



N°114
April 2013

Jacques, our friend...

He was one of the CMCA's founders and a member of the Board of Directors: **Jacques Matthey-Doret** passed away on tip toe, having marked our organisation's destiny as a journalist. Training and encouraging Mediterranean co-productions were among his favourite subjects.

This Newsletter, the 114th, is in his memory.

In this month's letter, an interview with the managing director of TRT, **İbrahim Şahin**, a close up on TV5 Monde, a presentation of Al Jazeera's Documentary Festival, and all the broadcasting news in the Mediterranean.

François JACQUEL
Managing Director of the CMCA

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HEAD-LINE NEWS

Jacques Matthey-Doret has left us



It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of **Jacques Matthey-Doret** on Monday, April 1st.

He was a man of principal, whose attachment to the Mediterranean never wavered. He was one of the creators of the CMCA, and for a long time its treasurer.

Always with us, full of ideas and energy, he was also a visionary. He understood long ago that dialogue between Mediterranean peoples was essential for bringing peace to the world...He will be missed.

Jacques Matthey-Doret was 81 years old. Journalist, former head of the News at Radio Suisse Romande, he was a pioneer of modern radio journalism.

The chairman and members of the CMCA Board, deeply affected, feel the need to honour him:

- *"He was a man full of humanity. For him, peace in the Mediterranean was not an empty word."* **Yves Rolland**, Chairman of CMCA

- *"He was a man of great culture and wisdom, who gave himself heart and soul to make Mare Nostrum a true lake of peace and dialogue."* **Ahmed Djabri** of EPTV (Algeria), CMCA vice-chairman.

- *"I feel deeply the death of this great journalist, a man who served the CMCA for many years."* **Kerem Balci** of TRT (Turkey), vice-chairman of CMCA

- *"Jacques' sensitivity, his intelligence and good humour will be with us forever."* **Maria du Bessé** of RAI, CMCA secretary general

- *"His was a great spirit, dedicated to building a Mediterranean spirit, one of dialogue and friendship – the only way to keep our children in happiness and peace."* **Jacques Hubinet** of Films du Soleil, CMCA treasurer

- *"The International Management of France Télévisions salutes the memory of this great professional of broadcasting journalism. It will remember a visionary, witness of his time, a man deeply committed to Euro-Mediterranean dialogue."* **Hervé Michel** of France Télévisions

- *"A symbol of the CMCA, we are saddened by Jacques' death,"* **Jalel Lakhdar** of Tunisian Television

- *"What terrible sadness ... we shall miss his enthusiasm..."* **Mireille Maurice** of INA

- *"Whenever he spoke at the CMCA it was always good natured, always relevant and calm."* **Claude Perrier** of Radio France

- *"CoPeAM will miss Jacques, renowned journalist and one of the fathers of broadcasting cooperation across the Mediterranean."* **Pier Luigi Malesani** of CoPeAM

- *"It is with great sadness and deep sorrow that I learned of the death of Jacques."* **Wael Gamil** of URTE (Egypt)

- *"He was there at every AGM with great very clear explanations and relevant questions. He fought for this great cultural diversity, the richness of the Mediterranean."* **Magdi Ghoneim** of TV 5 Monde

- *"How sad this loss, we shall miss him so much... He will hover over the next Board meeting ... It will be difficult without him."* **Paule Herades**, Apimed

THE LIFE OF THE CMCA

PriMed 2013 will turn heads!



We have worked on it incredibly hard, it is colourful, full of the bloom of summer....The PriMed poster is officially on show – in a special preview for readers of “*Méditerranée Audiovisuelle*”! You’ll see it all over Marseille from June 5th.

PriMed, the Festival of the Mediterranean in images, will run from June 17th to 22nd at the Villa Méditerranée and at MuCEM (National Museum of the civilizations of Europe and the Mediterranean)!

PriMed, the International Award for Mediterranean Documentary and Current Affairs Films is where you can see **the best of international broadcasting about the Mediterranean**, understand its relevance, its history, its culture, its challenges...

31 documentaries and news films have been selected for the final competition out of 440 films from 36 countries, to be judged by two international juries in

Marseille.

Don't miss:

- **Free public screenings** throughout the week to see all the films in the final selection. More than 23,000 places for the Marseille public.
- On June 21st, a **panel discussion** on '**The Values, Funding and Future of Public Television in the Mediterranean**' featuring people working in Mediterranean broadcasting and the chairpersons of Mediterranean television companies
- On June 21st the **awards ceremony** for the winners, open to the public and broadcast live on the primed.tv website and the web portal of France 3 Provence-Alpes.

Watch also:

Many programmes about Marseille during **France Télévisions' Mediterranean week** from June 17th.

Read all the news about PriMed 2013 :



On our web-site: www.primed.tv



On Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/primed.cmca>



On Twitter : <https://twitter.com/Primedtv>

LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

FRANCE	Al Jazeera confirms the launch of a French-language channel
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ALGERIA	TDA will continue to guarantee coverage by DTTV
ALGERIA	Tewfik Khelladi re-elected at the head of UAR
SPAIN	RTVE puts the Studios Buñuel up for sale
SPAIN	The head of Andalusian public television resigns
FRANCE	Rémy Pflimlin announces new cuts at France TV



FRANCE / Al Jazeera confirms the launch of a French-language channel

Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Al Thani, head of Al Jazeera, has confirmed that the Qatari group is going to launch a French language news channel, probably sometime in 2014. “Our study for a channel in French is now at an advanced stage,” he said at a forum in Doha on March 18th.

A French-language channel would be in direct competition with France 24, which has had programmes in Arabic since 2009.

Al Jazeera has had two sports channels on French screens since June 2012, Bein Sports 1 and 2. Last May, the *Figaro* newspaper carried a rumour that the Qataris wanted to launch a French news channel based in Dakar, which at the time Al Jazeera denied.

Turkish, British and American versions of its news channel are in preparation.

(Sources : Le Monde, Saphir News.)



QATAR / Al Jazeera's ratings drop in revolution-hit countries

According to the findings of a U.S. research firm commissioned by Al Jazeera, the news channel has seen its audiences decline steadily since the Arab Spring revolution.

In Tunisia the audience fell by nearly 80% between January and December 2012: Al Jazeera now has no more than 200,000 viewers there on average. In Morocco, the decline is less radical but still significant: nearly 30% fewer viewers within the same period, giving a current average audience of 1.8 million.

In Egypt, Al Jazeera (3 million viewers) has been over-taken by the private ONTV channel (10 million viewers), acquired in December by the Tunisian Tarak Ben Ammar ([cf. Méd. Aud. n°112](#)). Same thing in Algeria, where viewers prefer the recent Ennahar TV, launched last September.

In Libya the Libya Al Hurra channel, created during the 2011 revolution, is reaching an audience similar to that of Al Jazeera (800,000 viewers on average).

Nevertheless, Al Jazeera remains the most watched Arabic satellite channel in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa).

(Sources : Lakome, Jeune Afrique.)



TUNISIA / Editorial appointments at Télévision Tunisienne

In a statement on March 13th, the chairman of the *Etablissement de la Télévision Tunisienne* (ETT) announced three new appointments to the editorial team of the first national channel, Al Wataniya 1.

Moufida Khanfir Hachani was appointed Senior News Editor, replacing **Said Khezami**, who was sacked last November ([cf. Méd. Audio. N°112](#)). A journalist, Hachani has spent most of his career at the ETT, and also worked as a correspondent in Tunisia for the private

Saudi group MBC.

Chadia Khedir Jelmam was appointed Associate Editor, responsible for overseeing the editorial line, evaluation and training. Finally **Fateh Al Felhi** becomes Associate Editor in charge of monitoring and execution of news programmes.

Imene Bahroune, ETT's managing director, made the appointments after consultation with a committee of experts.

(Sources : Leaders, TunisiaIT.)



[LIBYA / Attack and hostage taking at the HQ of Alassema TV](#)

On March 7th, an armed group broke into the premises of the private channel Alassema TV. Several studios were ransacked, while the channel's owner, **Jomaa Al Osta**, was kidnapped along with four presenters and some journalists. They were held in an unidentified location.

The next day they were all released in dribs and drabs. According to **Mohamed Al-Charkassi**, one of the kidnapped presenters, the armed group called themselves "*former rebels from Tripoli [...] very angry at Alassema TV for its editorial line.*" This incident comes while a bill is being considered to ban anyone once close to **Muammar Gaddafi** from holding political office. According to *Jeune Afrique*, the kidnappers accused Alassema of being against this bill. (Source : AFP, Jeune Afrique.)



[ALGERIA / The government promises a public youth channel](#)

The Secretary of State for Youth, **Belkacem Mellah** (photo), has announced that Prime Minister **Abdelmalek Sellal** has "*agreed to set up a television channel for young people,*" even asking him to take "*the necessary measures to implement the project as soon as possible.*"

M. Mellah added that the Secretariat of State for Youth would probably have the job of running this new channel. According *Algeria Focus*, it could be a satellite channel. (Sources : *Algérie Focus*, *News80*.)



[ALGERIA / TDA will continue to guarantee coverage by DTTV](#)

On March 11th *Télédiffusion d'Algérie* (TDA) announced a 5-year extension of its lease with Eutelsat Communications for material enabling it to broadcast DTTV on Algerian territory.

Eutelsat provides the Algerian broadcaster with a 36MHz repeater which sends a feed to transmitters making sure everyone equipped with 60cm dishes gets good reception.

The 5 EPTV channels (*La Terrestre*, *Canal Algérie*, *A3*, *La Chaîne 4* and *La Chaîne 5*) and 20 national and regional radio stations and are available on the Algerian DTTV network. In all, TDA is forecasting the creation of 93 broadcasting stations by 2014, giving it 95% coverage of the territory.

(Source : *La Lettre de l'Audiovisuel*, *Le Temps d'Algérie*.)



ALGERIA / Tewfik Khelladi re-elected at the head of UAR

On March 19th **Tewfik Khelladi** (photo), managing director of EPTV (Algerian public broadcasting), was elected for a second term as head of the African Union of Broadcasting (AUB). After the election, held in Dakar during the AUB's 6th AGM, he was unanimously re-elected by delegates from African channels. First elected in 2010, he will now chair the AUB at least until the end of 2014.

During the AGM discussions focused on a proposed exchange of multimedia content, on producing quality content and the broadcasting rights of international football competitions.

(Source : APS.)



SPAIN / The head of Andalusian public television resigns

Pablo Carrasco (photo) is no longer managing director of *Radio Televisión de Andalucía* (RTVA). He has handed in his resignation, taking effect on March 20th although his mandate had another 18 months to run.

During his last few weeks he was negotiating with the unions over a new collective agreement. According to *El Pais*, he also had to reduce his salary drastically, a measure which may have influenced his decision to leave RTVA.

His resignation comes at a time of uncertainty for the Andalusian group, which is suffering a reduction in revenue, both from its subsidies and its advertising revenue.

Andalusia's Governing Council refuses to privatize RTVA, although the recent law on privatizing regional television and radio stations allows it to do so.

The group's new collective agreement must be adopted by September. For the moment it includes a 5% overall drop in wages

(Sources : *El Pais*, *VerTele*.)



[SPAIN / RTVE puts the Studios Buñuel up for sale](#)

In search of liquidity, RTVE (Spanish public radio and television) is putting up for sale some of its real estate. In all the group hopes to get rid of 29 buildings and plots, with an estimated value of around €200 million.

These properties include the Luis Buñuel TV studios (photo, €70 million), inaugurated in 1988 by TVE. With an area of 3,700m², these were the studios where several

iconic programmes were recorded, including “*El Gran Circo de TVE*”, the game show “*El Grand Prix del Verano*” and the news magazine “*59 Segundos*”.

RTVE is also selling land worth €89 million in Las Rozas de Madrid. The estate agent selling the group’s assets will receive a little over €7 million for the entire operation.

Meanwhile, RTVE is planning to build 1,950 m² of studio-space and relocate Buñuel Studios to Prado del Rey, saving €4.8 million a year.

According to figures published on March 21st, the Spanish group has ended the year 2012 with a deficit of €113 million (against €29 million in 2011).

(Sources : VerTele, El Economista, El País.)



[FRANCE / France Télévisions speeds up its savings](#)

On March 22 **Rémy Pflimlin**, CEO of France Télévisions, told his Board of the need for the group “to take the first steps in the short-term to balance its accounts,” as he later specified in a press release.

While a “degradation of more than 10%” of public funding and advertising revenues is forecast between now and 2015, France Télévisions must reduce the cost

of its programme schedule: “the renegotiation or termination of many programme contracts and other expenses” is expected.

“The prospect of a voluntary redundancy plan” is also planned.

Since last autumn France Télévisions has been negotiating with the state to amend the Contract of Targets and Means 2011-2015, taking into account the group’s declining resources. This amendment could be presented at the next Board meeting on April 24th.

(Source : communiqué.)

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QUESTIONS TO...

Interview of the month

İbrahim Şahin, Managing Director of TRT



Having spent some of his career at the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Transport and Communication, İbrahim Şahin also ran the Turkish Post Office for two years. Since 2007, he has been at the head of TRT, the Turkish public broadcasting group. In an exclusive interview with the CMCA, he speaks of his ambitions for TRT and his conception of public service.



Faced with the private sector, what is TRT's role in the Turkish broadcasting landscape?

TRT is a public service, we cannot neglect our responsibilities. To be funded through a public guarantee is an advantage, so it would be unfair to compete with the private. We don't want to be rivals but examples. Competing with the private sector could make us drop behind in international development. It is important for us to be known world-wide, it's a big bonus for the country. TRT AVAZ broadcasts in 8 languages, we have television in Arabic and Kurdish, our radio broadcasts in 35 languages.

You're in your second term at the head of TRT, which you've been running for 6 years. What are your conclusions, your targets?

During the first term, we solved administrative, legal and technical problems, we changed the whole infrastructure, building digital studios, and with considerable success: TRT1 has the fourth highest ratings, while in their specific areas TRT Haber (TRT News) and TRT Çocuk (TRT for Children) have highest ratings. We want to improve the quality of our content, get ourselves better known abroad, consolidate our audience and become a model.

TRT has 15 TV channels and 16 radio stations, is there a common strategy and editorial line in terms of programmes and news? What are the synergies between them?

The television and radio channels have a common editorial line in terms of programmes and news. There are no correspondents or cameramen working for TRT TURK, it takes its news from TRT Haber, and the other channels also benefit from a news pool; cartoons shown on TRT Çocuk and extracts from sports programmes from TRT sports are broadcast on other channels; documentaries from TRT1 are broadcast on TRT Belgesel

(TRT Documentary). But we believe that each channel should have its own identity: we have developed collaboration while separating each channel's programmes, budget and targets. If we make it too uniform, we could damage the TRT label.

Is multimedia development a priority for TRT?

Of course. For multimedia we have created the Coordination of New Media, which broadcasts specifically on smart phones. TRT broadcasts on digital and the social networks.



*International Children's Festival
organised by TRT on April 23rd.*

How are you funded?

Revenue from the sales of electronic goods and a 2.5% levy on electricity bills; also our advertising revenue increases each year and we sell TRT products. We are working to increase our advertising revenues and our income from the sale of our products.

Is a reform of the broadcasting law in the pipeline?

No, but we are evolving, with the 2008 law many changes have taken place. RTÜK, the Supreme Council, makes all legislation regulating radio and television.

Turkey straddles Europe (the Mediterranean) and Asia, what are your priorities for collaboration? Will you maintain your collaboration with European television ?

Of course. TRT is a member of the EBU [European Broadcasting Union] and the ABU [Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union]. Situated between Asia and Europe, at an historic crossroads on the Mediterranean, cradle of civilizations, Turkey collaborates with every country. TRT has signed protocols with almost all public broadcasters and with several European television companies. Some of our employees are trained by the European media [such as CMCA, Ed], we buy European programmes. Until now we have not collaborated on a major production, but why not!

Since the Arab revolutions Turkey seems to turn increasingly towards the Arab world, is the same true for TRT?

This is a misinformed view. Turkey has not turned to the Arab world since the revolutions there, it has always been aware of it, there was no particular change after the revolutions. Until 1915 the Arabs lived almost 500 years under the umbrella of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey's last empire. We have a channel aimed at the Arab world, TRT ETTÜRKIYE, but its launch had nothing to do with the Arab revolutions.



TRT's headquarters.

What values are promoted by the Turkish public television service? Do you think they could be the same on both shores of the Mediterranean?

Our values are not just centred on the Mediterranean, they are universal: reliability, transparency, sharing and innovation.

You have been a member of CMCA since 2007, what's your assessment of this collaboration, what are your expectations?

We hope that the projects come to fruition, that Mediterranean broadcasters understand each other, share their experience, advocate friendship, develop collaboration and sharing, work on co-productions.

What are you hoping for from the June meeting of the chairmen of the Mediterranean public television companies in Marseille?

The meeting must contribute to our collaboration, our sharing, what we can do together, because without productions, words are quickly forgotten.

Interviewed by Jean-François Téaldi.

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PROGRAMMES

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FRANCE	<u>The contents of “Mediterraneo” in April</u>



[EGYPT / A cooking programme for every income and religion](#)

First aired in 2011 on the general-interest satellite channel 25TV, the cooking show “El-Set Ghalia” is more popular than ever. For the past two years, three times a week, **Ghalia Mahmoud**, a Muslim from Al Waraq, a poor neighbourhood of Cairo, demonstrates recipes adapted

to modest budgets. Muslims and Copts are both represented in Ghalia’s recipes, which for example do not use animal-based products during Lent.

Favouring local products, cheaper than imported food, Ghalia manages to bring together the different Egyptian communities, while highlighting the country’s culinary heritage.

The programme’s Facebook page now has over one million visitors, and Ghalia’s success has been copied in a country where 15 million people live on less than a dollar a day. While other channels have launched programmes based on a similar concept, 25TV launched a sister programme for the working class.

(Sources : Common Ground News, Egypt Independent.)



EGYPT / The star of “Al Bernameg” taken to court for mocking the President

Bassem Youssef, presenter of the satirical programme “Al Bernameg” on the satellite channel CBC, was briefly arrested on March 30th then later released. He is accused of

mocking, on air, President **Mohammed Morsi’s** way of speaking English when travelling abroad. He is also accused of mocking the prayer ritual.

After a 5 hour interrogation he was released on bail for 15,000 pounds (€1,700).

The Egyptian Prosecutor nevertheless issued new charges against Bassem Youssef and CBC’s management on April 2nd for “threats to public safety”. *“I feel they want to exhaust us, physically, emotionally and financially,”* the comedian commented.

Broadcast every Friday at 9.30 p.m., “Al Bernameg” is an extremely popular programme which does not hesitate to ridicule the country’s politicians. Launched during Ramadan 2011 on ONTV before being taken by CBC in 2012, it was inspired by **Jon Stewart’s** American “The Daily Show”.

(Source : AFP.)



FRANCE / 20 short films for Syria

In March *France Télévisions*, France 24, the Parliamentary Channel and TV5 Monde aired 20 x 2-minute films in support of the Syrian people.

“2 minutes for Syria”, produced by Cinétévé and directed by **Béatrice Soulé** and **Sarah Moon**, features images shot by a group of Syrian activists, Shaam News Network, essentially showing atrocities committed against civilians by **Bashar al-Assad’s** Syrian army.

Each episode has a partisan commentary by a personality (Stéphane Hessel, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Robert Badinter, Jane Birkin, Tony Gatlif ...).

All the short films can be seen [by clicking here](#).



[MOROCCO / Medi 1 TV called to order for its programme *Masrah Al Jarima*](#)

A special edition of the programme “*Masrah Al Jarima*” (Crime Scene), shown at the end of March on Medi 1 TV has caused controversy. It showed a reconstruction of the 2007 terrorist attack in a cafe in Casablanca’s Sidi Moumen district. In particular the programme revealed the identity of those

involved.

Those found guilty of their involvement in the attack and their families immediately denounced “a serious moral injury six years after the events.”

The affair went right up to the Communications Minister, **Mustapha El Khalfi**, who quickly contacted the channel to admonish *Al Masrah Jarima*’s editorial team and ask them not to disclose the names of those found guilty, “out of respect for their families.”

The programme presenter, **Mohamed Saadouni** did not appreciate this intervention: “*The minister has exceeded his powers. [...] The HACA [High Authority of Audiovisual Communication] is the only authority which can evaluate a television production, and in any case we accept responsibility if there has been professional abuse.*”

(Source : Magharebia.)



[MOROCCO / Ang Lee is going to shoot the pilot of a new series](#)

The Taiwanese director **Ang Lee** (photo), winner of four Oscars in February for his film “*Life of Pi*”, including Best Director, will shoot a pilot for “*Tyrant*” in the coming weeks in Morocco.

This new American series, commissioned by the FX cable channel and written by **Howard Gordon** and Israeli **Gideon Raff** (“*Homeland*”) in collaboration with **Craig Wright** (“*Six Feet Under*”), follows the misadventures of an American family, mixed up despite themselves in the problems of a Middle Eastern country.

According to Fox Group, owner of the FX channel, the pilot will be shown in the United States this summer.

(Source : AtlasInfo.)



[TURKEY / The 35th International Children's Festival, on TRT](#)

On April 23rd Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) will host the 35th International Children's Festival in Izmir, on Turkey's west bank. This year, nearly 700 children aged 9 to 14 years, from five continents will take part in the festival with folk dances and performances of freestyle dance.

The Gala special will be shown live on April 23rd on TRT. Apart from TRT's channels, television companies from other countries will

also broadcast the show.

When he created Turkey's National Assembly in 1920, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk chose April 23rd as Children's Day. In previous years nearly 23,000 children and 6,500 adults from 110 countries have participated in the Festival.



[SPAIN-ITALY / Mediaset España and Lux Vide continue their series of co-productions](#)

On March 20th and 30th (Holy Week for Christians) the private broadcaster Telecinco aired the mini-series "Mary of Nazareth" (photo). This was first of four planned co-productions between Mediaset España and the Italian production company Lux Vide. Filmed in Tunisia and in English, it shows the meeting between

the Virgin Mary and Mary Magdalene. The content of "Mary of Nazareth" was approved by Pope Benedict XVI at a private screening at the Vatican in 2012.

The filming of the second co-production, a mini-series taking a fresh look at "Romeo and Juliet", was completed in early March in Trentino, Italy. Filming has also been completed for the final two dramas planned in the Mediaset-Lux Vide partnership: "The Thousand and One Nights" was filmed in Tunisia, while the sets of "Anna Karenina" were recreated in Lithuania and in Latvia.

(Sources : El Economista, El Pais.)



[FRANCE / The contents of "Mediterraneo" in April](#)

Erasmus: The EU's austerity budget raises concerns for student exchanges. The "Erasmus" programme is threatened because countries have been forced to reduce their intake as well as their student scholarships. Report from Aix-Marseille and Spain.

Seville : The economic crisis also has implications for urban development in Spain. An example is a key district in Seville, which in 1992 hosted the Universal Exhibition. A grandiose site, ripe for economic development but which must be restructured because much of has been left abandoned.

Tahrir Square: The symbol of the Egyptian revolution, where street anger crystallized. Today, what has become of Cairo's Tahrir Square? Between two demonstrations traders there are struggling to work. Shops are robbed, customers assaulted: on the square itself people are no longer safe, few dare to set foot there and economic activity has slowed down, waiting for better days.

Wind turbines: For two decades, the communes in the Aude, in southern France, have been exploiting wind energy. The village of Névian was the first, now it produces more than its own electricity needs. But wind turbines are still controversial. Considered by some unsightly and noisy, what is their future in this region where the Mistral could bring unexpected wealth?

The Venetian masters: the descriptive title of two great Italian painters, **Canaletto** and **Guardi**, two of the most illustrious representatives of the Veduta, a pictorial genre that celebrates the timeless charm of 18th century Venice. Sixty of their works have been brought together in Paris for a special exhibition, on loan from major European museums and the British royal family.

Chanel n°5 What is the common denominator between Pégomas, a small village in the Alpes-Maritimes, and **Marilyn Monroe**? A number: 5, the name of the legendary Chanel perfume, whose fragrance comes exclusively from flowers grown near Grasse. Roses, jasmine, still hand-picked – because it is local knowledge which the house of Chanel prizes.

Dulce Pontes: Portuguese music is often associated with fado and nostalgia. And yet the Portuguese also bring gaiety and joy to their music. **Dulce Pontes** (photo) is one of its ambassadors. She has collaborated with **Cesaria Evora** and **Andrea Bocelli** among others. She talks about the universal nature of her music.



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Close-up on...

TV5 Monde

Each month, "Méditerranée Audiovisuelle" offers you a portrait of one of the television companies which is a member of the CMCA. This month, close-up on the French-language channel TV5 Monde.

The logo for TV5MONDE, featuring the text "TV5MONDE" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a solid blue rectangular background.

Introduction

Created in 1984, TV5MONDE is a channel linking all Francophones and Francophiles, wherever they may be in the world.

The key to TV5MONDE is providing diversity: it's a multilateral channel, **created by five French-language governments** (Canada, the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, France, Quebec and Switzerland). The different sources of programmes, each with its own look and feel, but also the many cultural partnerships on every continent make up this diversity at all levels.

Some figures

TV5MONDE is:

- **9 separate regional channels**, a web-TV for young people – TiVi5MONDE – and a 100% youth channel broadcast in North America;
- The only general-interest channel in French conceived for **worldwide distribution**;
- **235 million households** and 25,000 hotels connected in nearly **200 countries and territories**;
- **Partnerships with 10 French-language channels** (France 2, France 3, France 4, France 5, France Ô, ARTE France, RTBF.be, RTS, Radio-Canada and Télé-Québec), CIRTEF and AEF;
- **Programmes subtitled** in German, English, Arabic, Korean, Spanish, Japanese, Dutch, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Vietnamese and French;
- Available on all new media: Internet (www.tv5monde.com), mobile (m.tv5monde.com), tablets, social media (Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, Dailymotion), web TV, video on request (tv5mondeplus.com), catch-up TV and connected TV.

Programmes

TV5MONDE is proud of its universal, meaningful content, transmitting human values. The channel focuses on quality, innovation and discovery in the selection and conception of its programmes. All of them multiply points of view, give a different take on the news, or highlight francophone creation. The channel is particularly interested **in supporting production in southern countries** and their current affairs.

The French language, in all its variety of accents, is the most distinctive aspect of the channel in the global broadcasting landscape. However, to make language a bridge rather than a barrier between different cultural and linguistic areas, TV5MONDE subtitles some of its programmes in twelve languages. But **promoting the French language** is the key to the channel's mission, spurring innovative developments for learning French on many media, such as the multimedia device "apprendre.tv et enseigner.tv", the "French language" section of the website and the smart-mobile site of TV5MONDE, the iPhone application "7 days".



*The programme
"Destination Francophonie"*

Right from the start TV5MONDE has been committed to showing **the wealth of the Mediterranean world**, with its series "24 hours to..." which has visited every country bordering the Mediterranean. "Saison Méditerranée" is a series of programmes (magazines, films, documentaries) broadcast by TV5MONDE each year which help viewers across the globe discover the Mediterranean's many facets.

For TV5MONDE the Mediterranean has always been a space for meetings, exchange, discovery and friendships. The channel's global distribution network, its **regional channel TV5MONDE MAGHREB ORIENT** and its website all demonstrate the channel's strong commitment to showing the diversity and richness of Mediterranean cultures. In this region there are **60 million households** connected to the channel with a weekly cumulative audience of 12 million viewers – and that's not counting the southern European signal and the France / Belgium / Switzerland signal which account for some 30 million households. Consult the schedule in French, Spanish and Arabic on the web site www.tv5monde.com, which also regularly develops portals for Mediterranean events.



*Mohamed Kaci, presenter of
the programme "Maghreb Orient Express"*

For over fifteen years the channel has forged **links with the major cultural events across the Mediterranean** (festivals at Fez, Essaouira, Marrakech, Cairo) by giving them the coverage they deserve world-wide, way beyond the Mediterranean. This year TV5MONDE is associated with **Marseille-Provence 2013, European Capital of Culture**, giving an international echo to the event.

Throughout this gala year for Marseille TV5MONDE will provide **special programming**, with many important Mediterranean personalities invited on its news programmes. TV5MONDE will also present many of its programmes from Marseille:

- “L’Invité”: every day **Patrick Simonin** will interview a major player involved in Marseille-Provence 2013;
- “Maghreb-Orient Express”: the Sunday magazine showing what’s happening in the Arab world presented by **Mohamed Kaci**;
- Y’a du monde à”: the weekend cultural page presented by **Estelle Martin**.

Yves Bigot, managing director of TV5 Monde



Yves Bigot (photo) has spent his entire career in the worlds of media and music, as a journalist, presenter, director and producer – for television, radio and newspapers.

Having run two record companies (FNAC Music Production from 1992 to 1994 and Phonogram, now Mercury, from 1994 to 1997), he has been head of programmes and channel director for radio and television companies: at France 2 (1998-2005), RTBF and ARTE Belgique (2006-2008).

He was also France 4’s deputy director general (2005-2006), in charge of the channel and programmes, then deputy director general for programmes at Endemol (2008-2010). In 2010 he moved to RTL as director of programmes

and channel head.

In December 2012 Yves Bigot was appointed managing director of TV5MONDE.

TV5 Monde is a member of the CMCA, represented by Yves Bigot.

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CINEMA

EGYPT	The documentary “Jews of Egypt” censored
SYRIA	Ahmed Atef kills off Bashar El-Assad in his new film
ITALY	Paolo Virzi films the thriller “Il Capitale Umano”
ROMANIA	Brisk opening for “Child’s Pose” in Romanian cinemas



EGYPT / The documentary “Jews of Egypt” censored

Egypt’s National Security Agency has banned **Amir Ramses’** film “Jews of Egypt”, the director announced on March 12th. Despite the fact the Censorship Office had already given the documentary the green light. “They’re encroaching on the powers of the censorship authority,” **Amir Ramses** wrote angrily on his

Facebook account, adding that he and his producer were considering appealing this decision.

“Jews of Egypt” looks at the last Jewish communities in Egypt – most of them having been forced to leave the country in 1956 when President **Gamal Abdel Nasser** expelled tens of thousands of Jews, considered enemies of the Egyptian state during the Suez Canal crisis.

(Source : Egypt Independent.)



SYRIA / Ahmed Atef kills off Bashar El-Assad in his new film

“Bab Al Sharqi” is one of the first films to address head-on the Syrian uprising which started in March 2011. Its director, the Egyptian **Ahmed Atef** (photo, “Demons of Cairo”, 2007), also produced this feature film shot in 10 days with just over €150,000 from his own pocket.

The film is about a pair of Syrian twins, refugees in Egypt, each with a very different view of **Bashar al-Assad**. One believes the Syrian President is the only guarantor of independence and freedom in Syria, the other is fiercely opposed to the regime.

Ahmed Atef decided to tempt Fate in “Bab Al Sharqi” by killing the Syria’s current president. “One of the major roles of art is catharsis,” he says. “A film about the assassination of President Bashar will immediately attract a lot of attention, serving as a catalyst to raise awareness and make that scene happen in real life.”

In February “Bab Al Sharqi” was screened in Ouagadougou, at the 23rd FESPACO (Pan African Film Festival).

(Source : L'Expression.)



[ITALY / Paolo Virzi films the thriller “Il Capitale Umano”](#)

Director **Paolo Virzi** (photo), whose film “*La Prima Cosa Bella*” was awarded 3 *David di Donatello* Awards in 2011, has finished filming a thriller, “*Il Capitale Umano*”. This film is loosely adapted from Stephen Amidon’s novel, “Human

Capital”, and shows how two families are affected by a road accident involving a cyclist and an SUV on Christmas eve.

In the cast: **Fabrizio Bentivoglio**, **Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi**, **Valeria Golino** and **Luigi Lo Cascio**.

Produced by Indiana Productions, Rai Cinema and Film Manny, the film completed shooting in mid-April, with locations in Varese, Como, Fortunago and Milan.

(Source : *Giornale dello Spettacolo*.)



[ROMANIA / Brisk opening for “Child's Pose” in Romanian cinemas](#)

Winner of the Golden Bear at February’s Berlin Film Festival, the Romanian film “**Child's Pose**” by **Calin Peter Netzer** achieved record opening figures in Romanian cinemas. Screened in 35 cinemas across the country, it attracted nearly 20,000 spectators for its first weekend in early March – a historic achievement

for a home-grown film. However, it confirms the current good form of local films. In 2012, the comedies “*Sweet Little Lies*” by **Iura Luncașu** and **Tudor Giurgiu’s** “*Of Snails and Men*” were also highly successful, each attracting around 14,000 spectators.

“*Child's Pose*” figures are all the more impressive since it’s a drama, showing a wealthy mother’s fight to prevent her son going to prison after he runs over a teenager.

(Source : *Nine O’Clock.ro*.)

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FESTIVALS

Festival of the month:

**The 9th Al Jazeera International Documentary Film Festival,
at Doha (Qatar), April 18th to 21st**



مهرجان الجزيرة الدولي
التاسع للأفلام التسجيلية
٢٠١٣ / نيسان - ٢١ أبريل / شيراتون الدوحة
9th ALJAZEERA INTERNATIONAL
DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL
18 - 21 April 2013 Doha Sheraton

Now celebrating its 9th year, the Al Jazeera Festival has made an international name for itself as a major festival for documentary films.

The Sheraton Hotel Doha will host screenings of films competing in three categories: the Main Competition; “New Horizons” (for students and first-time directors) and “Promising Films” (for Qatari university students).

The winner of the Al Jazeera Golden Award, the Festival’s major prize, will receive 50,000 riyals (€10,000). In 2012, **Karim El Hakim** and **Omar Shargawi’s** Egyptian documentary “1/2 Revolution” won the Golden Award.

Of the 1,392 films received this year, with 1,173 for the main competition, only 205 have gone forward to the official selection. So in April 33 countries will be represented in Doha – including Cyprus and Mozambique, for whom it will be a first. 24 TV channels are also present in the competition.

This year’s selection includes a number of films about Palestine: the Polish “*Mitzvah*” is about Tsahal’s theft of organs from dead Palestinians, a Turkish film “*The Last Port Is Freedom*” takes another look at the 2010 drama of the Mavi Marmara, while the American documentary “*It’s Better To Jump*” gives Palestinians living in the Israeli port of Acre the chance to express themselves.

The festival also features discussions and exhibitions, and there will be a tribute to **Mohammed Hourani**, an Al Jazeera journalist killed in Syria in January.

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THE OTHER FESTIVALS

ITALY	<u>A festival in Rome for Europe's women film-makers</u>
ITALY	<u>A partnership between the Giffoni Festival and the Doha Film Institute</u>
SPAIN	<u>Call for films for the Catalonia Festival</u>
FRANCE	<u>Call for short films for the Festival de la Côte Bleue</u>



[ITALY / A festival in Rome for European women film-makers](#)

In June and July there will be a new festival in Rome, on Tiber Island, as part of *Isola del Cinema*. The first European Women Filmmakers' Festival (EWF) will show in competition ten recent films by European women directors.

There will be meetings with the directors, but also

with writers, journalists, critics ...

A film will be presented each week, either by the director or by a member of the crew or cast.

The call for films is open until April 30th. [Click here](#) to access the rules and [here](#) for the registration form.



[ITALY / A partnership between the Giffoni Festival and the Doha Film Institute](#)

The Giffoni Film Festival, which since 1971 has given young people around the world an awareness of film, has just strengthened its partnership with the Doha Film Institute, organiser of the Doha Tribeca Film Festival in Qatar.

Giffoni will thus be well represented at the next Doha Tribeca Film Festival, while young Qataris will be included in jury of the Giffoni Festival from July 19th to 28th.

Every year the Giffoni International Film Festival invites 2,000 young people aged between 3 and 18 years to Giffoni Valle Piana, a town in Campania, to watch films, meet directors and actors, and discover how a film is made.

(Source : Ansa Med.)



[SPAIN / Call for films for the Catalonia Festival](#)

From November 6th to 10th the Catalan Festival of Arab and Mediterranean Film will celebrate its seventh year in Barcelona. In the city's Raval district, the *Filmoteca de Catalunya* will once again host a selection of dramas and documentaries made in the Mediterranean and the Arab world. Special emphasis will be given to films from the Lebanon, this year's guest of honour.

Any film longer than 50 minutes made by a director from an Arab country is eligible for the official selection. Films submitted must be subtitled in English, French or Spanish. The call for films is open up until May 30th.

[Click here](#) for more information.



[FRANCE / Call for short films for the Festival de la Côte Bleue](#)

In mid-October the 4th *Festival de la Côte Bleue* for short films will be held in the Bouches-du-Rhône (southern

France). The official competition is open to all film-makers under 30, regardless of their nationality, with the aim of "helping young people around the world get to know each other." Several prizes will be awarded by a jury of professionals, but also by the general public.

Nominations are open until August 1st. Only films produced since January 1st 2011 will be accepted.

[Click here](#) to consult the rules and download the registration form.

Find the complete list of every April festival on our web-site :

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

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WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH

Yalla TV (www.yallatv.me)



Yalla TV is an Arabic-language video platform allowing Middle Eastern filmmakers to share their work with the public.

The site hosts short films, documentaries and feature films. Although access to short films is free and unlimited, some feature films may be shown in preview on Yalla TV, to get them known by word-of-mouth.

One of the main attractions of the site is its interactivity. By clicking a single icon, users can vote negatively or positively for the film they have just seen. For film-makers, a forum on the site enables them to discuss issues directly with their fans – or have direct exchanges with other professionals.

Yalla TV's success is boosted by a festival, the Middle East Virtual Film Festival, organized by the site team since 2012.



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ON THE WEB



[ALGERIA / A web-site to centralise Algerian videos](#)

Algeria now has its own YouTube. Launched a few weeks ago, Chouf Chouf is the first inter-active platform specifically given over to videos which are either Algerian or about Algeria.

“88% of the videos about Algeria are found on YouTube, Dailymotion and Vimeo,” says Karim Amellal, co-founder of the site. “Chouf Chouf centralizes the ones we think are the best, in French, Arabic and Tamazight. With the inter-active component, users can also suggest videos from anywhere in the world.”

Each video is validated, then given an introductory text written by the site team. Chouf Chouf already offers over 8,000 videos in 7 categories, from news to comedy.

(Source : Afrik.)



[FRANCE / Radio France is preparing a music streaming site](#)

This autumn the public group Radio France will launch a website making its digital music collection available through streaming.

The idea is to “*expose the catalogue better and circulate the works better,*” says **Joel Ronez**, Radio France’s New Media Director. It won’t necessarily offer the music industry’s latest releases, but rather will provide a “specific, eclectic and rich” service.

The site will also publicize Radio France’s musical production, which has, in addition to the *Orchestre National de France*, its own *Orchestre Philharmonique*, a choir and a choir school.

(Source : Les Echos.)

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THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY



MOROCCO / Call for applications for the Méditalents workshop

The third session of the *Méditalents* workshop is on track. This training workshop on writing enables young Mediterranean directors and writers to work for 12 to 14 months on their first feature-length drama film.

Candidates must come from the following countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, the Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, or Syria. The call for candidates is also open to French, Italians and Spaniards who have a link with the Mediterranean or who wish to tackle a Mediterranean issue in their first film.

This third *Méditalents* will be held in Morocco from the autumn of 2013. Ten projects will be selected.

Application is open until May 5th. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

STOP PRESS



FRANCE / Première Caméra, a call for documentaries on Kisskissbankbank

The French television channels *Toute L'Histoire*, *Encyclo* and *Escales*, a production agency Capa Television and the crowd-funding site Kisskissbankbank have combined to launch *Première Caméra* (First Camera) a call for creative documentaries.

Directors with a project for a documentary, a web-documentary or a transmedia work have **until May 25th** to file their project on Kisskissbankbank and they must find at least 50% of their budget.

From those projects managing to get this 50%, a maximum of twenty will be chosen for the final selection. Finally, out of these 20 projects a professional jury will choose between 1 and 5 winners. *Toute L'Histoire*, *Encyclo* et *Escales* will reward the winners by giving them half of the money collected so far on Kisskissbankbank (within the limit of €10,000 per winner).

[Click here](#) for more information and to register a project.

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**Translated from the French
by Tim King**