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## TABLES

LIFE AT THE CMCA from page 3 to 5

ABOUT THE CHANNELS from page 6 to 8

PROGRAMS from page 9 to 11

ECONOMY page 12

CINEMA from page 13 to 14

FESTIVALS AND SYMPOSIUMS from 15 to 17

THE PRODUCERS' WAY from page 18 to 19

TELEGRAMS... page 20

INITIATIVES page 21

# LIFE AT THE CMCA

## THE CMCA AT THE EUROMED AUDIOVISUAL BERLIN CONFERENCE

When the European Commission turns up in Berlin...

48 hours to discuss Euromed Audiovisual II ; this is the ambition of the European Commission who organized on February 10 and 11, in Berlin, aside from the Berlin International Film Festival, this first regional conference dedicated to the Euromed II current projects. This program has been launched in 2006 to strengthen the cinematographic and audiovisual cooperation between European Union and the 10 Mediterranean partner countries (Algeria, Palestine, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey). Actually, mainly cinematographic cooperation, the audiovisual being the fifth wheel of this program.

With a €15 million budget, for three years (2006-2009), the program is financing 12 projects that bring together various initiatives involving professionals from the cinema industry, in its diversity and distinctness, from the creation and production to the distribution, promotion and commercialization of a movie. Its aim is to establish an enduring professional network from both the North and South of the Mediterranean basin.

The actors of those 12 projects supported by Europeaid, came to Berlin to present the process of their works, exchange their experiences and question themselves about the development, the specificity, or lack of specificity of Southern projects, the financing of the "films from the South", together with a general overview of the financing available, the promotion, screening, market access, the audience education or the training of those Mediterranean professionals.

In the end, about sixty participants, from more than twenty countries of the MEDA zone and Northern Europe.

Among the projects supported by Euromed II, seven are about the training of professionals from MEDA countries, two about the development of the cinematographic industry, two about the promotion of Mediterranean movies with the research of new audience in Europe and Southern countries. And finally, the most important (70% of the financing available), Euromed Cinémas plans to create new markets through supporting the distribution and screening of Mediterranean movies in Europe and in Southern countries. Led by the Moroccan Cinematographic Centre (CCM) and Europa Cinémas, this project will benefit distributors and movie theater managers in 35 countries of the EU and MEDA region. According to the person in charge of the CCM, Nour-Eddine Sail, in 2006, 51 movies has been released in the MEDA countries, and 15 movies from the South has been shown in European countries. The first progress report is thus sizeable, but to Nour-Eddine Sail "*nevertheless the true question is : if the MEDA countries want their own cinema, why ask Europe to solve our problems ?*". Same observation concerning distribution and sales for Mohammed Latreche, distributor in Algeria. More than a hundred movie theatres have been closed in Algeria. Cinema is gone from the population universe. Mohammed Latreche explains how the children reacted when they saw movies' promotional posters. A "drop" that allows the profession of distributor to regain its original grandeur ! Yet again "*the difficulty remains in the longevity of these actions... knowing that the European Commission's program will only last three years* "



**1. Where did the idea of the first Euromed II Regional Conference come from and in your opinion, what needs would it satisfy ?**

It was, for us, about assessing the situation after 14 months of activity, together with the actors of this program so that they have the opportunity to meet and exchange. The Commission wanted to create a new dynamics, to allow the 12 projects to be organized in an experience network. And this is the reason why we invited the persons in charge of the different projects as well as those who benefited especially regarding training sessions. Young and talented people as you might have noticed. We want to show that the projects progress, and that this represents a stimulation between the different projects. After this first year, we are able to estimate the Program's impact on the Euro-Mediterranean industry : more than 280 professionals have taken part into training sessions ; about 50 000 spectators have had access to 300 European and Mediterranean film projections. And let's not forget the project Euromed Cinémas' considerable helping hand for distribution.

**2. When you hear the professionals here gathered in Berlin talk about the state of the film industry in some MEDA countries (the audience disaffection, the movie theatres state of poverty, the missing distribution and sales networks, movie hacking...), how do you appraise the efficiency of the Euromed II program?**

There's still a long way to go, but all those little drops are essential to a great awakening of conscience, while waiting for the process, in some countries, of ongoing reformations to take off and become viable. Financing these projects is also a way for us to talk up values such as open-mindedness, democracy and dialogue. Our presence is not constant, thus professionals and institutions of these countries must assume responsibility and organize to make the projects viable.

Thus, for the first time a brainstorming group is meeting in Berlin ; it is composed of European and Mediterranean institutions, and of professionals of the film industry. We hope their involvement will lead the path for more relevant common politics.

**3. At the moment, there is no such thing as Euromed Audiovisual III, so how can the professionals remain optimistic when these projects really need long-term actions ?**

Indeed Euromed III is not yet planned ; but a reevaluation of future programs is scheduled for 2009 / 2010. Nevertheless, our ambition is not to stick to this punctual intervention policy ; but to help create a development strategy for the sector. Like the president of the Moroccan Cinematographic Centre, Nour-Eddine Sail, justly said " *Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime* ". The countries must feel like defending their cinema. Take a look at Morocco, the State deducted 5% from TV advertising revenue, thus allowing to relaunched the Moroccan production ; the number of movies has quadrupled over 4 years (Editor's note : from 5 movies a year until 2003, to more than 20 last year).

We have also started a series of 8 workshops designed to encourage the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean network, and to think about the problems the audiovisual industry is facing. The first seminar is devoted to fighting movie hacking and the creation of a legal market. The financial support brought to the film and audiovisual industries, the international co-productions, the role played by banks and financial guarantees, the rights management are some of the themes that will be discussed during the next workshops.

[Back to tables](#)

[Back to top](#)

## ABOUT THE CHANNELS

[# Tunisia / Nessma TV the newly born](#)

[# Iraq / Al-Jazeera once again criticized by the Iraqi government](#)

[# Morocco / Cooperation agreement between Medi1 Sat and LCP-AN](#)

[# France / France Télévisions creates its own Foundation](#)

[# France / France 5 : 120 documentaries to come in the next four years](#)

[# France / France 24's website in 3<sup>rd</sup> position among the most visited websites](#)

[# France / At last a short film channel broadcast in France](#)



[# Tunisia / Nessma TV the newly born](#)

Before its creation on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Karoui brothers' channel Nessma TV had launched a great advertising campaign in the press, on display ads, and also on the channel itself, while in experimental broadcasting. Its flagship program will be "Star Academy Maghreb".

The logo, mainly red, Karoui and Karoui corporation's favourite colour, shows the letter N both in the Latin and Arabic alphabets. Display ads read the channel's motto "neither occidental nor oriental", essentially a North African channel. Like Nabil Karoui said, "Nessma TV will meet North Africans expectations and further needs, as opposed to the oriental satellite overloading".

It is available on the satellite broadcasting (Nilesat et Arabsat) in North Africa and Middle East, and will soon be on Hotbird.

[# Iraq / Al-Jazeera once again criticized by the Iraqi government](#)

The Iraqi government, once again, took action against the Qatar satellite channel Al Jazeera. The Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki press office accused the channel of "*being openly hostile toward the Iraqi people and contributing to spread death and loss when defending a truly hostile way of thinking toward the Iraqi people and government.*". The government left it to the Parliament to take drastic measures against Al Jazeera. For the record, it's been two year since the channel was forbidden in the country.

To explain the government's wrath, the report alludes to "programs broadcast by the channel aiming at distorting the facts in Iraq and distracting attention from the crimes the terrorists perpetrated, costing the life of thousands of innocent people.



## [# Morocco / Cooperation agreement between Medi1 Sat et LCP-AN](#)

The international news channel Medi 1 Sat based in Tangier accepted on February 7, a cooperation agreement with the Parliamentary Channel LCP-French National Assembly. The project comprises the cross purchase of various programs, the production of special programs, and regular information exchange between both editing teams.

Each week, the channel from Tangier will broadcast "Partie de campagne", a program from the Parliamentary Channel devoted to the French presidential elections from a media point of view. Its weekly program "Aujourd'hui, rencontre avec...", which deals with prominent North African people (intellectuals, academics...) living in Europe, will be produced from the LCP-AN studios in Paris.



## [# France / France Télévisions creates its own Foundation](#)

The very first Foundation of a French broadcasting group is born. For the President of France Télévisions, Patrick de Carolis, *"it is the first time a television business decides to invest the vast extent of cultural life and public debate, beyond the mere audiovisual creation"*. The action of the Foundation is organized around three points : culture, citizenship and the prospect concerning the future of television.

Culture as a way to make creation reachable and understandable to all.

Citizenship, because *"the purpose of a Public Service worthy of the name, remains the building of the common identity that defines our will to live together"*.

The debate : the Foundation is assigned the task to stimulate people's imagination by spurring them to give thought to the constant changes of the audiovisual universe. A task that *"naturally enters the frame of France Télévisions public service, through an approach deeply aimed at the citizen, keeping close to the spectator, but also to non-profit and cultural organizations"*.

The aim is to convince various companies to join the Foundation as patrons of cultural actions.

From an administrative viewpoint, the Foundation has been declared valid for five years. It will benefit from France Télévisions €3,35 million financial support (i.e. €670.000 a year).



## [# France / France 5 : 120 documentaries to come in the next four years](#)

France 5 has announced the creation of " Empreintes ", a new collection which will be broadcast on a weekly basis from next September. 120 documentaries of 52 minutes each, should be shot within four years, (i.e. almost 30 a year). The point is to introduce famous people who left their mark in our time and society, whether they come from the worlds of art, culture, science, performing arts, sport, politics or from civil society...

Each documentary will focus on a single personality, reviewing their journey and the marking events that influenced their life and future. Through various interviews and film archives, the channel offers a truly intimate encounter, a face to face meeting with the spectator.

The channel already announced that Isabelle Huppert, Patrick Modiano and Simone Veil (photo) will mark this program with the recounting of their life.

The collection remains open to any producer or author. The projects are to be sent to France5 documentary service.



[www.http://france5.fr](http://france5.fr)

### [# France / France 24's website in 3<sup>rd</sup> position among the most visited websites](#)

A study, realized in December 2006 by Nielsen Médiamétrie and which has just been made public, ranks France 24's website third of the most visited international news channels' websites. It ranks right behind CNN and BBC, but ahead of Al Jazeera, TV5, RFI or Euronews.

2.5 million visitors came to the site <http://France24.com> including 1.2 million in France, which means that 52% of the website activity has been achieved abroad.



### [# France / At last a short film channel broadcast in France](#)

Fully devoted to short films, "Shorts TV France" is broadcast in France, since February, 6<sup>th</sup>, via cable television, by the British group Shorts International. It is broadcast round-the-clock. In the first place, the channel will only get interested in short films, but *"soon intends to widened its special events and regular appointments around the universe of the short film "*. The British group stresses its willingness to *"offer young film directors a true visibility, in order to let them enter and find their own place in the film industry"*. Programs will be organized around the catalogue of Shorts International and *"will gain from the acquisition of new short films around the world "*. An artistic board will take part in some programs, it will meet twice a year to *"envisage the means by which the channel could best favour the motion picture development, and especially the short film, in France"*. The board is composed of the French actress Sophie Marceau, the film director Roman Polanski, the composer Maurice Jarre and the journalist Jean-Pierre Lavoignat, former editorial director of "Studio Magazine".

[Back to tables](#)

[Back to top](#)



## PROGRAMS

[# Algeria / A weekly program that is talked about](#)

[# Algeria / Documentary shooting about the women of Beni Snous](#)

[# Morocco / "Nautica", 2M's new sport program](#)

[# Morocco / Challengers third edition](#)

[# Morocco / 2M's programming gets a new news magazine](#)

[# France / Mediterraneo : March issue](#)

[# Algeria / A weekly program that is talked about](#)

"El'fhama", the name of the program, is broadcast every Sunday evening at 9 PM on the ENTV, and lasts 52 minutes. It consists of a set where are presented and commented upon various sections. The whole thing done in a very humoristic tone that, nevertheless, doesn't prevent more serious topics such as unemployment, insalubrious housing or the high cost of life...

Its distinctive feature : nothing's written, everything's improvised. The actors, who, for some, have worked on the very famous show "Badivision", are :

Hacène Kerkache, Mabrouk Maameri, Hakim Guemroud, Abdelaziz Rekaïci,

Salha (Sali) Bennacer, Dalel Remmouche, Smaïl (Wendy) Ben Mohamed, Salim Medjahed.

[# Algeria / Documentary shooting about the women of Beni Snous](#)

Djelloul Haya prepares, for the beginning of March, the shooting of a documentary about the Beni Snous (and especially the female population), descendants from the Imazighens settled on the Algerian-Moroccan border in the Tlemcen mountains. The film director intends to tell, through the age-long movements behind the weaving loom, where are shaped the motifs of their ancestors, the tale of their history.



[# Morocco / "Nautica", 2M's new sport program](#)

"Nautica" is the new 2M's program devoted to extreme sports. Its creators are determined to introduce the general public to the various aquatic sports, but also to national champions, in sports like jet ski, scuba diving or canoe. This 52' monthly program is co-presented by Karim Dronet and Choukry Alaoui.

[# Morocco / Challengers third edition](#)

For the third year in a row, 2M launched "Challengers", a contest for company creation. The contest is intended for managers of less than 2 years old companies, who are aged between 18 and 35, and are the initiators of a company creation project. To the channel, it is paramount to show that there are, among the Moroccan youths, "*budding managers who just need a helping hand to create employment and wealth*". At the end of it all : an amount of money financing a part of the project.



### [# Morocco / 2M's programming gets a new news magazine](#)

"Mais encore" is a new, monthly, news program. The concept is to meet a woman or a man from Morocco or abroad, who can "*get to the bottom of things*" concerning questions that seem relevant to the spectator.

The first edition (broadcast late January) was devoted to Hubert Védrine, one could learn that he discovered politics when he was a child, through the experience of his father, Jean Védrine, in Morocco, during the 50s.

Leïla Chahid (photo), a Palestinian diplomat, married to the Moroccan writer Mohamed Berrada, was the guest of the second number of this new magazine.

### [# France / Mediterraneo : March issue](#)

The show co-produced by France3 (Corse and Méditerranée), RAI, ENTV and RTVE, broadcast in various countries : Algeria, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Slovenia, Switzerland, proposes this month four reportages.

### **Gaza - descent into hell**

In January 2007, the political tensions between the parties of the President and the Prime Minister of the Palestinian National Authority, the Fatah and the Hamas, have degenerated into murders, street fighting, and abductions.

Deprived of strong state-owned structures, the clan takes the law in its own hands, which results into the "târ", an eye for an eye. The clan can count thousands of individuals.

In Gaza, Mediterraneo met with Nader al-Ghoul, a 30-year-old journalist at the end of his university studies whose father was a general and a comrade of Yasser Arafat's.

Today, he cannot go out without risking to be shot... dead.

### **France – Being a Rom in Fréjus...**

A few miles from the Var famous seaside resort, lies a precarious and insalubrious camp. It is the Kadarash family's: brothers, sisters, spouses, children, they are Roms from Romania.

Mediterraneo's spent two days with Lamoya, a 25-year-old woman, mother of four. Bata, Lamoya's husband had left Romania when Ceaucescu was still in power. Back then, in communist Romania, the Roms were housed and schooled, which, today, is not the case anymore, but Bata wanted to be free... he met Lamoya in Italy.

Nowadays, these EU citizens are in precarious situations both legally and financially : regulated residence permit, limited access to employment but, above all, obsessive fear of deportation...

### **Far right : something new to Malta**

In between Gibraltar and Lebanon, nestled between Sicily, Libya and Tunisia, the Island of Malta is at the heart of the Mediterranean world. From this geographical position follows the Maltese identity : a wonderful blend of every different cultures that set a foot on the island. The most beautiful example is without a doubt its language : a surprising concoction in between Sicilian and Arabic.

A cultural prosperity recently threatened by growing xenophobic, almost racist, deeds.

### **Algeria - 1 million homes built by 2009...**

In order to take up the challenge, Algerian Public Powers have unblocked huge financial supplies : 555 billion dinars, i.e. more than €5 billion.

Algeria is facing a serious housing crisis. Apart from the colonial heritage, and the growing demography, the rural depopulation along with the years of terrorism seem to be the explanation to this situation : in the 90s, more than 600 000 people have fled their village. They took refuge in the outskirts of big cities, and built makeshift homes, often without water or electricity.

In order to meet with the country's reality, Mediterraneo went in Mitidja plain, one of the regions terrorism most harmed.

[Back to tables](#)

[Back to top](#)

## ECONOMY

[# Portugal / Prisa buys back its parts in Media Capital from RTL](#)

[# Italy / An Italian publisher established itself in Spain](#)

[# France / €188 million to promote 10 TNT channels](#)

[# France / France Télévision Advertising :10% rise in turnover](#)

[# Portugal / Prisa buys back its parts in Media Capital from RTL](#)

RTL, the radio & TV group, has announced it will sell to Prisa (the Spanish publisher, owner among others of "El País", the TV channel Localia, the Radio Cadena SER and the TV channel Cuatro...) the 33% participation it has into the Portuguese Media Capital, one of the main Portuguese distributor, for an amount of €206 million.

Media Capital is notably the owner of the Portuguese TV channel with the highest audience, the radio group MCR, the Internet service provider IOL, several magazines and numerous websites.

[# Italy / An Italian publisher established itself in Spain](#)

The publisher of "Corriere della Sera", the Italian RCS MediaGroup, bought the Spanish publisher Recoletos (owner of the daily sport newspaper "Marca", the financial newspaper "Expansion" and the free newspaper "Qué") for €1,1 billion. This is not its first acquisition in Spain, since it is already at the head of the second Portuguese daily newspaper, "El Mundo".

[# France / €188 million to promote 10 TNT channels](#)

According to a report by Yacast France, published late January, 10 TNT free channels have shared among them more than €188 million, thanks to the 2006 advertising revenues, that is to say a rise of 292,4%. They have broadcast a total of 604.723 TV spots, with an average value of €311 a spot.

Télé Monte Carlo (TMC) is placed first, with a turnover of more than €37 million and 97 799 spots for 329 announcers.

[# France / France Télévision Advertising :10% rise in turnover](#)

In an interview for " Le Monde ", the chief executive of France Télévisions Advertising, Philippe Santini, has announced that the management turnover was of €820 million, a 10% rise for 2006. As for 2007, he declared being confident, with 6% of provisional growth objective for advertising revenues.

[Back to tables](#)

[Back to top](#)

## CINEMA

[# Morocco / Release of the movie " L'enfant endormi "](#)

[# Morocco / " Sea Perfume " the new Abdelhaï Laraki movie](#)

[# Algeria /Short-film shooting : "Houria"](#)

[# Algeria / "Morituri", sneak preview in Algiers](#)

[# Algeria / A presentation of the documentary "Ames en exil"](#)

[# Italy / "Pompéi" before the filming](#)

[# Morocco / Release of the movie " L'enfant endormi "](#)

"L'enfant endormi" by Yasmine Kassari, young Moroccan filmmaker, has been released on February 14, in many important cities : Oujda, Tangier, Casablanca and Marrakech. It is the first Belgo-Moroccan production of the "Films de la drève". In the main parts, Rachida Brakni et Mouna Ousfour.

This movie is the story of a young bride, Zeinab, who sees her husband leaving the country to live the life of a clandestine, the day following her wedding. Zeinab is pregnant. Waiting for her husband, she has her foetus " put to sleep ". Time's passing, the husband isn't coming back. Those women's loneliness and the harshness of their life can only rival with the greatness of their courage and dignity.

44 prizes in various festivals has been awarded to "L'enfant endormi".

[# Morocco / " Sea Perfume " the new Abdelhaï Laraki movie](#)

"Rih Labhar" (sea perfume), the second full-length movie made by Abdelhaï Laraki, has just been released in Algeria. It is a thriller, a film noir. North Morocco, in a fisher village. The sea is almost like a true character, ever-present. The waves lap gently against the shore and life peacefully runs its course... Until the day a young girl is killed by a drunk driver, Driss. Driss is actually a local Mafia godfather. Follows the parody of a trial, unacceptable for the poor father who's lost his child and craves for revenge...

[# Algeria /Short-film shooting : "Houria"](#)

The Algerian film director Mohamed Yargui have started the shooting of his 26 minute short-film, "Houria", early February in Béjaïa, capital of the Hammadites. He tells the story of Houria, the victim of terrorist violence in a context of social crisis. Beyond her personal story, what the film really deals with is the position of women in society. The main parts are played by Ghania Seroutti as Houria, Lynda Sellami as Lamia and Larbi Zekkal as Houria's father. This short-film is supported by "Algiers, the Arab cultural capital 2007" and is produced by Safina Production.

[# Algeria / "Morituri", sneak preview in Algiers](#)

The forth full length film by the Algerian film director Okacha Touita, "Morituri", has been presented early February in Algiers. It is the screen adaptation of a series constituted of 3 novels (socio-political thriller), written by Yasmina Khadra, an assumed name used by Mohamed Mouleshoul.

The movie brings the spectator back to the confusion of the 90s in Algeria. The story's about Brahim, a police captain nicknamed "Llob", who, at the climax of terrorism, tries to conduct his enquiries in all honesty, challenging the threat induced both by the Mafia and terrorism. The part of the police captain is played by Miloud Khetib.

This movie has been produced in Algeria, by the Minister of Culture, supported by the ENTV and in France by Walworks and the National Center for Film Industry. It also made the cinema section opening of the event "Algiers, the Arab Cultural Capital 2007".

#### [# Algeria / A presentation of the documentary "Ames en exil"](#)

The 52 minute documentary by the Algerian film director Saïd Nanache, "Ames en exil", has been presented for the first time in February in Algiers, during " Algiers, the Arab Cultural Capital 2007 ". This "socio-historical" piece of work evokes the depopulation that occurred in various villages, at the time of the colonial period, when men and young men left for France. Saïd Nanache chose to focus on the poverty that resulted of the French occupation, highlighting the pain endured by the mothers and wives living in those villages.

#### [# Italy / "Pompéi" before the filming](#)

Roman Polanski is preparing the shooting of " Pompéi " (after Robert Harris' bestseller "Fatherland"), he should be starting early summer 2007. Produced by Roman Polanski himself, together with Robert Benmussa from RP Productions and Alain Sarde, the film budget has been estimated to be around \$130 million.

Set in the year 79, the movie focuses on the last three days of the city of Pompeii, before the Vesuvius blast. As the main character, a young engineer in charge of fixing the big aqueduct which provides drinking water to the whole bay of Naples. He is soon dragged into political matters and love stories... The characters' names have not been made public yet.

[Back to tables](#)

[Back to top](#)

## FESTIVALS AND SYMPOSIUMS

[# Italy / 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the African, Asian and Latin American Film Festival](#)

[# Africa / FESPACO : 20<sup>th</sup> edition](#)

[# France / 13<sup>th</sup> Vesoul International Film Festival of Asian Cinema: Prize list](#)

[# France/ Prize list of the 20th International Festival of Audiovisual Programs \(FIPA\), Biarritz – January 23 to 28](#)

[# Italy / 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the African, Asian and Latin American Film Festival](#)

The 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the African, Asian and Latin American Film Festival will be held from 19 to 25 March 2007. This festival is the opportunity to introduce the Italian public to movies from the three continents, often limited in their audience.

The opportunity, for the filmmakers from North and South to exchange. Also the occasion to encourage South-South co-productions.

Four competition sections are proposed :

The full length Award "Finestre sul Mondo" worth €15.000, the documentary Award "Finestre sul Mondo" (€7 500), the African short-movie Award (€7 500) and the African documentary Award (€5 000).

Also, an out of competition section allows the viewing of movies that do not match the competition criteria but convey a different perception of the three continents, together with a deeper knowledge of their social and cultural realities.

At the same time, the festival welcomes for the first time this year, filmmakers from the Maghreb and the Mashriq (North Africa) who, in their work, deal with terrorism and its impact both on Arab societies and on the relationships between Islam and the Western World. To be seen, three fictions on the topic : "Al Marikun" (The Hypocrits) by the Syrian Nadget Ismael Anzor, the Egyptian movie "Dam el Ghazal" (The Gazelles' Blood) by Mohamed Yassine and a European sneak preview, the new movie by the Tunisian filmmaker Nouri Bouzid "Making off", winner of the *Tanit d'Or* at the Carthage Film Festival, last October.

[# Africa / FESPACO : 20<sup>th</sup> edition](#)

Panafrican Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (also known as FESPACO) celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> edition from February 24 to March 3.

According to the organizers, the FESPACO, "*throughout its numerous editions, has striven to guide and support the seventh art's professionals of Africa, creating a frame for exchanges to enhance the debate about the African cinema*". The edition of 2007 concentrated on "*African cinema and cultural diversity*";

In the full-length section, among 20 films in competition, 3 come from Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, including Djamila Sahraoui's movie "Barakat". It is the story of Amel, an emergency physician. She waits for Mourad, her journalist husband but has to take her young neighbour to the E.R, she won't be back until the day after, in the evening. When Amel gets home, her husband is missing... She's going to try and find him in the Islamist tangle.



In the short-movie section, among 16 films in competition, 8 are from Algeria (1), Tunisia (4) and Morocco (3), including the 12 minute movie by Fouad Challa "Le prince de Ouarzazate" about the daily bothersome and adventures experienced by Moroccan or foreign filmmakers.

Finally, in the documentary section, 15 films are in competition among which 5 films from Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The latter is represented by "Sacrées Bouteilles" by Fitouri Belhiba, it was part of the 31 films selected by the CMCA for the International Prize for Mediterranean Documentary and Reportage, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, 2006. The story's about a mailman in South Tunisia, who's passionately obsessed with picking up objects of any kind that the sea has brought back on the shore : bottles, corks, strings, flasks, pieces of wood, shoes... And with all those materials, he creates artworks and turns his garden into a colourful outdoor museum.

#### [# France / 13<sup>th</sup> Vesoul International Film Festival of Asian Cinema: Prize list](#)

The 13<sup>th</sup> Vesoul International Film Festival of Asian Cinema was held from February 13 to 20. 21.000 spectators attended this edition which presented 70 movies, including 30 new ones. The four giants of Asian cinema (China, Japan, India and Iran) were by far the most present, yet a few Mediterranean movies has also been awarded :

- " Le Cyclo d'or " as well as the " Prix Langues'O " (offered by the National Institute for the Oriental Languages and Civilisations, or INALCO) were given to the Israeli movie, "Out of sight" by Daniel Syrkin. It is about the story of Ya'ara, a blind young student, both smart and pretty, who hastily comes back to Israel when she hears the sad news of her best friend's suicide. Ya'ara is going to try and find out the reasons that led Talia to kill herself. A mysterious phone call on the departed's mobile and the discovery of a diary lead her to the unexpected...
- The " Prix Emile Guimet " was given to the Turkish movie "Bes vakit, des temps et des vents" by Reha Erdem, an account about a poor mountain village
- The " Prix du Public " for documentaries has been awarded to "Bonne à vendre" by Dima al-Joundi (Lebanon). To escape the poverty of their country of origin and help their family survive, Sri Lankan women leave and work as domestics in Lebanon. A country whose population counts 4 million people, 800 000 immigrated workers including 150 000 Sri Lankans. Often, these domestics find themselves in an even worse situation when they arrive : passport privation, detention, never-ending working hours only worth \$100 a month....

This movie denounces a new form of modern slavery through the portrayal of three women.

" Bonne à vendre " has been selected for the International Prize for Mediterranean Documentary and Reportage 2006, organized by the CMCA.

#### [# France/ Prize list of the 20<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Audiovisual Programs \(FIPA\), Biarritz – January 23 to 28](#)

Among the very topical themes of the FIPA 20<sup>th</sup> edition, two recurring : the situation in Near East and immigration in Europe. In the Creative Documentary section, the "FIPA d'Or" has been awarded to " *Le papier ne peut pas envelopper la braise* " by Rithy Panh (France), and the "FIPA d'Argent" to " *Lettre à un dictateur* " by Inès de Medeiros (Portugal).

In the section Reportage and Current Affairs, the "FIPA d'Or" has been given to " *Chroniques d'une ville dans la bande de Gaza*" by Stephane Marchetti and Alexis Monchovet (France), and the "FIPA d'Argent" to " *Delta, oil's dirty business*" by Yorgos Avgeropoulos (Greece). " *Chroniques d'une ville dans la bande de Gaza* " has also obtained the " Prix du jury des jeunes européens " and the " Prix Michel Mitrani ".  
[www.fipa.tm.fr](http://www.fipa.tm.fr)

[Back to tables](#)

[Back to top](#)

## THE PRODUCERS' WAY

This section is written in collaboration with the APIMED, the Association for Mediterranean Independent Producers, and is devoted to their projects, movie and documentary shootings, to come or in process.

### NIGERIA, A MECCA FOR FILMMAKERS

Seafilms Productions announced Léa Jamet has started the shooting, in Lagos, of her movie "Nollywood made in Nigeria". Nigeria has become in less than 15 years, the world's second full-length fiction producer, behind India. This movie portrays the Nollywood phenomenon, an unprecedented effervescence, both economic and cinematic. A journey to the heart of Nigerian society.

The project has been presented at MEDIMED 2005.

The company, established between Paris and Marseilles with at its head Valérie Cohen, is working on two other projects :

- "L'histoire de Young Perez"

A documentary written and directed by Michèle Mira Pons. It is the story of the Tunisian flyweight Champion Young Perez, the youngest champion in the history of boxing, in 1931. Despite his tragic end in Auschwitz, this artist of the ring, in his times, personified the dream of thousands of North African. French or Tunisian? Both countries passionately fought over the boxer.

This project is currently in need of co-production and pre-purchase.

- "Le défi"

A full-length fiction of the Franco-Algerian cinema, written by Hamid Achouri and directed by Didier Zuili, with the support of the OREF (Office Riadh El Feth, a vast commercial and cultural centre in Algiers) within "Algiers, the Arab Cultural Capital 2007".

Taught in the tradition of the National Theater School in Algiers, Hamid Achouri is a great actor. A few years ago, Hamid chose comedy as a way to express. "Le défi" is then a comedy about "the clash of civilizations ". The story of a peasant from Bou-Saada, who's going to Marseilles, to find a son he hasn't seen in 9 years.

### A CATALAN COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCERS

The Catalan company Massa d'Or Produccions is looking for Mediterranean producers for a 55 minute TV documentary project entitled : "Un monde de langues : la Méditerranée".

This film proposes to explain the origins of the linguistic and cultural wealth of this region, its present state and potential evolutions. The idea is to show the Mediterranean basin as if it was a linguistic and cultural ecosystem, and to analyse the present day with an eye on the past. The project is co-produced by TVC (Catalan Television) and " Barcelona House of Languages ".

## FIREHORSE FILMS, LEBANON

(For further information, please contact Joseph Saliba : [joseph-s@firehorsefilmsltd.com](mailto:joseph-s@firehorsefilmsltd.com))

Firehorse Films, production company based in Beirut, has just released its latest documentaries :

### **La Vie et la Mort de l'Unité Arabe**

Serie of eight 21 minute documentary films

At the end of the 1930s, following decades of colonial supremacy in Middle East and North Africa, the concept of a united and independent Arab World is emerging. But confronted to the strong divisions between the different countries, the dream soon appears to be unrealistic.

This series attempts to define the way in which ideological or power conflicts and political disagreements in this geographical area, have often given a troubled representation of the Arab World.

### **La Croix et le Croissant**

September 11<sup>th</sup> highlighted a situation that was already tensed between Christians and Muslims. This series, composed of 6 episodes, tries to overcome the growing obscurantism of past years and to give keys to understanding the reasons that led us there.

### **Communautés religieuses**

"Communautés Religieuses" is a series of 14 episodes, each 52 minute-long, about the history, the daily life, the education, and the status of women in societies, social and political structures relative to each religious community.

The series concerns : Druzes from Lebanon, Greek Orthodox from Lebanon, Jordan and Cyprus, Maronites from Lebanon and Italy, Mormons from Salt Lake City and Jordan, Copts from Egypt, Protestants from Germany and Kuwait, Jews and Arabs from Morocco, Bahá'ís from Chicago, Syriacs from Turkey, Syria and Lebanon, Zoroastrians from Iran, Shias from Lebanon and Iran, Buddhists from Thailand and Dharamsala (India), Sikhs from India.

**For further information, please contact the APIMED office:**

**Tel. : + 34 93 244 98 50 / Fax : + 34 93 247 01 65 / [info@apimed.org](mailto:info@apimed.org)**

[Back to tables](#)

## TELEGRAMS...

- On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Dominique Baudis, 59 ans, was elected to the unanimity president of the Arab World Institute (IMA), mandated for three years, by the Institute administrative body. It is composed of six designated Arab members by a High Council of 22 States, founders of the Arab League, and by six designated members of the French State. Dominique Baudis has already been the head of the Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel Français (CSA) from 2001 to January 2007. He succeeds to Yves Guéna, 84, president of the IMA since 2004. Dominique Baudis is a fine connoisseur of the Arab World about which he wrote many books.
- The " Prix Samir Kassir pour la liberté de la presse" 2007 has been launched. Two categories can enter the competition :
  - Journalists – with TV or radio reportages : a DVD or CD Rom of the reportage must be sent in its broadcast, original and complete version. Either subtitles, dubbings or a written translation of the text must be joined.
  - Young researchers : They must give a thorough description of their project in French, including the research objectives, methodology, a summary of contents and a copy of the full document, in its original language version.Candidates must apply before March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
For further information : <http://www.prixsamirkassir.org/inscription-FR.htm>
- Nicole Patin, director ad interim of France 3' fiction department since March 2006, has been appointed permanent director of the channel's fiction programs, that is to say Patrick Péchoux's successor.
- To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the treaty of Rome, France 24 organizes a video report contest, for 14-26 year olds, "Young Reporters in Europe". It is open to students from high schools and universities in the European Union, also to students from French high schools outside the EU and officially recognized by the French Ministers for National Education (France). Each Team must create a 3 minute video report, in French or in English and in color or black and white. The video report's theme is "On the track of the Treaty of Rome ". End of subscriptions on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007. For further information [www.france24.com](http://www.france24.com)

[Back to Tables](#)

## INITIATIVES

### # Europe / "Film Business School Méditerranée" (FBSM) : Next edition.

Film Business School Méditerranée is one of the 7 education projects supported by Europe within the framework of Euromed Audiovisual II. It is the opportunity for Mediterranean producers coming from one of the ten MEDA countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey) to meet key contact persons and to learn financing, marketing, and distributing cinema fiction and documentary projects.

In 2007, the FBSM creates a training session composed of two courses:

The first will be in Tangier, from April 2007, 25 to 28. Focusing on production and finance, it is the occasion for the participants to strengthen their links with European professionals and experts, to confront their projects and to widen their knowledge.

The second course is scheduled for June 27 to 30, in Rhonda, Spain and will concentrate on marketing and distribution problems concerning MEDA films.

20 participants will be selected and will attend both courses.

For further information : <http://www.mediaschool.org/mfbs/index.html>

### # Dubai / "Arabic Documentary Workshop"

Organized by Al-Arabiya channel and O3 Productions, this workshop concerns journalists or film directors with a documentary film project.

The workshop will be held in Dubai in May. 25 candidates will be chosen. The 5 best projects will be produced and financed by Al-Arabiya channel.

Projects must be sent to : [workshop2007@o3productions.com](mailto:workshop2007@o3productions.com) before March 15<sup>th</sup>.

For further information, please visit <http://video.alarabiya.net/ADW2007.htm>.

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