



N°134
April 2015

There are just a few days left to send us your documentaries for PriMed 2015! All of us at the CMCA are getting ready for this year's event, which is shaping up well. We're really looking forward to seeing your films – they're always a reflection of reality, of how each film-maker sees the world, often a very individual and original vision – and they help us see things differently too.

In this issue you can read about the “New Writing and New Media” training session we organised, the different PriMed screenings during April and, as always, the usual items on Mediterranean broadcasting.

Happy reading

Méditerranée Audiovisuelle-La Lettre. Dépôt Légal 12 février 2015. ISSN : 1634-4081. *Tous droits réservés*

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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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LIFE IN THE CMCA

[REMINDER: Call for films for the 19th PriMed](#)

Last call before the deadline

Friday 10th April 2015

**to register your documentaries, reportages and multimedia works
for the 2015 PriMed**



PriMed – the International Mediterranean Documentary and Reportage Awards is open to all film-makers, directors, producers and broadcasters who, through their programmes or films, contribute to a better knowledge of Mediterranean countries – taking that region in its broadest sense, from the Atlantic coast to the Black Sea. The audiovisual works presented must deal with subjects related to the culture, heritage, history, to the different societies and lives of the men and women living in Mediterranean countries.

The films must not contain any form of advertising or propaganda.

Each film may compete in only one category, and that choice must be clearly stated on the registration form.

Registration for PriMed is free. The films presented:

- Must have been produced after January 1st 2013;
- Must never have competed at PriMed in previous years;
- If it is a documentary in several episodes, only one may be submitted;
- If a film or programme is a co-production, it must be presented by only one co-producer; he or she must ensure the prior agreement of their partner(s).

The names of all the co-producers must appear on the registration form.

Seven awards will be presented from among the films in competition. Broadcasting awards will also be given by the representatives of television channels.

**[Click here to consult the rules of PriMed 2015](#)
[and download the registration form.](#)**

Training: the 2015 “New Writing and New Media” Workshop



This year's “New Writing and New Media” training session was organised by the CMCA between March 16th to 20th. There were eight trainees, from Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, with, for the first time, a majority of women. That's an achievement! 7 women and one man. The workshop is for journalists working in the member TV companies, showing them the new narrative forms and techniques of the web-documentary. The work-shop took place over 5 days. The first two were mostly theoretical, with the first day spent discussing the challenges of the new media and the second how to work with the tools. On the third day, the trainees began the

practical side: pre-production, production and post-production. The training wound up with a review of what had been achieved during the workshop.

Apart from the teaching aspect, the course was also an opportunity for journalists from across the Mediterranean to meet and talk about shared issues. On the human level the benefits of the course were as great as on the professional.

This year's workshop added to the content of our web-documentary *Marseille-Multimédia-Méditerranée*. The idea is that over time we create an interactive map of the major Mediterranean cities. At this session, the trainees worked on 3 districts in Marseille: **Belsunce, Longchamp - Cinq avenues, Thiers - Cours Julien**. When they get back home they will use their new knowledge to film, photograph or record a reportage on a district where they live – that way we enrich the CMCA's interactive map. The goal: to use the trainees' work to offer internet users a walk round the major Mediterranean cities. Eventually, all the contributions will go into a web documentary which will be offered to our members' television companies for their websites.



At the end of their training, the following received a CMCA certificate to confirm they had successfully completed the course:

- **Maria Adnan** from 2M (Morocco)
- **Halima Saadia Khoubbane** from 2M (Morocco)
- **Mustafa Ucmaz** from TRT (Turkey)
- **Fatima Toumi** from EPTV (Algeria)
- **Camila Khelif** from EPTV (Algeria)
- **Imane Ben Amor** from Tunisian Television
- **Insaf Ben Moussa** from Tunisian Television
- **Randa Hadidi** of JRTV (Jordanian Television)

We thank them for their participation and involvement in the project.

You can discover the districts on the following link: <http://www.multimediamed-cmca.org/>

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HEADLINES

Screenings organised by the CMCA during April



15th April: Screening at Rome's *Biblioteca Nelson Mandela* (part of the *Servizio Intercultura Biblioteche di Roma*) of Laura Halilovic's "*Moi, ma famille Rom et Woody Allen*" – winner of the First Film Award at the 2010 PriMed.

This event has been organised as part of the Rights of minorities project, organised by Babelmed in partnership with CMCA. It looks at the issue of Roms in Italy, France, Spain and Turkey.

16th April: Screening of a documentary from the CMCA's film library about women in Algeria, **at the *Centre Social de l'Agora in Marseille***, with groups from North Africa and Turkey present.

18th April: Screening at the *BMVR de l'Alcazar* of Gregory Fontana and Rachid Oujdi's documentary "*Les Enfants de l'Ovale*", winner of the Audience Award at the 2014 PriMed. This screening is part of the "*Méditerranée en documentaires : carte blanche au CMCA*" cycle, organised in partnership with the *Département Société of the Bibliothèque de l'Alcazar*. The director Rachid Oujdi will be present and will answer questions from the audience.

23rd April: Screening at Marseille's *Centre Régional d'Information Jeunesse*, of Manu Trillo's documentary "*Quivir*", winner of the First Film Award at the 2014 PriMed. This screening has been organised by the CRIJ in partnership with the CMCA.

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[Tunisia / M24 TV: Tunisia's new entertainment channel](#)

At a press conference on March 10th, the M24 Media Group announced the Tunisian launch of *Maghreb24 TV*, dedicated to music and entertainment. It will be transmitted on the Nilesat satellite. The programme director, Wahbi Ben Rhouma, said the schedule will include music videos and entertainment programmes of less than 30 minutes. The channel will also produce video clips of Tunisian musicians.

Tunisian productions showing local music and art will be given priority, though the channel will also be open to other North African productions.

Sources: [*directionfo.webmanagercenter.com*](#), [*tekiano.com*](#) et [*leconomistemaghrebin.com*](#)

[Israel / i24News: Paul Amar starts work](#)



The journalist Paul Amar, formerly news-reader on France2 and host of two France5 magazines “*Revu et corrigé*” and “*19h Paul Amar*”, comes to i24news, an international news channel broadcast in French, English and Arabic, launched by Patrick Drahi. Amar will spend a few months working on the organization and editorial aspects as well as the new schedule so “*the channel can strengthen its conquest of French and international audiences.*” He will then take on the job of the channel's

director of news.

Sources: [*cbnews.fr*](#), [*lefigaro.fr*](#), [*israelvalley.com*](#)

[France / Via Stella: Audience growth in Corsica](#)



Via Stella, France Télévisions' channel for Corsica and the Mediterranean, has announced “*the audience share in its territory for the period September-December 2014 reached 5.9%, up 1.3 points in one year.*” The channel added it “*occupies the third position of most-watched channels in Corsica*” with a cumulative audience of 34.5% -- up 7.9% in a year. Meanwhile, the cumulative audience of *France3 Corse* and *ViaStella* at midday is 37.8%, rising to 58.9% between 7.00p.m. and 7.15p.m. The

evening regional news on *Via Stella* had a record audience of 41.7% of the total audience.

Source: *France 3*, *satellifax*



France / TV5MONDE strengthens its success in North Africa

According to the 2014 *Maghreboscope*, TV5MONDE has maintained its position as the leading French-language channel in North Africa, with 10.5% of the weekly audience aged 15 years and over, an increase of 3.6 points compared to 2013. In the Executives and Managers category, TV5MONDE is also the most popular French-language channel in North Africa with 43.3% of those who watch it every week.

In Algeria

Every week TV5MONDE brings together 6.4% of Algerians aged 15 and over, an increase of 2.3 points over 2013. TV5MONDE is now the leading French-language channel in Algeria.

In Morocco

The weekly cumulative audience of TV5MONDE for 15-year olds and over reached 12.6% (up 5.6 points) in 2014. TV5MONDE thus maintains its position as leading French-language channel and records its highest audience in Morocco since the measurements began in 2010.

In Tunisia

13.8% of the population watches TV5MONDE every week, up 2.4 points. TV5MONDE ranks second in the French-language listings.

TV5MONDE's very good results in North Africa, supplemented by those of *France24*, which also rose over the same period, show once again audience's attachment to the complementary package of channels offered by TV5MONDE and *France24*, which continues to attract an increasing number of viewers across the region. TV5MONDE Maghreb / Orient is available in French by satellite via Arabsat and Nilesat and on the IPTV networks of *Maroc Telecom*.

Source: Communiqué de presse TV5MONDE



France / Partnership agreement between the Institut du monde arabe and France Médias Monde

On Tuesday, March 31st, Jack Lang, chair of the *Institut du monde arabe* (IMA) and Marie-Christine Saragosse, chair of *France Médias Monde*, signed a partnership agreement to strengthen cooperation. The *France Médias Monde* Group includes *France24*, a trilingual news channel, *RFI*, a global radio station, and *Monte Carlo Doualiya*, a general-interest radio station in Arabic.

The agreement is for a renewable period of two years to “promote and supervise their partnerships and develop new collaborations.” The latter will be in different forms: establishing “a close partnership” between *France Médias Monde*’s channels and the IMA’s activities, while also developing “editorial projects by outsourcing certain programmes within the IMA, collaboration on learning Arabic and French.”

Source: La lettre de l'audiovisuel, Satellifax

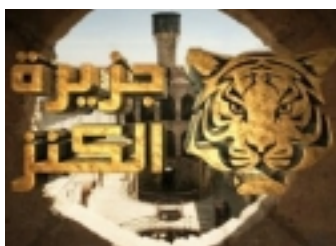
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[Morocco / Morocco has its own equivalent of “Fort Boyard”](#)

“Jazirat Al Kanz” is the new programme from 2M, on air since February 24th. It's the Moroccan version of a popular French game-show “Fort Boyard”, already adapted in many countries. Filmed entirely in the famous Fort Boyard near La Rochelle in France during the summer 2014, it consists of ten weekly 52-minute prime-time slots. Several teams of five personalities and unknowns confront the various physical and mental tests so as to gain access to the treasure room. All profit from the series goes to a national charity. The show

has been “Moroccanised” with its sets and costumes ... *Passe-partout* and *Passe-muraille* are present, however Father Fouras becomes Hdidane, played by Kamal Kadimi. Audience ratings reached a record 6.6 million viewers during the broadcast of the fourth episode.

Sources: [le360.ma](#), [aujourd'hui.ma](#), [leconomiste.com](#) et [huffpostmaghreb.com](#)



[Morocco / The series “L’Couple” discontinued](#)

The series “L’Couple” directed by Amir Rouani and broadcast on 2M during Ramadan will not have a third season. The series centred on a Moroccan couple in their sixties, Lhaj Kabbour and Chaibia, going about their everyday life in a humorous way. Hassan El Fad, the actor who plays the character of Lhaj Kabbour, said on the “news website Al Yaoum24 that he doesn't have the time and prefers to develop other projects.” However, the character of Kabbour will not be abandoned.

He is expected to return in a new project, this time accompanied by a certain “Habib”. Transmission date is not yet determined.

Sources: [telquel.ma](#), [bladi.net](#)



[The April contents of *Méditerranée*](#)

Turkey President Erdogan's opponents have denounced his increasingly marked shift towards authoritarianism. Attacks on secularism, individual freedoms, freedom of the press – since the Taksim Square demonstrations, protest has continued unabated against the ruling AKP party. Prosecutions for insulting the head of state have multiplied, recently three people were arrested for insulting the president on the social networks.

Slovenia One of five European countries which produce the least amount of household waste per capita, Slovenia has made environmental awareness a priority: the impact of the environment on health is taught from an early age.

There are local initiatives for sorting waste, and in this sphere as in others, the government leads by example

The Cerdanya Hospital A first in Europe for cross-border cooperation: in September 2014 a hospital with the very best services opened on the Cerdanya plateau between Catalonia (Spain) and the Languedoc Roussillon (France). It all started in the 2000's when the Spanish region was discussing the future of the hospital at Puigcerda. 33,000 people live on this territory divided between two countries.

Italy The environment and energy savings are key issues for a new data processing unit. Owned by ENI, the Italian oil company, and situated in Pavese, in the middle of rice fields, the DATA CENTER was officially opened after three years of work. It is the largest in Europe and one of the most modern in the world.

ERASMUS The austerity measures affecting European countries are having consequences for higher education. Many countries have had to reduce their funding for ERASMUS. Given the programme is so popular, the European Union has allocated €14 billion until 2020.

Esma Redzepova Born in Skopje, Macedonia's capital, Esma Redzepova is known internationally as the queen of gypsy music. In her own country she's more than just a musician, she's a star. We met her in her home-town. The woman who recorded her first album in 1961 talks about her career fighting for Roma music.

Exhibition Originating in Spain, the Borgia family were at the very centre of the Italian Renaissance. At the *Musée Maillol* in Paris, more than 70 pieces (paintings, sculptures, drawings, objects) inspired by this scandalous, blood-thirsty family have been brought together.

An exhibition which presents another aspect of Lucrezia Borgia and her family.

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Italy / Mediaset: net income increase



The Mediaset Group ended the fiscal year 2014 with a net profit of €23.7 million, an increase of €8.9 million over 2013. Consolidated revenue remains almost unchanged: €3,414.4 billion against €3,414.7 billion in 2013. The group will donate a dividend of €0.02 per share. Debt declined from €1.4 billion to €861.4 million. Despite the recovery in the advertising market, Mediaset noted that advertising revenues are difficult to predict. Marco Giordani, the CFO, said that rather than selling the entire business, the Group is seeking a partnership “to strengthen Mediaste Premium pay-TV operations”.

Sources: *ilgiornale.it* et *satellifax*

France - Israel / Partnership between TF1, Ryan Seacrest Productions and Armoza Formats for a TV game

The American production company Ryan Seacrest Productions, the French TF1 and the Israeli Armoza Formats have partnered to develop a new TV game “*Babushka*”. It will be presented at MIPTV, the international television exhibition, in Cannes from April 13th to 16th.

The game is based on Russian dolls. Candidates face ten of them. Each doll is opened by a correct answer to a general culture question, but only eight of the dolls contain a prize. If a contestant chooses an empty doll, all his or her accumulated winnings are lost. TF1 and Armoza have already joined in the past to develop another game, “*The People's Choice*”.

Sources: *ozap.com*, *variety.com* et *hollywoodreporter.com*

France / NextRadioTV: purchase of the VODEO platform



In a statement on March 5th, the NextRadioTV Group announced it has purchased VODEO from the Figaro Group. Dedicated to documentaries, VODEO is a VOD / SVOD platform (video-on-demand and subscription video-on-demand) with a catalogue of nearly 5,000 programmes, cable distribution agreements, ADSL and about 3,000 SVOD subscribers.

NextRadioTV's objective is to become the leader of VOD documentary in France, primarily using RMC Discovery, the leading French documentary channel.

Source: *communiqué de presse NextRadioTV*



[France / France Télévisions: contract signed with Universal](#)

According BFM Business, a framework agreement has been signed between the chairman of *France Télévisions*, Rémy Pflimlin, and the Hollywood-based production company Universal, a contract previously held by TF1. The agreement allows France's public TV channels to have first choice of the studio's new series.

Thus series currently in production, such as “*Shades of Blue*”, a detective series starring Jennifer Lopez; a medical drama “*Heart Matters*”; “*Unveiled*” or “*Warrior*” could be broadcast on France2 and France4 if *France Télévisions* wants. TF1 will keep the series it has already acquired.

Sources: *bfmtv.com* et *tvmag.lefigaro.fr*

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[Morocco / Evaluation of Moroccan film production in 2014](#)

Sarim Fassi Fihri, head of the *Centre Cinématographique Marocain*, announced a record investment in film and television productions shot in Morocco in 2014. 38 foreign productions were made there: 27 feature films (*Mission Impossible 5*, *American Sniper*, *Exodus*, *Queen of the Desert*) and 11 series (*Transporter*, *Odyssey*). In all, 1.17 billion dirhams were generated by foreign productions against 220.90 million in 2013.

However, returns and tickets sold in Moroccan cinemas are down, with 1.64 million entries in 2014, a decrease of 9% compared to the previous year and a million people fewer than 2009. In late 2014 Morocco had only 32 cinemas, the most important of which are in Casablanca, Marrakesh, Fez and Rabat, against 245 in 1988.

Sources: [*ecrannoir.fr*](#), [*leconomiste.com*](#)



[Morocco/ Filming Larry Charles' "Army of One"](#)

Morocco is the base location for Larry Charles' new film "*Army of One*" with American actor Nicolas Cage in the lead role.

This new comedy is based on the true story of Gary Faulkner, nicknamed "Mountain Rambo", a former prisoner of Colorado who sets off alone to hunt for Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. He was arrested on the Afghan border before achieving his goal. The film is scheduled for late 2015.

Sources: [*huffpostmaghreb.com*](#) et [*media24.com*](#)



Tunisia / "Tournez, mesdames": Women film-makers in the spot-light

"Tournez, mesdames!" (Make films, ladies) said Alice Guy-Blaché, the film industry's first woman director, in 1914. A century later, women directors continue to enrich our way of looking at the world. They fight, invent, shatter stereotypes. And their films, full of humour, fury or impertinence, help us discover other realities, other truths.

Women film-makers are increasingly active in films from the Arab world. A film club, "Le Cercle de L'Alhambra" has turned the spotlight on this increasingly large and diverse spectrum of cinematographic voices. Every Tuesday during March, screenings were organized, followed by discussions. Thus audiences discovered, or rediscovered, films like Jocelyne Saab's "Dunia", Raja Amari's "Satin Rouge", Leila Kilani's "Sur La Planche" and Nadine Labaki's "Et maintenant on va où ?", as well as

short films such as Intissar Belaid's "Pousses de Printemps", Nejma Zghidi's "Feu" and Mirvet Medini Kammoun's "Nejma".

Source: africultures.com

France / Arte co-produces Gianfranco Rosi and Dror Moreh's new documentaries



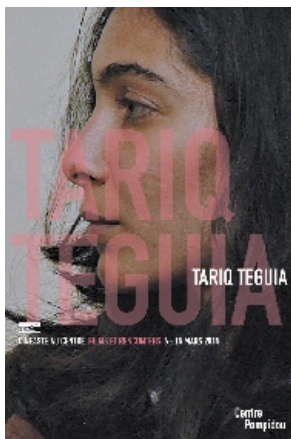
Arte has announced that ARTE France Cinéma and ARTE France will be funding two new cinema documentaries: "Beyond Lampedusa" by Italian director Gianfranco Rosi and "The Corridors of Power" by Israeli director Dror Moreh. Both focus on crises in today's world.

Best known for "Below Sea Level" (2008), "El Sicario, Room 164" (2010) and "Sacro GRA" (Golden Lion at Venice in 2013), Gianfranco Rosi's new documentary looks at

what's happening on the island of Lampedusa, the most southerly tip of Italy, which since the 1990's has become the landing point for the massive influx of illegal immigrants from Africa. It is estimated that in twenty years more than 20,000 people have drowned during the crossing. According to Gianfranco Rosi, "Lampedusa is at the border of a Europe which now turns back those who are so desperate to flee war and famine that they accept the risk of drowning in that deepest of graves, the sea." This Franco-Italian co-production (Les Films d'Ici, 21 Uno Stema Film and Entertainment) should be ready in 2016.

After his major documentary "The Gatekeepers", Dror Moreh's new film follows key political leaders in Paris, Washington, London, Berlin, Moscow and Beijing, whose decisions at key moments of crisis have shaped their country and thus the course of history. "With them, in the light of their experience and analysis, I will try to understand the way in which decisions are made when confronted with crimes against humanity in various countries, in situations where the international community should not, I believe, have remained on the sidelines." (Dror Moreh)

Source: communiqué de presse Arte du 11 mars 2015



[France / The George-Pompidou Centre: Tariq Teguia celebrated](#)

To coincide with the theatrical release of his most recent film *“Révolution Zendj”*, Algerian film-maker Tariq Teguia was the guest of honour at the *Centre Pompidou* in Paris during a 10-day tribute to him in March. Two years ago *“Révolution Zendj”* won the Belfort Festival Grand Prix and the Scribe Award for Cinema. It is about a young journalist working for an Algerian newspaper. *“A routine report about clashes in southern Algeria leads him to investigate the forgotten revolts in the 8th to the 9th century under the Abbasid caliphate in Iraq. As part of his investigation he goes to Beirut, a city embodying all the struggles and hopes of the Arab world.”* The film was screened at the opening night March 6th. During the same evening, cinema-goers saw two of Teguia's other feature films: *“Rome plutôt que vous”* and *“Inland”*, preceded by several short films including an unseen film commissioned by the *Centre Pompidou*: *“Où en êtes-vous, Tariq Teguia ?”* The screenings were presented by the director and ended with a discussion between him and the audience, moderated by film critic.

Sources: centrepompidou.fr, aps.dz et allocine.fr



[France / Kaouther Ben Hania's “Le Challat de Tunis” opens in cinemas](#)

“Le Challat de Tunis”, a first feature by Tunisian director Kaouther Ben Hania, opened in cinemas on April 1st.

The film-maker based her *“documenteur”* (a lying documentary – or mockumentary), on a 2003 news item: *“A rumour was rampant in Tunis: a man on a motorcycle, armed with a razor, was slashing the buttocks of any woman who had the misfortune to cross his path. People called him “Le Challat”, the Slasher. But was it just a local story? Or political manipulation? People either joked about him or were terrified of him. Whether or not you believed the stories, everyone was talking about them. Except that nobody had ever seen him.”*

“Ten years later, in the freer, post-revolution world, people felt able to talk. A young woman director decided to investigate, to unravel the mystery of The Tunis Slasher.”

Her weapons: humour, derision, obstinacy.”

Kaouther Ben Hania has already made several short films, including *“La brèche”*, *“Moi, ma sœur et la chose”* *“Les Boutons dorés”*, and a documentary *“Les imams vont à l'école”*, which was in the final selection of the 2011 PriMed in the reporting category.

Her latest short film *“Peau de colle”* has just received the Best Short Film Award at the 12th Cordoba African Film Festival.

Sources: allociné.fr, africultures.com, imdb.com

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FESTIVALS



Festival of the month:

Catalonia Festival of Arab and Mediterranean Film

From November 3rd to 8th 2015 at the *Filmoteca Catalunya*

Convinced that cinema helps us know and understand the world around us, the “*Mostra*” was created to fill a void in the Catalan cultural panorama by showing and championing Arab and Mediterranean cinema in Catalonia. By screening films made within Arab and Mediterranean societies it offers a fresh point of view on their issues and on the world today. Through culture and art the festival helps break deep-rooted European stereotypes about the Arab world and build bridges among Mediterranean peoples. For the fifth consecutive year, the “*Mostra*” will be held at the *Filmoteca de Catalunya*

(Catalonia Film Library), in the heart of Barcelona's Raval district. This year **Morocco** is the guest country. The festival is not competitive.

To be selected, feature films and documentaries must be longer than 50 minutes and have been made by a man or woman from an Arab country over the last 5 years (no time limit for films from the invited country).

For more information on the Catalonia Festival of Arab and Mediterranean Film, send an email to Meritxell Bragulat sodepau@sodepau.org
Site : www.mostracinearab.com

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[Turkey / 13th International Filmmor: festival of women's film](#)

The 13th women's film festival, Filmmor, focusing on the theme "Women's Cinema, Women's Resistance, Cinema of Resistance", will be held from March 13th to April 27th. Around sixty films from 25 countries, all made by women, will be screened in six major towns: Istanbul from March 13th to 22nd; Nevşehir on March 28th and 29th; Bodrum April 4th and 5th; Diyarbakir April 11th and 12th; Adana April 18th and 19th; Izmir on April 25th and 26th. The screenings are accompanied by discussions, workshops, etc.

The films are shown in themed sessions: "Women's Cinema", "Our Body is Ours", "A Purse of Her Own" and "Sex-ual-ity". Two special sections, "A film show from Margarethe von Trotta" and "A film show from Nahid Persson Sarvestani" pay tribute

respectively to a German and an Iranian film-maker.

The "Purple Camera Award" will go to a promising director who portrays independent women, fulfilled and free – totally unlike the stereotypes shown in Turkish cinema. At the closing ceremony the "Golden Okra Awards" will be awarded for the 7th time for films denouncing male dominance in the Turkish cinema.

Source: filmmor.org



[Kosovo / 7th PriFest cancelled](#)

The organisers of the Pristina International Festival have decided to cancel the event following the announcement by the Ministry of Culture, a month before the opening, that their grant would be cut by 78%. The festival would have been held from April 25th to May 2nd.

In a statement, the organisers said "The Ministry of Culture's financial support for PriFest has, since its creation, been crucial; this radical decision by the new Minister of Culture leaves us no choice but to cancel this year's festival." According to the organisers, the minister's decision shows he does not understand the importance of PriFest "for a film industry as fragile as ours nor the role it plays in cultural diplomacy for a country as young as ours."

As in previous years, the festival would have had special sections on specific countries and one dedicated to LGBT rights, linked to the Los Angeles Outfest. Also on the programme would have been the Best Pitch, the Pristina Film Forum co-production market, workshops, master classes, discussions and debates.

However, even without a budget the festival will organise screenings at the Tulla Cultural Centre in Tirana, Albania on April 24th and 25th – *PriFest in Exile*.

Sources: prifest.org et cineuropa.org



Burkina Faso / 24th FESPACO: 4th Gold Stallion for Morocco

The biennial Ouagadougou Pan-African Festival of Cinema and Television (FESPACO) took place earlier this year between February 28th and March 7th.

Moroccan film-maker Hicham Ayouch won the Golden Stallion with "*Fièvre*", a film about "*Benjamin, 13, who decides to go and live with his father, Karim, whom he doesn't know. Karim still lives with his parents and is drifting through life. He finds himself incapable of dealing with an insolent, impulsive adolescent who violently changes their lives in this neighbourhood with many faces.*"

It's the fourth time since the festival was created in 1969 that Morocco has won the Golden Stallion for Best Feature Film (1973 Souheil Ben Barka's "*Les mille et une mains*"; 2001, Nabil Ayouch's "*Ali Zaoua*" and 2011 Mohamed Mouftakir's "*Pégase*"). At this year's event another Moroccan production received awards: Abdelilah Eljouhary's "*De l'eau et du sang*" which won the Golden Colt for Best Short. The Silver and Bronze Colts went to Malagasy director Luck Razanajoana for "*Madame ESTHER*" and Tunisian director Leyla Bouzid for "*Zakaria*".

Algerian director Belkacem Hadjadj won the Silver Stallion for "*Fadhma N'Soumer*" and three other awards for the same film: Best Editing, Best Screenplay and Best Sound. Finally the Bronze Stallion went to the Burkina film-maker Sékou Traoré for "*L'oeil du cyclone*".

The complete list of awards can be found [here](#). The next FESPACO will be in 2017, between February 25th and March 4th.

Sources: fespaco.bf, le360.ma, aps.dz et letemps.dz

Italy / 20th Milan Film Festival: call for films



This year, the Milan Film Festival will take place from September 10th to 20th. To celebrate its 20th year, Fritz Lang's silent masterpiece, "*Metropolis*", will be screened at the *Theatro degli Arcimboli* on September 20th, with live music provided by the La Scala Philharmonic Orchestra. There are two competitive sections: for feature films, only open to first and second films produced after January 1st 2014, and for short films, for directors under 40 and films of less than 30 minutes, made after January 1st 2014.

Out of competition there are also sections which focus on the complex reality of the world's power systems, such as "*Colpe di Stato*" (State (T) error), and film previews, workshops and many other parallel events. Calls for nominations are open for feature films, short films and for the "*Colpe di Stato*" category until **May 31st**. More information at: www.milanofilmfestival.it

Source: milanofilmfestival.it



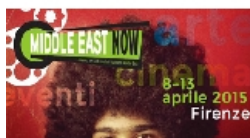
Portugal / Call for films for the 2nd Olhares do Mediterrâneo – Cinema no Feminino festival

The second *Olhares do Mediterrâneo - Cinema no Feminino* festival will be held from June 5th to 7th at Lisbon's *Cinema São Jorge* and the *Cinemateca Portuguesa*. It will be part of “*Festas de Lisboa*”, the Lisbon programme of entertainment organized by the city council. For three days, the festival will celebrate Mediterranean films and culture through films made only by women. There will be three prizes: Best Feature Film, Best Short Film and an Audience Award.

The call for applications to participate in this festival is now open. Films of any kind and any length are allowed, provided they have been directed or co-directed by one or several women and produced after January 2012 in a Mediterranean country or Portugal. The deadline for sending applications is **April 15th**. The registration form and rules are available [here](#).

Source: olharesdomediterraneo.org

Italy / 6th Middle East Now Festival



The sixth *Middle East Now*, a festival for film, documentary, visual arts, music, culinary events and discussions focussed on today's Middle East, is back in Florence from April 8th to 13th. This year's theme: the journey.

45 films from established directors and new talent in the Middle East will be screened, most of them shown for the first time in Italy. The festival will present Turkish films, with a focus on the work of a young Turkish woman director Emine Emel Balci. She

will present her first feature film, “*Until I Lose My Breath*” (2015), and her documentary “*Ich Liebe Dich*” (2012) which has won several awards, including the Best First Film Award at the CMCA's 2013 PriMed. The section looking at filmed journeys will include a series to stimulate focus and reflection, with documentaries about Syria, Palestine, Morocco – and a look at young film-makers from the UAE.

A tribute will be paid to the Iranian actress Fatemeh Motamed-Arya.

A series of events will be organized in the town: meetings with film-makers and special guests, discussions with Middle Eastern experts, performances and tasting of Middle Eastern food.

Sources: middleeastnow.it



Turkey / 34th Istanbul Film Festival

The 34th Istanbul Film Festival, organized by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IFCA), will take place from April 4th to 19th. The aim is *“to encourage the development of Turkish films, helping them achieve international recognition, and to encourage quality films in the Turkish market.”* The two-week event will screen 204 films from 62 different countries divided into 20 sections.

This year's event will honour the late poet Onat Kutlar, the festival's co-founder and founder of the Turkish film library, offering a new award in his memory, the FIPRESCI Prize.

This year, for the first time, there will be a competition exclusively for documentaries, “National Documentary”, in addition to the usual three competitive sections.

The programme includes an international competition, with the “Golden Tulip” for Best Film given in memory of Sakir Eczacıbaşı, IFCA's former chairman and co-founder of the Istanbul Film Festival. Rolf de Heer will be the jury chairman.

The national competition, with a jury chaired by director Zeki Demirkubuz, will choose the Best Turkish Film, the Special Jury Prize and Best Director, Best Actress, Best Actor, Best Screenplay, Best Director of Photography, Best Editing and Best Music. Another jury will decide which film wins the Seyfi Teoman Award for Best First Feature Film. And to complete the competition “Rights of Man in the cinema”.

Apart from these competitive sections, there are four new out-of-competition sections: “Balkans: Cinema of Flames”, “Family Ties”, “Small truths” and “German animated film”. A special category will be dedicated to Argentine director Lisandro Alonso. The festival will be interspersed with discussions and workshops.

Sources: film.iksv.org, aujourdhuiturquie.com, todayszaman.com et cineuropa.org



Tunisia / 15th Cinéma de la Paix

The 15th “Cinéma de la Paix” festival, organized by the *Fédération Tunisienne des Ciné-clubs* and the Tunis Film Club was held in Tunis from March 25th to 29th. For the first time it also relocated to other towns: Kef from March 23rd to 25th and Bizerte from March 28th to 30th. The event, essentially artistic, cultural and humanist, calls for *“a recognition of non-commercial films and the rehabilitation of auteur cinema, films which stand up for the human in a world governed by a frantic race for profit. Its aim is to encourage cultural diversity and understanding among peoples, to foster films from all continents by*

stimulating the development of quality cinema and to publicize alternative, innovative cinema, at the same time discovering and encouraging new talents.”

This year's theme was *“the person and the character on film”*. There were screenings of and discussions about drama films and documentaries, mostly unseen in Tunisia. Seven films from Kazakhstan, Egypt, Spain, Morocco, France, South Africa and Palestine were screened, three of them with the director present (Maria Ruido (Spain), Joseph Awadi (Franco-Moroccan) and Fathi Safa (Egypt)).

This year's festival was also marked by two meetings: one about *“people and characters in cinema”* with Dr. Kamel Regaya and the second with Dr. Safa Fathy: *“Lets de-construct cinema”*. The oriental jazz group “Beyond Borders Band” closed the event.

Sources: cinemadelapaix.com et cinematunisien.com



[Algeria / A charter for the Oran Festival of Arab Film](#)

Brahim Seddiki, the festival's commissioner, announced that the 8th Oran Festival of Arab Film will start on June 3rd. The Algerian film-maker Mohammed Lakhdar Hamina will be honorary chairman. The commissioner also announced that *"a charter for the Oran Festival of Arab Film is being drawn up. It will establish a set of traditions for this event and ensure its sustainability. It will also avoid any*

improvisation in the event's preparation and management." The charter will be *"drawn up by the Ministry of Culture."* Finally, Turkey will be this year's guest of honour.

The programme includes film screenings, a study day on *"the scenario and adaptation"* and a discussion about *"the Arab novel and the cinema"*. There will be tributes to the director Lakhdar Hamina and the writer Rachid Boudjedra. Two four-day training seminars on the film industry will be organized annually in February and September, each time with a different theme.

An emergency plan was launched to rehabilitate the three cinemas where the screenings will be held (the "Saada", the former Colisée and the Maghreb, formerly The Regent).

Sources: [lequotidien-oran.com](#) et [horizons-dz.com](#)



[Switzerland / Gold FIFOG for Tamara Erde's documentary "This is my land"](#)

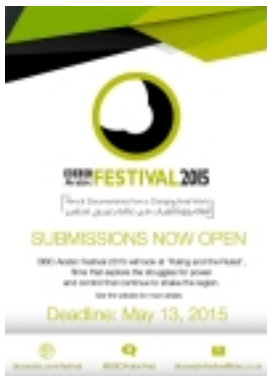
The 10th FIFOG, dedicated to love and sponsored by the poet Adonis, was held from March 20th to 29th. It ended with a prize-giving ceremony on Saturday, March 28th at Geneva's *Maison des arts Grütli*.

This year the documentary jury awarded the Gold FIFOG to *"This is my land"* by Israeli director Tamara Erde. *"With this award the jury wants to highlight the original approach to the subject, avoiding repetition, its realism, drama but also the quality of sound and image."* Erde's film had previously won the "Mediterranean Challenges" award at the CMCA's 2014 PriMed. The Silver FIFOG went to Egyptian director Amir Ramses for *"The Jews of Egypt"*.

The feature film jury awarded the Silver FIFOG to *"Fièvres"* by Moroccan director Hicham Ayouch. *"The jury wants to reward the subject, the fresh language, the interplay, photography, music and the relevance of the subject."* *"Fièvres"* also won an award at FESPACO in early March. The Golden FIFOG went to *"What's the time in your world?"* by the Iranian film-maker Safi Yazdani. Finally, Lyes Salem's *"The Man from Oran"* won the jury special mention. The complete list of awards can be found [here](#).

The festival was interspersed with discussions, seminars, conferences, and workshops on various themes.

Sources: [fifog.com](#) et [lemag.ma](#)



[Great-Britain / Call for films for the BBC Arabic Festival](#)

This festival showcases films and documentaries from the Arab world, made by Arab and non-Arab film-makers, professional or amateur, and will be held at the Radio Theatre in central London this coming autumn.

This second year focuses on the political upheavals which continue to transform the Arab world following the Arab Spring. The theme, "*Rulers and the Ruled: Power in a Changing Arab World*", will explore the struggles for power and control which continue to shake the region. The competition is divided into four categories:

- Short films: the only drama category in the festival: length between 3 and 40 minutes
- Short documentaries: length 10 to 40 minutes
- Long documentaries: length 40 to 90 minutes

- Reportage: maximum length 10 minutes

The list of selected films will be announced in September 2015.

The registration deadline is **May 13th**. More information at: bbc.com

Source: bbc.com



[France / Registration open for Festimaj 2015, the nomadic festival](#)

Every year since 2004, *Festimaj*, the international festival of student films, the largest cinema in the world, offers a journey across five continents to see films made by and with young people aged between 4 and 30 years old. This year it will be held from May 27th to June 27th. *Festimaj* was created by Gilles Lemounaud, director and artistic director of *@rtiste production audiovisuelle* and Anne-Claude Lumet, writer and director.

Screenings will be held wherever on the five continents submissions have come from, while the key moments (the opening and closing, cinema workshops, screenings of the films in competition and special programmes) will be organised in France: the *Pays de Pouzauges* (Vendée) and where the festival originated, Lyon-Meyzieu in the Rhône.

Festimaj is open to young film-makers, film teachers, any contributor to film-making. The deadline to register films is **April 20th**, the deadline for the films to be received is **April 30th**.

Organizations of any nationality – cinemas, schools, French or foreign institutes, film clubs or associations – can organize a ready-made festival locally by registering before **April 30th**. You'll become a co-organizer of *Festimaj* and can show *Festimaj* films in competition (either in French or English) in your town.

All registration forms and information at: www.festimaj.fr.

Source: festimaj.fr



France / Traversées – 31st film festival from the Lunel region

For its 31st year, *Les Semaines du Cinéma Méditerranéen du Pays de Lunel* has changed its name to *Traversées - Le festival de cinéma du Pays de Lunel* while keeping its primary objective of offering auteur films from other horizons.

This year the association *Pêcheurs d'images* broadens its horizons. There are still films from the Mediterranean but also others from other places which continue the noble struggle.

From Friday March 27th to Sunday April 5th drama films, documentaries, short films, for kids, for adults will be screened in the towns around Lunel in southern France or in the Inter-municipal film library.

This year, a special place is given to light. Two DoP's (William Deffontaines, Katell Djian) will show the public the key role light plays in film-making.

This year there are also tributes to Pierre Etaix and Jean-Charles Hue, both of whom will be present. A *carte blanche* has been given to director Elisabeth Leuvrey, there will be a panorama of Mediterranean cinema news and a look at the Great War of 1914-18.

And, for the 15th consecutive year, the festival is organizing a competition of short films open to film-makers from the countries bordering the Mediterranean. There will be several prizes: a Jury Award and an Audience Award. There are the *Rencontres Ciné-Jeunes*, exhibitions and events. An award given by high-school students, the "*Louis Feuillade Award*" will be presented during the special schools get-togethers which punctuate the festival.

Source: pecheursdimages.fr



France / Panorama of North African and Middle Eastern Cinema

This year the Panorama of North African and Middle Eastern Film will celebrate its tenth birthday. It will take place between March 31st and April 19th just outside Paris in Saint-Denis and Seine-Saint-Denis. Audiences will see the latest films from North Africa and the Middle East through a selection of some fifty films from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria and their diaspora across the world, in the presence of film-makers, producers, actors and invited cinema personalities.

This year the festival is also focussing on Moroccan cinema, as a tribute to the films with which it began in 2006: 15 fiction films and documentaries, a *carte blanche* to the *Cinémathèque de Tanger*, a masterclass with Hakim Belabbes and a special guest of honour, Salim Fassi Fihri, head of the *Centre cinématographique marocain* (CCM). A

special tribute will also be made to filmmaker René Vautier, who died on January 4th.

Many other cultural events will enhance this birthday edition: three round tables ("*Distribution of Southern Films: What distribution circuits, festivals and cinemas*", "*Representations of Muslims in French Society*", "*Cinema and Creative Freedom in the World*") and a discussion for professionals ("*Shooting a Short Film in North Africa: What Opportunities?*")

More information on the web-site www.pcmmo.org

Source: pcmmo.org

Candidate Calls

United States / 19th Arab Film Festival will take place in October in San Francisco's Bay Area. Deadline for registration: **May 29th**. Registration and conditions [here](#).

Canada / Les Rencontres internationales du documentaire de Montréal (RIDM) will take place from November 12th to 22nd. Deadline for registration: **May 29th**. More information at: www.ridm.qc.ca/fr

Lebanon / 2nd Talents Beirut will take place from September 17th to 21st. A project fostering film talent from the Arab world, organised by *Association Metropolis* and the Goethe Institute Lebanon, in collaboration with *Berlinale Talents* and *FID Marseille* with the support of the Arab Foundation for Arts and Culture (AFAC). Deadline for registration: **May 15th**. More information at: www.talents-beirut.com

Qatar / 11th Aljazeera International Documentary Film Festival will take place from November 26th to 29th. Deadline for submitting registration forms: **May 1st** and deadline for receiving films: **June 1st**. More information [here](#).

France / 6th residence for writing documentary films organised by *De l'écriture à l'image* in collaboration with the Lorraine Region, the Lorraine *Direction régionale des affaires culturelles* and the town of Saint-Quirin. Deadline to submit applications: **April 20th**. More information [here](#).

France / 26th Sunny Side of the Doc will take place from June 22nd to 25th at La Rochelle. Call for projects for the pitching sessions is open: deadline for submitting applications **April 23rd**. More information [here](#).

France / 15th Festival International du Documentaire de Création, will take place from November 10th to 15th at La Rochelle, organised by *Escales Documentaires*. Deadline for registration **May 30th**. To submit your films, go to the registration platform: www.filmfestplatform.com

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THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN POINT OF VIEW

[Europe / The JOUSSOUR project produces a series of 12 documentaries](#)

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[Europe / The JOUSSOUR project produces a series of 12 documentaries](#)

Producing cross-border docu-mags for a sustainable Mediterranean, "JOUSSOUR" is a cross-border project funded by the European Union through the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin programme 2007-2013 with a budget of €497,044. Managed by the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy), the project is coordinated by COPEAM (the Permanent Conference of Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators) and includes the following partners from Mediterranean broadcasting:

- ASBU - Arab States Broadcasting Union (Tunisia)
- PBS - Public Broadcasting Services Limited (Malta)
- RAI-Radiotelevisione Italiana / RAI Educational (Italy)
- EBU - European Broadcasting Union (associate partner)

The "JOUSSOUR" project supports cooperation in the audiovisual sector and the media through the joint development of TV and internet products which inform people living in the Mediterranean basin about the environmental issues in cross-border regions.

Focused on raising public awareness of the major environmental challenges facing the Mediterranean, the project has helped 12 documentaries be made by mixed teams from 9 public television companies. Each film is about people's efforts to protect the Mediterranean environment.

Sources: communiqué de presse ENPI CBC Med et enpi-info.eu

[Mediterranean / Méditalents5 candidate call](#)



Méditalents is a writing workshop which organizes several work sessions over a period of 12 months to develop scenarios for first feature films. It is held in Algeria, Morocco, the Lebanon and other countries and is managed by the *Association Méditalents* (Morocco), *Association 1000 Visages* (France) and the Ouarzazate Film Commission.

For its fifth year, *Méditalents* is open to film-makers and script-writers of either sex who are:

- Residents and citizens of a Mediterranean country
- Less than 40 years old
- Working on a first feature-film project
- French and / or English speaking in addition to their mother tongue.

As from this autumn, *Méditalents* will accompany between 8 and 12 projects for 6 writing sessions, of which 4 will be residential and 2 by Skype. The total duration will be a year. Each residential session will last 7 days and between each session the chosen candidates must continue writing their script in preparation for the next one. In the two Skype sessions, participants will have either 1 or 2 interviews.

Application forms must be sent no later than **May 25th** to the following address: meditalents@meditalents.net
For more information and to submit a candidature, please click [here](#).

Source: meditalents.net



Europe / Eurimages supports 20 co-production projects

At its 138th meeting, in Lisbon from March 9th to 12th, the Board of Management of the Council of Europe's Eurimages Fund agreed co-production support for 18 feature film projects and 2 documentary projects – for a total of €4.444 million. The feature film projects include: “*Caini*” (Dogs) from Romanian director Bogdan Florian Mirica (Romania, France, Bulgaria), “*Chronia Polla*” (Happy Birthday) from the Cypriot director Christos Georgiou (Germany, Greece, France, Cyprus), “*O gios tis Sofias*” (Son of Sofia) from the Greek director Elina Psykou (Greece, France, Bulgaria), “*6.9 pe scara Richter*” (6.9 on the Richter Scale) from

Romanian director Nicolae Caranfil (Romania, Bulgaria), “*Tajna o Masinovodjama*” (Train Drivers Secret) from Serbian director Milos Radovic (Serbia, Croatia), “*Tereddut*” (Chiaroscuro) from Turkish director Yesim Ustaoglu (Turkey, Germany, France) ...

The two documentary projects supported are “*Vienna avant la nuit*” by French director Robert Bober (France, Germany, Austria) and “*El Dorado*” from the Portuguese director Salomé Lamas (Portugal, France). The full list of supported projects is available [here](#).

As part of its distribution support programme, Scheme I (Support for marketing and advertising costs), the Board has promised funding for 38 films released before December 31st 2015. The total support agreed represents €202,077.

As for the Scheme II (Support for raising awareness of European cinema), the Board decided to support the project “SeeMovies -VOD platform” (Cutaway, FYROM) for €103,000.

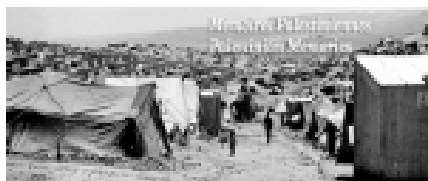
Source: communiqué de presse Eurimages du 16 mars 2015

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THE INDEPENDENT PRODUCER'S POINT OF VIEW

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[France / Looking for funding for Alaa Ashkar's new documentary “On récolte ce que l'on sème”](#)



[France / Looking for crowdfunding for the documentary series “Mémoires Palestiniennes” directed by Hiam Abbass](#)

Beall Productions is looking for funding to make an ambitious series of six 52-minute documentaries, under the patronage of the Palestinian Ministry of Culture and in partnership with the ICFT (International Council for Film Television and Audiovisual Communication, official partner of UNESCO). The series, called ***Palestinian memories***, will

be about the *Nakba*.

The literal translation of *nakba* is *disaster* or *catastrophe*. Here, this strong, symbolic word is used to describe the events of 1948, during which, according to United Nations estimates, some 750,000 Palestinians were forced to flee their homes and 90% of their towns and villages were destroyed.

Produced by Hiam Abbass and written by Jawad Wachill, the series will offer a fresh and unique perspective on this part of the Palestinian people's history, shedding light on a “hidden history” – which was just the beginning of a long process to dispossess the Palestinian people. It is urgent to re-open this page, and by the grace of memory, to imagine a peaceful future.

Palestinian memories is a rare and ambitious memorial project with essential educational virtues. Men and women carry within them a vital part of their people's history, they possess an experience, a knowledge which may die with them. It is important to preserve and pass on this precious heritage: Palestinian memories as an expression of The Memory of an entire people. For the sake of future generations, print this spoken word, this image before it disappears.

The link to the campaign: <http://www.touscoprod.com/fr/memoirespalestiniennespalestinianmemories>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/memoirespalestiniennes>



[France / Looking for funding for Alaa Ashkar's new documentary “On récolte ce que l'on sème”](#)

The production company Freebird Films, founded by Alaa Ashkar, director of the documentary “Route 60 - a journey beyond borders”, is launching a crowdfunding campaign.

Alaa Ashkar is currently working on his new project “On récolte ce que l'on sème” (You reap what you sow). This new feature-length

documentary focuses on the issue of memory and the identity contradictions of Palestinians who are Israeli citizens. The director has become fascinated by the way urban space in the Galilee region has evolved. It is a very personal documentary for which he has chosen to film his own family within the context of the colonization to the west of the wall.

To watch the film's teaser and see the film page follow this link:

<http://freebirdfilms.com/fr/home-freebirdfilms/filmographie/accroche-toi-a-tes-emotions/>

If you want to support this project, or if you are interested and/or would like more information, you can contact Alaa Ashkar at the following address:

contact.freebirdfilms@gmail.com

STOP PRESS



[Morocco / Agreement signed for the “Torno subito” training project](#)

On February 20th in Rabat, “an agreement between the Regione Lazio (Italy), the Rome-Lazio Film Commission and the Moroccan Ministry of Communication, with its subsidiary the Institut des métiers de l'audiovisuel et du cinéma de Rabat (ISMAC), was signed in the presence of Mohammed Khalfi Morocco's Minister of Communication, Fabrizio Lella, regional management training and research, Luciano

Sovena chairman of the Film Board of Rome-Lazio, Sarim Fassi Fihri, head of the Centre Cinématographique Marocain and Abdel Kahbir Berkia chairman of the Rabat-Salé Region.

The agreement concerns cooperation between the Lazio Region and ISMAC for film and broadcasting training. Students accepted through the “Torno subito” call for proposals, in collaboration with Ass.For.SEO, will join the ISMAC campus for courses on post-production and filming techniques in both film and broadcasting.

The training, aimed at getting work in the industry's best companies, will provide “Torno subito” students with experience on the film sets of major American productions shot in Morocco, such as Clint Eastwood's “American Sniper”.

The Regione Lazio will issue a call for proposals to select trainees for the film and broadcasting courses in Rabat, with a variable length of 2 to 6 months, depending on the course.”

Source: romalaziofilmcommission.it

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