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MEDITERRANEE AUDIOVISUELLE Monthly Newsletter

In the summary of this edition: Marseille at the centre of Mediterranean news as the jury decides to make the famous port one of the European Capitals of Culture in 2013; the preparations for November's Consultative Assembly on Culture and the 15th edition of the *Rencontres Averroès*; the CMCA is at the heart of these three events

A first for the organisers of the 60th Italia Prize in Cagliari: major international broadcasters came together to discuss cooperation and established a platform of common actions under the auspices of the UER.

You'll also find all your favourite columns, like Life in the Channels reporting on the creation of Tunisia's first religious TV channel, while in Algeria the public TV channel organised a Koranic recitation competition for Ramadan.

We also offer you two close-ups – on the Fameck Festival of Arab Film in north-eastern France and the web-site "Mediterranean Information Office".

Happy reading to you all.....

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HEADLINE STORY



It's done, Marseille has been chosen as one of the two European Capitals of Culture for 2013. Pitted against Toulouse, Lyons and Bordeaux, Marseille found the right words to convince the 13-person European jury which met in Paris on September 16th. A unanimous decision, according to Minister of Culture Christine Albanel.

The idea of having a European Capital of Culture was launched in 1985 by the then Greek Minister of Culture Melina Mercouri. She wanted to strengthen European ties by designating two cities each year which would be given the chance to showcase their cultural life rooted in that city's past. Marseille will share the title in 2013 with the Slovak city Kosice.



The moment to meet Pierre Hivernat, the project's official representative for Programming (Photo)

What do you think swung the jury in favour of Marseille?

Certainly the fact that we stressed how essential it is for the town, which needs this badge even more than its rivals. As the campaign director Bernard Latarjet said, Marseille is committed to a vast urban regeneration plan, putting culture at the centre of its strategy for economic development. But nevertheless it remains a poor city. It needs support to keep the project going. Then again, we understood how to work with the towns around us; it's a victory for the whole region, for all the 130 towns and villages around Marseille and for all their political, economic and cultural personalities.

What are the priorities?

First of all to keep things in perspective, to go and learn from other towns, like Liverpool which are or have been European culture capitals. The danger is saturating the public before the most important year, 2013. So we're going to make time to find the right method. Already in 2008 we've launched pilot workshops where a business or a public establishment (ten or so) makes space available for artists, creators.....; the company becomes a place to accommodate the artist. There will be about 200 or 250 of these "Euro-Mediterranean workshops" in all, and they will be a focal point of the project, whose aim, really, is to make Marseille a European platform for cultural cooperation in all disciplines right across Europe and the Mediterranean.

How are you going to work with the southern shores of the Mediterranean?

First of all we've already made contact with the major cities like Alexandria, Beirut, Cairo....., an exercise we're going to intensify in the first part of 2009. And then we're creating two new festivals which will bring in the southern shores: *Via Marseille* and above all *Intermed* (and its youth-orientated partners). In addition there's going to be an audiovisual *Intermed*, which will interest CMCA, with productions particularly of documentaries.

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15th Rencontres d'Averroès

The CMCA is a partner of the next *Rencontres d'Averroès* (Averroès Encounters, created by Thierry Fabre) which will take place from the 16th October to the 9th November. The CMCA is providing documentaries chosen from this year's "International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film", which it organises with RAI, to be screened during the *Rencontres*.

Nearly 40 works of the highest quality, most of them not broadcast on television, will be screened at Marseille's *Espace Culture* on the Canebière, for 21 days Monday to Saturday 10.00 till 6.00. All the films have one factor in common: they show life in the Mediterranean region. Mare Nostrum at its most painful, perhaps, but there are also individual or collective stories of hope.

The programme demonstrates the vitality of documentary production about and within the Mediterranean basin, from "*Welcome Europa*", which takes us into the hell of being an illegal immigrant in Europe, looking for shelter and work but driven to begging, theft and prostitution, to "*L'orchestra di Piazza Vittorio*", the extraordinary story of how an orchestra of 30 musicians of 15 different nationalities came into being, or again "*Ces filles-là*" a terrifying picture of young teenage women living on the streets of Egypt.

The *Rencontres d'Averroès* is based on three inter-linked programmes:

- on the 7th and 8th November round table discussions: "Between Mohamed and Charlemagne: an unbridgeable divide or a shared world?"; "Between Islam(s) and Secularism(s): unending divergence or possible reconciliation?" and finally "Between jihad and western thinking, factional conflict or Mediterranean rebirth?"
- from the 16th October to the 9th November several towns of the Provence-Alps region will offer an artistic and sensitive approach to the problems debated in the round tables as part of the cultural programme "*Sous le signe d'Averroès*".
- Without forgetting "*Averroès Junior*" with its double aim of making the young aware of the complexity of the Mediterranean world around them and also developing a new public for these round table discussions, starting with the educational leaders and social helpers who look after the younger generations.

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[# CMCA partner of the Mediterranean Consultative Assembly on Culture](#)

As part of France's presidency of the European Union and in the year of Mediterranean inter-cultural dialogue, a Consultative Assembly (*Etats généraux*) has been organised in Marseille on the 4th and 5th November. Its aim: to emphasise the cultural dimension of all Mediterranean political programmes, starting with the statement that there cannot be regional integration within the

Mediterranean basin without awareness of the cultural aspects.

Nearly 300 personalities have been requested to take part in these debates, which will follow a series of three landmark meetings in Seville, Paris and Alexandria.

Eight workshops will be organised, one of which is organised by the CMCA: “**Images, Audiovisual and Cinema**”.

Images - whether produced by television or cinema, whether broadcast by satellite, Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT), the Internet or cell-phones – are a way of spreading understanding across both shores of the Mediterranean, of increasing cultural diversity and dialogue. In the CMCA workshop three issues will be developed: Producing and co-producing in the Mediterranean region; Broadcasting and distributing works across the Mediterranean; Structuring supply and demand within the Mediterranean region.

The 7 other workshops are tackling:

- “**Histories, memories, heritage**”: a reflection on the need to re-think the history of the Mediterranean from a new perspective, outside current events, through teaching historical facts, through the preservation of places of remembrance (religious sites, cemeteries) and access to and the conservation of Mediterranean archives.
- “**Texts, Translation and Libraries**”: the role of libraries in the dissemination of the region's written works. A priority for the Institute of the Arab World, the Alexandria Library and others must be to initiate cooperation between libraries, notably with digital access to catalogues and texts. This workshop must clear the way for the setting up of a firm project.
- “**Artists, Artistic Creation, Artistic and Cultural Mobility**”: what statute for the artist? How to re-think what being mobile means? Question what's at stake and how contemporary creation is changing by airing the conflicting views of all those concerned in the Euro-Mediterranean artistic domain: non-government agencies, representatives of private and public institutions etc.
- “**Religions and societies**”: a workshop animated by Jean-Marc Aveline, director of Marseille's Catholic Institute of the Mediterranean.

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Two issues will be looked at: the first, an examination of the present situation of religious faith in the countries bordering the Mediterranean, including its diversity and the different ways it interacts with the social, economic, political and cultural structures . The second, with representatives from the religious communities, an assessment of the initiatives for dialogue or inter and intra-religious relations.

- **“Modernisation of Societies”**: Human Rights, the situation of women, the young and the family. The norms, the laws regulating family interests, business, investors are only worth anything if they serve everyone. Undeniably, all Mediterranean peoples would see the relevance of the old saying *ubi societas, ibi jus*: the modernisation of society begins with the modernisation of the law.
- **“Education and Universities”**: a reflection on the realities of education and what’s at risk there, looking at basic education, professional training and higher education.
- **“Identities, Cultures, Values and Vision of the Mediterranean”**: a cultural partnership needs to be set up between the two borders of the Mediterranean, one which would encompass the universal desire for development, justice, a better application of Human Rights, a greater participation in politics and the preservation of our common environment – while at the same time tolerating and respecting the differences between us.

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[# “Meeting the Other: borders, identities and cultures in the European space”](#)

All the partners in the European Commission’s project “Meeting the Other: borders, identities and cultures” set up by Babelmed (cf. Med. Audio March/ April 2008) and developed in the framework of the “European Year of Intercultural Dialogue”, will be together in Barcelona from the 20th to the 22nd October at the invitation of IEMED (Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània). The CMCA, partner in the project, will screen four films over two evenings, all selected from the International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film.

[# Italia Prize: as part of the 60th edition, “Europe, Africa, Mediterranean: What Kind of Co-operation?”](#)

At Cagliari in September, as part of the 60th Italia Prize, various professional broadcasters and broadcasting associations came together for the first time. The aim was to strengthen collaboration between them by creating a shared audiovisual space in Europe, Africa and the Mediterranean. The associations involved include: the ASBU (Association of Arab televisions), the AUB (Association of African televisions), the CIRCOM (European association for regional television), the CMCA, the COPEAM (*Conférence Permanente de l’Audiovisuel Méditerranéen*), the UER (*Union Européen de Radio Télévision*) and the URTI (*Université Radiophonique et Télévisuelle Internationale*).

If people are going to work together exchanging ideas, they must get to know each other first. Thus the participants agreed to meet regularly in order to:

- Exchange their expertise and knowledge
- Improve and extend their basic training methods so they can adapt to the demands of the new technology and the arrival of digital television.
- Facilitate production, distribution and broadcasting of news and audiovisual programmes and work on the preservation of archives.
- Intensify this cooperation in Africa where the media has an essential role to play in global and sustainable development, particularly in education and health.

In order to help the distribution of audiovisual works, the representatives of these associations agreed to work on a shared project to find international funding specifically for translating, sub-titling and dubbing educational and cultural programmes. The project should be financed in partnership with a major company. This funding will be available only to broadcasters buying productions made in another language.

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LIFE IN THE CHANNELS

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[# Tunisia / Birth of the first religious television channel](#)

On the 1st September, the first day of Ramadan, the private television channel Hannibal, owned by the Tunisian businessman Larbi Nasra, launched the first religious television channel in the country, “*Hannibal Elferdaws*” (Hannibal Paradise). Its creator’s idea being to “*express the values of a tolerant, humble Islam in a convivial and truthful style, encouraging good morals and refuting violence.*” The channel will broadcast a mix of programmes on the Koran, the life of the Prophet, readings from the Sacred Book, the Hadiths and religious teachings aimed at children and adults. The channel opened with a live broadcast from Mecca, broadcasting the prayers of the Taraweeh in collaboration with Saudi television. In the next few months the channel will screen talk shows.



[# Tunisia-Japan / Signing of acquisition contracts](#)

On the 6th September the Tunisian Television Corporation signed several contracts to buy audiovisual equipment from the Japanese “Sumitomo Corporation”. The total cost is 25 million dinar. The purchases were necessary to equip the new television headquarters with the latest technology so as to be ready for technological changes in the broadcasting world. These contracts were signed by Hédi Ben Nasr, the new President Director General of the Tunisian Television Corporation and Shindo Tashi, the Japanese company’s Director General of Communication Projects.



[# Morocco-Hungary / Signing of a cooperation agreement between television channels](#)

The Moroccan *Société Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Télévision* (SNRT) and the Hungarian satellite television channel *Duna TV* signed a cooperation agreement this summer in Budapest. It provides for the exchange of images and information and the setting-up of co-productions. It will also simplify the work of news crews and their reporters. An agreement signed by Mohamed Ayad, Director General of SNRT and Lazslo Cselenyi, President of *Duna TV*.



[# Morocco / Storms at Med1Sat](#)

Throughout the summer rumours of the channel's bankruptcy abounded, all hotly denied. The channel has lost some 100 million dirham. Its CEO, Pierre Casalta, whose three year tenure was coming to an end, resigned in mid-September in a final Board meeting. Independently, the French government has decided to end its commitment to the Franco-Moroccan channel. The new managing director designate, Abdeslam Ahizoune, is a businessman, CEO of Maroc Telecom and the Royal Moroccan Athletic Federation, as well as administrator of the Mohamed V Foundation for Solidarity, administrator of the Mohamed VI Foundation for the Environment, administrator of Al Akhawayne university and member of the executive committee of the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris. Based in Tangiers the all-news channel was created on the 1st December 2006 and is the only channel transmitting in two languages at once: Arab and French.



[# Morocco / a television channel for Hit Radio](#)

The director of Hit Radio has announced the imminent creation of a television channel, an extension of its radio station, aimed at the 15-35 age-group and covering 13 towns, notably Tangiers, Tétouan, Nador, Oujda, Fès, Ouarzazate, Agadir....Hit Radio reaches 14 million listeners and hopes to increase its audience to 24 million. It's programming is focussed on the new Moroccan scene, with 40% of its productions home-based.



[# Morocco / Licence for two televisions and five radios](#)

The *Conseil Supérieur de la communication audiovisuelle* (CSA) announced at the end of August that two television and five radio stations would enhance the Moroccan audiovisual landscape in the months to come. There are 22 candidates for the radio stations and 8 for the television. They must hand in their application prospectus during October.



[# Algeria / 52 television channels available](#)

Since the 2nd of July, 52 TV channels are now available in Algeria thanks to an agreement signed between Eepad, a private distance-learning company, and the French Canal+. Eepad is offering a pay channel to the television viewer and internet user, the rates varying from 2,499 dinar (24.50€) for 18 channels to 3,600 dinar (35€) for 50. All sorts of channels are available: Algerian TV, French general interest channels, sport, documentaries, discovery, cinema, news channels as well as ones focussing on youth and music. Faithful to its original remit, Eepad also offers school lessons, games and films, outside these rates.

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PROGRAMMES

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[# Algeria / a recitation competition of sura from the Koran](#)

This year for Ramadan the Algerian channels launched a prime-time competition "*Forsane el-Coran*" (Knights of the Sacred Koran) in which eight contestants recited the Holy Book. The contestants were chosen by a team which travelled the length and breadth of the country from early May in search of Algerians who had mastered the art of reciting the Koran. In all more than 15,000 candidates were auditioned.

Each week a jury of Koranic specialists eliminated two contestants, helped by the public voting by text messages. At the end of Ramadan the winner will be given the keys of an apartment and a chance to go on the pilgrimage to Islam's holy places.

(In Morocco a similar programme has been running for five years, aimed at young people between the ages of 10 and 20, while the jury is made up of imams, scholars and other specialists in Koranic law who watch over the application and respect of the techniques of reciting the suras.)



[# Arab World / the "Nour" phenomenon](#)

A Turkish soap-opera "*Nour*" has been breaking all records this summer in the Arab world, from Damascus to Casablanca going through Cairo, Beirut, Algiers, Ramallah, Jeddah – people talk of little else! Millions of tele-viewers have been in thrall to this family saga which tells the story of a young couple torn between tradition and modernity. Everything is dealt with, even the most thorny questions: young wives who flee the conjugal home with their baby, unmarried mothers.... The main actor Kivanç Tatlitug, who plays Mohannad, has become a heart-throb – with his devastating smile and blue eyes. To the point where apparently some jealous husbands want to divorce their wives.

"Sama Productions" decided to dub the film not in literary Arabic but in ordinary spoken Arabic, with a Syrian accent much appreciated by Arab viewers.

"*Nour*" has also been a popular and commercial success: t-shirts with pictures of Nour and Mohannad, the two main characters; visits to the film locations are now part of guided tours, cafés and restaurants no longer show football matches but the adventures of these two people....

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However the phenomenon is not to everybody's taste: the Saudi mufti issued a fatwa against the series which he judged "*subversive*" and "*anti-Islamic*", going as far as to say that the entire channel is "*the enemy of God and His Prophet*".

For the Lebanese sociologist and media specialist Melhem Chaoui, "*this kind of soap opera reflects the duality between modernity and tradition which Arabs live but do not recognise.*"

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ECONOMY

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[# Morocco / Ma3 Channel on the stock market](#)

The Moroccan TV channel Ma3 hopes to be quoted on the stock market thanks to EFI (Europe Finance and Industry). In the prospectus sent to qualified investors in September the owner of the channel, Fatima Zohra Benadi, claimed to be: *“the first woman to have set up her own production company in Morocco, I created Ma3 as a bridge between the Maghreb communities in France, nearly 6 million people, and the nearly 77 million in the three countries of the Maghreb.”* The operation should happen on the open market and should allow the company to find the capital which it has needed for the past 5 years.



[# Spain / Real Madrid will launch its own radio station](#)

The football club Real Madrid, having launched its own TV station, now wants to launch its own radio station. Its president, Ramon Calderon, said the station would be *“a means of broadcasting news about the club more rapidly and efficiently, while bringing supporters closer to the members of the club. Our club is not only a sporting affair.”*



[# France / a Moroccan radio station for the Lagardère Group?](#)

The French Lagardère Group has applied for a licence for an FM musical radio station in Morocco. World media leader, it now wants to develop throughout the Maghreb and Middle East and is studying the launch of the Virgin mark outside France. The Group is structured around four distinct but complimentary businesses: books; distribution of cultural products; press and media; marketing and management of sporting rights (cf. Echoes).



[# France / Vivendi: half-yearly results down](#)

Vivendi, a French media and telecom group, has announced that for the six first months of the year it registered a drop in its net earnings of 19.9% (1.22 billion euro). Profits are down by 4.7% (1.45 billion euro) and the operational result is down by 1.1% at 2.56 billion euro.

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CINEMA

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[# Morocco / "Prince of Persia" shot in Morocco](#)

During the whole summer British director Mike Newell and his crew have been filming in different parts of Morocco: at Ouarzazate, in the natural locations of Ksar d'Ait Benhaddou and Lake Fint, as well as in Tourirt's Casbah. Taken from the famous video game of the same name, the film tells the story of Dastan, young prince of Persia, who makes an ally of Princess Tamina to prevent a wicked man seizing the "Sands of Time", a gift of the gods which would allow its possessor to go back in time and thus to control the world. In the principal roles, Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton, Ben Kingsley and Alfred Molina. Release should be in May 2010.



[# Algeria / Release of Lyes Salem's "Mascarades"](#)

The first full-length feature by Algerian director Lyes Salem "Mascarades" was released on the 11th September. It tells the story of Mounir, who lives in an Algerian village. *"Proud and boastful, Mounir wants to be recognised at his true worth. But his Achilles' heel is his sister Rym: everyone mocks her because she sleeps all the time. Coming back from town drunk one evening, Mounir announces that a rich businessman has asked for his sister's hand in marriage. Immediately everyone envies him. Blinded by his lie, Mounir finds himself unwittingly changing the destiny of his own family....."*

Lyes Salem, Sara Reguigue, Rym Takoucht and Mourad Khan are the main actors in this film which received the Best Film Award at the first Angoulême Francophone Film Festival. Its release in France is scheduled for the 3rd December.



[# United Arab Emirates / 1 billion dollars for the cinema](#)

The Emirates' state-owned group "Abu Dhabi Media Company" (ADMC) has created a company "Imagination Abu Dhabi" to produce full-length feature films. It will develop, finance and produce an average of eight films a year for the Arab and world-wide markets. A billion dollars will be invested over five years for film-making in co-production with large international companies like those of Hollywood. According to the president of ADMC, Mohamed Khalaf Al-Mazrouei, Abu Dhabi wants to "fulfil its ambition to become a world centre of the media industry".



[# Spain / End of the "Tetro" shoot in Alicante](#)

Francis Ford Coppola is at the moment shooting the end of his film "Tetro" in Alicante, the first part having been already filmed in Argentina. It's the story of a family of Italian immigrants – full of feuds, tragedy and betrayal. This film, with a budget of 15 million dollars, is an international co-production between Zoetrope (Argentina), Tomasol Films (Spain) and the Italian producers Castafiore and Bim Distribution.

Vincent Gallo plays the leading role, with two Spanish actresses Maribel Verdù and Carmen Maura.



[# Italy / Start of the "Iago" shoot](#)

The filming of Volfango De Biasi's "Iago" began in Venice in mid-September and should last nine weeks (four in Venice, one in Padua and four in Rome). The film is based on Shakespeare's "Othello" although in this version the hero is Iago, played by Nicolas Vaporidis (photo).

The tragedy is set in modern times and unfolds in Venice's school of architecture. Iago is one of the best students with just a single fault: his family are poor. The students around him are all aristocrats. The most charismatic of these is Othello, son of an internationally famous architect and friend of the dean. He wants to rob Iago not only of his academic successes but also of the girl he has chosen: Desdemona.

Iago, far from giving in, decides to fight....

The film's release date is set for 2009.



[# France / Jacques Audiard shoots "A Prophet"](#)

« A Prophet » tells the story of Malik El Djebena (Tahar Rahim), young man unable to read or write who is sent to prison at 18. Too young to resist, he falls into the clutches of a group of Corsican prisoners. Very quickly he becomes hardened to their ways and wins the confidence of their boss, César Luciani (Niels Arestrup). Very discreetly he sets up his own parallel network of drug trafficking, eventually becoming the godfather of a new mafia.

To protect himself he gives gifts to the mosques, thus when he is released from prison he becomes a hero amongst the Arabs.....and untouchable.
The 15-week filming schedule began at the beginning of September in the Paris area (where a real prison was constructed for the film at Gennevilliers), before moving to Marseille, then the Var and completing in the Vaucluse.
The film's release is scheduled for the second half of 2009.



[# France / Avi Mograbi has filmed a new documentary « Z 32 »](#)

The Israeli director Avi Mograbi (photo) presented his new documentary "Z 32" at the Venice Film Festival in August. He returns to his favourite subject, the Israeli-Palestine conflict, this time seen through the eyes of young Israeli soldiers who have perpetrated acts of revenge in the occupied territories. Z 32 is the code name of one of these operations, in the course of which the Israeli military killed 2 Palestinian policemen. The documentary is the eye-witness account by one of the soldiers involved in this crime, a young man trying to expiate his error, accompanied in the film by his girl-friend, who has never forgiven him. Their two faces are masked out, we see only their very expressive eyes. The 90 minute film was produced by *Les Films d'Ici*. Its release is set for February 2009 (source Cineuropa).

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FESTIVALS

CLOSE-UP ON THE..... Fameck Festival of Arab Film



The 19th Fameck Festival of Arab Film in north-eastern France opens its doors on the 8th October. It's quite natural that such a film festival should have been created in this town where Tunisian, Algerian and Moroccan communities inter-mingle, part of a total population of 15,000. For the organisers, the town's *Cité Sociale* and the *Fédération des Oeuvres Laïques*, it's a question of "giving back to the people the culture that was taken away from them in the name of the economy and work. A way of allowing the young to re-discover their roots, to keep and develop them." Each year the Festival pulls in more than 10,000 people, many curious to see the new films, but many go to experience Arab culture through the screenings, exhibitions and books. It's a chance for different communities to mix in a convivial atmosphere, to exchange views and to get to know each other better. "The number of films has progressively increased each year," says Festival president Mario Giubilei, "and public support has become greater. The Festival's reputation has gone beyond the frontiers. The cinema, witness of its time, continues to point up the problems of civilisation and culture, the relationship between traditions and the conditions of women, those of society with religion, the consequences of colonial history. Over the years we have been surprised by the evolution of these films which come from such different worlds."

Since its creation the Festival has screened 390 films.

This year, its 19th, Egyptian cinema is the central theme. Egypt is one of the ten foremost film-producing countries in the world, both in quantity and quality. The first Egyptian films appeared early (the end of 1896) and since then thousands of short and long films have been produced. Egyptian cinema has managed to reflect the Arab world and is a source of inspiration to many film directors. A retrospective of the landmark films and a selection of contemporary films, often unseen, will be offered to the public. During the 11 days of the Festival (8th to the 19th October) 30 films will be screened. Meetings with their director have been organised. Three awards will be given: the public award, the youth award and the press award.

In parallel two other festivals have been organised: the *Festival des spectacles*, which is open to other performance arts: dance, music and singing, this year featuring Fellag, an actor, comic and writer of Algerian origins, and a *Festival de la jeunesse*, which gives a younger public the chance to discover Arab culture through many activities.

For more detailed information: <http://www.cinemarabe.org/home.html>

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Other Festivals

[# Greece / 2nd edition of the Greek Documentary Festival DocFest](#)

[# France / 3rd « Rencontres films, femmes, Méditerranée »](#)

[# France / 30th edition of Cinemed from the 24th October to the 2nd November](#)

[# France / International Festival of Short Films in Clermont Ferrand](#)

[# Cyprus / 2nd edition of the Cyprus International Festival of Short Films](#)

[# France / 31st edition of the “Cinéma de Réel” festival](#)



[# Greece / 2nd edition of the Greek Documentary Festival DocFest](#)

The 2nd edition of the Greek Documentary Festival DocFest will be held from the 8th to the 12th October at Chalkida (Isle of Eubée). It's a rather particular sort of festival: one category is for films consisting of just one shot, with a maximum length of one minute. In the other categories awards will be given for: best full-length feature, short, director, editor and sound-recorderist – all Greek.

For more information: www.docfest.gr



[# France / 3rd « Rencontres films, femmes, Méditerranée »](#)

The third edition, each one more ambitious than the last, takes place in Marseille until the 7th October. Asking the artistic director of these *Rencontres*, Jeanne Biscioni-Baumberger, why the view of women is so different from that of men, she replies: *“Well without being overly blunt or dogmatic, let’s remember that in the Mediterranean women still have an immense and difficult work of emancipation to do and that as far as one can see this puts female directors (and script writers, actresses and producers) in the front line. Women’s cinema, even if it doesn’t express the slightest militant idea, by its very existence makes woman a*

separate subject altogether.” The programming is rich with pre-release films, such as *“Première Neige”* by the Bosnian director Aida Bejic – shown at Cannes this year, or *“Je veux voir”* by Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige also selected at Cannes. There are also films not yet shown at all, like *“L’Envers du Mirroir”* by the Algerian director Nadia Cherabi, *“Les Trois Mères”* directed by the Israeli Dina Zvi-Riklis. Debates and encounters with the directors will be organised as well.

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[# France / 30th edition of Cinemed from the 24th October to the 2nd November](#)

The Montpellier Festival of Mediterranean Film will take place from the 24th October to the 2nd November – its 30th edition. Thirty years of this great cinematographic adventure, founded on films that came out in 1979, a real challenge at the time since the idea of a unifying Mediterranean cultural identity was far from accepted. For this edition more than 250 films will be on offer from all parts of the Mediterranean – from Portugal to the Black Sea – with more than a hundred of them in the official selection not yet seen elsewhere, with pre-release films and films from competitions and panoramas.

Also on the programme some tributes (to the Taviani brothers, Jaime Camino and to Philippe Faucon), retrospectives (“a night in hell”, screening some of Joe d’Amato’s “trash” movies), a lively debate with local film-critic Pierre Pitiot, a Script Day with Dominique Cabrera, some representations of Algeria with Zineb Sedira and Katia Kameli.....



[# Cyprus / 2nd edition of the Cyprus International Festival of Short Films](#)

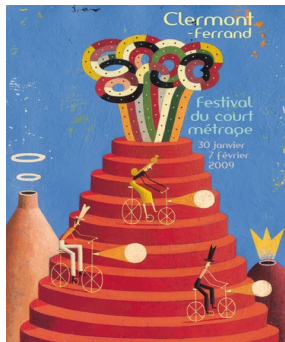
The second edition of this International Festival will take place in April next year. Dramas and documentaries may compete in the competitive section, they must have been made after January

2007. Applications are open until the 16th January 2009.

The non-competitive section is open to animated films, experimental films, documentaries or dramas.

The length of each film must not be more than 30 minutes.

For more information: www.cyprusshortsfest.com



[# France / Clermont Ferrand International Festival of Short Films](#)

The 31st edition of the Clermont Ferrand International Festival of Short Films will take place between the 30th January and the 7th February 2009. Films can be entered in three different sections: The national competition, open to French films of less than 60 minutes, completed after the 1st January 2007. Deadline for applications: **31st October 2008**

The international competition: for films completed after the 1st January 2007, 40 minutes maximum length. Application deadline **15th October 2008**.

The Labo competition, 5 films will be chosen from amongst those in the national and international competitions, thus no application is necessary.

The participating films can also be included in the 24th Short Film Market which is held at the same time as the Festival. Copies must be received by the **14th November 2008** at the latest.

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Applications can be made directly on the web-site:

<http://www.shortfilmdepot.com/index.php?nlang=1>.

For more information: Georges Bollon, email: g.bollon@clermont-filmfest.com

www.clermont-filmfest.com

CINÉMA DU RÉEL march 5-15 2009

[# France / 31st edition of the “Cinéma de Réel” festival](#)

The 31st international festival of documentary cinema, the “*Cinéma du reel*” will open its doors at the *Centre Pompidou* in Paris from the 5th to the 15th March 2009.

Created in 1978 it has become an international landmark where public and professionals discover films by new-comers and well-known directors. Around one hundred films are programmed in the different sections. Short, medium-length and long documentaries are eligible, they must have been produced in 2008 or 2009. The **three principle awards** will be: the *Grand Prix Cinéma du Réel* (8,000€), the *Prix des Bibliothèques* (6,000€) or the *Prix International de la Scam* (4,600€).

Deadline for applications: 30th November 2008

Contact: Cinéma du Réel at : 00 33 144 784 516. Email: info@cinereel.org – web-site:

www.cinereel.org

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WEB-SITE OF THE MONTH..... Mediterranean Information Office

<http://www.mio-ecsde.org>



The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development is a federation of Mediterranean NGO's founded in 1996. Its origins go back to the beginning of the 1980's when the growing number of Mediterranean members of the then European Community encouraged the European Environment Office to create a Mediterranean Committee to educate people in the countries bordering the Mediterranean about sustainable development. In 1990 the Mediterranean Information Office was created as an NGO network. Today it has 105 members in 24 countries.

In December 2002, during the first "[Mediterranean Regional Dialogue of Parliamentarians, NGOs and other stakeholders on the protection of the Mediterranean environment and prospects for the sustainable development of the region](#)", the Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Environment and Sustainable Development was established. An active forum, open and flexible, it promotes the exchange of information about crucial Mediterranean environmental and sustainable development issues. It also encourages the promotion and organization of joint actions by media professionals to enhance their capacity for sensitizing and informing Mediterranean societies.

At present the Core of the Circle is composed by 46 Journalists from the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain and Tunisia.

Water issues have been given priority and a [Media Kit on Freshwater in the Mediterranean](#) has been published.

This organisation is primarily financed by European programmes, the United Nations and community organisations, private partners and is based in Athens.

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THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WAY

EUROPEAN FILMS AWARDS: PRE-SELECTION OF THE FILMS

The EFA (European Film Academy) has just made public the list of **44 European films selected** to take part in the different categories of the **European Film Awards**. Amongst them, **four French films**: Danny Boon's "*Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis*", Arnaud Desplechin's "*Un Conte de Noël*", "*Entre les Murs*" by Laurent Cantet, "*La Graine et le Mulet*" by Abdellatif Kechiche and **2 French/German/Israeli co-productions** : "*Les Citronniers*" by Eran Riklis and « *Valse avec Bashir* » by Ari Folman.

As a reminder, the different categories of awards are: European Film, European Director, European Actress, European Actor, European Scriptwriter, European Cinematographer, European Composer, European Discovery, EFA *Prix d'Excellence*, EFA Lifetime Achievement, European Achievement in World Cinema, EFA Critics Award (Prix Fipresci), EFA Documentary (Prix Arte), EFA Short Film (Prix UIP). **The public** is also invited to vote for their favourite European film (see e-MEDIA no. 113). The winners will be announced at a ceremony in Copenhagen on the **6th December**.

Contact: Pascal Edelmann – European Film Academy – Kurfurstendamm 225 – 10719 Berlin – Germany. Tel: 00 49 30 887 167-0 Fax: 00 49 30 887 167-77. Email: efa@europeanfilmacademy.org Web-site: www.europeanfilmacademy.org

PRODUCTION VALUE 2009: TRAINING FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTORS AND PRODUCTION MANAGERS

Supported by MEDIA, this 7 day training session aims to reinforce creative collaboration between assistant directors, production managers/executive producers, producers and directors. The next session will take place in **Oslo** (Norway) between the **10th and the 17th January 2009**.

12 participants (6 assistant directors and 6 production managers) are given the chance to work together on the preparation of a budget and schedule for 6 full-length feature films. During the 2 last days the results of the work will be presented and discussed with the producers of the 6 projects analysed. Application deadline: **1st November 2008**

Contact: Focal – 2 rue de Maupas – CH 1004 Lausanne – Switzerland. Phone: 00 41 21 312 68 17. Fax: 00 41 21 323 59 45 email: info@focal.ch web-site: www.focal.ch or www.productionvalue.net

PUGLIA EXPERIENCE – APULIA AUDIOVISUAL WORKSHOP

The Apulia Film Commission has set up a "**creative writing laboratory**" which is travelling through all the provinces of the region until the 18th October. **20 talented young people** from Europe and the Mediterranean, aged between 18 and 30, can exchange their ideas and experiences with local directors such as Alessandro Piva, Edoardo Winspeare, Sergio Rubini and Maurizio Sciarra.

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For this first edition an opening session will be given by Gabrielle Salvatores, director of “*Mediterraneo*”, Oscar for Best Foreign Film in 1991.

The training will end with the presentation of the participants’ projects to some of Italy’s most experienced producers.

Contact: Apulia Film Commission c/o FinPuglia Via Falcone e Borsellino, 270125 Bari, Italy. Phone: 00 39 338 59 49 086 (Francesca Turrisi) or 00 39 339 87 74 973 (Alessandra Rizzi). Email aaw2008@apuliafilmcommission.it

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INDEPENDENT MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCERS' WAY



MEDIMED – Euro-Mediterranean Documentary Market

The 9th edition of the MEDIMED will be held from the 10th to the 12th October at Sitges in Spain.

MEDIMED is the professional market of Euro-Mediterranean producers. It's a launching forum which supports independent documentary producers from Europe and the southern Mediterranean, and their commercial partners, in their search for co-finance in the international market. The buyers are offered 25 pre-selected projects either in development or production. Launched in 2000, MEDIMED now has a good reputation as an efficient international market for producers, broadcasters and others working in documentaries.

More than 80 international European and North American broadcasters regularly attend the event, as well as previous participants who talk about projects they presented a year or so before and which are now completed.

25 documentary projects have been selected, representing 17 countries, with **330 programmes** from 35 countries.

MEDIMED is principally interested in documentary projects of a social, cultural and political nature. Producers looking for partners to make films about history, science, the environment and health can promote their projects to an audience of international buyers. To be eligible each project must have a television broadcaster able to come and co-present the project if it is selected.

The pre-selected projects can either be given a 15-minute presentation in the main auditorium in front of all the buyers, or in a series of meetings, no more than 30 minutes each, to buyers who have chosen their project in advance through the MEDIMED catalogue.

During the three days of the market, 25 projects in development or at the beginning of production are presented by the production teams. The projects are pre-selected by an international selection committee.

MEDIMED is supported by the MEDIA Programme. It receives grants from the *Institut Català des Industries Culturals*, the *Institut Europeu de la Mediterrània*, the *Instituto de la Cinematografía y de las Artes Audiovisuales*, the *Instituto de Comercio Exterior*, Catalan Films & TV, *Diputació de Barcelona*, Barcelona/Catalunya Film Commission.

For all information: Sergi Doladé, MEDIMED Director. Phone: +34 93 244 98 50, Fax: + 34 93 247 01 65. Email: info@apimed.org www.medimed.org Postal address: MEDIMED c/Girona, 20, 5

Planta, 08010 Barcelona, SPAIN



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

DIXIT training is coming to Marseille – an initiative by *Cinéma au Soleil*, in partnership with the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and AFDAS,.

AUDIOVISUAL FINANCE from the 26th to the 28 November 2008

The first training session will be about audiovisual finance (development, production, the company, the catalogue) and will be run by Hugues de CHASTELLUX, Director General of Lucy Finance, Gregory FAES, Director of *Rhône-Alpes-Cinéma Jour*, Pierre KUPERBERG, accountant, auditor, delegate of *Conseils et Experts Européens du Cinéma et de la Communication Audiovisuelle*, Christophe VIDAL, Director of the *International de Coficiné*.

From Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th November 2008
at the Pôle Média Belle de Mai – Marseille.

Costs may be met by AFDAS

Complete programme and rates at:

www.cinemaausoleil.com

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STOP PRESS



At the beginning of July, Hédi Ben Nasr (photo) was nominated President Director General of Tunisian Television, replacing Moncef Gouja. Born in 1948 he has a Masters in law, a diploma from the *Ecole Nationale d'Administration* and a lawyer's *Certificat d'Aptitude*. He began his career in 1972 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1992 he became director of El Machrek and then the Director of the Arab Maghreb before being nominated Tunisian Ambassador to Iraq in 1994. In 2001 he was nominated acting Director General of Islamic and Arab Affairs. Since 2005 he has been Tunisian Ambassador to Syria.

Loffi Ben Nasr, up until now Director of International Relations at Tunisian Television, has been nominated Director of the Tunis 7 channel



Cineuropa.org offers email script writing courses in English, Spanish, French and Italian. The courses are based on direct, permanent dialogue between teachers and students. They aim to provide students with the theory and techniques necessary for writing a script by emphasising the differences between writing for film and other forms of creative writing.

For more information: www.cineuropa.org



The ASBU (Arab States Broadcasting Union) has made a presentation in Algiers on the Arab broadcasting scene. In fact this consists of 520 satellite channels, both private and public. They are broadcast by 24 governmental organisations and 226 private ones, mostly in an unscrambled format. The main channels are general interest (131), music and entertainment (119), films and drama series (58), sport (51), news and current affairs (26), economics (25), education and culture (23). These satellite channels mostly operate in the Arab world while simultaneously covering much of Europe. Some 70% of them broadcast their programmes in Arabic, while some have opted to broadcast in foreign languages such as English, French or Spanish as well as in Arabic.

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