



N°135
May 2015

In this wonderful month of May, the CMCA has a wealth of news: a new board of directors, an agreement signed with the *Agence des Villes et Territoires de la Méditerranée Durables (AVITEM)* and, at the very moment everyone is talking about the Greek public broadcaster, ERT, re-opening, we screen the documentary which shows the real reasons why it closed, “*The Lost Signal of Democracy*”, winner of the Reportage Award at the 2014 PriMed.

Also in this newsletter, the new chairman of *France Télévisions*, the conditions for ERT's re-opening, the creation of a new television channel in Tunisia and many other news items in our usual columns.

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

CMCA has a new board of directors

During the recent board meeting, held at Marseille's *Villa Méditerranée* on April 28th, a new board of directors was elected with a three-year mandate 2015-2018:

Hervé Michel, Head of International Affairs at *France Télévisions*, was elected **chair** of the CMCA.

Vice-chairs: Ahmed Djabri, Deputy Director of External Relations at EPTV (Algerian television), and Maria Du Bessé, from Rai's International relations (Italian television)

General Secretary: Karim Abdelhamid, Head of Documentation at 2M (Moroccan television).

Treasurer: Jacques Hubinet, chair of *Les Films du Soleil*, a production company

An agreement signed between Avitem and the CMCA

On the sidelines of the AGM and the Directors' meeting, the CMCA signed an agreement with Avitem (Agency for Sustainable Mediterranean Towns and Territories) to define ways in which the two organisations can work together. Our collaboration would be for broadcasting cooperation in the short and medium term, joint projects and / or calls for Euro-Mediterranean projects, in particular about the economic sectors, the evolution of the media and the broadcasting professions around the Mediterranean basin.

Watch the video showing the signing on the CMCA's web TV by clicking on <https://vimeo.com/channels/webtvcmtca>

HEADLINES

“The Lost Signal of Democracy” **Screening organised by the CMCA** **in partnership with the Alcazar and Marseille's** **Centre Régional d'Information Jeunesse**

Yorgos Avgeropoulos' documentary “*The Lost Signal of Democracy*”, winner of the Reportage Award at the 2014 PriMed, will be screened at the Alcazar Library in Marseille on Saturday, May 30th at 2:00 pm. Thomais Papaioannou, former Paris correspondent of the Greek public broadcaster ERT, will also be present.



On June 11th 2013, the Greek government unexpectedly closed down the public broadcaster, ERT. After 75 years of continuous broadcasting, all radio and television frequencies were suddenly silenced, leaving only a blank screen – a move which shocked Greek viewers and caused waves of international reaction.

[Click on the image to view an extract of the film.](#)

Born in Athens, **Yorgos AVGEROPOULOS** is a journalist and documentary film-maker. He has worked for Greek television as a correspondent during the conflicts in Bosnia, Croatia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and Palestine. In 2000 he made the documentary series “*Exandas*”.

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LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

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[France / Delphine Ernotte Cunci, first woman to run France Télévisions](#)

On Thursday, April 23rd the CSA (*Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel* – France's broadcasting watchdog) chose Delphine Ernotte Cunci to run *France Télévisions* for the next five years. She will take over from Rémy

Pflimlin on August 22nd.

Until the appointment she was Executive Director at Orange, where she has spent her entire career. At 48, this graduate from the *Ecole Centrale Paris*, becomes the first woman to head the French public broadcaster.

Her plan for the company contains several new proposals: those leaving should not be replaced; wage moderation; the reaffirmation of each channel's identity and an improvement of programmes (presumably without increasing budgets, proposing to group certain purchases with *Radio France* and INA). She plans to develop *France 2*, making it the group's flagship channel. For *France 3*, "*national news should become complementary to regional news*," while *France 4* "*must become the reference for the youth*". A digital channel providing 24-hour news may also be created, possibly being broadcast as well.

"*Reaching a younger audience*" will be the "*fundamental objective of (her) presidency*". At the same time she wants "*to make the French broadcaster an international champion*" by developing exportable programmes.

Source : *lemonde.fr*



[Greece / ERT re-opens](#)

"*Rules for the Public Broadcasting Organization*", a bill legislating for the reopening of ERT, the Greek public broadcaster, was passed by the parliament in Athens on night of April 28th to 29th.

Back in 2013, ERT's sudden closure for economic reasons caused shock waves around the world. During his policy speech to the new Greek parliament on February 8th, prime minister Alexis Tsipras announced ERT would be reopened

by legislation, calling the closure "*a crime against the Greeks and against democracy*". So, an electoral promise fulfilled. Replacing Nerit, ERT will thus resume its original place. Also as indicated in the bill, those dismissed (1,550) will be reinstated if they wish. The law also states that "*ERT's budget will total €60 million a year, to be funded by a license fee fixed at 3 euros a month.*"

Sources : *Express, OJM, le figaro*



Lebanon / France Médias Monde strengthens its presence in the Lebanon

According to a statement from *France Media Monde*, the group is strengthening its presence in the Lebanon. With the support of the Lebanese French Institute, a series of agreements was concluded during a visit to Beirut in early April by Marie-Christine Saragosse, chair and CEO of *France Media Monde* and Marc Saikali, director of *France 24*.

A letter of intent has been signed with *An-Nahar*, Lebanon's leading Arabic newspaper, concerning the exchange of multimedia content in French, English and Arabic, as well as shared technical expertise. These exchanges will be implemented over the next few weeks, completing the country's syndication agreement reached two years ago with the French-language daily *L'Orient-Le Jour*.

France Media Monde has also signed an agreement with *Future TV* formalising and perpetuating the programme "Code 24". Launched a year ago on the Lebanese TV channel and presented by Noor and Serge Akl Berberi, the programme offers a weekly selection of themed reports taken from *France 24*, in French with Arabic subtitles. It is a great success.

As part of an agreement with the University of Balamand, *France Media Monde* will bring two students to Paris before the summer for an internship at *France 24*. The students have already been trained in television journalism techniques at the *France Media Monde* Academy in the university's Media Department.

Finally, *Monte Carlo Doualiya* has extended its partnership with *Radio Pax*, allowing it to broadcast on 7 frequencies across the country.

Over the past two years, *France Media Monde* has strengthened its links with Lebanese viewers, listeners and Internet users, in particular through regular outside broadcasts (with bi-monthly programmes like "Beyrouth des Arts" and "Billet Retour à Beyrouth" on *France 24*, or "Le Débat des capitales" and magazine programmes from *Monte Carlo Doualiya*) and by regularly inviting political, cultural, economic personalities to speak on the group's channels. At the same time this anchoring in the Lebanon gives the country itself greater international exposure since these programmes are transmitted world-wide in French, Arabic and English.

Sources: communiqué de presse france24.com, ambafrance-lb.org



Tunisia / A new channel: Attassiaa TV

At a press conference on April 18th Moez Ben Gharbia, head of *Attassiaa TV*, announced the launch of this new private channel which will broadcast on Nilesat. Transmission will begin on May 18th with a game-show, while programmes for Ramadan will begin on June 18th. A generalist channel, 90% of its output will be local productions for Tunisians. Its programme schedule will include entertainment shows, sports and news programmes. According to Moez Ben Gharbia, the channel is being financed by Tunisian businessmen.

Sources: mosaiquefm.net, businessnews.com.tn, tunisienumerique.com



[Spain / Soon a Spanish version of Non Stop People](#)

Non Stop People, a 24-hour channel for news about celebrities, broadcast in France exclusively on the CanalSat bouquet since November 2012, is preparing to launch in Spain on June 1st. *Non Stop People in Spain* will be a news channel 7 days a week, 24 hours a day showcasing contemporary international and Spanish stars. It will be broadcast on Movistar TV, Telefonica's television platform. All the content will be produced by the channel. The studios will be based in Madrid, with around sixty people employed there, including an editorial team of thirty journalists, led by Antonio San José, former news director of CNN +, Canal + and Spanish national radio. The journalists and presenters will be mostly young graduates. The channel will be chaired by José Manuel Lorenzo, chairman of Banijay Spain and former managing director of the Canal + group in Spain.

Sources: *variety.com, elconfidencial.com, cbnews.fr, communiqué de presse non stop people*

[France / TV5 Monde: a major hacking attack](#)



On the night of April 8th to 9th the French channel *TV5 Monde* was hacked by a group calling themselves Cybercaliphate. For H  l  ne Zemmour, the channel's digital director, it was a "*historic attack, something completely new*". The damage was considerable: in a very short time employees' work-place mailboxes were cut, social networks and the web-site stopped and then brought back online with Cybercaliphate content. TV programmes were interrupted. Cybercaliphate first appeared in January when it attacked Newsweek magazine's twitter account, and then broke into the Twitter and YouTube accounts of the US military command in the Middle East and Central Asia (US Central Command, CentCom), spreading propaganda messages. Online activists had probably been working for weeks, identifying which computers broadcast. According to Jean-Pierre Verines, the channel's IT director, "*out of the company's thousands of computers they managed to locate the encoding servers.*" As one of the investigators said, this is not a failure on the part of *TV5 Monde*: "*the TV5 Monde network was well managed, by serious people, but it was fragile: once a hacker got in there, there were no watertight doors.*" Technical teams are still trying to secure the computer systems, which could still take weeks.

Sources: *lemonde.fr, l'express, France tv info*

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[Morocco/ Call for tenders for the Moroccan channel 2M](#)

2M has launched a call for tenders for the production and external co-production of 18 broadcast programmes (drama, documentaries, sitcoms). Of the four lots, two are for documentaries. For useful information and to download the files of the tender go to: [http://e-](http://e-depot.2m.ma/index.php/fr/accueil)

[depot.2m.ma/index.php/fr/accueil](http://e-depot.2m.ma/index.php/fr/accueil)

Bids will be opened on May 14th at 10 am at the headquarters of Soread. For any questions, contact: edepot@2m.ma

<http://e-depot.2m.ma/>



[Morocco / “Notre Histoire, Notre fierté” on Medi 1 TV](#)

Since April 12th *Medi 1 TV* has been broadcasting “*Notre Histoire, Notre fierté*” (Our History, Our Pride) a new series on Moroccan history – the personalities and major periods which have marked and altered the country's history. There are four episodes on each of the personalities chosen, and through them we discover Morocco's historical heritage. The first four episodes were about Tariq Ibn Ziyad, the Umayyad army's military strategist, played by the Moroccan star Mourad Zaoui.

Up-coming programmes will look at Sayyida al-Hurra, Abdeslam Ben Mchich, and Ahmad al-Mansur Ad-Dhahbi. The series is in Darija (Moroccan Arabic dialect) and aims to be both intergenerational and educational – a programme bringing together the whole family. To encourage viewers to go deeper into the subject, the channel has also created a website for the series, explaining Morocco's history.

Souces: medi1tv.com, lemag.ma, libe.ma et leconomiste.com



[The Contents of May's *Méditerranéo*](#)

Camp des Milles 2015, 70th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi camps. During the war, 10,000 people were held near Aix en Provence at the *Camp des Milles* and in 1942 some were sent to Auschwitz. Many of the prisoners were artists, who never stopped creating, despite their living conditions.

Today, a memorial pays tribute to them, to make the general public aware so that such horrors never happen again.

Maltese Environment: Lying between Sicily and Tunisia, Malta's first concern has been economic development and tourism. The environment is a recent concern for the government. With the help of EU funding, the country has made great efforts for the treatment of waste and waste water. But today the new government's priority is to improve the quality of the air.

Italy In Italy's Puglia region, olive trees are being decimated by a bacteria which potentially threatens the whole of southern Europe: *Xylella fastidiosa*, identified for the first time in the 19th century in Californian vineyards. The Brussels Commission has already taken measures to prevent the bacteria spreading.

Today in Italy 10% of the olive trees in the province of Lecce have been infected. In Corsica health protection measures are being taken.

Marseille This is where it all began, in 600 BC when Greek sailors landed to found Marseille. Today it is *the* place for meeting people – a vibrant city where every Mediterranean identity can be found.

The old port, pedestrianised for “Marseille European Capital of Culture”, is emblematic of France's second city. A landmark, a crossroads, the Old Port's seductive beauty is unchanging.

UNESCO World Heritage France now has 39 UNESCO World Heritage sites. An international reference, celebrating the quality of these special places. One example is the Gulf of Porto in Corsica, with the Scandola reserve, the creeks of Piana and the Girolata peninsula.

Strict surveillance is kept on the site to preserve these natural resources as much as possible.

Lebanon: In the Lebanon a woman is fighting for sea turtles – in a military zone. It is a spawning ground, and with volunteers and the help of an NGO, Mona Khalil has been trying to make this area a protected nature reserve. She decided to take action when she came back to the Lebanon in 1999 and since then she has not given up, quite the contrary.

MEDELIA : An unusual idea aimed at 7 to 11 year-olds. The *Institut du Monde Arabe* has launched its first video game. A digital journey to discover the cultural history of 6 key Medieval cities around the Mediterranean. MEDELIA is available on smartphones and on the web

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[Spain / BeIN Sports arrives in Spain](#)



BeIN Sports, the Qatari sports channel whose bouquet is available in Qatar, France, the USA and North Africa, will launch its sports channel in Spain on August 1st. Probably the channel will be broadcast on pay-TV platforms. The distribution agreement between Al Jazeera and Mediapro was announced by Jaume Roures at the New Communications Forum. *Bein Sport* will replace the current *Gol 2 International*, which broadcasts the Europa League on Movistar.

Bein Sport may also distribute the Champions League, the Europa League and League 1.

Sources: [mediasportif.fr](#), [rapidtvnews.com](#) et [telesatellite.com](#)

[France / France Télévisions' advertising sales rise](#)



For the first quarter of 2015, *France Télévisions'* net advertising sales revenue rose 4.5% compared to 2014, reaching €65.2 million. The increase is partly due to improved audience ratings for *France 5* and particularly *France 2*, but also to the company's move to digital. In two

years advertising sales for digital content have doubled. For the first quarter they amounted to €2.7 million, accounting for 7% of total global advertising turnover.

Sources: [lefigaro.fr](#) et [satellifax](#)

[France / Numéro 23: sale and purchase](#)



On April 2nd there was an announcement about the forthcoming sale of the DTT channel *Numéro 23*. Pascal Houzelot, boss of *Numéro 23*, has apparently entered exclusive negotiations with the *NextRadioTV* group who run *BFM TV*, *RMC* and *RMC Découverte*. The group could be willing pay €88.3 million for the channel, split two ways: €48.3 million cash and €40 million as convertible bond.

But the deal does not please everyone. *Numéro 23* is one of the 6 frequencies and authorizations given away free by France's broadcasting watchdog, the CSA (*Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel*) in 2012. This is not the first time a channel has sold its frequency for a large sum. In 2013 legislation was passed setting a minimum period of two and a half years before it could be sold, plus a 5% tax on any capital gains. The heads of TF1, M6 and Canal Plus consider this sale as "a perversion of the law". They have sent a joint letter to the CSA asking it to refuse the sale.

Sources: [ecrans.liberation.fr](#), [challenges.fr](#), [lexpress.fr](#), [lefigaro.fr](#) et [lemonde.fr](#)

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[Spain / Antonio Resines chairman of the *Academia de Cine*](#)

The Spanish actor Antonio Resines has been acting-chair of Spain's *Academia de Cine* since last February's resignation of producer and distributor Enrique Gonzalez Macho, for "personal reasons", less than a year after his re-election.

On April 1st, when nominations closed, the only candidate was Antonio Resines. He was joined by two candidates for the posts of vice-chair: the director Gracia Querejeta and producer Edmon Roch. Thus at the AGM on April 9th there was no vote, members ratified Antonio Resines as chairman for the next four years.

The *Academia* was created by producer Alfredo Matas. In November 1985 he organized a meeting of people working in the Spanish film industry and from that came the idea of creating an organization to promote Spanish cinema and encourage those working in it. The *Academia* was founded in November 1986 and each year awards the Goyas.

Sources: [*elconfidencial.com*](#), [*cineuropa.com*](#), [*wikipédia*](#)



[Algeria / Constantine 2015 : When cinema stirs up the past](#)

For 2015 Constantine has become "Arab Culture Capital", an event which allows the city to breathe new life into its cultural institutions and showcase Algerian history and culture across the Arab world. During the event there will also be a frenzy of film production in the city, with fifteen films (shorts and feature films, dramas and documentaries) being made by the cinema section of the cultural event's organising committee.

In April, Constantine was the location for four films showing the historic struggles of the Algerians and Constantines. On the main square of Si El Hoes, Ahmed Rachemi filmed the first scenes of his new feature "*Les sept remparts de la citadelle*" in the presence of the Minister of Culture, Nadia Labidi. The film-maker says his film is a work of memory, to "*unearth sections of Algeria's history and its critical periods.*" Through this adaptation of Mohamed Maarafia's novel he wants to express "*the harsh reality of the colonizers, despoilers, the anger of the Algerian, violently dispossessed of his land, and his stubbornness and willingness to fight without let-up to get that land back.*"

Haya Djelloul and Samir Benalioueh's documentary, "*La Fantastique résistance constantinoise à la conquête française*", takes the same theme, looking at the Constantine's mobilization against the colonisers. While in a second documentary, "*Khafaya Qasantina*" (Constantine's Mysteries), Farid Juma explores the older history of the underground passages and caves of Cirta. Finally, on the sidelines of the event, but still in Constantine, Ahcène Osmani started filming his blockbuster "*The Lions of Algeria*". This two and a half hour project followed by a series of 30 episodes of 26 minutes, chronicles the national liberation movement which inspired Algerians from 1945 to July 1962. With the blessing of the Ministry of Culture and the Mujahideen, the project will give new life to the Algerian film industry, with film locations in thirty districts and the participation of nearly 100,000 extras and 300 technicians.

Sources: aps.dz et elwatan.com



[Morocco / Morocco rated in the Top Ten places to film worldwide](#)

After the announcement by Sarim Fassi Fihri, head of the *Centre Cinématographique Marocain*, that in 2014 there had been record investment in film and television productions shot in Morocco, "The Guardian" newspaper claimed that Morocco is ranked among the Top Ten film locations in the world, just behind Vancouver (Canada) and ahead of New Zealand. In the article, the newspaper says that "*Morocco is now the first choice for film-makers looking for Middle Eastern landscapes, much in demand right now with the war in Iraq*", illustrating the point with a photograph of Clint Eastwood's "*American Sniper*" being filmed in Rabat.

Sources: bladi.net et libe.ma



centre national
du cinéma et de
l'image animée

[France - Italy / 8 projects chosen for co-production development grants by the Franco-Italian committee](#)

The committee met in Paris on April 16th. Following a call for applications by the CNC (*Centre national du cinéma*) and MIBACT (General Directorate of Cinema Italian Ministry of Culture), 27 proposals had been sent in (9 French-initiated and 18 Italian-initiated). Of those, 8 will receive funding: 4 Italian and 4 French.

The fund was created in May 2013 by an agreement signed at Cannes between the CNC and the MIBACT and "*is intended to encourage cooperation as far upstream as possible between co-writers and co-producers from the two countries, to foster a rich artistic development, taking elements from the cultures and ideas of both countries. It has an annual budget of €500,000 coming equally from the CNC and the MIBACT.*"

The Italian-initiated projects are Marco Petteleto's "*40%*", Massimilio Zanin's "*Contre vent*", "*Sicilian Ghos*" by Fabio Grassadonia and Antonio Piazza and "*Perfect Season*" by Vittorio Moroni. The French-initiated projects are Chiara Malta and Sébastien Laudenbach's "*Linda veut du poulet*", "*Noir et blanc*" by Annarita Zambrano, "*Sème le vent*" by Danilo Caputo and Simone Massi and Alessio Torino's "*Trois enfances*".

A new call for projects has been launched for a session which will be held in Italy in September 2015. Applications must be sent by email before June 30th 2015. More information on the French-initiated projects [here](#), and for the Italian-initiated projects [here](#).

Sources: cineuropa.org et cnc.fr



[France / Release of “Leopardi, Il giovane favoloso”](#)

On April 8th Italian director Mario Martone's “Leopardi, Il giovane favoloso” was released in cinemas. The film is a biopic about the poet and child prodigy Giacomo Leopardi. *“Born into an aristocratic family, he grew up under the merciless gaze of his father. Forced to study in the vast family library, he escaped by writing and poetry. But Europe was changing: there are revolutions and Giacomo breaks away from his ultraconservative father's yoke. An unhappy genius, ironic and rebellious, he became Italy's best known poet after Dante.”* The film has won the Golden Tamouda in the feature film category at the 21st Tetouan International Mediterranean Film Festival, which took place from March 28th to April 4th.

Sources: [aujourd'hui.ma](#), [libe.ma](#) et [allocine.fr](#)

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FESTIVALS

Festival of the month:

The Italia Prize is innovating !

From September 19th to 24th in Turin



For the past 67 years the Italia Prize has supported and highlighted all genres of creativity and quality in the media.

True to this mission, and aware that society and technology are always evolving, the Prix Italia has decided to create two new awards this year: the Prix Italia Golden Award for new radio formats and the Prix Italia Golden Award for international TV co-productions.

The new radio / audio formats award will be given to the programme with the most innovative but also most provocative features, the idea being to reward audacity and originality. There are no restrictions for type, duration or platform – a programme may be conceived and produced only for streaming and podcast, or could be made up of archive material. The competition is open to everyone: broadcasters, members of the Prix Italia, independent producers, etc. Registration is free, the winner will receive €7,000 gross.

The Golden Award for international television co-productions is for programmes made as co-productions between any Prix Italia member organization and a broadcaster from a different country – or indeed any other partner, such as an independent producer, institution or sponsor.

This year the internet competition is open to everyone, not only to Prix Italia members (radio and television broadcasters) but any non-member, for example agencies or media and communication companies or producers of audio / video content on the Net.

The 2015 internet competition is divided into two categories:

- Best Transmedia Project (a project made for the internet offering a complex and structured transmedia / crossmedia experience to enrich a broadcast programme (radio or TV), a theme channel or any other initiative arising directly from the internet);
- Best Digital Storytelling (digital storytelling projects made for the internet). This category is for drama (eg. web-series, etc.) and non-fiction (eg. web-documentaries, etc.).

To encourage new and digital technologies, the registration fee for the competitions (allowing 4 projects to be submitted - 2 in each category) has been reduced this year to €300.

For more information, the rules of all Prix Italia competitions are available here:

<http://www.prixitalia.rai.it/Default.aspx?lang=ita>

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[Turkey / Cancellation of the official competitions at the Istanbul Film Festival](#)

On Monday April 13th the committee of the 34th Istanbul Film Festival announced the cancellation of the official national and international competitions, the national documentary competition and the festival's closing ceremony. All this after several film-makers had withdrawn their films as protest to the last-minute ban of a Turkish documentary “*Bakur*” (The North), made by Cayan Demirel and Ertuğrul Mavioğlu. The film shows life in the camps of PKK militants (Kurdistan Workers Party).

The day before, just hours before the film screening, a letter from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism was handed to the event organizers telling them the film did not have the necessary registration visa for screening in the festival. In Turkey, a registration visa must be obtained before a film is released in the cinemas, but it is also obligatory for any national production before it can be screened in a Turkish festival, whereas foreign productions are not subject to this requirement.

Sources: [todayszaman.com](#), [aujourdhuilaturquie.com](#), [hurriyetdailynews.com](#) et [cineuropa.org](#)



[Morocco / 4th North African Short Film Festival](#)

The 4th North African Short Film Festival, organized by “*Ciné Maghreb*”, was held from April 7th to 11th in Oujda at the *Théâtre Mohammed VI* on the theme “North African cinema: between culture and future development”. Among the 24 short films in competition, the short film “*Passage à niveau*” (Level Crossing) by Algerian director Anis Djaad won two awards: Best Director and the Award of the Moroccan National Federation of Film Societies. Rachid Ben Allal, the film's principal actor, received the Best Actor

Award for his role as an ageing gatekeeper responsible day and night for the safety of a level crossing. The arrival of a letter changes his life. The Grand Prix was awarded to “*La nuit de la lune aveugle*” (Night of the blind moon) by Tunisian director Khadija Lemkacher and the jury prize was awarded to “*Voyage dans la boîte*” (Journey in the box) by Moroccan director Amine Sabir.

This year's festival paid posthumous tribute to the film critic and teacher Mohamed Dahan. The guest of honour this year was the Lebanon, with a retrospective of the various Lebanese cinema genres. In addition to screenings of short films, a discussion on the “North African cinema: between culture and future development” and workshops punctuated the event.

Sources: [libe.ma](#), [lemag.ma](#), [leconomiste.com](#), [ads.dz](#) et [cinematunisien.com](#)



Romania / 1st National Film Festival for blind people

At present, visually impaired people's access to film culture is not easy. Most films are not audio-described and few cinemas are equipped to show them. But in Romania, the Association for the Promotion of Romanian Film, in partnership with the Cartea Călătoare Foundation, is organizing the first national film festival for people with visual impairments in Bucharest from May 15th to 19th. One of the festival's aims is to encourage the distribution and promotion of films with audio description for the blind or visually impaired. For five days films using audio description will be screened at the Cinema Elvira Popescu and the Cinema Muzeul Taranului, with earphones handed out before the screening. The scheduled films include Radu Jude's "*Aferim!*" which in February received the Silver Bear for Best Director at the Berlinale, two films by Călin Peter Netzer: "*Medal of Honour*" and "*The Child's Position*" (Golden Bear at the 2013 Berlinale), and Cristian Mungiu's "*Beyond the Hills*".

Sources: fnfn.ro et romania-insider.com



France / An Award for documentaries at Cannes

The 68th Cannes Film Festival will take place from May 13th to 24th. This year, there will be a new award, *L'Œil d'Or* (Golden Eye) for Best Documentary across all sections: Official Selection In and Out of Competition, *Un Certain Regard*, Directors' Fortnight and Critics' Week. The driving force behind this new award is the *Société civile des auteurs multimédia* (SCAM) and its president, Julie Bertuccelli, director of the documentary "*La Cour de Babel*" (The Court of Babel). They are working in partnership with the *Institut national de l'audiovisuel* (INA) and with the active support of the Cannes Festival and Thierry Frémaux, the festival's managing director. SCAM's press release says "*Cinema came out of the documentary. Increasingly present on the big screen, increasingly recognized by critics, increasingly loved by the public, increasingly visible in festivals, these personal ways of looking at the world deserve recognition at Cannes.*" This year the award jury will be chaired by the French-Cambodian film-maker Rithy Panh, with French filmmaker Nicolas Philibert, French actress Irene Jacob, Syrian producer Diana El Jeiroudi and the American critic from "*Variety*", Scott Foundas. The *Œil d'Or* comes with €5,000 and will be presented on Saturday, May 23rd at the *Palais des Festivals*.

Sources: [communiqué Scam](http://communiqué-Scam), leblogdocumentaire.fr et lettreaudiovisuel.com

France / Official selection for the 34th URTI International Grand Prix for Creative Documentary



In a press statement on April 16th, URTI (*Union Radiophonique et Télévisuelle Internationale*) announced its official selection.

The pre-selection jury of the 34th URTI International Grand Prix of Creative Documentary, made up of the heads of public service television channels which are members of URTI, met in Paris from April 13th to 16th to decide its official selection of ten finalist documentaries:

- *Book a fugue* (Dite Dinesz) - TVR (Romania)
- *Du grain au tableau* (Branko Istvancic) - HRT (Croatia)
- *Front Row: The school in the swamps* (Joseph Conrad Rubio) - GMA Network (Philippines)
- *Germans are a bit scared of me* (Alban Muja) - RTK (Kosovo)
- *Jimmy goes to Nollywood* (Jimmy Jean-Louis & Rachid Dhibou) - France Ô (France)
- *Little Miss Nobody* (Bernard Balteau) - RTBF La Une (Belgium)
- *Matanga* (Georges Kabongo) - Antenne A (Republic of the Congo)
- *Rwanda, la vie après* (Benoit Dervaux & André Versaille) - RTBF La Deux (Belgium)
- *Taïga* (Hamid Sardar) - France 5 (France)
- *The promise of a happy childhood* (Piotr Morawski & Ryszard Kaczynski) - TVP (Poland)

These ten films will be screened on June 12th and 13th by the final jury. The winner of the Grand Prix, with a purse of \$1,000, will be announced on Thursday June 18th at Monaco's Grimaldi Forum as part of the Golden Nymphs ceremony of the 55th Monte-Carlo Television Festival.

As a reminder, URTI organises the International Grand Prix of Creative Documentary with the support of UNESCO and all the international broadcasting organisations.

Source: communiqué de presse URTI

Call for candidates

Italy / 9th festival of short films "C'é un tempo per...l'integrazione" June 12th to 13th at Sarnico. This festival is for any director whose films (maximum length 20 minutes) deal with the following subjects: the integration of individuals, families, or any people whatever their origins or culture. Particularly welcome and appreciated are films which tackle the subject in a fresh and original way. Registration is open until **May 23rd 2015**. For more information you can contact the festival organisers by email: festival@untempoper.com The festival web-site can be seen [here](#).

Algeria / 13th Rencontres cinématographiques in Béjaia from September 5th to 11th. A call has been launched for producers and directors who want to send their films to the programme committee. To take part, send a link by email to: assoprojectheurts@gmail.com or send a DVD by regular mail to: Association Project'heurts - Maison de la culture de Bejaia - Boulevard Krim Belkacem- Bejaia 06000 – Algeria. Deadline for sending films **July 4th 2015**.

Tunisia / Douz Doc Days 2015 (Documentary Days at Douz), which will take place from October 12th to 17th 2015, is launching a call for documentary films. Deadline for registration is **September 1st 2015**. More information [here](#).

Italy / 9th Terra di Tutti Film Festival, will take place from October 7th to 15th 2015 at Bologna. Deadline to register is **June 15th 2015**. More information [here](#).

Italy / 18th CinemAmbiente Festival will take place from October 6th to 11th in Turin. There are three competitive sections, each focussing on the environment. Deadline for sending submission forms is **July 15th 2015**. More information [here](#).

France / 16th Aux Ecrans du Réel, a festival of documentary films, will be held from November 27th to December 6th 2015 at Le Mans. Deadline for registration is **June 1st 2015**. More information [here](#).

France / 9th Rencontres Internationales Sciences & Cinémas (RISC) organised by the Polly Maggoo Association, will take place from November 21st to 28th 2015. A call for films has been launched for any film (drama or documentary) whose subject is linked to science. Deadline for registration is **May 31st 2015**. More information [here](#).

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THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PERSPECTIVE



Lebanon / Retrospective of Lebanese producers: “Deuxième Rencontre”

In 2012 Euromed hosted a round table on the Lebanese film industry and its productions. Although the Lebanon is reputed to be the second country for Arab cinema after Egypt, the films produced there are still struggling to get shown either locally or internationally. At that meeting Ghassan Abou Chacra, a film industry consultant to the Ministry of Culture and other participants were asked “*How can we attract investors and access (or create) financial support; how can we revive the interest of the public powers and legislators in the need to make available for Lebanese films funding worthy of its reputation? What role can regional cooperation play in strengthening the capacities of a film industry in search of openings and new opportunities?*”

This year, between April 24th and May 3rd, the Metropolis cinema and the Lebanese Tourist Office, in partnership with BLC Bank, have once again been hard at work on this question and put forward an original initiative: “Second Meeting: a journey across world cinema through Lebanese producers”. Antoine Khalife, co-initiator of the project, spoke to *L'Orient Le Jour*. For him, the aim of the festival's programming is to “*go for something bold and show what our producers have been able to do.*”

The selection offered a wide range of films, including many classics, highlighting the role of Lebanese producers both in Arab cinema and the west. The *Deuxième rencontre* organised a retrospective in honour of Lebanese producers who have marked the film industry. So cinema-goers rediscovered classics of French cinema produced by Jean-Pierre Rassam, such as Robert Bresson's “*Lancelot du lac*”, Godard's “*Tout va bien*”, Maurice Pialat's “*Nous ne vieillirons pas ensemble*”. But also those produced by Assia Dagher, Sylvio Tabet, Mario Kassab and many others. By opening the festival with Henry Barakat and closing it with Hasan al Sayfi, the Lebanese team wanted to acknowledge their neighbour and film partner, Egypt.

Sources: *lorientlejour.com, metropoliscinema.net et eurmoedaudiovisuel.net*

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STOP PRESS



Italy / 7th “Les journalistes de la Méditerranée”

The 7th Mediterranean Journalists' competition, organized by the cultural association “*Terra del Mediterraneo*” (Land of the Mediterranean) will be take place from September 8th to 12th in Otranto, Italy. This year the themes of the two categories are international terrorism and press freedom. In the first, there will be awards for the best articles or reports on the military actions of jihadists in international terrorism, the role of women, recruiting young men under 18, supplying weapons and the destruction of villages and works of art. The second category, following the attack against *Charlie Hebdo*, the French satirical weekly newspaper, will reward the best articles or reports on press freedom. Lino Patruno will chair the jury with Partrizia Camassa, Ileana Inglese and Saverio Fragassi.

Anyone wishing to take part in this competition has until **May 30th 2015** to send in their work, which must have been published between January 1st 2011 and March 30th 2015. For more information go to: www.giornalistidelmediterraneo.it

Source: giornalistidelmediterraneo.it

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