives of the television companies, entirely at their discretion.

They will be chosen from amongst any of the films in the final selection. The broadcast of any work thus rewarded has to be agreed individually between the broadcaster and the makers of the film.

To access the Festival's rules in three languages (French, English, Italian) as well as the registration form:

<http://www.cmca-med.org/fr/le-prix/edition2010.php>

And to follow the preparation of the Festival day by day, with all the breaking news, the CMCA has put in place a Festival Blog in French: www.prixcmca.wordpress.com

Prix international du documentaire et du reportage méditerranéen
Le blog de la XV^{ème} édition - Marseille du 27 Novembre au 1 Décembre 2010

EN DIRECT DU PRIX | LES FILMS EN CONCOURS | LES PARTENAIRES | MARSEILLE | LE CMCA | L'EDITION 2009

EN DIRECT DU PRIX

La phase finale de la XV^{ème} édition du Prix International du Documentaire et du Reportage Méditerranéen se déroulera à Marseille du 27 novembre au 1er décembre 2010.

Juin 2010: la présélection des films en concours

EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION

Entrer votre adresse e-mail pour vous inscrire à ce blog et recevoir les notifications des nouveaux articles par e-mail.

In the last issue of our monthly newsletter (N°88), you read about and saw extracts from the films selected in the following categories: "Mediterranean Issues", "Mediterranean Memories", "First Work", "Mediterranean Art, Heritage and Culture".

Here is a first glimpse of the pre-selected films in the "Investigative Documentary" category

INVESTIGATIVE DOCUMENTARIES

- **ADIEU JERUSALEM ?** by Alexandre FRONTY
- **CLANDESTINI** by Shérif SALEM
- **COMING HOME – MOROCCO** by Hans Christian OSTERMANN
- **DANS LA BUFFER ZONE** by Christophe CHASSAIGNE
- **ET SI DEMAIN J'ETAIS UN OTAGE** by Marie-Laure BAGGIOLINI
- **GUERRE, MENSONGES ET TELE** by Amedeo RICUCCI
- **LA SAGA DU POLLUCE** by Régis MICHEL
- **LE TUNNEL, LE SECRET DU SIEGE DE SARAJEVO** by Nedim LONCAREVIC
- **THE ARAB GREEKS** by Hala MOURAD
- **TICKING BOMB** by Amal ABU GHAYAD

ADIEU JERUSALEM ?

(Goodbye Jerusalem?)

52 minutes, 2009

Director : Alexandre FRONTY (Italy)

Producer: Zoulou Compagnie (France)



More and more native Christians are leaving the Holy Land, even though it was hoped Pope Benedict's official visit in May 2009, at the invitation of Israeli President Simon Peres, would make life easier for them. For 2,000 years these Christians have survived every war, but for the past few decades those living on the West Bank in particular have been fleeing their ancestral lands. In Bethlehem they now represent only 10% of the population, against 45% in 1931. In Jerusalem there are no more than 0.5%. At this rate there won't be any more Christians in Palestine in the near future. "Soon there'll be nothing left but stones," says an inhabitant of Bethlehem, bitter and resigned. One of his sons has already left. The three others will probably follow him. "We're an endangered species," adds a priest, with a certain resentment. Shot mainly in Jerusalem and Bethlehem in March 2009, Alexandre Fronty's documentary takes us right to the heart of Palestinian families, showing how hard they find it to live with the rise of radical Islam and the hardships of the Israeli blockade, their "security wall" impeding all movement.

The Christians of Gaza are an even smaller minority, subject to the law of the Hamas. They dream of getting out to the West. Paradoxically the Israeli Arab Christians of Galilee live better than their Palestinian colleagues in the occupied Territories. This film gives them the chance to speak out in the places where the Pope went, mainly in Nazareth, after Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

Alexandre FRONTY

Working for 20 years as a Europe 1 radio reporter, Alexandre FRONTY covered many international news situations before deciding to move into television, where he became a director in 1985. A specialist in religious and ethnic minorities in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, he has made some forty films of either 26 or 52 minutes for TF1, France2, France 3, France Ô, Arte, M6, Histoire, Odyssée, KTO, 13^{ème} RUE, la TSR, la RTBF, ...

He also runs a production company, Zoulou Cie, which he created 14 years ago.

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CLANDESTINI

(Boat People)

50 minutes, 2009

Director: Shérif SALEM (Italy)

Producer: Spot1.tv (Italy)



"*Clandestini*" is a documentary about illegal immigrants living in Italy. An adolescent, a woman and several young men from Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Egypt. Some of them have crossed the Mediterranean on the "boats of death", others have come through eastern Europe: in this documentary, each tells their own story, expressing their own thoughts and feelings, their hopes and fears.

Shérif FATHY SALEM

Shérif Fathy SALEM was born in Cairo, Egypt. He trained first as an architect and obtained his film-making diploma in 1994. His first documentary "A Palace of Clay", was shown at several international festivals. He began his professional career as an assistant director to some of the best-known Egyptian film directors. In 1997, he joined ART (Arab Radio and Television), broadcast from Italy where he works as a producer, director and presenter. He has directed three documentaries for Hot Spot Films, a production company based in Dubai. In 2005 he founded the production company Spot1.tv in Italy.

COMING HOME – MOROCCO

26 minutes, 2009

Director: Hans Christian OSTERMANN (Germany)

Producer : Deutsche Welle (Germany)



The author and journalist Mohamed Massad lives in Germany but often returns to Morocco for personal and professional reasons. This time he goes to visit his family, meet friends and talk to politicians. For him it's a way to understand how Moroccan society is changing, and also wonder whether he is still really at home in Morocco.

Hans Christian OSTERMANN

Hans-Christian OSTERMANN was born in Düsseldorf (Germany) in 1959. He studied English and German literature, as well as journalism. Since 1987 he has worked in broadcasting and for the past 15 years he has made films in the Documentary and Current Affairs Department of *Deutsche Welle*, Germany's international broadcaster.

DANS LA BUFFER ZONE

(In the Buffer Zone)

8 minutes, 2010

Director: Christophe CHASSAIGNE (France)

Production : *France Télévisions* (France)



Cyprus. Since 1964 UN soldiers have been in position on the 180 kilometre-long Green Line separating two communities. One, the larger, Orthodox Christian and culturally closer to the Greeks. The other, Muslim and very close to the Turks. In July 1974 a Greek far right group staged a coup, hoping to force a link between the island and the Greek Junta. That in turn provoked a landing by the Turkish army and the occupation of the northern part of the island. In a few weeks 5,000 people had been killed in the fighting, 1,600 had disappeared and there were 200,000 refugees. The two armies faced each other, the population divided by its religious beliefs, the Green Line was widened to become a true No-Go zone. It was not until 2003 that six check-points were made, allowing people to cross. The leaders of both sides agreed to negotiate a possible reunification. 20 years after the fall of the Berlin wall, a demarcation line still divides a European country: the Cyprus Buffer Zone. Watched over by UN troops, 230 kilometres long and in places only a few dozen metres wide. For 35 years the French school of Nicosia has had its back up against this forgotten wall.

Christophe CHASSAIGNE

For several years now Christophe CHASSAIGNE has been a journalist with France 3. He joined the *Mediterraneo* team in September 2009. Before that he worked for different stations of France3 and France2 and for 2 years produced “*C'est mieux le matin*” at *France3 Méditerranée*.

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ET SI DEMAIN J'ETAIS UN OTAGE

(And If Tomorrow I was a Hostage)

52 minutes, 2009

Director: Marie-Laure BAGGIOLINI (Switzerland)

Producer: *Télévision Suisse Romande* (Switzerland)



And what if tomorrow you were taken hostage? What could you hope from the Swiss authorities to regain your freedom? Because of their massive presence abroad and their love of travel, the Swiss are particularly at risk. In order to understand better how crises are managed, *Temps Présent* went inside the DFAE's crisis cell and looked at the way they tackled some of the hostage-taking incidents which have marked the last 20 years.

Marie-Laure BAGGIOLINI

Marie-Laure BAGGIOLINI has been a director for Swiss Television (*Télévision Suisse Romande*) since 1991. She created "*Zig Zag Café*", worked for "*Temps Présent*", "*Passe-moi les Jumelles*", "*Télescope*" and "*Viva*". In 1998 she travelled across the Balkans and the Caucasus, finally setting up camp in Iran for 3 years. She has made several films. In 2004 she created *Papilles Prod* with Annick Jeanmairet and with her created "*Pique-Assiette*".

She also continues to direct films for TSR. As a free-lance she made a film for Channel 4 in 2006 on the arrival of Somali refugees in the Yemen.

GUERRE, MENSONGES ET TELE

(War, Lies and TV)

60 minutes, 2009

Director: Amedeo RICUCCI (Italy)

Producer: RAI Educational (Italy)



Filmed by a Palestinian cameraman for French news and subsequently shown across the world, the death of Mohammed al-Durrah, a Palestinian child, in Gaza on September 30th 2000 has become the central issue in a long political, journalistic and legal quarrel. This investigation, filmed over several months in Paris and Jerusalem, perhaps manages to bring this affair to a close, while at the same time evaluating the art of war-time misinformation.

Amedeo RICUCCI

Amedeo RICUCCI was born in 1958. He is a journalist and director. Since 1993 he has been working for RAI as a correspondent on "*Professione Reporter*", "*Mixer*" and the RAI Uno TV news. Among his most recent documentaries: "*Un mistero di Stato : Il caso Toni-De Palo*" (2008), "*Bologna - La luna e il dito*" (2008), "*Prague 1968 : The Liberators*" (2008) et "*Guerre, mensonges et télé*" (2009).

LA SAGA DU POLLUCE

(The Story of the "Polluce")

52 minutes, 2009

Director: Régis MICHEL (France)

Producer : Pacifico Islands Productions (France)



The story told is scarcely believable, worthy of the best adventure novels. Dreamt up by Alexander Dumas, it could have been written by Jules Verne then corrected by Agatha Christie. Adventures, mystery, fortune, prison, politics, fraud – everything is there! This detective story about the sea is, however, entirely true! Set in the 19th century, it involves a few counts and duchesses from different European countries, the King of Sardinia but also the King of France in person. In recent years its epilogue has turned the spotlight on the French and Italian authorities, English crooks and a French mercenary scientist. This saga is just about a fairly ordinary boat, sailing between Italy and France. A small steam ship, not even built for speed or distant winds. One of its crossings, its last, was to plunge the "Polluce" to the bottom of the sea and to the heart of an insoluble mystery.

Régis MICHEL

Régis MICHEL is a journalist, director and freelance photographer. After studying political science he went to CELSA (*Centre d'Etudes Littéraires et Scientifiques Appliquées*) where he was bitten by the film bug. For the past 20 years he has been criss-crossing the globe, in particular making more than 100 films for "*Thalassa*" and "*Faut Pas Rêver*".

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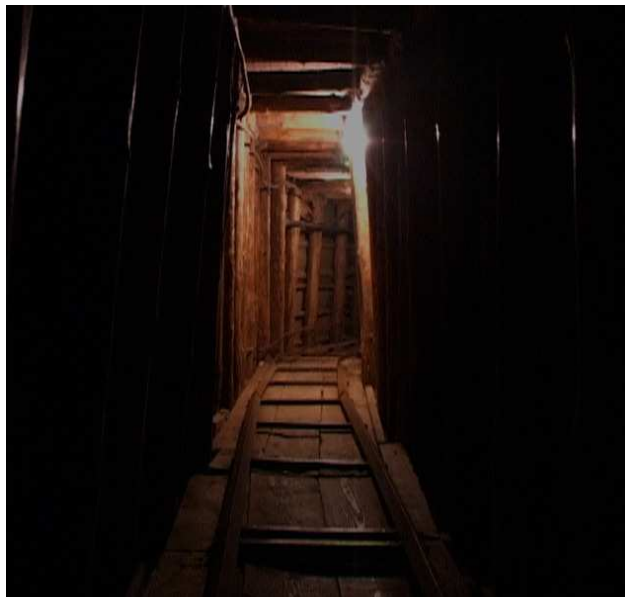
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LE TUNNEL, LE SECRET DU SIEGE DE SARAJEVO

52 minutes, 2009

Director: Nedim LONCAREVIC (France)

Producers : 8 et Plus Productions (France) / Lb Productions (France) / Archipel Productions (France) / Exclusivement Audiovisuel / RTBF (Belgique) – with the participation of Public Sénat (France) and France Télévisions Pôle France 3 (France)



Spring 1993, Sarajevo is under siege. Its inhabitants eat the final reserves of food, its defence force has no more ammunition.

In the house belonging to the Sloboda family (meaning freedom), a group of people begin to dig a tunnel towards freedom in the greatest secret.

Five months later a narrow passage is open, allowing food, ammunition and weapons into the besieged town.

It was a true life-line between Sarajevo and the outside world. French soldiers later discovered the existence of the tunnel and protected access to it.

Thanks to the tunnel, the Bosnian capital managed to survive the siege which lasted 130 days.

Nedim LONCAREVIC

After studying political science at Sarajevo University, Nedim LONCAREVIC began his career as a journalist in Yugoslavia. Between 1985 and 1990, he was head of the documentary magazine series *Black on White* for Sarajevo TV. In 1992, he was named Senior Editor for Sarajevo Television. He is also the author-director of several documentaries chosen to represent Yugoslavia in international festivals.

THE ARAB GREEKS

46 minutes, 2009

Director and Producer : Hala MOURAD (Syria)



"The Arab Greeks" is a documentary about Crete and a village in Syria called Hamidiyyah, where Greek Muslim immigrants established a community at the end of the 19th century, fleeing wars and massacres.

After the departure of the Ottomans from Crete, the island's Muslims did not want to convert to Christianity so, preferring to give up their native soil rather than their religion, they emigrated to the Islamic lands of Syria, the Lebanon and Libya.

This documentary tells their story

Hala MOURAD

Hala MOURAD was born in 1971 in Tripoli (the Lebanon). At present she lives in Dubai. She has studied Arab language and literature. She works as a journalist at MBC (Middle East Broadcast Centre) and for Al Jazeera News Channel. She is the author of the book "Revolution in Sameeh Al Qassem Poetry" and a collection of poetry "Sayyed Al Zoukour".

TICKING BOMB

31 minutes, 2010

Director and Producer: Amal ABU GHAYAD (Palestine)



This documentary is about the problem of water in general and drinking water in particular – about the impact waste water is having on the water-table under the Gaza Strip. People living on this narrow strip of land have to live with the problem not only of lack of water, but also the quality of the water provided. The environmental pollution across the whole of the Gaza Strip is endemic, on the beaches but also across the whole territory, simply because the authorities are incapable of treating and getting rid of waste water.

Amal ABU GHAYAD

Amal ABU GHAYAD was born in 1976. She studied art and film making. Her first documentary was called "Tareeq Al Najah, the road to success". She took part in a directors' co-operative which produced the film "*Zard Al Salasel*". At the moment she is preparing "*Ela Gaza Salam*".

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[# Italy / 62nd Italia Prize plus the publication of a study on documentary film](#)

The 62nd Italia Prize took place in Turin between September 19th and 24th. Several awards were given to radio and television programmes.

There were five awards for television programmes, of which four went to European films (Sweden – SVT, UK – Channel 4, Poland – RTP and France – France2) and the fifth went to Japan (NHK).

The award for the best current affairs documentary went to *France Télévisions'* “*Le Jeu de la Mort*”, directed by Thomas Bornot, Gilles Amado and Alain-Michel Blanc, written and produced by Christophe Nick. *Everything happens like a TV game-show. A set, a presenter, candidates who know nothing at the outset and discover the rules of this new game show, falsely called “The Xtreme Zone”. The rules are simple: send stronger and stronger electric shocks to another candidate until that candidate is “killed” (the other candidate is actually an actor). A nightmare come to life, in which very few candidates refuse the rules.*

As for the radio awards, Germany received two, France, Australia, Austria and Finland one each.

The web winners were Holland and France.



To coincide with the Italia Prize, a study of documentary film has been published: "***Telling and Broadcasting Mediterranean stories, A study of documentary film***"

Published by RAI, this book takes an innovative look at the documentary industry in the Mediterranean area, an essential film form and one which is developing fast. Amongst other things the study looks at content, the stories told and the relationship between creative work and working to order. The book begins with an analysis of the documentaries selected for last year's International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and Current Affairs Film, organised annually by the CMCA and RAI. Then the remit is

enlarged to encompass the vast range of authors, producers, directors, experts and professionals – the aim being to paint the most colourful appraisal possible of the Mediterranean documentary's state of health. The book contains more than 40 focussed interviews, done in the southern part of the Mediterranean with the help of Babelmed and in the eastern part with the Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso Study Centre. Taken altogether the book offers new information on 14 little known European worlds which are both creative and productive: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Greece, Israel, the Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

[Dubai / Resignation of the head of Al Arabiya](#)

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[France / France restores its colonial archives to African countries](#)



[Dubai / Resignation of the head of Al Arabiya](#)

In September Abderrahman Al-Rached, managing director of Al Arabiya, an Arab satellite channel, handed his resignation to the chairman of the MBC group's Board of Governors. According to several media sources it could be that this resignation is linked to opinion pieces written by Al-Rached which are judged too liberal. They appeared in the daily newspaper Asharq Al-Aswat, owned by Saudi capital. Another reason given: the broadcast of a documentary "Islam and the West" apparently too critical of Wahhabi Islam, the official religion of the Saudi Kingdom.

A 24-hour news channel funded by Saudi money and based in Dubai, Al-Arabiya is the direct rival of Al Jazeera in the Arab world.



[Iran / Creation of an Iranian Arab-language satellite channel](#)

The Islamic Republic is launching a new entertainment channel for the Arab public. It will offer Iranian programmes dubbed into Arabic, transmitted from Arabsat and Nilesat. This move formalises Iran's wish to offer a media alternative to the Western channels broadcasting in Arabic.



[France / France3 Corsica Via Stella wants to strengthen its role in the Mediterranean](#)

The director of *France3 Corsica Via Stella*, Mark Saikali, wants to establish the channel as a broadcasting beacon within the Mediterranean. Broadcast by satellite and the internet for the past three years, *Via Stella* is received by 5 million people and transmits 15 hours a day. Each week the channel has four films about the Mediterranean, made in partnership with RAI. The Mediterranean orientation of *Via Stella* should extend even further: cooperation agreements have been signed with several countries around the Mediterranean and projects for programmes about the region are in the pipe-line.



[France / France restores its colonial archives to the African countries](#)

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of its colonies, France made a strong symbolic gesture: it gave back to the former colonies their audiovisual and sound archives. The *Institut National de l'Audiovisuel* has given all the former French colonies a digital game covering the period 1940-1968. Madagascar and Senegal are those which generated the greatest number of documents.

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PROGRAMMES

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[# Morocco / Moroccan dialect used in dubbing foreign television series](#)

Dubbing certain foreign series into Darija, the local dialect, has upset a lot of people in Morocco. Although the Ministry of Communication supports the idea, which it considers a positive measure, allowing the Moroccan public to re-discover its native language, others see it as a possible threat to Moroccan identity. The people against dubbing into

dialect think that if a foreign series is in Darija, viewers are more likely to be susceptible to the values they convey, arguing that the language “will abolish the mental barriers in the minds of people and make the messages more accessible”. Up until now foreign series, mainly Mexican, Turkish, Korean or Indian and very popular in Morocco, were dubbed into literary Arabic or into a Syrian dialect.



[# Egypt / A series about Ramadan sparks debate in Egypt](#)

Every year the month of Ramadan is a good time for TV series in Egypt. Often judged too daring by religious people, the series broadcast during Ramadan always get people talking. This year a historical-political fresco about the Muslim Brothers is creating a buzz. Broadcast daily on the public channel, the series has beaten all viewing records but is accused of deliberately tarnishing the Brotherhood's image in the run-up to November's legislative elections. The son of the

Brotherhood's founder is suing for defamation and has demanded the series be taken off the air. According to him the authorities are quite obviously using the programmes for propaganda. However, it could be that the series has the opposite effect of the one the authorities are hoping for: bloggers have announced a huge increase in the number of Google searches for Hassan El Banna and the Brotherhood has taken advantage of that to create a page on Facebook.



[# Saudi Arabia / The series *Tach ma Tach* challenges taboos](#)

Broadcast for the past 17 years during Ramadan, the Saudi series *Tach ma Tach* (Double or quits) continues to beat all audience figures by attacking taboo subjects. This year the directors have tackled the issue of polygamy by creating a female character who has four husbands. Suffice it to say that this idea has greatly displeased the Wahhabi religious worthies who demanded that the MBC series be taken off for offending religious ideas.



[# France / The contents of *Mediterraneo* in October](#)

Romani, and travellers. *Mediterraneo* is offering a special programme about Romani and travellers, filmed in France, Bulgaria, Portugal and Kosovo. The political consequences of the debate which began

last summer are still in the news, particularly the relationship between France and the European Commission in Brussels,

Using several short reports, *Mediterraneo* does a round up to show the reality of Romani communities, a life-style which is often very precarious for families already suffering from racism, exclusion and illiteracy.

Franco-ism Spain, in the province of Córdoba, the relatives of the victims of Franco's atrocities are going through communal graves to try to identify the anonymous bones. The Socialist government, in power since 2004, has voted a law called "Historical Memory" which allows descendants of victims to receive state help to look for the remains of the disappeared, while forbidding them to take legal action against anyone.

Regional languages A report on the status of regional and minority languages with examples of Occitan in Provence and Gallo-Italic in Sicily

Environment In the Balearic Islands, heavily hit by land speculation and hotel building to cope with mass tourism, the authorities have decided to take the opposite approach: passing laws about coastal development and protection.

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ECONOMY

[# Europe / European Private TV groups picking up again](#)

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[# Europe / European Private TV groups picking up again](#)

The European Audiovisual Observatory has revealed that in the first quarter of 2010 growth picked up again for European groups of private television. This study revealed a 10% rise against the first quarter of 2009 and a turnover of €17.6 billion against €16.1 billion at the same point last year. Groups showing the highest rise are those financed essentially by advertising, such as TVBN (Poland), Mediaset (Italy), TF1 (France) and ITV (UK). Only the Spanish group Prisa made less money. Satellite pay channels recorded a fairly weak growth, apart from the British BSkyB



[# France / Towards the creation of a VOD platform?](#)

As part of a project to digitise cultural content, financed by what is called the Great Loan, taken out by the French President in 2009 to help France modernize, the ministries of Culture and of Development of the Digital Economy have announced their support for a project to create a video-on-demand platform. The idea being to encourage the development of legal digitization of film. Private partners will pool their catalogues, offering more than 3,000 feature films made post-1929.

INA for its part also wants to offer a VOD platform, bringing together all French content both free and paying. It would be a public/private partnership and INA would invest €11 million in myScreen which already has an on-line VOD catalogue. If this project is accepted it could also receive public money from the Great Loan, which has allocated an overall budget of €750 million for projects connected with digitising cultural content.

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CINEMA

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[# Palestine / Jenin's cinema re-opens after 23 years black-out](#)

In August the cinema in the Palestinian city of Jenin re-opened, making it the second city on the West Bank to have a place to screen films. The man behind the project is German film-maker Marcus Vetter, director of "Heart of Jenin", a film about a Palestinian boy from Jenin camp shot by Israeli soldiers. While he was making his film Vetter saw the cinema close down. It seemed to him a tragedy, so he decided to restore the building to its original state in order "to help people regain their dignity". He is now co-director of the cinema.

The project has cost a million euro (partly financed by Germany) and was made possible by the people of Jenin and international volunteers who worked on the job for two years. This saga itself has inspired another film, "Cinema Jenin" which will be shown next year at the opening of the Jenin Film Festival.



[# Morocco / Digitisation, the future of Moroccan cinema?](#)

As part of the 4th Salé International Festival of Women's Films, a forum has been launched around the issue of digitisation in Morocco. The future of cinemas in the Kingdom depends on digitisation, but this has to come about through consultation and co-operation, bringing together all the different talents and skills if the cultural diversity of Moroccan film production is to be kept alive.



[# Algeria / Relaunch of the film industry](#)

Conscious of the problems facing Algerian cinema, the *Assemblée populaire nationale* has put on its autumn agenda a bill aiming to optimize the role of operators in the film business. The bill hopes to halt the decline in film-making activity in Algeria, a sector in crisis mainly because it loses money. Particularly targeted are the public authorities since there is a chronic lack of State aid for the cinema, and little incitement to borrow. But the bill will also address the private sector which invests very little. This bill will examine many aspects of the 7th art



[# Algeria / “Des Hommes et des Dieux” snubbed in Algeria](#)

Xavier Beauvois' film which won the Grand Prix at Cannes this year, seems to irritate the Algerian press and authorities. The film, which is not scheduled to be shown in Algeria, seems to have been totally ignored by the media, as though no one wants any reference to those dark years.

Some people accuse the director of being biased because he throws doubt on the Algerian army's role in the murder of the monks from Tiberhine, although in fact this is never mentioned in the film. Some people are afraid that in the current tense climate the film will reignite the debate about religious minorities in Algeria.



[# France / “Hors la loi” caught by two arguments](#)

Rachid Bouchareb's film is getting talked about all over the place. Firstly it was accused by some French politicians and former colonials of falsifying history and being anti-French because it sides with the FLN, and now two script writers, Farid Afiri and Philippe Roques are taking legal action for plagiarism. The Paris court will settle the affair in October.

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FESTIVALS

CLOSE UP ON... The Arab Film Festival hits San Francisco



The 14th Arab Film Festival will take place between October 14th and 24th, with screenings in several Californian towns: San Francisco, Los Angeles, San José, Berkeley and Beverly Hills. The aim of the Festival is to get Arab film culture better known in America, and it does this by using different kinds of film – feature films, shorts, documentaries – all of them recent, to show an alternative to those stereotypes of Arab life so often put forward in the American media.

This year there are 45 films, all of which were released between 2008 and 2010. They were made across the Arab world, from North Africa to the Middle East, and there are also films from the west about migrant Arabs. The opening film of the festival will be “*Mascarades*” by Lyes Salem, a film which has already won many international prizes. There will also be films which have been distributed in France such as Karine Albou's “*Le Chant des mariés*” (France-Tunisia), “*Le Fil*” by Mehdi Ben Attia (Tunisia) or “*Femmes du Caire*” by Yousry Nasrallah (Egypt).

The programme also includes short films made in Saudi Arabia, a rare feat and worth underlining. Several documentaries tackling the Palestine question are in competition. One of them, “*Gaza-strophe*” has also been selected for the CMCA Festival and will be shown in the “Mediterranean Issues” category.

In all, six “Noor Awards” will be given: two for feature films, two for shorts and two for documentaries.

To find out more about the Festival: <http://www.arabfilmfestival.org>

Other Festivals

[# Morocco / 8th Tanger Festival of Mediterranean Short Films](#)

[# Belgium / Brussels Festival des Libertés: international documentary competition](#)

[# Belgium / Condorcet-Aron Audiovisual Award 2010](#)

[# France / RFI-France24 Award for web-documentary](#)



[# Morocco / 8th Tanger Festival of Mediterranean Short Films](#)

From October 4th to the 9th the Moroccan town of Tanger will host its 8th Festival of Mediterranean Short Films. Created by the Moroccan Centre for Cinematography, the Festival will show 53 films from 19 countries, its aim being to publicize film creation and encourage cross-cultural exchanges in the Mediterranean area.



[# Belgium / Brussels Festival des Libertés: international documentary competition](#)

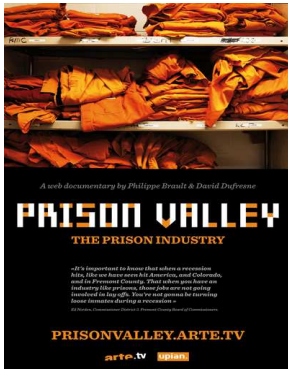
During the *Festival des Libertés* which will take place in the Belgian capital from October 21st to 31st, some thirty international documentary films will be in

competition. The jury will give prizes to the six films that best illustrate and communicate a commitment to Human Rights and liberties.



[# Belgium / Condorcet-Aron Audiovisual Award 2010](#)

José Luis Peñafuerte's documentary film about the Spanish civil war, "*Les Chemins de la Mémoire*", has won the Condorcet-Aron award for democracy. This is the first time that a broadcasting award has been given by the Belgian parliament and the *Centre de Recherche et d'Etudes Politiques*. Peñafuerte's film has also been chosen to take part in the 15th International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and Short Films organised by the CMCA and RAI from November 28th to December 1st, in the "Mediterranean Memories" category.



[# France / RFI-France24 Award for web-documentary](#)

Made by journalist David Dufresne and photographer Phillippe Braut, "Prison Valley" won RFI-France24's award for best web-documentary at Perpignan last August. It's about a town in Colorado, USA, given over to prisons – it has 13 of them – and is a sort of prison in itself. The film is available in three languages. Already broadcast on Arte it is also downloadable on your iPhone at

<http://prisonvalley.arte.tv/?lang=en>

Since the beginning of the school year it has also been available in book form.

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WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH... www.eurojar.org



The web-site Eurojar.org is a multimedia project to communicate and discuss current events in the Euro-Mediterranean area. Its aim is to “*maximise the visibility of the European Neighbourhood Policy*” in eight Arab countries: the Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria. The name Eurojar is a contraction of *Europe Jaratouna* (Europe, our neighbour, in Arabic).

This project for disseminating information is made possible by a consortium of *L'Orient-le-jour* (a French-speaking Lebanese daily), *Al-Hayat* (Pan-Arab press society) and LBC (a group of Arab and Lebanese TV channels). It is entirely financed by the EU.

Launched in May 2009, the Europa Jaratouna project includes:

- The web-site www.eurojar.org which posts news stories and reports, asking for feed-back from internet users.
- The publication of articles (some fifty a year) in two daily newspapers *Al-Hayat* and *L'Orient-le-jour* and the monthly *Le Commerce du Levant*
- Television broadcasts (about thirty) which are broadcast on the channels of the partner group LBCI and LBCsat.

The eurojar.org site includes a drop-down menu showing news and information about how the European Neighbourhood Policy is working in the partner Arab countries. It also lists the programmes and current projects country by country.

The reports are written and on video, covering a wide spectrum of issues (culture, environment, economy, society, women, education and youth, democracy and Human Rights, agriculture, infrastructures, development).

Each month a well-known guest answers questions on Euro-Mediterranean news. Net-users are also encouraged to express themselves, with a competition for the best answers.

The site is in three languages: Arabic, English and French.

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THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY

Publication of the Anna Lindh Report “EuroMed Intercultural Trends 2010”



The Anna Lindh Foundation for dialogue between cultures has just published a major Report on how the different Euro-Mediterranean peoples see and represent each other. Officially presented at Brussels in September, the Report finds that while there is greater interaction between people on the two sides of the Mediterranean, there is still a considerable lack of knowledge, leading to misconceptions, especially in terms of perception, and this opens the door to stereotypes.

The Report is based on the first opinion poll on inter-cultural trends and values across the Euro-Mediterranean area. Carried out by the Gallup Institute over two years, it draws on experts from 22 countries and involved 13,000 people across 13 countries (Germany, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Spain, France, Greece, Hungary, the Lebanon, Morocco, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Syria and Turkey).

The EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy was keen to underline the importance of a *“scientific instrument which will help political decision makers, opinion makers and civil society to understand and address more effectively the human, political and cultural realities we are facing as we build a shared region.”* The Report's purpose is to stimulate propositions for concrete actions. Based on the Report's analyses and conclusions, certain directives are already being envisaged:

- To encourage cross-cultural training in school text-books and through informal teaching.
- To promote the cross-cultural dimension in urban areas by making exchanges easier, notably through local institutions
- To innovate and improve the existing instruments for a quality interaction
- To encourage the media to promote respect and knowledge of the other

The report “Euromed Intercultural Trends 2010” is downloadable in English from the Anna Lindh Foundation web-site: <http://www.euromedalex.org/fr/trends/rapport-anna-lindh>

STOP PRESS....



For the first time the "*Journées Audiovisuelles francotunisiennes*" (Franco-Tunisian Audiovisual Days) will be held at Tunis from October 25th to 27th. These three days will be a chance for representatives and people working in French and Tunisian media (television and radio) to get-together with producers and heads of other broadcasting establishments. There are three issues on the discussion agenda: "How to improve broadcasting interchange between France and Tunisia? State of play and propositions." "How to work together in Production and Training" and "The development of a Euro-Mediterranean broadcasting landscape". Each debate will be chaired by Serge Moati.



The first images of the future MED-MEM web-site are available on www.medmem.eu This project on Mediterranean heritage, piloted by INA, is part of the Euromed Heritage 4 programme. The video demonstration is available in three languages (French, Arabic and English) and is a window into Euro-Mediterranean heritage through archaeology, music, life-styles and the environment. By 2012 there will be more than 4,000 clips on line. Med-Mem wants to become the "shop-window of Mediterranean broadcasting heritage."



The Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Algiers is hosting the first National Festival of Art Photography until November 10th. The theme chosen for this year's Festival is travel, with works by eleven artists on show. The director of both the Museum and the Festival has announced he wants to have an international festival in two or three years' time.

English version by Tim King