



**N°125**  
**May 2014**

543 documentaries, news films and web documentaries from 39 countries have been registered for the 18th PriMed, which will take place in Marseille from December 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. A record number -- last year there were 440 films in competition. The Mediterranean is changing, evolving – the region interests more and more documentary film-makers. Through PriMed the CMCA wants to give them a voice – and a shop-window. We would like to thank all those who have shown their support by sending their films.

News about Mediterranean broadcasting is as fascinating as ever -- in these pages you will see how true that is: Nerit, the new Greek television company began transmitting on May 4<sup>th</sup>; in Romania and Serbia there are new channels; in Morocco a charter has been agreed by 2M to give women their rightful place. Things are moving and we reflect that!

Happy reading

The editorial team

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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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[HEAD-LINES/ LIFE IN THE CMCA](#)

**PriMed 2014 - 543 FILMS REGISTERED: A NEW RECORD !**

**the pre-selection jury meets in Rome  
from May 25 to 30**



Thanks to the generosity of RAI, one of the festival's organizers, and the behind-the-scenes work of our Secretary General, Maria Du Besse, PriMed's pre-selection jury will work in the Italian public television's Rome facilities from May 25 to 30.

543 documentaries, news films and web documentaries from 39 countries is the final count for the 18th PriMed, which will be held at the *Villa Méditerranée*, *Mucem* (to be confirmed) and the

*Bibliothèque de l'Alcazar* ( VOD ) in Marseille from December 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>.

The whole world is taking an interest in the Mediterranean. We received films from the USA, Poland, Sweden, Slovenia, Qatar, Kuwait, Serbia, Austria, with, as every year, the greatest number from France and Italy. Spain, Turkey, Tunisia, Israel, the Lebanon, Egypt, Greece, Morocco, Germany and even the Palestinian Territories all confirm the vitality of their documentary output.

You'll discover which films have been selected in the next *Méditerranée Audiovisuelle*.

For more information, visit PriMed's web-site : <http://primed.tv/>



### [“New Media and New Ways of Writing”](#): the 2014 training programme

From April 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> the CMCA held its latest training workshop, “New Media and New Ways of Writing”. Available to any of the CMCA’s partners, the 5-day workshop trained journalists in the new narrative forms and techniques of the web - documentary. The first two days were theory-based, with one day devoted to the challenges of new media and the second to mastering the tools. On the third day students tackled the practical side: pre -production, production and post-production. The workshop ended with a review of what had been achieved during those few days.

Apart from the teaching aspect, the course is an opportunity for journalists from various Mediterranean countries to meet and exchange information about common issues, so the course is as rich on the human level as it is for professional training.

This latest workshop is also going to enrich the web-documentary [Marseille-Multimedia-Méditerranée](#). The idea behind this initiative is to create an interactive map of the major Mediterranean cities. During this year’s course the journalists worked on three districts of Marseille: Noailles, Vauban and Le Panier. When they get back to their respective countries, it is hoped they will use their new-found knowledge to film, photograph or record a piece about one of their city’s districts, which will then be added to the interactive map created by CMCA. The goal: use the trainees’ work to offer internet users a look at the great Mediterranean cities. Eventually, a web documentary will be released for the web-sites of our partner’s TV channels.



At the end of the workshop, the trainees who had fulfilled their training received a certificate from the CMCA. They were:

- Mme **Shireen Ibraheem Shahin** of JRTV (Jordan)
- Mlle **Sana Boulsibat** from EPTV (Algeria)
- Mme **Asma Barrak** of Tunisian Television
- M. **Bendaoud Kassab** from 2M (Morocco)
- M. **Mohammed Faiq** from 2M (Morocco)
- M. **Ümit Akgündüz** of TRT (Turkey)
- M. **Fawzi Ait Ali** from EPTV (Algeria)

Our sincere thanks to them all for their involvement in this project.

## LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

Greece	<a href="#"><u>Re-birth of Greek public television.</u></a>
Morocco	<a href="#"><u>Launch of Canal Atlas</u></a>
Italy	<a href="#"><u>5 new unencrypted channels</u></a>
Romania	<a href="#"><u>A channel for the Roma</u></a>
Serbia	<a href="#"><u>Launch of a folk music channel</u></a>
Morocco	<a href="#"><u>2M's charter to raise the profile of women</u></a>
France	<a href="#"><u>M6 lodges a complaint against TF1</u></a>
Libya	<a href="#"><u>Project to reform the media</u></a>



### [Greece/ Re-birth of Greek public television.](#)

The new Greek public television service, NERIT (New Greek Radio-Internet-TV) began broadcasting on Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> with an hour and a half's news bulletin at 6:00 pm. NERIT replaces DT, which had been the substitute for public television since the government closed ERT in June 2013. This new entity was created to be more independent and more economical, so it launched quietly, without publicity. However, although it wants to consume less public money, its schedules will be enriched with sixteen new programmes over the coming fortnight, in addition covering local and European elections which could be crucial for the current government.

(Source : *le Monde*)



### [Morocco / Launch of Canal Atlas](#)

In early April, Morocco launched the satellite channel *Canal Atlas*. Created and developed by 24 television production companies, its main themes will be sport, youth, series, news and entertainment. The channel wants to be a bridge between Moroccans living in Morocco and those who have emigrated. Although this link is cultural, it's also a response to an economic issue: up until now advertisers have struggled to reach this important emigrant population.



### [Italy / 5 new unencrypted channels](#)

On April 8<sup>th</sup> Sky Italia improved its unencrypted offer with the distribution of 4 new channels by the Discovery Italia group and a fifth by the Feltrinelli Group. Channels dedicated to entertainment are called DMax, DMax +1, Giallo and Laeffe. The fifth channel will focus on documentary and lifestyle. The 4 Discovery Italia channels offer different themes. Laeffe, from the Feltrinelli Group launched last May, also made its debut on the satellite.

(Source : Telecompaper)



### [Romania / a channel for the Roma](#)

At the beginning of April Romania launched a television channel for gypsies: “Gipsy Reality”. The channel’s founder, **Aurel Pascu**, is also leader of the Roma party in Transylvania. He said in a statement that one of the programmes would be entirely in the Roma language. The editorial programme consists of debates on education but also art and the economy as well as daily news and a section on Roma traditions. Programmes will be broadcast from Tuesday to Friday on the online platform Gipsy Media. Aurel Pascu said “*our goal is to present a different image of the Roma and their views on current issues which they face in Romanian society.*” Gipsy Reality will employ journalism students and graduates, all Roma, from the University of Cluj-Napoca (north-western Romania).

(Source : Romania Insider)



### [Serbia / Launch of a folk music channel](#)

On April 16<sup>th</sup> the Serbian cable/DTH operator and the Bosnian cable operator Telemach announced the launch of the “*Grand Narodna Televizija*” channel. This channel will broadcast 24 hours of Serbian folk music a day, including 9 hours live every day. “*Grand Narodna Televizija*” will be available to D3 and D3i subscribers on channel 211. As for subscribers in Bosnia, they can watch it on channel 59 (digital) and 62 (analogue).

(Source : Telecompaper)



### [Morocco / A charter agreed by 2M to raise the profile of women](#)

On April 18<sup>th</sup> 2M announced a charter to develop the potential of women in broadcasting. The charter is the result of a year’s work by an ad hoc committee and is split into 4 sections. The first is to encourage women’s roles in economic, political and social issues. The Moroccan public broadcaster is committed to making sure there are women experts talking about political and social issues. Secondly, there is the fight against negative female stereotypes and making internal and external media players aware of this. Third,

diversification of programmes, adapting them to the editorial line, taking into account socio-cultural diversity and the changing status of women. Fourth, monitoring and greater cooperation between external players. It is hoped this pioneering charter will create a ripple effect on other media in the long term

(Source : Agence Ecofin)



#### [France / M6 lodges a complaint against TF1](#)

The M6 group has filed a complaint against TF1 with the Competition Authority. The reason: TF1's abuse of its dominant position in the television advertising market. Thus M6 joins Canal Plus and accuses TF1 of cutting its commercials rates in 2013. TF1 already holds half the television advertising market and its position could be strengthened by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 when the group will be allowed to sell advertising on the free channels TMC and NT1 as well as on the parent channel, TF1.

(Source : Le Point, Le Monde)



#### [Libya / Project to reform the media](#)

In early April the German Academy, *Deutsche Welle*, launched a project to reform and promote the press in Libya as its contribution to encourage the democratic processes in the country. This project, initiated in collaboration with the Libyan Ministry's Press Institute of War, was funded to the tune of €3 million by the EU (European Union) and the Libyan Ministry of Information. As well as finance for cinema programmes and quality entertainment, the project includes more than 70 training workshops on how the press works, to bring 1,000 journalists from all over the country up to scratch on professional standards in use across the world. This training will initially be for private and public media, but later will also include state institutions such as government ministries. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said the Information and Communication sector has suffered about 20 attacks since the beginning of 2014.

(Source : Cineuropa- AfriqueJet)

## PROGRAMMES

Israel	<a href="#">New enthusiasm for Israeli programmes</a>
Egypt	<a href="#">Controversy surrounding Haïfa Wehbé's film</a>
Morocco	<a href="#">Filming the longest TV series produced in Morocco</a>
Spain	<a href="#">The government wants to modify the programme schedules</a>
France	<a href="#">The contents of Mediterraneo in May</a>



### [Israel / New enthusiasm for Israeli programmes](#)

The Market for International Television Programmes (MIPTV), held in Cannes on April 9<sup>th</sup>, highlighted the growing enthusiasm for Israeli programmes. The country was represented by 18 production companies and 200 professionals. The French channel TF1 acquired the quiz-show “Boom”, while M6 bought the interactive talent show “Rising star”. Even though their creators are working on tight budgets, the Israeli market is known for its innovative formats. In addition, some companies like Endemol have taken a 33% stake in the broadcaster Reshet (one of the largest networks in the country). However, it’s doubtful this success will last. As **Bertrand Villegas**, co-founder of a company called The Wit, explains: “everything depends on the ratings for the programmes sold. Buying formats because they’re from Israel will be a short-lived fashion. Especially since the projects’ Israeli dimension will get less.”

(Sources : Statellifax, Les Echos)



### [Egypt / Controversy surrounding Haïfa Wehbé's film](#)

On April 18<sup>th</sup> the Egyptian government banned screenings of “Halawet Rooh”, featuring the Lebanese pop singer **Haifa Wehbe**, because it contains too many sexually provocative scenes. Taken from **Giuseppe Tornatore's** Italian film “Malena” (2000), the film is about a woman who makes men mad with desire whenever her husband is absent. Although Egypt is a conservative country, much more explicit films have already been shown. The ban comes as the FIDH published a damning report on the Egyptian government's inaction when it comes to violence against women. A real controversy now surrounds “Halawet Rooh” since many critics and artists are making a stand against censorship. The head of the censorship office resigned in protest.

(Sources : Afrik, Africultures, Atlas Info, Tunisien numérique)





### [Morocco/ Filming the longest TV series produced in Morocco](#)

On April 8<sup>th</sup> the Moroccan director **Chafiq Shimi** resumed filming the series “*Chouk Sedra*”. This TV series will consist of about sixty 42 minute episodes and employ 1,500 actors and extras. The producer is SNRT and the executive producer a company called Douaa. The series will air before Ramadan on the first national channel. To date it’s the longest series produced in Morocco. It will be shot in many cities: Ksar El Kebir, Larache, Fes, Midelt and Benslimane. “*Chouk Sedra*” is in fact an adaptation of Victor Hugo’s novel “*Les Miserables*” – its plot taking place in colonial Morocco in 1933 and 1956. The main theme is the arbitrary nature of colonial rule.

(Source : H24.info, Lematin.ma)



### [Spain / The government wants to modify the programme schedule](#)

The Minister of Health, Social Services and Equality, announced the government's plan to change prime time programming so as to bring the close-down earlier. This is part of a broader programme of Family Conciliation. To end primetime programmes 30 to 60 minutes earlier in the evening, the government will shorten the news bulletin. This decision comes at a delicate time since at the beginning of the month nine channels stopped broadcasting. People in the industry see this as additional government interference at a time when Spanish broadcasting is going through a difficult period.


(Source : El Pais)



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

**Syrian refugees** : there are more than two and a half million Syrian refugees in the countries neighbouring Syria and in Europe. Until the summer of 2012, Egypt was a place where these refugees felt safe, but since the fall of President Morsi their situation has become more difficult. So now many go straight to Europe. A crew from *Mediterraneo* followed a university student as far as Sweden.

**National Museum of Sarajevo**: For the past two years the national museum in Sarajevo, in Bosnia Herzegovina, has been closed. Created in 1888 during the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the museum’s closure is the consequence of a political rift, caused by the war in Bosnia, and the multi-ethnic character of the country.



**Lisbon and its Tram n°28:** One of Lisbon's symbols is Tram n° 28, trundling round the city centre with its yellow coachwork. The Lisboans are very attached to the tram and tourists use it to discover the capital in an original way. The tram's history is closely bound up with the town.

**Organic products:** A fast-growing sector, organic production is becoming increasingly successful. However in France today only 3% of farming land is cultivated using biodynamic techniques. In the south of France there's a village where everything is organic, an adventure which began 15 years ago with wine.

**Evolution of the planet:** Global warming, climactic change, the consequences are already visible, particularly for the ecosystems. To understand these changes better and to analyse them, a specialised centre has been created in southern Italy, in the Puglia, bringing together researchers and experts.

**The Great Prespa Lake:** The natural heritage of the Balkans holds many treasures. Among them, the Great Prespa Lake, which has the particularity of being shared between 3 countries. A site with an international reputation thanks to its biodiversity.

**The cork-oak:** The emblematic tree of the Mediterranean, it forms a barrier against fire and is a major source of economic development. The cork-oak is today produced in North Africa and southern Europe. Close-up on two micro-productions, one in Catalonia and the other in France, in the Var.

## ECONOMY

Italy	<a href="#">Investment in cinema drops</a>
Morocco	<a href="#">Emirates' companies give new life to Medi1 TV</a>
Morocco	<a href="#">The end of cinemas?</a>
Qatar	<a href="#">Al-Jazeera files complaint against Egypt</a>



### [Italy/ Investment in cinema drops](#)

On April 16<sup>th</sup> ANICA and the Ministry of Culture announced the latest figures on Italian cinema. While investment fell by 27% in 2013, the number of films made has not changed. Big-budget films are less common while low-budget films are on the increase. The main source of finance comes from outside investors but the amounts invested are down. As for international and regional finance, that has increased to €7 million. Tax credits have dropped from €60 million to €53 million. Finally, the first quarter of 2014 saw a significant increase in admissions in Italian cinemas compared to 2013 and 2012.

(Source : Cineuropa)



### [Morocco / Emirates' companies give new life to Medi1 TV](#)

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> two media companies from the UAE announced they are investing 800 million dirhams in Medi1 TV, a Moroccan television channel. Since the news channel has been crumbling under the weight of its debts for 3 years, the 800 million dirhams from NeksInvestments and Steeds media are a life-saver. In a statement, the channel heads welcome “Morocco’s attractiveness in the as yet blank page of foreign investment.” For the investors, it shows Medi1 TV has successfully positioned itself as a news channel at regional level but also among North Africans worldwide. Medi1 TV is now waiting for the authorization of HAICA (*Haute autorité de la communication audiovisuelle*) to accelerate its development.

(Source : Agence Ecofin)



### [Morocco / The end of cinemas?](#)

According to the Moroccan Cinema Centre there are now only 31 cinemas still operating in the country. Very unevenly distributed, the 51 screens are concentrated in the main towns like Casablanca, Marrakech, Tangier and Rabat. Relatively stable between 1956 and 1984, their number has dropped significantly over the past 20 years, from 238 in 1984 to 127 in 2004 and just a few dozen today. Despite the fact the public is still faithful and continues to patronize these exclusively downtown cinemas, such a sharp drop makes the future of these cultural sites a matter of concern.

(Source : Euromed audiovisuel)



### [Qatar / Al-Jazeera files complaint against Egypt](#)

On April 28<sup>th</sup> Al-Jazeera filed a complaint against Egypt. The Qatari channel is claiming \$150 million in damages for losses caused by restrictions placed on it last summer. Egypt accuses Al-Jazeera of being too close to the Muslim Brotherhood and supporting **Mohammed Morsi**. The channel's Cairo offices were closed, some of its equipment confiscated, its transmissions scrambled and several of its journalists imprisoned. The complaint therefore relates to abuses of human rights, freedom of expression and the breach of a contract signed between the two countries in 1999.

(Source : Le Figaro, Le blog de Jean-Marc Morandini)

## CINEMA

France	<a href="#"><u>The three winners of MADE in MED in the Short Film Corner at the Cannes Festival</u></a>
Romania	<a href="#"><u>Filming Tudor Giurgiu's 3rd film</u></a>
Morocco	<a href="#"><u>"Bastardo" wins Grand Prix at the Tétouan Festival</u></a>
Morocco	<a href="#"><u>The first episode of the American series "Hieroglyph" filmed at Ouarzazate</u></a>
Tunisia	<a href="#"><u>First co-production between Tunisia and China</u></a>
Spain	<a href="#"><u>Record for "Ocho apellidos vascos"</u></a>



### [France / The three winners of MADE in MED in the Short Film Corner at the Cannes Festival](#)

On April 14<sup>th</sup> MADE in MED unveiled the names of the three winners of the second short films competition, selected from the 150 films sent in. The winners were the Palestinian documentary “My children...My love...” made by **Fadya Salan Al-Deen**, a Jordanian animated film by **Ahmad Saleh: “House”**, and an experimental film, “War on famous canvas”, by the Syrian director **Amjad Wardeh**. The reward: now everyone can see these short films on the Euromed Audiovisual website and they will be shown at partner festivals. Thus the three films will be screened at the Short Film Corner at the Cannes Film Festival from May 16 to 21 May, where they can be analyzed by experts in script and project development.

(Source : Euromed Audiovisuel)



### [Romania / Filming Tudor Giurgiu's 3rd film](#)

“Cristian”, the working title of Tudor Giurgiu's 3<sup>rd</sup> feature, is nearing completion. The plot focuses on an idealistic young lawyer trying to shed light on a corruption case involving one of his superiors. However, his investigation is fraught with pitfalls and revelations. The film's budget is estimated at €1.13 million. The Romanian National Cinematography Centre and the Bulgarian National Cinematography Centre both funded the project in 2011. Scheduled for release next spring, the film could pave the way for a new genre in Romanian cinema: the political thriller.

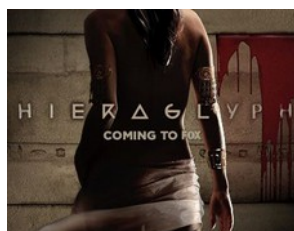
(Source : Cineuropa)



[Morocco / “Bastardo” wins the Grand Prix at the Tétouan festival](#)

On April 6<sup>th</sup> “Bastardo”, made by the young Tunisian director **Nejib Belkadhi**, won the Grand Prix for Best Feature Film at the 20th International Festival of Mediterranean Cinema, held in Tétouan from March 29<sup>th</sup> to April 5<sup>th</sup>. “Bastardo” has also been selected for the Luxor African Film Festival in Egypt and the Toronto Film Festival in Canada. Reviewers consider it a prescient film about the Jasmine Revolution in Tunisia. Written between 2007 and 2009, the film deals with the struggle of good against evil. Mohsen, known as Bastardo, is a man without origins or history. Fired from his job, he installs a GSM relay point on his roof, despite a hefty monthly fee. But it changes the life of both the neighbourhood and Mohsen himself, who sees his financial and social standing rocket as the days go by. But this meteoric rise creates jealousy amongst his neighbours.

(Source : Aujourdhui.ma, Direct Info, bastardo-themovie.net)



[Morocco / First episode of the American series “Hieroglyph” being filmed at Ouarzazate](#)

20th Century Fox has announced the filming of a pilot episode for a new series “Hieroglyph”. It will take place mainly in the Kasbah of Ait Ben Haddou, the oasis at Fint and the village of El Harra. The American producers, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, met the Moroccan organisers from K Films in the province of Ouarzazate. “Emphasis was placed [...] on the important natural potential of this region of Morocco which makes it perfect for filming an increasing number of national and international film and television productions.”

(Source : Lemag.ma; Libe.ma)



[Tunisia / First co-production between Tunisia and China](#)

In early April the contract for the first co-production between China and Tunisia was announced. It’s for “My China Doll”, the first Arab-African feature film of its kind with a an estimated budget of €2 million. The director and co-producer is **Rachid Ferchiou**. The film is about a “5 year old Tunisian girl whose father offers her a Chinese doll which fascinates her and with which she falls in love.” The filming will take place in Tunisia and China. The decision to start filming on September 15<sup>th</sup> is not an accident: that date is the 50th anniversary of the first diplomatic relations between the two countries. 50% of the finance comes from Far Bridge Productions, based in Shanghai, and 50% from Salammbô Productions in Tunisia.

(Source : Direct Info, Turess)



### Spain / Record for “Ocho apellidos vascos”

During its first weekend in the cinemas (March 15<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup>), “Ocho Apellidos vascos” brought in €2.75 million. This is a huge success at a time of crisis for the Spanish cinema. By Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> 7.5 million people had seen it, creating a box office of €44.2 million. “Ocho Apellidos vascos” has thus broken the record made by “Lo imposible” and became the highest grossing Spanish film of all time. At the same time Spanish films attained their biggest share of the market in the history of cinema. Current revenues are up 94.2 % compared to the same period last year with 128% more viewers. Which means box office receipts were up 11.8% and entries 29.3% compared to last year. After Dany Boon’s “Welcome to the Sticks” (France) in 2008 and Miniero Luca’s “Benvenuti al sud” (Italy) in 2010, it is now Spain’s turn to produce a comedy about regional differences. The film was written by **Borja Cobeaga** and **Diego San Juan**, two specialists in regional stereotype satire. *Rafa is a young Andalusian who has never had to leave his native Seville. But everything changes when he meets Amaia , a young Basque, the first person who resists his charms. Determined to win her, he moves to a Basque village and adopts the customs of his new adopted home.*

(Sources : Cineuropa.org, Filmaffinity)

## FESTIVALS

### FESTIVAL OF THE MONTH

## **FIDADOC : first documentary film festival in Morocco From April 28th to May 4th**



From April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup> the 6th FIDADOC was held in Agadir (Morocco). The first Moroccan film festival dedicated exclusively to documentary film, FIDADOC is the brainchild of producer **Nouzha Drissi** who wants to show “a cinematic style rooted in reality” to a wider public.

The festival’s aim is to develop a culture of documentary filmmaking in Morocco and to create a platform for meetings and exchanges between Africa, the Arab World and the Euro-Mediterranean area.

FIDADOC’s programming is always rich and diverse, offering films from all five continents. The two main events are the International Competition and the Panorama.

Alongside the competition, the festival offers sessions for school pupils and students to teach them about the image. There are also outdoor screenings in the town’s less privileged neighbourhoods and beyond. Since 2012 the organizers have run the “documentary beehive” in partnership with the public channel 2M to help young filmmakers. Over the years FIDADOC hopes to acquire an international dimension and recognition.

[For more information click here](#)



## OTHER FESTIVALS



### [Morocco / Nation Festival of educational film](#)

On April 18<sup>th</sup> the 13th National Educational Film Festival opened in Fez (Morocco). The event aims to strengthen the relationship between education and cinema. In addition, the organisers want to emphasise the role of educational films in student training. **Mohamed Dali**, director of the *Académie régionale et de formation* (AREF), organizer of the festival, said that “*the large number of films shown in the festival’s regional rounds shows the good health of teaching and educational clubs.*” As well as screenings there were discussions about education and workshops on documentary film-making techniques. The awards -- Grand Prix, Best Screenplay, Best Director, Best Actress and Best Actor -- were presented at the closing ceremony.



### [Italy / 15th festival of European cinema at Lecce](#)

On April 28<sup>th</sup> the 15th European Film Festival opened in Lecce Italy. **Claudia Cardinale**, **Danis Tanovis** and **Marco Bellocchio** were honoured this year. The festival opened with **Jasmila Zbanic’s** Bosnian film “*For Those Who Can Tell No Tales*” and closed on May 3<sup>rd</sup> with a screening of “*Alabama Monroe*” by the Flemish **Felix van Groeningen**. Palestinian cinema was honoured during the festival, with fifteen films shown. Among them, “*La memoria fertile*” by **Michel Khleifi** and films by **Elia Sumleiman**, **Rashid Masharawi** and **Mohammad Bakri**. There was a section for the public, “*Cinema and reality*”, showing documentaries on important social and cultural issues. And finally a tribute to the master of horror **Mario Bava** with a screening of ten of his films.

[For more information click here](#)



### [France / Panorama of North African and Middle-East cinema](#)

The 9th “Panorama of North African and Middle Eastern Cinema” was held in Paris and Saint-Denis from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup>. Created in 2006, the festival aims to bring filmmaking from these emerging regions to a wider public. Since much of the audience in Saint Denis is of North African origin, they are more than passive spectators. Besides the film screenings, there were also meetings and discussions between filmmakers, film professionals and the public.

[For more information click here](#)



## [Tunisia / 16th “Very Short International Film Festival”](#)

From May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> different Tunisian towns: Carthage, Sfax, Tunis, Sfax, Mahdia and Gafsa participated in the “Very Short International Film Festival”. The rule is that all films last less than 3 minutes. In fact the festival was held simultaneously in 108 towns across 28 countries. The public watched some 44 films of different nationalities and types (documentary, experimental, fiction, animation). At the end of the screening they voted for the film they liked best at the same time as people in the 28 other countries.

**For more information** [click here](#)

### **Calls for candidates**

[Motovun Film Festival](#) – Deadline: May 15<sup>th</sup>

[Franco-Arab Film Festival](#) – Deadline May 15<sup>th</sup>

[Sarajevo Film Festival](#) – Deadline May 31<sup>st</sup>

[Milano Film Festival](#) – Deadline May 31<sup>st</sup>

[Rencontres cinématographiques at Hergla](#) – Deadline May 31<sup>st</sup>

[Moi, Marocain\(e\)/ Ana, Maghribi\(a\)](#) – Deadline June 10<sup>th</sup>

[San Sebastian Film Festival](#) – Deadline July 16<sup>th</sup>

## WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH



L'IMA (Institut du Monde Arabe)  
([www.imarabe.org/](http://www.imarabe.org/))

The *Institut du Monde Arabe* in Paris is a cultural institute dedicated to the Arab world. Inaugurated in November 1987, its current chairman is **Jack Lang**. The Institute is in the 5th arrondissement of Paris on the Place Mohammed V. Its architecture is a synthesis of Western and Arab architecture. The IMA is financed by a foundation created by the French state and the Arab League.

The IMA has a permanent museum showing:

- the Arab world before the Hegira;
- the Arab - Islamic world;
- the expansion of Islam (Turkey, India, Iran)

As for the temporary exhibitions, they show the heritage of Arab countries from prehistory to the present day. Each autumn there is a major exhibition, with smaller themed exhibitions spread over the rest of the year (contemporary art, photography). The idea is to get to know the Arab cultures and civilization through their artistic achievements. The exhibitions are aimed at the widest possible audience.

In addition, the Institute has a library which contains various encyclopaedic and multilingual collections showing Arab culture and civilization. The library has mainly contemporary works but there are also some classics. There is also a media library for young people which organises activities such as “Afternoon Tales” on Wednesdays and Saturdays . There are also resources directly accessible online.

Throughout the year the IMA offers panel discussions, in particular “Thursdays at the IMA”. As far as culture is concerned, there are film screenings including the Gulf Film Festival which was held from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. There is also music and dance, over the last few months audiences have been able to listen to Coptic songs or watch Dervishes from Damascus. The web-site offers Arabic courses and workshops, language holidays, walks, discovery concerts for children, young people, adults and working people. The IMA also publishes two journals: *Qantara* (quarterly and cultural) and *Al Moukhtarat* (quarterly and educational).

## THE EUROMEDITERRANEAN WAY



### [Portugal/France: co-production grants between the two countries](#)

On April 7<sup>th</sup> the creation of a grant for Franco-Portuguese co-productions was announced. The Secretary of State for Culture, **Jorge Barreto Xavier**, announced a budget of one million euro: €200,000 from Portugal's ICA (*Instituto do Cinema e do Audiovisual*) and 800,000 from the French CNC (*Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée*). The fund will be effective within three months and will last 3 years. To benefit from this grant projects must involve at least one Portuguese production company and one French company.

(Source : Cineuropa)



### [France / A project to help those working in on-line news media across the Arab world](#)

EBITCAR-MEDIA is a call for projects for financial support of on-line media development in the Arab world. The main financial backers are the European Union, with €1.5 million over three years and the CFI (the French operator in media cooperation). There is also support from Babelmed (Italy), the Anna Lindh Foundation (Egypt), Samir Kassir (Lebanon) and *France Expertise Internationale* for technical matters. This call for proposals “is aimed at structures, companies, associations or groups which offer news content online and who want to strengthen, enrich or structure their offer.” Grants will be awarded to the most innovative projects. The aim is to consolidate editorial, technical and economic skills of the online media. The people behind the 25 shortlisted projects will come to Marseille in July and present them to a jury. In the end between 10 and 12 projects will be selected, each of which will be the potential recipient of a grant of between €20,000 and €80,000. A new call for proposals will be launched in January 2015.

(Source Babelmed)



### [Romania, an increasingly active independent cinema](#)

Independent cinema is experiencing strong growth in Romania: this year no fewer than nine films are being presented to the public. Carried on a wave of success in 2013, independent production has gained confidence and is growing in different directions. Features, but also all genres of short film are in pre-production: comedy, science fiction, drama and documentary. The lower cost of new technologies has enabled this growth, because until recently in Romania it was difficult to finance film-

making without the assistance of the National Film Centre. Now, with a new law on cinema, the NFC should become more involved in independent productions, creating a special fund for small budget movies and relaxing the complicated protocol for selecting the companies chosen.

(Source *Cineuropa*)

## STOP PRESS



### France /Agnès Saal new chairperson of INA

The Minister of Culture, **Aurélie Filippetti**, has finally chosen **Agnès Saal**, the current director of the Pompidou Centre. She will take up her new duties as the head of INA in mid-May. With long experience both in the public sector and culture, her appointment was ratified by the Council of Ministers. Her main functions will focus on the continued digitization of archives, the creation of new content and finding financial outlets for the skills developed at the institute.

(Source : *le Figaro*)



### Greece /“Little England” wins awards

On April 14<sup>th</sup> **Pantelis Voulgaris’** film, “*Little England*” received six trophies at the Hellenic Film Academy Award: Best Film, Best Cinematography, Best Art Direction, Costumes, Sound and Make-

Up.

(Source : *Cineuropa*)



### Algeria / Two Algerian films win awards at the festival of North African short films

From April 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> the 3rd International Festival of North African Short Films was held at Oujda in northeast Morocco.

**Anis Djaad** won the Best Director award for “*Le Hublot*” (The Window). And **Embarek Menad** won the Encouragement Award for his film “*Imining*”.

(Source : *Djazairress, apz.dz*)



### [Morocco / An agreement signed to strengthen media diversity](#)

On April 28<sup>th</sup> in Rabat, **Driss El Yazami**, chairman of the National Centre for Human Rights (CNDH) and **Nick Carter**, consultant at the Media Diversity Institute (MDI) signed an agreement to strengthen media diversity. The agreement will create training sessions for members of regional human rights committees “*in order to promote cultural diversity through the media*”. The signing of the agreement is also an opportunity to set up four round tables on the theme of human rights and how their relationship with the media shifts according to each regional context.

(Source : Lemag.ma; Le Matin.ma)



### [Egypt / The regime worried by journalists' security.](#)

Since July 2013 and the overthrow of President **Mohammed Morsi**, six journalists have been killed in Egypt. In this context, media organizations and unions have agreed to collaborate with the Ministry of Interior to ensure the safety of their reporters. The main news gathering companies promise to provide the names of journalists covering events and the authorities have provided unions with bulletproof vests and gas masks. These measures will be strengthened with "Press" badges and the creation of a crisis centre, but they have provoked varied reactions, with some fearing that journalists will become even easier targets. In 2013 Egypt already ranked most dangerous country for journalists, and it could climb even higher in 2014.

(Source : le Monde)

Translated from the French by Tim KING