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MEDITERRANEE AUDIOVISUELLE Monthly Newsletter

A summary of this April issue – last chance to send your films to the International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Films; a report on the first session of the “Writing from Archival Sources” workshop, which welcomed seven journalists from the Mediterranean region in Marseilles; an interview with ambassador Jacques Huntzinger, driving force behind a cultural *Etats Généraux* in Marseille next November; a close-up on the International Festival of Human Rights Films in Morocco and the web-site of the month: the International Conservatory of Mediterranean Cooking

Happy Reading.

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LIFE AT THE CMCA

Last chance to send your films to the 13th International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film



Already more than 200 of you have sent in your films for the final selection of the 13th edition of this Festival, organised jointly by the CMCA and RAI television. This year the Festival takes place in the birthplace of Italian cinema, Turin, from the 14th to the 20th June. For late-comers who have not yet sent their films and registration forms to the CMCA, we allow a little extra time – until the **5th May**. The finalists will be chosen by a jury of cinema and audiovisual professionals between the 19th to the 23rd May in Marseille.

A short reminder: five prizes [will be awarded at Turin, chosen from the finalists](#):

- **CMCA Grand Prix: “Mediterranean Stakes” (6,000€)**
- **“Mediterranean Memories” (5,000€)**
- **“First Work” (5,000€)**
- **“Mediterranean Art, Heritage and Cultures” (5,000€)**
- **Special Jury Prize (5,000€), any category.**

A prize (the Faro d’Oro) for the best magazine programme

Two prizes are given by representatives of the television channels RAI TRE (Italy) and ENTV (Algeria) to the finalists in any category.

The international jury, being selected at the moment, will deliberate in the museum room of RAI television in Turin.

A few metres from the Italian public television building, the “Mole Antonelliana” (photo), is 167 metres high with its cupola, and shelters the amazing Cinema Museum; originally, in 1863, the building was conceived as a synagogue! Opened in 2000, it is the first museum dedicated to Italian cinema: 3200 m², 2.5 million visitors.

The Piedmont Region and the Province of Turin are the partners of this 13th edition of the Festival, with the collaboration of the town of Turin and the Piedmont Turin Film Commission.

You have until the 5th May to send your films and registration forms to take part in the 2008 edition

prix@cmca-med.org

<http://www.cmca-med.org/fr/le-prix/edition2008.php>

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[The 1st training workshop on “Writing News Film from Archival Sources” took place between the 21st and the 25th April in Marseille](#)

Organised by the CMCA, INA Méditerranée and Cinéma au Soleil, this training workshop received financial assistance from the Provence Alpes Côte d’Azur Region.

Its aim is to make journalists on both sides of the Mediterranean aware of the importance of

preserving our audiovisual heritage and to help them acquire deeper skills in journalistic narration by making short films on the port of Marseille using archival material from the same image bank. The archive material came from INA, Algerian ENTV and the Marseille association Cinémémoire, which collects film and images from amateurs.

This workshop brought together archivists from INA, professional news writers and film editors.

Seven journalists, sent by Algerian ENTV, Moroccan SNRT, Tunisian television, Croatian HRT and Egyptian URTE, took part in five days of training.

A week of hard work for the five young women and two men, all highly motivated and enthusiastic who, in their respective companies, are general journalists and reporters, while half of them are also programme presenters for their channels.

But equally a very constructive week, where, exchanging their practical journalistic knowledge, each learnt from others’ experiences. And of course and above all, a very warm week.

To make the three minute film on the port of Marseille the journalists worked in pairs: a Moroccan journalist with a presenter from Algeria’s 3rd Channel, a Croatian with a presenter from Egyptian television or two young journalists from Canal Algérie and from Tunisian television.

The result: each starting with the same 40 minutes of archival material on the port of Marseille, their films showed four very different angles: poetic, historic, economic and social. Four subjects where the human was at the centre of a journalistic work. One of the films has already been broadcast, and a report on the week’s workshop was shown on LCM, Marseille’s local channel.

Reda, Farah, Rym, Assari, Hyatt, Marin and Nabila will be back in Marseille for three days next October for the second workshop: how to make a video-report, filming a subject in the port of Marseille and then putting together a film which combines their own specially shot footage with archive material.

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THREE QUESTIONS TO....

Jacques Huntzinger, ambassador, driving force behind the *Etats Généraux* (a consultative assembly) of Mediterranean culture which will take place in Marseille between the 4th and the 6th November.

Marseille, capital of the Mediterranean – for on the 3rd and 4th November, four months after the launch of the Mediterranean Union, all Euromed's foreign ministers will be there. In June the Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean will meet at the invitation of the mayor of Marseille and the President of the Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur and Corsica Region. Then in July it will be the turn of the biennial Euro-Mediterranean Forum of youth, with a major concert by Daniel Barenboim. Without forgetting investment into the Mediterranean: a meeting of Medef, (French employers) at Marseille....

Q1: Jacques Huntzinger, following three similar assemblies since 2006 – in Seville, Paris and Alexandria – you are putting together the *Etats Généraux* of Mediterranean culture in Marseille. What are you hoping to achieve?

The idea of holding the *Etats Généraux* in Marseille came from a raft of events which put the Mediterranean and Marseille at the heart of the project; a meeting between various Marseille leaders and France's desire to show real interest in the Mediterranean and its culture, principally through the Mediterranean Union. 2008, being the year of intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean, it seemed to us a good idea to close this event in Marseille.

There are two aims of the *Etats Généraux*: to debate and to make solid proposals. We are not starting from scratch, since the three preceding workshops put forward a certain number of ideas which now must be taken up and enlarged upon.

These *Etats Généraux* are each made up of eight workshops, with some twenty themes discussed by about 200 participants, people committed to Euro-Mediterranean cultural action, leaders in both public and private spheres working in the cultural domain.

The themes of the workshops are: **History**, memory and heritage; **Images**, audiovisual and cinema; **Written**, translations, books, libraries, written press; **Creators**, artistic and cultural creation, mobility of the artists and cultural products; **Religions** and society; **Modernisation** and society; the **Knowledge Economy**, education, teaching systems, professional training, university; **Values**, cultural identity. Each workshop will produce its own conclusions.

The hard core will be those who took part in the three previous meetings, people working in the media, historians, academics, artists, intellectuals, trades unionists, NGO workers...to whom one must add representatives of the institutions working in the field of culture.

For example I asked the CMCA to organise the workshop on images, audiovisual and cinema.

Q2. How can the conclusions of the eight workshops fit into a cultural programme of the Mediterranean Union and result in solid projects? Projects which will have to find finance, when, for example, the budget of the Euromed Audiovisuel II programme dries up at the end of this year?

First of all, several of the previous workshops' conclusions have been taken up as a term of reference for the Mediterranean Union, such as the project for university space, a Mediterranean Erasmus, or again the European office of youth, a Mediterranean translation centre.... Other projects dreamed up in Alexandria will be re-worked and deepened at Marseille. We must continue the work started in the three previous meetings and think about making these cultural workshops in Marseille a permanent fixture.

Certainly Euromed Audiovisuel II ends in 2008 but, at the end of May the European ministers of culture meet in Athens and we are doing everything to ensure that the continuation of this process is enshrined in the conclusions of that summit. You know thinking about the next European budget begins in 2010. Thus the work of these workshops in Marseille has got to feed the central axes of the next European budget.

Q3: You call for greater cooperation in the domain of images within the Mediterranean region, how do you see that? What can be done to make it easier to share images, production grants, broadcasting – to help the free-movement of works from north to south and within the south itself?

Be at once bold and realistic. Bear in mind the reality of the landscape, which is both fragmented and changing all the time. In the audiovisual world, one must, and this is exactly what the *Etats Généraux* are doing, keep in mind both the very important public sector and the fast growing private sector, make sure our thinking integrates the Gulf satellite channels, the perspectives of DTT...In a word take a survey of the state of the audiovisual in the Mediterranean. I dream a little of a Grenelle [a world-changing conference with lasting consequences] of the Mediterranean audiovisual world to emphasise the major sectors which are developing, while keeping in mind the interests of everyone. See how one can distinguish each one's strategy from the respectful voices, developing co-produced images and making it easier for them to circulate, specific programmes for documentaries, animation...., working on the thorny problem of pirating. Working for a mutual understanding in a "bold pragmatism"!

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LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

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[# Qatar / Al-Jazeera looks at a project for a tiny-tots channel](#)

Having launched “Al Jazeera Children’s Channel” (JCC) a free television channel aimed at Arab-speaking children throughout the world in September 2005, the group now plans to launch a channel dedicated to the very young. It could be launched next year and would be accessible wherever Al Jazeera’s Children’s Channel is available. The channel broadcasts up to six hours of original programmes a day for the young. It broadcasts throughout the Arab world via the Arabsat and Nilesat satellites, and in Europe on Hot Bird.



[# Algeria / The project for a Koranic Television advances](#)

A group of themed channels should begin broadcasting in the coming months as part of a project for digital television in Algeria. President Bouteflika has emphasised that one of these channels must be dedicated to the Koran, providing another interpretation of Islam. The project has been passed to the Algerian High Council of Islam.



[# Greece / Greeks in Germany want sport and young people's channels by satellite](#)

The participants in a conference called “The Importance of Greek Television for Hellenes Abroad”, held in Frankfurt in April, stressed the need to create specialised television programmes for Greeks living abroad. They called for entertainment and local programmes produced by Greek journalists, but above all for programmes featuring the younger generation and sport – more particularly live broadcasts of matches involving the national soccer team. This conference was organised by the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE).



[# Israel / Truce between Al Jazeera and the Israeli Government](#)

Following the Israeli Government's decision to boycott Al Jazeera (see last month's Newsletter), an agreement was reached in Doha between the Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and heads of the Qatar channel ending the dispute. According to the Israeli newspaper "Haaretz", Israel and Al Jazeera should swiftly begin high level talks to improve cooperation.



[# Morocco / New Look and new schedules for the Koranic channel](#)

Assadissa, the Koranic Channel of the SNRT group, is a religious channel with a specific schedule dedicated to an open, tolerant Islam, respectful of other religions. The editorial and spiritual stand follows the Malikite School. It broadcasts at the moment ten hours a day: from Thursday to Saturday from 2.00 p.m. to midnight and on Friday from midday to midnight. This change is accompanied by a new look as well as by a richer and more diversified schedule.

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PROGRAMMES

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[# Morocco / a new magazine for 2M "An Al Odra" and a boost for innovators](#)

"An Al Odra" is the new magazine programme launched by 2M to stimulate dialogue inside the family.

The Moroccan family has its own character. It is born, evolves and lives under the influence of a certain number of traditions and customs which make up its identity. The first programme is about communication at the heart of the family. Is there any dialogue between members of a family? How do parents, the heads of this unit, exchange ideas? What place does the wife have in decision-making and in the education of her children?

To answer all these questions, sociologists and other specialists, with Moroccan case-histories.

["Challengers Innovations"](#)

In 2004 2M created a series aimed at young people to encourage new talent, kindle hope and promote quality. "*Challengers Morocco*" and "*Challengers Europe*" appealed to people with projects and a new generation of entrepreneurs. Following the success of these series, 2M has just created "*Challengers Innovations*", launching an appeal to people who have taken out a patent and to those with an innovatory project not yet patented.



[# Morocco / Filming a TV film "Another Life" and a series "Youm Maychebah Youm" for SNRT](#)

The producer-director Mohammed Abderrahman Tazi has just filmed "Another Life", a film for TV produced by the Société Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Télévision. It retraces the journey of a father searching for his son who disappeared after the bombings in Casablanca. In the principal roles: Mohammed Majd, Houda Rihani, Youssef el Joudi and Abdellah Didane.

The next series for Morocco's principal television channel is called "[Youm maychebah youm](#)". This sitcom shows the comic adventures of an ordinary man who does a different job every day to make a living. The principal character is played by the actor Mohamed El Khiari.



[# Belgium / RTBF welcomes Al Jazeera's Children's Channel](#)

RTBF (Radio Télévision Belge Francophone) welcomed Al Jazeera's Children's Channel into its studios on the 5th of April. The Qatar channel presented live a programme showing the situation of Arab children in European countries, posing the question of their integration and assimilation. Some forty children with Arab parents were on the set to share their experiences. The special 90-minute programme was presented from Brussels, with a studio in Marseille and another in London. A compilation of first-person accounts inter-cut with film reports, the programme gave the children of 2nd and 3rd generation immigrants the chance to share their daily lives with children living in Arab countries. Thanks to interpreters, the children could speak in French, English or Arabic. Jan Figel, European Commissioner responsible for Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism, who was present on the set, reminded viewers that "2008 is European Year of Cultural Dialogue": "I think we must take advantage of every occasion offered to us to improve this dialogue," he said.

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ECONOMY

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[# Tunisia / Media audiences](#)

Between February 2007 and February 2008, Hannibal TV confirmed its position as ratings leader: in Greater Tunis the channel's ratings went from 26.1% of the audience to 32.8% and in Sousse from 27% to 45.4%. At Sfax the channel maintained second place, keeping its 13.6-13.7% share of the audience. TV7 confirmed its second place overall though its share of the audience grew, going from 16.9% to 18.5% in the Tunis area and from 21.1% to 23.8% in Sfax, where it maintained first position. The channel lost ground in Sousse where it went from 18.14% to 10.5%.
(Source webmanagercenter)



[# France / 4.8 million satellite dishes turned to receive the Orange bouquet](#)

4.8 million satellite dishes are already in place to receive the next bouquet of channels offered by Orange. To receive Orange's triple pay offer, homes must be equipped with a dish which receives direct from satellite and have signed up for this offer. A new decoder interfaced with Orange's Livebox will allow not only TV Orange direct from satellite but also broadband internet access and telephone. Satellite broadcast from Orange TV will start in the summer of 2008.

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CINEMA

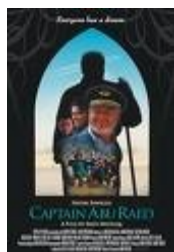
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[# Jordan / At last a film produced in Jordan!](#)

Amin Matalqa's "Captain Abu Raed" is not only the first film produced in Jordan for a very long time, but it is also the first to get international distribution! In the Middle East it could be the most important film of the year. In a promising festival debut it was awarded the World Cinema Audience Award at the Sundance Festival and the best Actor prize for Nadim Sawalha in Dubai. It will be the opening film at Hong Kong's

Filmart and will also be projected at Cannes.

Amin Matalqa, a 31 year-old film maker, took 18 months to write the scenario. The film tells the story of Abu Raed, a cleaner at Amman's International Airport who tells the children of his neighbourhood that he is a pilot. Through the tales he tells, based on what he reads and overhears from a few passengers, the children dream with him and escape from the hard reality of their lives – as long as the story lasts.



[# Morocco / End of shooting for Mohamed Zineddine](#)

The filming of Moroccan director Mohamed Zineddine's "You Remember Adil" has just finished in Italy – it was in two parts, the first in Morocco and the second in Italy. The cast includes Moroccan and Italian actors. The young Omar Lotfi plays the role

of Adil, a pleasant, rebellious young man who leaves his native Casablanca for Bologna in Italy. The film shows the relationship between the north and the south and the difficulties of communicating between the East and the West. In Italy he discovers a world quite strange to him, but he has to learn to adapt to it.

The film's release is set for the end of the year.



[# Tunisia / Preview of the documentary “Samurai of the Desert”](#)

The documentary “The Samurai of the Desert” by Tunisian director Mokhtar Laajimi was screened in a preview at Sousse. Through moving eye-witness accounts it tells the story of Kyokushin karate champion Sadok Kouka. In 52 minutes the filmmaker shares with us Kouka’s sporting exploits in Holland, Sweden and Japan, where he won the world champion title in a sport dominated by the Japanese.



[# Tunisia / Screening of Rachid Ferchiou’s “The Accident”](#)

The Tunisian director Rachid Ferchiou presented his new full-length film “The Accident” at the beginning of April. Lasting 90 minutes, the Tunisian/Moroccan co-production tells the story of Farès, a keen, active young man with a university degree, working as odd-job taxi-driver while looking for something more stable. Life is beautiful, problem-free – until the day his wife gives birth to their first child.....and he takes a beautiful and mysterious passenger in his taxi. His life is turned upside down...

His life is turned upside down...



[# France / Appeal for candidates for the Lagadère Foundation’s talent grants](#)

The Jean-Luc Lagardère Foundation is offering talent grants to people under-30 working professionally in the audiovisual world – the aim is to help them commit full-

time to their own project. Every year these grants give assistance to a film producer (€50,000), an animated film-maker (€30,000), a documentary film-maker (€25,000) and a TV script writer (€20,000). Since the scheme was set up in 1989 152 grants have been awarded.

Registration forms are on line, the deadline for sending them is the 14th June 2008.

For more information: www.fondation-jeanlucagardere.com

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FESTIVALS

CLOSE-UP ON THE.... International Festival of Human Rights Films in Morocco



The first edition of this Festival of Human Rights Films will take place between the 15th and 20th May in Rabat, Morocco. Six days of screenings, debates, events focussed on the non-observance of Human Rights. For Omar Louzi, founding president of FIFDHM, this festival *“is an important event to make our compatriots aware of Human Rights in Africa in particular and across the world in general. We want this festival to be a place for debate between film-makers tackling Human Rights anywhere in the world, NGO’s working on the ground, decision-makers and the public.”*

The festival has several components:

A FREE TRIBUNE

“A film, a subject, a debate” to oppose the violations of Human Rights particularly in Latin America and Africa; to respond to the rise of racism in Europe and to put a spotlight the role of women in the fight against impunity.

Films to be screened include: **Radio Okapi** on the genocide in Rwanda, **Terre Interdite** (Forbidden Land) on worldwide cultural genocide, **Les Maux de la faim** (The Evil of Hunger) on worldwide hunger, “Vivre à Tazmamart” (To Live at Tazmamart) on the prisoners of Tazmamart, “Le Cercle des Noyers” on political prisoners in Mauritania, “L’Accord” (The Agreement) on peace in the Middle East, “Cauiverio, otages en Colombie” (Cauivero, Columbian hostages).

COMMITTED GUESTS

Louise Arbour, High Commissioner for Human Rights, Rigoberta Manch, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, Yasmin Sooka, member of South Africa’s Truth Commission, Halima Boumadienne, European Member of Parliament, Ferhat Mhenni, defender of Human Rights in Algeria, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Rony Brauman, Jean Ziegler, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in

Burma, Mélanie Betancourt, daughter of Ingrid Betancourt, FARC hostage, and numerous other national and international personalities.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The guest of honour is Chile.

The Festival is dedicated to the late **Driss Benzekri**, nominated in November 2003 to head the *Instance Equité et Réconciliation* (IER), an organisation set up to shed light on Human Rights' violations in Morocco between 1960 and 1999.

A **Meeting** will be organised with **Jean Ziegler**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, to discuss his new book "**The Empire of Shame**"

Some twenty **Conferences** on Human Rights will be organised, one of which will be on the suffering of Moroccans imprisoned at Tindouf with eye-witness accounts by former prisoners.

An **Exhibition**: "Books and Paintings on Human Rights" will be open to the public. **60 documentary films** from 20 different countries looking at Human Rights will be screened.

A **Caravan** of Human Rights will visit the universities.

Other Festivals

[# Spain / AMAL 08 – International Festival of Euro-Arab Cinema](#)

[# Iran / "Cinéma Vérité" International Festival of Documentary Film](#)

[# Italy / Marcarolo Film Festival](#)

[# Holland / IDFA : Appeal for participants](#)

[# Spain / AMAL 08 – International Festival of Euro-Arab Cinema](#)

Amal 08 the Festival of Euro-Arab cinema will take place from the 25th to the 31st October at Santiago de Compostela. The only festival in Spain featuring Arab cinema, this year it celebrates its sixth edition. Films from Arab countries are eligible, but also films from other countries if they are about either Arab culture or the Arab world. In 2007, 400 documentaries, shorts and full-length features were screened.

This year eight prizes will be given:

The Best Feature (€5,000); Best Documentary (€3,500); Best Short Fiction (€1,200), Best Short Documentary (€1,200), Best Director (€4,000) and two acting awards (Best Actor and Best Actress). The Prix Amal of €1,500, given by the public, is also awarded.

Registration until 30th June. More information and registration form on the web-site: www.amalfestival.com



[# Iran / "Cinéma Vérité" International Festival of Documentary Film](#)

From the 15th to the 19th October the Centre for Documentary and Experimental Film is organising the second edition of "Cinéma Vérité". This festival tries to show the relation between reality and truth through documentary film. There are several sections:

- The international competition, divided into two parts: films over 60 minutes and films of less, produced since January 2006.
- The non-competitive section for documentaries produced before 2006
- The Doc Market reserved for Iranian documentaries: it offers international distributors, buyers and representatives from festivals and television channels the chance to discover recent Iranian documentary production.
- The Iranian Documentary Fund (IDF): this Fund encourages very high quality productions and documentaries from across the globe. Iranian and international producers and directors can present their projects (projects may be accepted even if there is no producer). The maximum awarded for production or post-production is €20,000.

The deadline for entries: for the festival, the 15th July and for the Iranian Documentary Fund, the 1st June.

For More information: www.irandocfest.ir or www.defc.ir



[# Italy / Marcarolo Film Festival](#)

The Parco Naturale Capanne di Marcarolo and the Cascina Moglioni Ecomuseum, in collaboration with Stefilm and the Piedmont Region are organising "Sotto il Castagno de Marcarolo" (Beneath Marcarolo's Chestnut Trees), a writing workshop for documentaries on sustainable development. It will take place on the 14th June and the 6th and 7th September in the heart of the Park, situated in the Appenines between Liguria and Piedmont. This workshop for documentary film-makers will be focussed on the relationship between man and the land, between the past and the present, looking at cultural, social, anthropological, naturalist and ecological aspects, all from the point of view of sustainable development. The projects must be sent in before the 27th May. Ten will be chosen; the best project will receive a prize of €1,000. The participants will be tutored by two documentary production experts, Edoardo Fracchia and Stefano Tealdi.

For all information and registration:

http://www.parcocapanne.it/workshop_doc_small_img.doc

<http://www.parcocapanne.it>



[# Holland / IDFA : Appeal for participants](#)

The 21st edition of the Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival (IDFA) will take place between the 20th and the 30th November. 5 categories will be in competition: full length features, shorts of

less than 60 minutes, first films and student films.

To be entered films must be documentaries (on 16mm or 35mm) in English or with English sub-titles produced between the 1st August 2007 and the 1st April 2008.

The deadline for submissions is the 1st May and for documentaries produced after the 1st April 2008 the deadline is the 1st August.

For more information: email: joost@idfa.nl or info@idfa.nl

Web-site: www.idfa.nl

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WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH..... www.cuisinemed.com



Throughout history many different peoples have appeared on the shores of the Mediterranean, each with a different culture. All round the coast the habitat gave them similar resources which influenced the development of each civilisation. Centuries of maritime trade and commerce helped them share their different ways of using these resources. Food preparation and the diversity of products have been largely influenced by this continuous cultural exchange. It is thus possible to speak of Mediterranean Cooking

By nature perishable and transitory, cooking is paradoxically an art which has lasted. Rooted in our culture and history, cooking is an integral part of our Mediterranean civilisation. Eating habits, a reflection of the environment, are deeply anchored in the different peoples.

There exists a Mediterranean culinary identity characterised by exchange, the acceptance of the other, the curiosity which is naturally part of the traveller. Local peoples, each with their own way of looking and the possibilities offered by their particular surroundings, have developed their separate eating habits. The journey in time and space researching Mediterranean dishes and products is a voyage between cultures and identities sharing the same geographic origins, showing the common roots.

And yet all of this is seriously questioned today as uniformity of taste and cultures takes hold, aided by mass consumption, fast food and the triumph of the supermarket.

The International Conservatory of Mediterranean Cooking wants to show that other ways are possible, that there still exists the basis of a Mediterranean culinary heritage, a potential for the future. The challenge lies at several levels: cultural, economic (sustainable tourism, agriculture) and ecological (biodiversity).

To answer these challenges the Conservatory has set itself several targets:

- To make the most of the culinary heritage of Mediterranean countries (products, recipes, knowledge and techniques).
- To illustrate and defend Mediterranean cooking and products by encouraging a sustainable agriculture and tourism.
- To build a place for exchange and reflection to promote this heritage.

Created in 1999 by the *Conseil General* of the Bouches du Rhône and local councils from other Mediterranean countries, this network has spread and developed. Today it has members in Cyprus, Malta, in France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Israel, Palestine, Turkey, Tunisia, the Lebanon and Morocco.

Since its creation it has organised many themed demonstrations on a particular food product or way of cooking (“Street cooking” every two years in Cesena in Italy, the Food Festival Market in Turin, “Tapas, kemia, mezze, antipasti” at Hammamet, in Istanbul, Beirut, Cyprus, Tunisia, Greece...)

The Conservatory also organises conferences and discussions (on agro-tourism, eastern Mediterranean cooking....) and initiatives aimed at nutrition and the young (particularly in the Bouches du Rhône).

Today the Conservatory is thinking about the use of images, for the television channels of every Mediterranean country produce cooking programmes.

The Conservatory of Mediterranean Cooking wishes to organise a festival of television cooking programmes from Mediterranean countries.

This festival will combine programmes with cooking events and a historical and sociological over-view on the place of cooking in the Mediterranean.

An event with which the **CMCA** will be associated, since cooking is part of the Mediterranean heritage.

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THE MEDITERRANEAN WAY



[Euromed Cinémas supports the release of 27 European and MEDA films.](#)

During its 9th Committee of Experts, *Euromed Cinémas*, a project supported by Euromed Audiovisuel II, decided to finance the release of 27 films for a total commitment of €435,000, with the aim of improving distribution and the exploitation of films in Europe and MEDA countries. Financial help was given so that 15 MEDA films could be released in the EU, 7 MEDA films could be released in MEDA countries and 5 European films could be released in MEDA countries.

It is worth noting that the first requests received were for the release of films in Syria. With the support of *Euromed Cinémas*, Golden Star will release Youssef Chahine and Khaled Youssef's "Chaos" and Nadine Labaki's "Caramel" in May 2008.



[Documentaries of the Caravan screened during 33 festivals in 15 countries](#)

The 8 short documentaries, fruit of two creative workshops organised by the Caravan of the Euro-Arab Cinema held in Ismailia and in Cairo in 2006 and 2007, attracted the attention of festivals, the public and the media in the whole world. While keeping to the workshops' theme, "The Self and the City", the 40 young participants were given the unique opportunity to produce committed short films. Each film-maker explored, through their film, their own personality, each reflected their different points of view and feelings about the towns where they met and where the films were shot.

Thus the documentaries "Kaako", "A Point on the Map", "El Darawish", "George", "Crack", "Eau de Cologne", "Zizo" and "171" have been screened in 33 festivals in 15 different countries such as Portugal, Holland, Bahrain, New Zealand, Italy, France, Switzerland, Iran, Tunisia, Spain, Qatar, the Lebanon and Japan.

Several of the films have won awards.

Chosen from many candidates these young professionals came from Egypt, Morocco, the Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Syria. The participants were split into four groups each composed of a writer, director, cameraman, editor and producer. During each workshop the 20 participants benefitted from the knowledge and experience of European and Arab tutors and experts in cinema.

The third and final Creative Workshop, also entitled "The Self and the City" should be held this autumn in Cairo.



[EUROPE: call for proposals](#)

The European Commission has published a call for suggestions on how to strengthen artistic and industrial co-operation between audiovisual professionals of the EU and other countries. In particular it wants to find ways of improving the distribution and circulation within European markets of audiovisual works from other countries and, vice versa, the distribution of European audiovisual works in those other countries. The supported activities will cover three major areas:

- Further training: initiatives aiming to build a deeper understanding of the operating conditions, legal framework and systems of financing of the audiovisual markets in all the countries participating in the project. These initiatives should help to form networks of professionals and will facilitate co-productions (total budget available: €580,000).
- Support for promoting initiatives which encourage the first release of films in partner countries (total budget available €700,000).
- Support for the development of a network of cinemas (total budget available €700,000).

The financial support from the Commission cannot exceed 50 %, 75 % or 80 % of the total eligible costs, depending on the nature of the activity.

To qualify for support the proposed action must not last longer than 12 months, begin during 2009 and end before the 31st December 2010. The applications should be submitted by a group/consortium, the coordinator of which must have its head office in a Member State of the European Union.

The deadline for submissions is 13th June 2008.

The appeal for proposals can be downloaded from the MEDIA Desk France web-site or from the Antenne MEDIA in Strasbourg.

Contact: Emmanuel Cocq – email: emmanuel.cocq@ec.europa.eu.

Web-site :

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/media/prep_action/call/index_fr.htm



[“DOCUMENTARY IN EUROPE” AT BARDONNECCHIA: registration is open.](#)

The European Documentary Network (EDN) is organising a forum “The Documentary in Europe” at Bardonnecchia in Italy from the 9th to the 12th July. It will include sessions on pitching, for documentary projects already under development and on match-making for projects which are only just starting. Over three days 21 European producers can thus learn the art of pitching before pitching their own project to a panel of professionals. 55 participants are expected for this event, which also includes round-table discussions, screenings and conferences on documentaries.

Deadline for sending in projects: 16th May.

For more information: documentary@docineurope.dk – hanne@edn.dk. Web-site: www.edn.dk



[AFDESI opens to other European countries](#)

As from the 1st May AFDESI (Association for the Development of Enhanced TV Services and Interactivity) is broadening its remit to include other European countries. Apart from France, the association will now speak for companies based in the UK, Spain, Italy, Switzerland and

Germany. This pan-European initiative is intended to create strong, independent professional associations in each of the countries so as to provide a clear voice for the interactive television industry within the EU and internationally. AFDESI's aim is first to stimulate growth in the sector by gathering and disseminating information, then to improve the spread and sharing of knowledge, personal experiences, different methods and economic models.

The Association will also represent the sector by putting across to regulators and legislative authorities an agreed industry position. It will also identify EU grants and funds intended for production.

For more information: contact@afdesi.org – web-site: www.afdesi.org

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INDEPENDENT MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCERS' WAY



“The One Man Village” in production

Director: Simon El Habre (Lebanon)

Production: Jab Abi-Khalil (Beirut DC, Lebanon), Irit Neidhart (Mec Film, Germany) and Simon El Habre

The story of the rebirth of a village....

During the civil war in the Lebanon, from 1975 to 1990, the Christian village of Aïn el-Halazoun was deserted by its inhabitants. In 1983 terrifying battles around Mount Lebanon, less than an hour from Beirut, set Christians against Druze militias. There were civilian massacres, the population fled, whole villages were evacuated and destroyed. The Christians of Mount Lebanon were forced to take refuge in Beirut.

In 1994 official reconciliation was proclaimed and Christians were allowed to go back to their villages.

Yet today, 13 years later, Aïn el-Halazoun is still a ghost village. Its inhabitants decided to stay in Beirut, although they return regularly to the village to cultivate their patches of earth and keep up their houses....they always leave before sunset.

Only one man has decided to return to the village: Semaan el-Habre.

His nephew, the film's director, followed the main characters with his camera for a year. Observing life in what amounts to a ghost village, he emphasises collective and individual memories. Through the story of Semaan el-Habre the documentary also tells the story of collective healing and the example of a true reconciliation in a country where the inhabitants seem to have forgotten everything about the past.

This documentary is still being made and should be completed by October this year.



Cinéma Audiovisuel Multimédia

Pôle Média Belle de Mai - 37 rue Guibal 13003 Marseille -04 91 05 81 04

Opening of the Science and Image project in the Mediterranean Alp euroregion on the occasion of the Book Film Bridge From the 8th to the 10th May – Turin

During the International Book Fair at Turin, Cinéma au Soleil, a network of professionals and a subsidiary of *Image* in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, will present its project "Science and Image". On the 9th May at 10.00 o'clock, as part of the Book Film Bridge, an initiative easing the exchange of literature and cinema Rights, there will be a conference on the theme "Science and Image" and its place within the European macro-region of the Franco-Italian Alps.

The "Science and Image" project aims to develop a market for scientific films in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, France's second most important scientific area. This project was launched in Marseille last month during the *Rencontres de l'Orme*. What place for the "scientific film in the digital era?"

In Turin Cinéma au Soleil will present the project to an audience of scientists, academics and film producers. Lydie Fenech (Cinema au Soleil), Giuseppe Della Gatta (Turin University), Stefano Passigli (Istituto Luce), Jacques Philippot (Cinema au Soleil) and Dominique Liautard will speak during the conference. They will introduce the main aim of the project, which is to bring academics and scientists closer to audiovisual production, whether to popularize science, make news reports, publish research findings or generate publicity.

This presentation will be followed by an initial work session, allowing participants to see the synergies possible and appreciate the potential for extending the project into the euroregion.

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TELEGRAMMES

- On the 9th April the Governing Council of the Anna Lindh Foundation chose Andreu Claret as Executive Director. Before that he had been Director of the European Institute of the Mediterranean. He will direct the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation from the office in Alexandria, in coordination with the Foundation's national networks and in strict collaboration with its president, André Azoulay.
- Registration is now open for the Workshop/Masterclass, a year's training programme for future producers and distributors of European films. This training programme is for young film school or university graduates (minimum BAC + 3) who have had experience in audiovisual production or are very motivated by this sector and are from the EU. The 18 participants chosen will follow 4 seminars split between Ludwigsburg (Filmakademie) and Paris (La Fémis).

Deadline for registration: 2nd June 2008 for La Fémis

For more information: gilda.fougeront@femis.fr or www.lafemis.fr
katrin.weitzel@filmakademie.de or www.filmakademie.de
www.cinemasterclass.org

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TRADUCTION EN ANGLAIS : TIM KING