



مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام

DOHA FILM INSTITUTE

Delegates Guide

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QUMRA PROGRAMMING TEAM



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Director, Qumra



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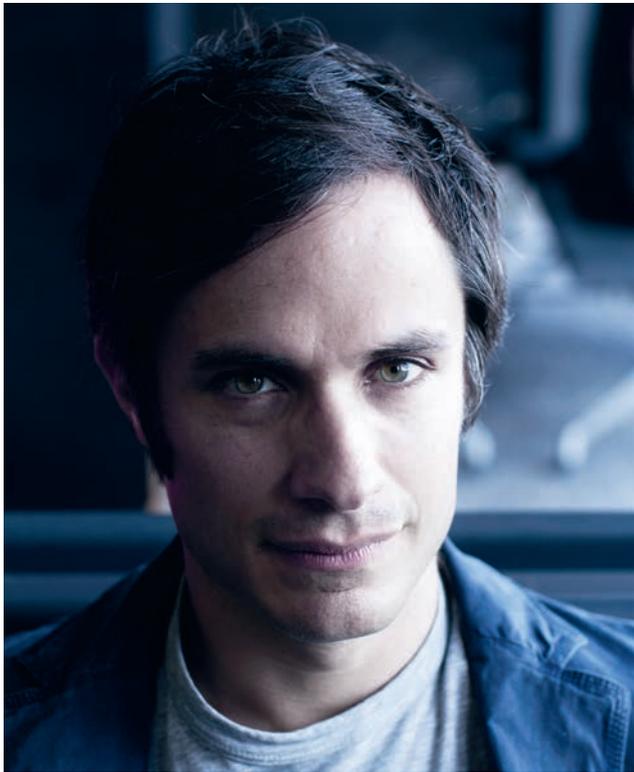
Vanessa Paradis
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Isra Abdulaziz
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Qumra Masters

Gael García Bernal



Gael García Bernal began performing onstage as a child in Mexico, and studied at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London. He made his major feature film debut in Alejandro González Iñárritu's 'Amores Perros', which was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2000. He gained more attention for Alfonso Cuarón's 'Y Tu Mamá También', starring opposite his close friend Diego Luna, and subsequently starred in the title role of Carlos Carrera's Academy Award-nominated 'The Crime of Father Amaro'. Later, he played revolutionary leader Che Guevara in Walter Salles's 'The Motorcycle Diaries'.

in Jon Stewart's 'Rosewater', and recently wrapped Jonás Cuarón's 'Desierto'.

García Bernal made his directorial debut with 'Déficit', a low-budget feature shot in Mexico, and made the shorts 'The Letter' (part of the omnibus feature '8') and 'Lucio' (for the collective Mexican film 'Revolución'). He also co-directed the four short films 'The Invisibles' for Amnesty International. In 2005, he founded the film production company Canana along with Diego Luna and Pablo Cruz. Together, they also run the Ambulante Documentary Film Festival, which travels to several cities in Mexico.

His lengthy filmography also includes roles in Pedro Almodóvar's 'Bad Education'; James Marsh's 'The King'; Michel Gondry's 'The Science of Sleep'; González Iñárritu's 'Babel'; Lukas Moodysson's 'Mammoth'; Jim Jarmusch's 'The Limits of Control'; Julia Loktev's 'The Loneliest Planet'; and Pablo Larraín's 'No', which was nominated for the Best Foreign Language Oscar in 2013 and screens this year at Qumra. Last year, he appeared

Leila Hatami



Leila Hatami, the daughter of legendary Iranian director Ali Hatami, was born in Tehran. She studied electrical engineering at the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, but subsequently changed her major to French literature before moving back to her homeland. Hatami appeared in a number of her father's films while she was a child, and had a role in his 'Del Shodegan' in 1992, but made her professional entry into cinema in the title role of Dariush Mehrju'i's 'Leila' (1997), for which she received rave critical reviews. For her performance in Alireza Raeesian's 'The Deserted Station' (2002), Hatami won the Best Actress Award from the Montreal World Film Festival; she took another Best Actress Award at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival for her role in her husband Ali Mosaffa's 'The Last Step' (2012). Asghar Farhadi's 'A Separation' (2011), in which Hatami played the lead female role,

won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film; she received the Silver Bear as Best Actress for the same role at the Berlin International Film Festival. Hatami's filmography also includes numerous award-winning performances, among them in Fereydoun Jeyrani's 'Water and Fire' (2001); Rasoul Sadrameli's 'Every Night Loneliness' (2007); Hamid Nematollah's 'Pennilessness' (2008); Maziar Miri's 'Felicity Land' (2011); and Adel Yaraghi's 'Meeting Leila' (2012). She has also gained critical success for her appearances in many other films, including Kamal Tabrizi's 'Sheida' (1998); Mehrju'i's 'The Mix' (2000); Mosaffa's 'Portrait of a Lady Far Away' (2005); Abbas Kiarostami's 'Shirin' (2008); and most recently Safi Yazdani's 'What's the Time in Your World?' (2014), which won the FIPRESCI Prize at the Busan International Film Festival.

Cristian Mungiu



Cristian Mungiu was born in Iași, Romania in 1968. He began his studies in English Language and Literature at the university in his hometown, and worked for some time as a teacher and journalist, for the printed press, radio and television. Later, he moved to Bucharest and studied Film at the Film and Theatre Academy, and made several short films after graduating.

'Occident', his feature film debut, had its premiere in the Directors' Fortnight at the Festival de Cannes in 2002 and was a hit with audiences in Romania.

In 2007, his second feature, '4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days', was awarded the

Palme d'Or at Cannes. Many other awards followed, including European Film Academy Awards for Best Film and Best Director. Mungiu's ongoing significant presence at Cannes continued in 2009, when he attended as a writer, producer, and co-director with the collective film 'Tales from the Golden Age', and again as a writer- director in 2012 with 'Beyond the Hills', which took home the awards for Best Screenplay and Best Actresses from the festival that year.

In 2013, Mungiu was a member of the Official Competition jury headed by Steven Spielberg.

Abderrahmane Sissako



Abderrahmane Sissako was born in Kiffa, Mauritania, moved to Mali as a child, and studied cinema at VGIK in Moscow. One of only a handful of African directors whose work has reached an international audience, he made several short films, among them 'The Game' ('Le Jeu') (1989), 'October' (1993), winner of the Un Certain Regard Prize at the Festival de Cannes, and the medium-length 'Rostov-Luanda' (1997), before coming to worldwide attention with 'Life on Earth' ('La Vie sur terre') (1998), which won awards at festivals in Fribourg, Ouagadougou and San Francisco. His reputation was confirmed four years later with 'Waiting for Happiness'

('Heremakano'), which premiered at the Festival de Cannes in the Un Certain Regard section, and was awarded the FIPRESCI Prize there. 'Bamako' (2006), a critically acclaimed treatise on the effects of colonisation on the developing world, also premiered at Cannes.

The searing 'Timbuktu' (2014) was in competition for the Palme d'Or at Cannes and won the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury as well as the François Chalais Prize. It was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film this year.

Danis Tanović



Danis Tanović was born in 1969 in Zenica, in what is now Bosnia and Herzegovina, and raised in Sarajevo. A Bosnian director and screenwriter, he achieved international recognition for his first feature-length film 'No Man's Land', which he wrote and directed. Tanović began his studies at the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo, but they were interrupted by the Siege of Sarajevo; he joined a film crew that documented the Siege and the Bosnian War before resuming studies at the Institut Supérieur des Arts du Spectacle (INSAS) in Brussels.

In 2001, 'No Man's Land' had its world premiere at the Festival de Cannes, where it won the award for Best Screenplay. A black comedy about the absurdity of war, the film went on to win more than 40 awards internationally, among them the prize for

Best Screenplay from the European Film Academy, the César for Best First Feature Film and the Best Foreign Language Film Award at both the Golden Globe and Academy Awards.

His subsequent films, including 'L'Enfer' (2005), 'Cirkus Columbia' (2010) and 'An Episode in the Life of an Iron Picker' (2013) cemented his reputation as a powerful voice in world cinema. His most recent film, 'Tigers' (2014), had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival.

In 2008, Tanović founded the political party Naša Stranka with the intention of bringing political change to his homeland. Currently, he lives in Sarajevo, where he is a professor of film directing at the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo.

Master Class Moderators

Jean-Michel Frodon



Jean-Michel Frodon is a journalist and film critic. He has written for 'Le Point' and 'Le Monde', and is Editorial Director of 'Cahiers du cinéma'. He is a member of the editorial board of 'Caiman Cuadernos de Cine' and a professor at Sciences Po Paris and the University of St. Andrews. His books include 'La Projection nationale', 'Conversation avec Woody Allen', 'Au sud du cinéma', 'Horizon cinéma', 'Le Cinéma chinois', 'Robert Bresson', 'Gilles Deleuze et les images', 'La Critique de cinéma', 'Le Cinéma français, de la Nouvelle Vague à nos jours', 'L'Art du cinéma' and 'O Mundo de Jia Zhang-ke'.

Richard Peña



Born and raised in New York, from 1988 until 2012 Richard Peña was the Director of the New York Film Festival. He has also had a simultaneous career in academia, joining the faculty of Columbia University in 1996, where he has been tenured since 2003. He has taught at Harvard, MIT, Princeton, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of São Paulo and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Qumra Project Delegates

Asphalt

See catalogue p. 78

Ali Hammoud
Director / Screenwriter
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Born and raised in Kuwait, Ali Hammoud is a Lebanese filmmaker, executive producer and artist. He completed his BA

in Communication Arts at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Since 2001, he has worked as a freelance director and editor for several TV stations, and on documentary films in Lebanon and abroad. In 2009, Hammoud completed his debut short documentary, 'about those who have gone', which was shown at DocuDays and the Dubai International Film Festival. 'Asphalt' is his first feature documentary.

Abir Hashem
Producer
abir@solofilms.net



Abir Hashem studied law at university before starting her career in the film industry in order to realise her lifelong dreams through hard work

and experience. In 2000, together with her two brothers, she launched Solo Films, a production house that kick-started her experience in the documentary field. She has worked as an assistant and executive producer on documentaries, corporate videos and commercials. Hashem was selected by Docmed to participate in a creative documentary training programme in 2011/12, and has managed DocuDays: Beirut International Documentary Festival for five years.

Beyond

See catalogue p. 38

Nora Al Subai
Director
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Nora Al Subai was born and raised in France and lived there most of her life. She graduated from Carnegie Mellon in 2008 with a BSc in Computer

Science. She has a passion for filmmaking and is collaborating with the Doha Film Institute to make films and shape the up-and-coming film industry in Qatar. She won a Best Short Film award at the Ajyal Youth Film Festival in 2013 for her short film 'My Hero', which she wrote and directed.

Solo Films

Solo Films is a full-service film and video production company based in Beirut. With a strong, creative and resourceful team, Solo Films aims to create films and videos with high production values and strong narrative elements. Solo works with accomplished practitioners to find innovative ways of using the moving image to tell a story across multiple platforms. The company deals with broadcasters including the BBC, Discovery Channel, Al Jazeera Documentary, Al Jazeera English, Spanish TV (TVE) and many private foreign production companies.

Blessed Benefit See catalogue p. 68

Mahmoud Al Massad
Director / Screenwriter
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Jordanian filmmaker Mahmoud Al Massad has received international critical acclaim for his documentaries 'Shatter Hassan'

(2001), 'Recycle' (2007) and 'This Is My Picture When I Was Dead' (2010), while reaching large audiences in the West, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. 'Recycle' received the World Cinema Cinematography Award at Sundance in 2008 and screened at more than 70 international film festivals. It was theatrically released in several European countries and sold to ITVS Independent Lens (USA). The script for 'Blessed Benefit' won the Abu Dhabi Shasha Grant, the Arte Cinema Award and the Global Film Initiative Award, and was part of L'Atelier at the Festival de Cannes in 2012.

Dima Hamdallah
Producer
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Dima Hamdallah received her BA in Mass Communication from the American University in Cairo and has worked as a freelance journalist.

She worked at the Royal Film Commission - Jordan from 2007 to 2011, programming international film events. She obtained a Master's degree in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Sheffield in 2010, producing short TV and radio programmes. She participated in the Producers' Network at the Festival de Cannes and L'Atelier in 2012 to develop the multi-award-winning script for 'Blessed Benefit'.

Bou Ejaila See catalogue p. 96

Saeed Al-Mannai
Screenwriter
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Saeed Al-Mannai is a Qatari actor and writer who works in theatre, television, radio and cinema. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from

Qatar University. Since beginning his career in 1982, he has had lead roles in the plays 'There Is a Candidate in Our House', 'The Minister of the People' and 'Arab Saat', as well as the television works 'Faiz Al-Thush', 'Behar, My Beloved' and 'Daloub', among many others. In 2010, he appeared in Khalifa Al Muraikhi's film 'Clockwise'. His writing for radio includes 'Elmesraah', which was produced by Qatar Radio in 2012, and he has published a number of short stories and poems. He is currently developing the short film 'Bou Ejaila'.

Jo Image Film Productions

Established in 2004, Jo Image is an independent production company based in Jordan. Founded by filmmaker Mahmoud Al Massad, the company produces and co-produces international film projects, reaching large audiences in Europe, the Middle East and the Gulf region. The projects produced mainly reflect a multifaceted vision of contemporary society. Jo Image has produced 'Shatter Hassan', 'Recycle' and 'This Is My Picture When I Was Dead', all feature length documentaries. Its latest feature-length narrative is 'Blessed Benefit', currently in post-production.

By the Time It Gets Dark See catalogue p. 70

Anocha Suwichakornpong
Director / Screenwriter
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Anocha Suwichakornpong graduated from the MFA film programme at Columbia University. 'Graceland', her

thesis film, was the first short film from Thailand included in the Official Selection at the Festival de Cannes Cinéfondation. Suwichakornpong's first feature, 'Mundane History', won numerous awards at festivals, including a Tiger award at Rotterdam, the Grand Prix at Transylvania and New Horizons, and she was named Best Director at Mumbai. She founded Electric Eel Films, a production house based in Bangkok, and is active as both a director and producer. She is currently working on her second feature, 'By the Time It Gets Dark'.

Soros Sukhum
Producer
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Soros Sukhum is an independent film producer who has helped guide the careers of many of the current generation of independent

directors in Thailand, including Aditya Assarat, Kongdej Jaturanrasmee, Anocha Suwichakornpong, Sivaroj Kongsakul, Nawapol Thamrongrattanarit and Lee Chatametikool. The films he has produced have won many awards at festivals, including three Tiger Awards from Rotterdam and two New Currents Awards from Busan. He is a frequent film lecturer and juror at international festivals. His new projects include those of established directors as well as young talents.

Electric Eel Films

Electric Eel Films is a production company based in Bangkok. Founded in 2006 by a group of up-and-coming and independent filmmakers, we are a small but high-quality production house specialising in independent films and other media productions. Electric Eel seeks to be a new force of independent cinema in Asia. Our main aim is to produce challenging films with high artistic value. Although we are a small company, we have a network of talented and experienced filmmakers working with us, including director-producer Anocha Suwichakornpong, director Wichanon Somumjarn, producers Soros Sukhum and Maenum Chagasik, cinematographer Leung Ming Kai and editor Machima Ungsriwong.

Dégradé See catalogue p. 72

Rani Massalha
Producer
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Rani Massalha is a Franco-Palestinian producer-director. He began his career in the cinema industry at the Egyptian production company Misr

International Films, created by Youssef Chahine. After working with Algerian director Rachid Bouchareb, he produced and directed the short film 'Elvis of Nazareth' (2012), which won the Unifrance Jury Prize 2012, and the feature-length 'Giraffada' (2013), which premiered at Toronto International Film Festival. In 2014 he created Les Films du Tambour with Marie Legrand. 'Dégradé', by Arab and Tarzan Abunasser, is the first feature film they produced, in coproduction with Made in Palestine Project.

Les Films du Tambour

Created in 2014 by Marie Legrand and Rani Massalha, Les Films du Tambour is a French production company based in Paris. The company is interested in discovering and following international directors presenting innovative stories with strong and unique cinematographic visions that have a potential for the international market. 'Dégradé', by Arab and Tarzan Abunasser, is the first feature film produced by Les Films du Tambour, in coproduction with Made in Palestine Project. The company currently has five international projects in development.

Marie Legrand
Producer
marie@filmsdutambour.com



Marie Legrand worked for ten years in the cinema production industry. She joined production company Full House in 2009 where she

followed and implemented international coproductions on films including 11 flowers by Wang Xiaoshuai, Elefante Blanco by Pablo Trapero and 7 days in La Havana by Benicio del Toro, Elia Suleiman, Gaspar Noé, Julio Medem, Pablo Trapero, Laurent Cantet and Juan-Carlos Tabio. She produced several short films before taking part in the executive production of the feature Giraffada by Rani Massalha. She created Les Films du Tambour in 2014, which aims at producing French and international auteur films.

Dégradé

See catalogue p. 72

Rashid Abdelhamid

Producer

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Rashid Abdelhamid is a Palestinian producer. In 2013, in collaboration with twin Gazan filmmakers Tarzan and

Arab Abunasser, he founded Made in Palestine Project, to create and promote contemporary visual art with a focus on Palestine. Abdelhamid produced Tarzan and Arab's 2010 film 'Colourful Journey', which earned the prestigious A.M. Qattan Foundation's Young Artist of the Year Award. In 2013, he produced and acted in their short film 'Condom Lead', which featured in the short film competition at the Festival de Cannes. Currently, Abdelhamid is producing Tarzan and Arab's first feature film, 'Dégradé' which is in post-production.

Made in Palestine Project

Made in Palestine Project is an independent arts initiative to create and promote contemporary visual art with a focus on Palestine, founded in 2012 by Rashid Abdelhamid and filmmakers Tarzan and Arab Abunasser. Made in Palestine Project is currently producing two feature films from Tarzan and Arab: 'Casting', currently in development; and 'Dégradé', which is in post-production.

Frenzy

See catalogue p. 74

Emin Alper

Director / Screenwriter

alperem74@gmail.com



Born in 1974, Emin Alper was trained in Economics and History and holds a Ph.D in Modern Turkish History. His first feature, 'Beyond

the Hill' (2012), received numerous awards, including the Caligari Film Prize from the Berlin International Film Festival; it was named Best Film in the Asia Pacific Screen Awards. Alper also wrote and directed the short films 'Rifat' (2006) and 'The Letter' (2005). He teaches in the Humanities and Social Sciences Department at Istanbul Technical University.

Liman Film

Following his experience in founding Bulut Film, where he produced Seyfi Teoman's 'Summer Book' (2008) and 'Our Grand Despair' (2011), Theron Patterson's 'Dark Cloud' (2009) and Asli Ozge's 'Lifelong' (2013), Nadir Öperli founded his own company, Liman Film, in 2012. The company offers project development and producer services to director-producers, and produces its own projects. Currently, Liman's slate includes Emine Emel Balcı's 'Until I Lose My Breath' (2015), Semih Kaplanoğlu's 'Grain' (in post-production) and Emin Alper's 'Frenzy'.

Enis Köstepen

Producer

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Trained in International Trade and Sociology at Bogazici University and Anthropology at The New School for Social Research, Enis Köstepen has

worked on various academic and NGO research projects on human rights and social change. Since 2001, he has been a founding editorial board member of the Turkish film monthly 'Altyazi'. As one of the founders of Bulut Film, he is one of the producers of 'Dark Cloud' (2009), which was selected for the City to City section of the Toronto International Film Festival; 'Beyond the Hill' (2012), which took the Caligari Film Prize at the Berlinale, APSA Best Film, and a co-producer of 'Lifelong' (2013), which screened at the Berlinale in the Panorama Special section. Currently, he is producing 'Frenzy', Emin Alper's second feature. Köstepen is a 2011 European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs graduate.

The Garbage Helicopter

See catalogue p. 88

Jonas Selberg Augustsén

Director / Screenwriter

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Jonas Selberg Augustsén began his career as a carpenter before making his way into the world of film via the fashion industry. Starting with

the spiritual, self-reflective and playfully pretentious essay film 'Hus, torn, stenmurar & en och annan drake', his graduation project from the School of Film Directing at Gothenburg University, he has continued to tell stories in a distinctive style about people and places who exist in borderlands. In 2008, his much-discussed feature-length documentary 'Trädälskaren' premiered. His short films 'Autumn Man' (2010) and 'Bogland' (2011) are the first two films in an intended tetralogy based on the five official minority languages of Sweden. Augustsén is noted for gleaning existential questions from the most mundane situations to provoke entertaining trains of thought.

Andreas Emanuelsson

Producer

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Andreas Emanuelsson has worked at Bob Film since 2006, and started to produce films and music videos in 2009. His first short, 'Little

Children, Big Words', has won a number of prizes at festivals around the world. It was shortlisted for an Academy Award and nominated as best short at the European Film Awards in 2011. Andreas has produced several short films and is currently working on his feature-film-producing debut, Jonas Selberg Augustsén's 'The Garbage Helicopter', which will premiere in 2015.

Bob Film Sweden

Established in 2000 by Jan Blomgren, Bob Film Sweden is an independent production company based in Stockholm that focuses primarily on feature films and television dramas. Bob Film Sweden has gained a reputation for quality and artistic edge. Its objective is to provide scriptwriters and directors with the best possible conditions in which to realise their vision, in a manner that strives to combine commercial interests with quality content.

Go Home

See catalogue p. 90

Jihane Chouaib

Director / Screenwriter

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Jihane Chouaib was born in Beirut just before the Lebanese Civil War, and spent her childhood in Mexico. She studied Philosophy and

Theatre in France. Chouaib has directed five short films, including the critically acclaimed 'From Under My Bed' (2005), which was presented at the Semaine de la critique at the Festival de Cannes. In 2012, her feature documentary 'Dream Country' was released in France. It was hailed in the press as "intensely emotional", "a beautiful and sensitive film with universal testimonies about exile" and "a poetic manifesto".

Nathalie Trafford

Producer

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Nathalie Trafford was born in Chile and spent her childhood in Spain. After graduating from the Lycée Français in Madrid, she settled in

Paris, where she studied Art History at the Sorbonne. In 1995, she began working as an executive producer in Chile. One year later, she set up Paraíso Production Diffusion in France, with the aim of producing art-house films. She conceives of her producing career as a way of building bridges between cultures. To date, she has produced 12 feature films as delegate producer or co-producer, and 30 short films. She has contributed to the work of emerging directors including Andrés Wood, Ricardo Larrain, Matias Bize, Bruno Rolland, Camila Guzman, Alicia Scherson, Katell Quillévé, Jihane Chouaib, Fabianny Deschamps and Jérôme Schlomoff, among others.

Paraíso Production Diffusion

Based in Paris, Paraíso Production Diffusion has produced art-house films since 1996. Paraíso seeks out emerging directors with a creative and personal approach to filmmaking, and develops long-term collaborations to produce high-quality films that are presented at the most prestigious film festivals. Paraíso's catalogue includes 12 feature films and 30 short films. In 2015, the company will present Veronique Aubouy's 'Je suis Annamarie Schwarzenbach' in the Panorama section at the Berlin International Film Festival, and will shoot two features: Adolpho Arrietta's 'The Sleeping Beauty' and Fabianny Deschamps's 'L'isola che non c'è'.

Green Eyes

See catalogue p. 98

Abdullah Al-Mulla
Director / Screenwriter
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Abdullah Al-Mulla grew up in Qatar and moved abroad to pursue his university studies. He became involved in film through the Doha

Film Institute, where he has worked on seven short films to date. He acted as cinematographer for one, and he wrote and directed the short film 'Old Airport Road' (2014), which explores the theme of care. Currently, Al-Mulla is working on a screenplay related to the cosmic sense of a relationship, while conducting research for a larger work that will explore inner struggle and its corporeal manifestation through a fantastical lens.

Akram Shibly
Co-writer
trueintentproductions@gmail.com



Akram Shibly, a Syrian American, is currently finishing his Bachelor's degree in Digital Media Production at the University of Buffalo. At 19,

he founded True Intent Productions to create enlightening and entertaining media for a wide audience. He was selected for last year's MPAC Hollywood Summit as a Young Leader, and his films have been selected for film festivals in New York City and Paris. Shibly's passion is for writing and directing original stories that connect with people from all walks of life and using film to promote the wellbeing of others. He has been involved in the production of more than 20 short films and is working on 'Good Vibrations', his first feature-length screenplay.

Holy Cow

See catalogue p. 80

Imamaddin Hasanov
Director / Screenwriter
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Born in 1980, Imamaddin Hasanov holds a degree in Film and Theatre Directing. He emerged as a director staging several

plays in Baku Camera Theatre. In 2006, after a Studio Ateliers Varan Course on Documentary Film in Tbilisi, he started working as a director on several short TV documentaries. His first short observational documentary, 'The Virgin's Happiness or the Invisible Side' is currently in post-production. Through his films, Hasanov sheds lights on the lives of the less privileged, emphasising their internal conflicts in a society that imports values that are not always in accordance with the established local norms.

Andra Popescu
Producer
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Andra Popescu is a cultural worker and emergent documentary film producer who is involved in several artistic domains across

different platforms and institutions in Bucharest and Baku. During a one-year stay in Azerbaijan in 2012, she met director Imamaddin Hasanov and together they developed the documentary project 'Holy Cow', which won the Best Pitch Award from the Caucadoc Project Development Workshop, and was nominated for the Robert Bosch Co-Production Prize. She has attended production workshops including Sarajevo Talents, the Young Professionals Co-Production Workshop in Wiesbaden and Film Teep in Bucharest. Currently, Andra is involved in producing films together with the most successful generation of filmmakers from post-revolution Romanian cinema.

Free Art Production

Free Art Production is an independent film production company founded by Imamaddin Hasanov in 2009 and based in Baku, Azerbaijan. In 2012, Free Art produced its first short documentary film, Hasanov's 'The Virgin's Happiness or the Invisible Side', which is currently in post-production. Free Art envisions auteur-driven art-house films and creative documentaries that have local impact and global relevance.

In Search of Adam

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Ahmed Al Baker

Director / Screenwriter

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In 2010, Ahmed Al Baker gave a TED speech entitled 'From Dream to Reality', when he told the story of chasing his dream to become a

filmmaker. In 2009, he decided it was time to pursue his passion, and made 'The Package', his first film, which he wrote, produced and directed. He co-founded the Qatar-based film production company Innovation Films; since then, he has produced a number of short films both locally and internationally. He co-wrote and directed his second feature-length film, 'Lockdown: Red Moon Escape', in 2011. The film was screened at the Doha Tribeca Film Festival and the Gulf Film Festival in 2012. Currently, Al Baker is working on an international sci-fi/drama series that has been picked up for production by the Katara Foundation.

George Chalouhi

Producer

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George Chalouhi grew up in Qatar and graduated from the American University of Beirut with a degree in Sociology and Mass Media. He began

his career as a radio jockey and news anchor for the Qatar Broadcasting Corporation and Qatar Television. Later, he worked as an assistant director and producer with well-known directors including Peter Webber, Romain Gavres, Pierre Deschamps, Sean Ellis and Adrian Moat. His last roles have included assistant director with Al Jazeera Children's Channel, second AD for Al Rayyan Media, and Creative Producer on a documentary for Qatar National Day through Al Rayyan Media. More recently, Chalouhi has been nurturing local films and projects alongside Ahmed Al Baker at Innovation Films, where he is currently Executive Producer.

Bassam Al Ibrahim

Executive Producer

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Bassam Al Ibrahim graduated from the University of Essex. His educational background, project management aptitude and business acumen

have aided him in his role as Executive Producer and Board Member at Innovation Films. Over his career, Al Ibrahim has produced a number of award-winning films, including 'Bidoon' and 'Qarar', and has overseen production on many other projects that have pushed the boundaries of filmmaking in Qatar, tackling the thriller, horror and romance genres in films including 'I', 'His Name' and the feature-length 'Lockdown'. Al Ibrahim co-founded ILoveQatar.net, an online community forum that has developed into one of Qatar's most successful brands, and he was appointed a committee member on ict-QATAR's youth Internet policies initiative.

Innovation Films

Innovation Films is a film and television production company whose main vision is to create a solid film industry that exports world-class filmmaking. Past productions include the feature film 'Lockdown: Red Moon Escape', as well as several successful short films; the company also co-produced the American indie title 'KillCam'. Innovation prides itself on creating and nurturing local talent, both in front of and behind the camera, and most crew members working with Innovation are local film professionals or trainees. We actively contribute to local expertise by having interns shadow industry professionals on set and placing trainees on commercials, and short and feature films. Innovation also conducts scriptwriting, producing and directing classes, and weekly acting workshops overseen by Academy Award nominee Scander Copti.

Little River

See catalogue p. 42

Shaikha Al-Thani

Director / Screenwriter
salthani@qsixteen.com



Shaikha Al-Thani was born in Qatar in 1992. She studied Journalism and Politics at Northwestern University in Qatar, graduating

with a BA and a Certificate in Middle Eastern Studies. After directing the short documentary 'The Triangle', she studied screenwriting and honed her writing practice while on an internship in New York City. She is currently developing the screenplay for the feature-length project 'Little River'.

Madmen's Fort

See catalogue p. 44

Narimane Mari

Director / Screenwriter
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Born in Algiers, Narimane Mari began her career in Paris, where she co-founded two communications agencies and created cultural

content for print and television media. She has contributed to developing art galleries and initiated a collection of photography books. In 2001, she produced her first film, 'L'Arpenteur', which won the Jean Vigo Award. In 2010, she founded Allers Retours Films in Algeria in order to produce engaged documentaries and auteur films. Her filmography as a director includes 'Prologue' (2007), a medium-length film about the artist Michel Haas, and 'Loubia Hamra' (2013), her first feature-length film, which won three prizes at FID and CPH:DOX in 2013 and many distinctions at nearly 40 international festivals. In February, 2015, she introduced 'La Vie courante', a work-in-progress of collective choreography, at Hors Pistes at the Pompidou Centre.

Aller Retours Films / Central Electric

Allers Retours Films is engaged in producing creative cinema in both fiction and documentary modes. It supports the work of directors as well as fine artistic creations.

Centrale Electrique is an independent production company that has produced numerous committed documentary and narrative films. The company seeks socially relevant stories that reflect their authors' take on history and contemporary society.

Corinne Castel

Producer
corinne.castel@gmail.com



After studying Cinema and Communication, Corinne Castel entered the world of contemporary art, specialising in the production of films

and installations. Deeply engaged in the specificity of the creative process, she has been involved in artistic commissions for the Pompidou Centre since 1993, and has worked with Anna Sanders Films since 1999, working with the likes of Stan Douglas, Mona Hatoum, Douglas Gordon, Mike Kelley, Johan Grimont, Pierre Huyghe, Gerard Byrne, Thierry Kuntzel, Chris Marker and Ugo Rondinone, among others. A strong promoter of emerging artists, she has also worked closely with Virgil Vernier, Mati Diop, Mohamed Bourouissa and Maïder Fortune. Launched in 2012, Mobbies, her own production company, encourages and promotes a hybrid genre between art and cinema.

Marjoun and the Flying Headscarf

See catalogue p. 46

Susan Youssef

Director / Screenwriter

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'Marjoun and the Flying Headscarf' is the second feature film of Susan Youssef. 'Habibi', her first feature-length film, was an official selection

of the Venice Film Festival, the Toronto International Film Festival and the Busan International Film Festival. It won awards around the world, including Best Film at the Dubai International Film Festival. Youssef is currently a Directing Fellow with Fox Studio. Her collection of shorts and video art have screened and are in collections around the world, including museums and universities such as Tate Modern and Harvard University. Youssef is a Fulbright Fellow. Before beginning her career as a filmmaker, she was a schoolteacher and journalist in Beirut.

Man Kit Lam

Producer

mankit@marjoun.com



Man Kit Lam produced Susan Youssef's fiction feature 'Habibi', and is currently producing 'Marjoun and the Flying Headscarf'. Set in

Gaza, 'Habibi' showed at the Venice and Toronto International Film Festivals and won four awards at the Dubai International Film Festival, including Best Film. Lam also produced Youssef's short film 'Source', an installation that appeared at the Tate Modern in 2012 and continues to tour the world with Olafur Eliasson's 'Little Sun' project. Lam won a European Design Award for his producing work on 'Humanity House' (Museum of the Dutch Red Cross). He has produced videos for the National History Museum, the Technical University in Delft, and many other cultural and educational institutions in the Netherlands.

Me Myself and Murdoch

See catalogue p. 48

Yahya Alabdallah

Director / Screenwriter

yahya.alabdallah@yahoo.com



Independent filmmaker Yahya Alabdallah was born in Libya in 1978, raised in Saudi Arabia, and lives in Jordan. A writer, director,

producer and literary critic, he holds two Master's degrees, in Literature and Cinema from the EICAR film school in Paris. He has participated in programmes including the Berlinale's Talent Campus, Produire au Sud, the Festival des 3 Continents and the Producers' Network at the Festival de Cannes. His first feature, 'The Last Friday' (2011) showed at numerous festivals, including the Dubai International Film Festival, where it won three awards; Fribourg, where it won the Special Jury Award; and it was the first Jordanian feature to appear at the Berlinale. He recently finished 'The Council', his new feature, which won three awards at Final Cut in Venice.

Rula Nasser

Producer

rula.nasser@gmail.com



Rula Nasser is a Jordanian producer with extensive experience in production services, production management and line producing.

She established The Imaginarium Films in 2010, with a vision of developing and producing globally appealing Arabic content. Over the last two years, she has achieved significant recognition both regionally and internationally. Nasser has participated in numerous producing workshops and has worked for the Royal Film Commission – Jordan. In 2012, she was chosen by 'Variety' magazine as one of 10 producers in the Arab world to watch. She produced Yahya Alabdallah's 'The Last Friday' (2011), the first Jordanian film to be selected for the Berlin International Film Festival, as well as Mais Darwazah's 'My Love Awaits Me by the Sea'.

The Imaginarium Films

Established in 2010, The Imaginarium Films is a Jordanian production house that aims to create original audiovisual content that is captivating to audiences regionally and internationally, and that has an entertaining element. Over the past few years, The Imaginarium has developed and produced award-winning independent films locally and internationally, and teamed up with numerous European and regional producers in producing feature-length narrative and documentary films. The Imaginarium team manages all kinds of films in Jordan.

Marjoun LLC

Marjoun LLC is currently producing a feature film that is an extension of Susan Youssef's short film 'Marjoun and the Flying Headscarf', which was an official selection of the Sundance Film Festival. Management includes producers Shari Springer Berman and Frans Van Gestel, both of whom have produced Academy Award-nominated feature films.

Men in the Sun

See catalogue p. 50

Mahdi Fleifel

Director / Screenwriter
fleifel.m@gmail.com



Mahdi Fleifel graduated from the British National Film and Television School in 2009. His 2012 feature 'A World Not Ours', travelled widely

on the film festival circuit, picked up more than 30 awards, and was released theatrically in France, Germany, the UK and the USA. His upcoming feature 'Men in the Sun' is based on themes and characters he encountered while making 'A World Not Ours', and is currently being developed as part of the New Danish Screen scheme and Binger Filmlab.

Patrick Campbell

Producer
patrick@nakbafilmworks.com



Born and raised in Dublin, Patrick Campbell's academic background is in Anthropology and Sociology, but he has been drawn

to filmmaking from a young age. Since moving to London, he has freelanced as a production manager, line producer and producer on pilots, shorts, and features. In 2010 Campbell and director Mahdi Fleifel formed the production company Nakba FilmWorks to produce the award-winning documentary 'A World Not Ours'. He is currently developing 'Men in the Sun' with Fleifel through Nakba FilmWorks and the New Danish Screen scheme, as well as readying other fiction and documentary features for production.

Nakba FilmWorks

Nakba FilmWorks is a London-based film production company primarily focused on the work of writer-director Mahdi Fleifel. Formed in 2010 by Fleifel and Irish-born producer Patrick Campbell, Nakba produced and released the feature documentary 'A World Not Ours' and has now begun work on follow-up projects, including 'Men in the Sun'. Nakba's stories tend to focus on issues of identity and belonging, at the same time eschewing established narratives of victim and perpetrator to focus on the people and personalities that inhabit the worlds explored.

Mountain

See catalogue p. 92

João Salaviza

Director / Screenwriter
jsalaviza@filmesdotejo.pt



João Salaviza was born in Lisbon in 1984. He graduated in Cinema from the National Film and Theatre Academy in Lisbon and the Universidad del

Cine in Buenos Aires. 'Mountain' is his feature-length debut. It comes on the heels of a trilogy of award-winning short films: 'Rafa' (2012), which took the Golden Bear at the Berlinale; 'Cerro Negro' (2012), which was selected for the festival in Rotterdam; and 'Arena' (2009), which won the Palme d'Or for Best Short Film at the Festival de Cannes. In 2012, the Centre Pompidou presented four of his films in a retrospective programme.

Filmes do Tejo

Established by Maria João Mayer and François d'Artemare, both of whom individually have solid experience in Portugal and France, Filmes do Tejo is an active production company that has been internationally recognised for having discovered numerous Portuguese talents, including João Salaviza, whose short film 'Rafa' won a Golden Bear at the 2012 Berlinale. They seek to provide renowned directors (examples include Flora Gomes, Margarida Cardoso and Gabriel Abrantes) the opportunity to continue their work in complete freedom.

François d'Artemare

Producer
f.artemare@films-am.com



François d'Artemare established the Portuguese film company Filmes do Tejo in 1996. Its current library of more than 70 features,

documentaries and short films includes many debut films, among them those of Margarida Cardoso, Serge Trefaut, Inês de Medeiros and João Salaviza. In 2001, d'Artemare founded the Paris-based company Les Films de l'Après-Midi, which has produced films from all over the world, including Aida Begic's 'Snow' (2008) and 'Children of Sarajevo' (2012); Flora Gomes's 'The Children's Republic' (2012); Zeze Gamboa's 'The Hero' (2005) and Manoel de Oliveira's 'Christopher Columbus: The Enigma' (2007), 'Eccentricities of a Blonde-Haired Girl' (2009) and 'The Strange Case of Angelica' (2010). He is currently producing João Salaviza's 'Mountain' and Radu Muntean's 'One Floor Below'.

Our Time Is Running Out See catalogue p. 100

Meriem Mesraoua
Director
mesr.meriem@yahoo.fr



Meriem Mesraoua was born in Qatar and raised in France. She returned to Doha while in high school, and earned a B.Sc. with Honours in

Media Industries and Technologies from Northwestern University in Qatar. She explored various facets of the film industry through internships with Miramax and NYWIFT, and as a production trainee on Michael Winterbottom's award-winning film 'Trishna' in 2011. Mesraoua directed her first short film 'Coucou' in 2014, in which she explores the power of the mind when subjected to loneliness.

Dana Atrach
Screenwriter
dana.atrach@gmail.com



Dana Atrach is a budding screenwriter who is fascinated by the world of untold stories. She creates to raise awareness and inspire

change by tackling quotidian social issues through comedy. Atrach believes that every individual's story is worth telling and she aspires to be an outlet to enlighten viewers to see the enchantment behind every story. Last year, her script 'Heeya Howa' was named Best Unproduced Script Based on a Family Drama at the St. Tropez International Film Festival. In her spare time, Atrach enjoys facilitating workshops for youth on the foundations of screenwriting, hoping to inspire the next generation of writers.

Parijat See catalogue p. 52

Hend Fakhroo
Director
hendkf@gmail.com



Hend Fakhroo is a Qatari writer and director. Her first short, 'His Name' (2012), was screened at festivals around the world, including

the Festival de Cannes, the Doha Tribeca Film Festival and the River Film Festival. Fakhroo grew up heavily influenced by her Egyptian grandfather, Mohamed Tawfiq, an acclaimed actor and director. She started making films in 2003 while attending university in Austin, Texas, and started her own production company, Certifiable Productions, in 2013. She is currently developing two feature films with a focus on bridging the gap between Arab films and international audiences.

Caroline Palla
Screenwriter
mail@carolinepalla.com



Caroline Palla is a visual artist and screenwriter from Zurich. She graduated from Zurich University of the Arts with an extensive

photographic series showing the contents of common people's medicine cabinets, titled 'Going Inside'. In her succeeding projects called '127 - Imagine a golden piggy bank with no one to spare a dime' and 'The Yen-Yen: Thirtysix Drum Sets', Palla further developed her object-centred photography and she has since expanded her artistic practice to include screenwriting. In 2014, she spent two months in Bahrain, where she was introduced to filmmaker Hend Fakhroo. She and Fakhroo are currently developing 'Parijat' into a feature-length screenplay.

Mohammed Al Ibrahim Director / Screenwriter

mohamed.alibrahim@hotmail.com



Mohammed Al-Ibrahim's 2010 narrative short 'Land of Pearls' screened at a number of events, including the Gulf Film Festival. He

participated in the FEST Training Ground in Portugal. He made his feature directorial debut in 2012 with 'Lockdown: Red Moon Escape', which he also co-wrote and produced, and wrote and directed the short film 'Bidoon' the same year. He is currently developing the script for the short film 'Pizza O Bass'.

Mohammed Al Hamadi Screenwriter

mohammed.alhamadi@gmail.com



Mohammed Al Hamadi works as a Senior Standards Engineer at Qatar Petroleum. He graduated from the University of Tulsa with a BSc in

Chemical Engineering and is completing a degree in Fine Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, with a double major in Painting & Printmaking and Fashion Design. Al Hamadi has been heavily involved in the arts scene in Doha since 2007 and in Tulsa before that. In July 2011, Mohammed joined the Innovation Group as CEO of Innovation Films and has since then produced a number of films, corporate videos, web series and music videos.

George Chalouhi Producer

george@innovationme.com



George Chalouhi grew up in Qatar and graduated from the American University of Beirut with a degree in Sociology and Mass Media. He began his

career as a radio jockey and news anchor for the Qatar Broadcasting Corporation and Qatar Television. Later, he worked as an assistant director and producer with

well-known directors including Peter Webber, Romain Gavres, Pierre Deschamps, Sean Ellis and Adrian Moat. His last roles have included assistant director with Al Jazeera Children's Channel, second AD for Al Rayyan Media, and Creative Producer on a documentary for Qatar National Day through Al Rayyan Media. More recently, Chalouhi has been nurturing local films and projects alongside Ahmed Al Baker at Innovation Films, where he is currently Executive Producer.

Bassam Al Ibrahim Executive Producer

bassam@innovationme.com



Bassam Al Ibrahim graduated from the University of Essex. His educational background, project management aptitude and business acumen

have aided him in his role as Executive Producer and Board Member at Innovation Films. Over his career, Al Ibrahim has produced a number of award-winning films, including 'Bidoon' and 'Qarar', and has overseen production on many other projects that have pushed the boundaries of filmmaking in Qatar, tackling the thriller, horror and romance genres in films including 'I', 'His Name' and the feature-length 'Lockdown'. Al Ibrahim co-founded ILoveQatar.net, an online community forum that has developed into one of Qatar's most successful brands, and he was appointed a committee member on ict-QATAR's youth Internet policies initiative.

Ahmed Al Baker Executive Producer

ahmed@innovationme.com



In 2010, Ahmed Al Baker gave a TED speech entitled 'From Dream to Reality', when he told the story of chasing his dream to become

a filmmaker. In 2009, he had decided it was time to pursue his passion, and made 'The Package', his first film, which he wrote, produced and directed. He co-founded the Qatar-based film production company Innovation Films; since then, he has produced a number of short films both locally and internationally. He co-wrote and directed his second feature-length film, 'Lockdown: Red Moon Escape', in 2011. The film was screened at the Doha Tribeca Film Festival and the Gulf Film Festival in 2012. Currently, Al Baker is working on an international sci-fi/drama series that has been picked up for production by the Katara Foundation.

Innovation Films

Innovation Films is a film and television production company whose main vision is to create a solid film industry that exports world-class filmmaking. Past productions include the feature film 'Lockdown: Red Moon Escape', as well as several successful short films; the company also co-produced the American indie title 'KillCam'. Innovation prides itself on creating and nurturing local talent, both in front of and behind the camera, and most crew members working with Innovation are local film professionals or trainees. We actively contribute to local expertise by having interns shadow industry professionals on set and placing trainees on commercials and short and feature films. Innovation also conducts scriptwriting, producing and directing classes, and weekly acting workshops overseen by Academy Award nominee Scander Copti.

A Reverence for Spiders

See catalogue p. 54

Faiza Ambah

Director/Producer/Screenwriter
ambahfaiza@mac.com



Faiza Ambah is a Saudi filmmaker with a background in journalism. She was Gulf Correspondent for 'The Washington Post' before leaving

in 2009 to focus on filmmaking. Her scripts have been supported by the Sundance Institute through the Rawi Screenwriter's Lab in Jordan, the Dubai International Film Festival and the Doha Film Institute. She was a jury member at the Gulf Film Festival in Dubai in 2013 and organised a festival of Gulf Films at the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, France the same year. She is currently in post-production for her medium-length film, 'Mariam', which was shot in France. Ambah has a feature-film writing certificate from UCLA extension and has taken directing courses at the Cinematic Arts School at the University of Southern California and the New York Film Academy.

Jérôme Bleitrach

Producer
bizibi@free.fr



Jérôme Bleitrach graduated from the HEC business school and La Fémis. After numerous field experiences, as production coordinator, line

producer and assistant director, he began working as a producer. He and Emmanuel Agneray have run the production company Bizibi for 15 years. The company line-up includes French and international filmmakers who believe filmmaking can be personal and at the same time reach wide audiences.

Sahaab

See catalogue p. 56

Khalifa Al-Muraikhi

Director / Screenwriter
inmybox1@yahoo.com



Khalifa Al-Muraikhi was born in Doha and holds a B.A. from Chapman University in Los Angeles. From a very early age, painting was his

passion and this would eventually lead to a career in filmmaking. He was drawn into cinema by directors like Salah Abu Saif, Michelangelo Antonioni, Alfred Hitchcock and Orson Welles. His films include 'The Blind Girl' (2000), which took the golden trophy at the Cairo Film and Television Festival; 'Threads Beneath Sands' (2003), winner of the Golden Dagger at the Muscat International Film Festival; the award-winning 'The End' (2004), bronze trophy winner at the Arab Film and TV Festival. 'Clockwise' (2009), which he also wrote, was the first feature-length film made in Qatar. He is currently in pre-production with 'Sahaab' from his own screenplay.

Bizibi

Bizibi was launched in 1998. Since then, the company has produced eight feature films, 41 short films and 10 documentaries. Three Bizibi features were selected for the Festival de Cannes; they won four prizes there, including the Caméra d'Or 2004. The company has worked with many French television channels, including Canal +, France 2, France 3, Arte, D8 and OCS. Bizibi is currently coproducing 'A Reverence for Spiders' in partnership with Silvio Saadé's Saudi-based Silver Grey Pictures and Faiza Ambah's US-based production company Faizalberry Films.

Salaam Plenty

See catalogue p. 82

Yasmine Kassari

Director / Screenwriter

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Yasmine Kassari graduated from the Belgian film school INSAS. In 2000, she joined Les Films de la Drève as a producer, and in 2003, she

established Les Coquelicots de l'Oriental Production, her own production company, in Morocco. Among her films are 'When Men Cry' and 'The Sleeping Child'. In 2012, she produced Jean-Jacques Andrien's latest film, 'Il a plu sur le grand paysage'.

Jean-Jacques Andrien

Producer

dreve@skynet.be



In 1973, Jean-Jacques Andrien created Les Films de la Drève, through which he produced his own films, including 'Le Fils d'Amr

est mort!' (1975), which took first prize at Locarno; 'Le Grand paysage d'Alexis Droeven' (1981), which had a Special Mention at the Berlinale; and 'Australia' (1988), which won a prize at Venice. Andrien has also produced the work of a number of international filmmakers, including Lucas Belvaux's 'Parfois trop d'amour'; Mrinal Sen's 'Genesis', which was in competition in Cannes; and Yasmine Kassari's 'L'enfant endormi', which was named Best European Film at Venice. He has also taught cinema in a number of cinema schools and universities, including INSAS and ULB. He continues to direct the cinema module at the summer school AKDT in Belgium.

Les Films de la Drève

Les Films de la Drève was established in 1973 by Jean-Jacques Andrien and specialises in auteur films, both narrative and documentary. Among them are Andrien's own 'Il a plu sur le grand paysage' (2012), Yasmine Kassari's 'The Sleeping Child' (2004), Mrinal Sen's 'Genesis' (1986) and Lucas Belvaux's 'Parfois trop d'amour' (1992). All the company's films were shown, and many have won prizes, at prestigious film festivals, including Venice, Locarno, Berlin, Cannes and Angers, and have been seen on wide commercial circuits, both theatrical and broadcast. Upcoming projects include Andrien's 'Le Silence d'Alexandre' and Kassari's 'Salaam Plenty' and 'Manuela'.

Scales

See catalogue p. 58

Shahad Ameen

Director / Screenwriter

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Shahad Ameen was born and raised in Jeddah. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Video Production and Film Studies from the University

of West London, and also holds a degree in Screenwriting. Her films include 'Our Own Musical' and 'Leila's Window' (2011), which showed at the Gulf Film Festival and was named Best Film at the Saudi Film Festival, and 'Eye & Mermaid' (2013), which premiered at the Dubai International Film Festival and was screened at the Toronto International Film Festival and the Stockholm Film Festival, and was awarded Best Arab Short in the Emirates Film Competition and Best Cinematography at the Abu Dhabi International Film Festival in 2014.

Mohammed Sendi

Producer

mo@7thdreamfilms.com



A Valparaiso University graduate, Mohamed Sendi is a Saudi filmmaker with extensive experience in cinematography, producing, directing

and editing. He has worked on several award-winning films, including 'Eye & Mermaid', which was named Best Arab Short at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, 'Winak?', which won the Best Arab Short prize at the Doha Tribeca Film Festival in 2011, and 'A Night to Remember', which took third place in the documentary competition at Abu Dhabi in 2012. He is also a creative producer and a founder of the Saudi-based production company 7th Dream Films.

7th Dream Films

Since 2011, award-winning production company 7th Dream Films has been producing films that tell our stories. We are a group of passionate Saudi filmmakers who thrive on making a difference; global citizens who love to share our stories; individuals intrigued by freedom, justice and equality; artists who want to contribute to the development of media and cinema in the Middle East; and, finally, entrepreneurs who dream of a Saudi cinema industry.

Superpower

See catalogue p. 60

Mohamed Al Mahmeed

Screenwriter

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Mohamed Al Mahmeed, a writer-director from Qatar, graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in Business Administration. He

is currently working on 'Superpower', his first feature-length film, about a Qatari family falling apart as they deal with their son's battle with cancer.

The Taste of Apples is Red

See catalogue p. 62

Ehab Tarabieh

Director / Screenwriter

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Ehab Tarabieh was born in Majdal Shams, a small village in the Syrian Golan Heights. Growing up under Israeli military occupation,

Tarabieh was politically active at very young age. He studied classical violin at the Conservatory for Classical Music in Damascus before relocating to the Czech Republic to study film. After graduating, he made several award-winning short films that documented life under occupation in Palestine. 'The Forgotten', his short narrative film, received a grant from the Doha film Institute and won the Best Short Film Award at the Doha Tribeca Film Festival in 2012. 'Smile, and the World Will Smile Back' (2014), a short documentary, screened in competition at the Berlin International Film Festival and won the Best Short Film Award at the Milano Film Festival.

Sol Goodman

Producer

railroadboots@gmail.com



Sol Goodman is a producer based in Brooklyn, New York. Coming from a small town in Kansas, Goodman worked as a civil rights

and environmental activist for many years, sailing around the world four times before settling down. After studying Film and Literature at the New School in New York City, Goodman established RailRoad Films along with Jonathan Doweck. RailRoad Films produces documentary and narrative films for cinema, and has presented films at the Berlin, Cannes, San Sebastian, HotDocs, Tribeca and Toronto film festivals.

Railroad Movies

RailRoad Films is a boutique film production company based in Brooklyn, New York. Over the past seven years, the company has been making narrative and documentary films, working primarily in the MENA region.

What Comes Around See catalogue p. 84

Reem Saleh

Director / Screenwriter
salehreem@gmail.com



Reem Saleh graduated from the Lebanese American University in Beirut with a BA in Radio, TV and Film. She began her career as a stage and film

actress, winning a local acting competition on the MTV television channel. She has acted as assistant director on numerous productions, including Assad Fouladkar's award-winning film 'When Maryam Spoke Out' (2001). She has directed the short film 'The Naked Eye', the stage play 'Wings' written by Arthur Kopit, and numerous television documentaries for MTV and Rotana Enterprise. Saleh moved to Qatar in 2006 to work for Al Jazeera Children's Channel as a producer and voice-over artist, then went on to manage the community outreach department of the Doha Film Institute. She is Youth Programmes Manager at the Institute, and Deputy Director of the Ajyal Youth Film Festival.

Wooden Rifle See catalogue p. 64

Alfouz Tanjour

Director / Screenwriter
alfouzt@yahoo.com



Alfouz Tanjour was born in Salameih, Syria in 1975, and studied Filmmaking at the Academy of Fine Arts in the Republic of Moldova. He has

made several projects as director, director of photography, editor or executive producer, including over 15 documentaries for the Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, including 'Damascus City Symphony', 'Beyond the City's Walls' and 'Faraway, So Close from Borderline'. Tanjour's short 'A Little Sun' (2007) won the Tanit de Bronze at the Carthage Film Festival. His documentary version of 'Wooden Rifle' (2013) took the Public Liberties & Human Rights Award at the Aljazeera International Documentary Film Festival and the Gold Panda for Best Asian Production. 'Wooden Rifle' is his first narrative feature.

Linda Zahra

Producer
lindazahra1@hotmail.com



Linda Zahra is a photographer and film producer. She studied Make-up Design at the Academy of Fine Arts in the Republic of Moldova.

Since graduating, she has worked on numerous projects as a make-up designer, photographer and producer. Her make-up design credits include Mohammed Malas's 'Maharem, Maharem', Jiana Jiji's short film 'The Father', and Alfouz Tanjour's short 'A Little Sun'. Her credits as a photographer include Alfouz Tanjour's 'Damascus City Symphony' and 'Faraway, So Close to Borderline' (2014). She was a producer on 'Black Stone', 'Cola Bridge', 'Rebellious Spirits' and numerous others, all by Tanjour.

Cinemood Productions

Cinemood Productions specialises in producing creative documentary and feature films. Between 2008 and 2015, it produced films including 'The End of a Red Balloon', and several documentaries for the Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, including 'Black Stone', 'Damascus City Symphony' and 'Cola Bridge', all by Alfouz Tanjour.

Industry Delegates

Khalid Abdalla - UK / Egypt

Actor | 'The Narrow Frame of Midnight' | khalidabdalla@me.com



Khalid Abdalla is a British-Egyptian actor and producer. He is a co-founder of Zero Production, and a founding member of the Mosireen collective. He has a wide experience of film in differing contexts and roles and has worked in Egypt, the USA and Europe. His film credits as an actor include Paul Greengrass's Oscar-

nominated 'United 93', Marc Forster's 'The Kite Runner', Tala Hadid's 'The Narrow Frame of Midnight', and 'Green Zone', in which he stars opposite Matt Damon. Upcoming films include Tamer El Said's 'In the Last Days of the City' and Faruk Sabanovic's animated 'Birds Like Us'.

Soraya Agnoglu - Qatar

Commissioning Senior Producer | Al Jazeera English | soraya.agaoglu@aljazeera.net

After a decade producing and directing shows and documentaries with the BBC and Al Jazeera, Soraya is now using her experience and knowledge of the

Middle East and Africa to bring the best observational films from those regions to screen on the 'Witness' strand.

Company profile

'Witness' is the flagship observational documentary strand on Al Jazeera English. Its two weekly slots feature compelling stories with global resonance. With inspirational, intimate and provocative character-led stories, 'Witness' provides exclusive insights into world events as they impact the daily lives of ordinary people. Films that celebrate the human spirit, with a sense of humour and poignancy, are always welcome.

Mehmet Aktaş - Germany / Iraqi Kurdistan

CEO and Producer | [mitosfilm](http://mitosfilm.com) | aktas@mitosfilm.com



Mehmet Aktaş is an author and producer. Since 1995, he has lived in Berlin, where he set up the distribution and production company [mitosfilm](http://mitosfilm.com), which is focused on international co-productions. Aktaş has achieved success as producer as well as

a writer, and is known for producing films like Bahman Ghobadi's 'No One Knows About Persian Cats' (2009). Aktaş received the Amanda Award for Best Screenplay with Hisham Zaman's 'Letter to the King' (2014).

Company profile

Based in Berlin and Erbil, [mitosfilm](http://mitosfilm.com) is an independent production company that seeks to support authentic storytelling and produces thought-provoking feature and documentary films. We work with filmmakers who emphasise their immigration background and genuine family traditions. Through our international co-productions, we strive to reach audiences around the world, as well as develop local Kurdish cinema. It is our aim to build an artistic and cultural bridge and therefore raise an understanding of the cultural past, present and future with the help of ambitious and entertaining feature and documentary cinema.

Masoud Amralla Al Ali - UAE

Artistic Director | Dubai International Film Festival | masoud.alali@gmail.com



Masoud Amralla Al Ali is the Artistic Director of the Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF). He has been closely involved with DIFF since its inception. In the festival's early years, he was responsible for its Arabic programming, including the popular Arabian Nights section and UAE-focused Emerging Emiratis, which evolved into a pan-Gulf showcase. His dedication to the region's talent led Al Ali to found the Emirates Film Competition in 2001. The UAE's first showcase for local film talent, the annual competition is widely recognised

as a turning point for Gulf cinema and a critical launch pad for its talent. He went on to serve as Director of its successor, the Gulf Film Festival. His wealth of film knowledge, first-hand experience in writing, directing and producing films, and his passion for encouraging talent from the region makes him one of the defining voices and leading mentors of contemporary Arab cinema. A graduate of UAE University, he was previously Artistic Director of the Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation

Company profile The Dubai International Film Festival is the destination for the discovery of Arab cinema, and a showcase of the best of Asian, African and world cinema. Its Dubai Film Market covers the script-to-screen needs of the more than 70 nations between Europe and the Far East.

Sohail Anjum - UAE

Digital Marketing Manager | [icflix](http://icflix.com) | sohail.anjum@icflix.com



Sohail Anjum joined icflix in 2013 as a content specialist, bringing his vast knowledge of Bollywood to the company. He is now the Digital Marketing Manager for icflix, where he plays a varied role, ranging from media, public relations and marketing, in addition to content acquisition. Prior to icflix, Anjum worked

as a Marketing Assistant at Sanona, an online video on demand platform, based in London. Previous engagements included working with leading South Asian publications 'Eastern Eye' and 'Asiana'. He graduated from the London Metropolitan University and holds a B.A. in Mass Communication and Tourism Studies.

Company profile icflix is the Middle East and North Africa's first unlimited streaming platform that provides Jazwood (Arabic content), Bollywood and Hollywood movies, TV series, cartoons, documentaries and original productions, all of which can be watched on any Internet-connected device. icflix's mission is to deliver the best online entertainment value, selection and experience to a worldwide subscriber base. By providing Jazwood, Bollywood and Hollywood content in one place, icflix serves as a unique video-on-demand platform that can be enjoyed by both MENA subscribers and global audiences. icflix has offices with more than 80 employees in Dubai, Cairo, Casablanca and Prague.

Abbas Arnaout - Qatar

Director of Al Jazeera International Documentary Film Festival | Al Jazeera Network | arnaouta@aljazeera.net



Abbas Arnaout is a Jordanian writer and director. He is Director of the Aljazeera International Documentary Film Festival, which he founded in 2004. He studied film direction in the UK, specialising in dramatic and documentary television. The former manager of Jordanian Television (now JRTV), he also directed

several television series at Dubai TV. He has directed several films that document the recent history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including 'Al Khiam', which chronicles the nature of Israel's Khiam detention centre prior to the withdrawal of Israeli forces from South Lebanon.

Company profile Al Jazeera Network is one of the world's leading media corporations, encompassing Al Jazeera Arabic, Al Jazeera English, Al Jazeera Balkans, Al Jazeera Mubasher, Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, the Al Jazeera Media Training Centre and the Al Jazeera Centre for Studies.

Paul Ashton - UK

Senior Film Executive - Development | Creative England
paul.ashton@creativeengland.co.uk



Paul Ashton is a Senior Film Executive at Creative England, where he works as part of the BFI NET.WORK to support new and emerging filmmakers on their journey toward getting their first feature films made. He was previously Development Producer at BBC writersroom. He has been involved in finding, developing

and producing Academy- and BAFTA-nominated films, and BAFTA, RTS, SONY, Prix Italia, Imison and Tinniswood award-winning drama and comedy for television and radio. Ashton is the author of 'The Calling Card Script: A Writer's Toolbox for Stage, Screen and Radio', published by Bloomsbury.

Company profile England's creatives, innovators and originators make the country's creative economy one of the strongest in the world. Our job at Creative England is to ensure the television, film, gaming and creative digital industries thrive and continue to lead the way. We fund, connect, mentor, advocate and collaborate at all levels of the industry, from individuals and small independents to large internationals, creating the right conditions for further success.

Talal Al Asmani - UAE

Senior Development Executive | Image Nation Abu Dhabi |
talal.alasmani@Imagenation.ae



Talal Al Asmani is a film and television executive from Abu Dhabi. Educated in Los Angeles and the Middle East, Al Asmani is now the Senior Development Executive at Image Nation Abu Dhabi. 2015 marks the second year he joins

Enjaaz's panel of experts. Since he joined Image Nation, the company has released 'Djinn' and 'From A to B', and has added numerous television and film titles to its slate for release later this year and in the near future.

Company profile Founded in 2008, Image Nation has become one of the leading content creators in the Gulf region, focused on its mission of helping to build the foundations of a film and television industry in Abu Dhabi and the UAE.

Habib Attia - Tunisia

Producer | Cinétélefilms | mh.attia@cinetelefilms.net



Habib Attia's latest ventures as main producer, encompass several creative documentaries and feature films, including 'Challat of Tunis' (2014), which opened the Acid Programme at the Festival de Cannes, won Best First Film award at Namur, Best Director and Best Film at Beirut, and was selected for Dubai, San Sebastian and Busan;

'Palestine Stereo' (2013), which appeared at TIFF, Dubai and Chicago; 'It Was Better Tomorrow' (2012), which premiered in Venice and won the Best Arabic Director award at Dubai; and 'No More Fear' (2011), which appeared in the official selection at Cannes, Busan, Taormina, Sheffield and Dubai, among others.

Company profile Since 1983, Cinétélefilms has been one of the leading production companies in the Arab world, producing creative documentaries and feature films like Rashid Masharawi's 'Laila's Birthday' (2009), which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and has been distributed in 15 countries. Murad Bed Cheikh's feature-length documentary 'No More Fear' (2011), about the Tunisian revolution of January 2011, was an official selection at the Festival de Cannes.

Sébastien Aubert - France

Co-Founder/ Producer | Adastra Films | s.aubert@adastra-films.com



Sébastien Aubert has produced 12 international short films which have gathered over 400 festival selections and 60 awards worldwide, including selective events such as Sundance (four films selected) and Clermont-Ferrand. In 2014, his first feature film 'Brides' won an Audience Award at the Berlinale in the Panorama Section and was selected

for the main competition at Tribeca. The same year Sébastien was nominated by France Télévisions as one of the Best Emerging French Producers. He is actively involved in the Middle East as a consultant and distributor for numerous Arab short films produced by the Abu Dhabi-based company Twofour54.

Company profile Adastra Films is a production and distribution company based in Cannes. It has gathered more than 400 selections at festivals and 60 awards worldwide, including four selections in Sundance and two qualifications for the Oscars. In 2014, the company was named Best Emerging Producer in France 2014 by France Télévisions. Adastra Films also specialises in the international promotion of short films from the Arab world. The company provides customised consultancy during production to ensure short films adhere to international standards.

Deema Azar - Jordan

Rawi Screenwriters' Lab Manager | The Royal Film Commission - Jordan |
deema.azar@film.jo



Deema Azar holds a B.A. in Modern Languages from the University of Jordan, as well as a number of diplomas from the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She held several positions at the French Embassy in Jordan and at the French Cultural Centre of Amman between 1998 and 2010, before joining

the Royal Film Commission - Jordan (RFC) in April, 2011. Azar currently manages the Rawi Screenwriters Lab of the RFC, a screenplay development lab aimed at Arab screenwriters. She also managed Med Film Factory, an advanced regional training programme for Arab producers and directors, between 2012 and 2014.

Company profile The Royal Film Commission - Jordan (RFC) was established in 2003 with a vision to develop an internationally competitive Jordanian film industry. The RFC is a financially and administratively autonomous Jordanian government organisation led by a Board of Commissioners chaired by H.R.H. Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein.

Selim El Azar - UAE

Chief Executive Officer | Gulf Film LLC | selazar@gulffilm.com



Hailing from Lebanon, and fluent in French, English and Arabic, Selim El Azar is an ardent film lover. He was first introduced to the world of film entertainment in 1989, when he applied his passion for movies to television programme acquisitions and production. In 1993, he took on Film Acquisitions and

Distribution at Columbus Films, Lebanon, before relocating to Dubai, where from 1998 he channelled his expertise at Al Massa Film Distribution. From 2002 until 2012, El Azar was Managing Partner in Film Acquisitions and Distribution at Phars Film Co.

Company profile Established in 1989 and acquired by Qatar Media Services in 2012, Gulf Film is a film distribution company for major studios and independent films in the Gulf region and the Middle East. Gulf Film distributes and exhibits more than 150 titles annually.

Paul Baboudjian -Lebanon / UAE

Executive Director / Producer | Screen Institute Beirut | paulbaboudjian@gmail.com



Started his career working in the media industry (advertising, television and films). He actively contributed to the setup of Screen Institute Beirut, Lebanese NGO devoted to supporting the documentary film industry in the MENA region and is strongly committed to promote and develop an Arab screen culture that reflects the views, issues and interests

of audiences and communities in the Arab world and to foster international collaboration and networks.

Among others, he produced the award winning (ADFF 2010) film "Chatti Ya Dini" by Bahij Hojeij.

Paul also produced Ali F. Mostafa's second film "From A to B" 2014

Company profile The overall aim of the Screen Institute Beirut is to support and promote film in all its forms as an important means of expression of cultural, artistic and social values. Its Film Fund offers documentary production grants to emerging and proven talents in the Arab world.

Cameron Bailey - Canada

Artistic Director
Toronto International Film Festival | cbailey@tiff.net



Cameron Bailey is the Artistic Director of the Toronto International Film Festival. He is responsible for the overall vision and execution of Festival programming, as well as maintaining relationships with the Canadian and international film industries. Before taking up his current position at TIFF, he was a festival

programmer for eleven years. Bailey has served on awards juries in Canada and internationally, and has been a guest speaker at several educational institutions worldwide. He currently sits on the Advisory Council for Western University's School for Arts and Humanities and for Haiti's Cine Institute film school.

Company profile The Toronto International Film Festival has become the launching pad for the best of international, Hollywood and Canadian cinema, and is recognised as the most important film festival after Cannes. TIFF is dedicated to presenting the best of international and Canadian cinema to film lovers. Our vision is to lead the world in creative and cultural discovery through the moving image.

Fiona Lawson Baker - Qatar

Executive Producer | 'Witness' / Al Jazeera English | fiona.lb@aljazeera.net



Fiona Lawson Baker has more than 15 years' experience in factual television across the UK, Australia and Asia. She started her broadcast career at BBC London. As an AFTRS graduate, she worked for SBS television in production, commissioning and acquisitions. Since 2008, she has worked in Singapore and Malaysia, overseeing productions

for Al Jazeera English (AJE), ZDF and the Discovery, History and Crime & Investigation Channels. Currently, Baker is based in Malaysia with AJE, sourcing documentaries from the Asia-Pacific region for the flagship documentary strand 'Witness'. She also commissioned the award-winning 'Wukan: The Flame of Democracy' and 'Viewfinder Asia' series.

Company profile 'Witness' is the flagship observational documentary strand on Al Jazeera English. Its two weekly slots feature compelling stories with global resonance and appeal. With inspirational, intimate and provocative character-led stories, 'Witness' provides exclusive insights into world events as they impact the daily lives of ordinary people. Films that celebrate the human spirit, with a sense of humour and poignancy, are always welcome.

Joslyn Barnes - USA

Chief Operating Officer | Louverture Films | josbarnes@icloud.com



Joslyn Barnes is a writer and producer as well as the co-founder, with actor Danny Glover, of Louverture Films. Among the films Barnes has been involved with producing are 'Bamako', 'Trouble the Water', 'The Time That Remains', 'The Black Power Mixtape', 'Uncle Boonmee

Who Can Recall His Past Lives', 'The House I Live in', 'The Narrow Frame of Midnight' and 'Concerning Violence'. She is currently producing 'This Changes Everything' for Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein and 'Shadow World' for Johan Grimont.

Company profile Louverture Films is dedicated to the production of films of historical relevance, social purpose, commercial value and artistic integrity. The company partners with progressive filmmakers and producers around the world, and particularly from the global South.

Violeta Bava - Argentina

Programmer and Co-Director of BAL | Buenos Aires International Film Festival | violetabava@bafici.gob.ar



Violeta Bava has worked on the artistic side of the Buenos Aires International Independent Film Festival (BAFICI) since its first edition in 1999. She is BAFICI's Programmer and Co-Director of the Buenos Aires Laboratory (BAL), a leading co-production market for independent Latin American film projects. She is a co-founder of Ruda Cine, a film production

company focused on Latin American auteur-driven films. Since 2002, she has taught Cinema Aesthetics and Ethics at Centro de Investigación Cinematográfica (Buenos Aires). She is the Latin American film consultant for both the Doha Film Institute and the Venice Film Festival.

Company profile BAFICI, a 12-day-long film festival that started in 1999, takes place every April in Buenos Aires. The festival celebrates a rich and diverse culture with the works of renowned directors and upcoming talents. The event showcases an innovative and exciting range of films, including world premieres and new releases of Argentinean cinema, together with international retrospectives of the work of key filmmakers from the independent cinema world.

Claudia Bedogni - Italy

Distributor | Satine Film Distribuzione SRL | cbedogni@satinefilm.com



Claudia Bedogni graduated cum laude from the University Cesare Alfieri of Florence with a degree in Political Science, specialising in International Relations for the Diplomatic Service. After obtaining the European Master in Audiovisual Management, Bedogni worked as Head of Acquisitions and Marketing for Lady Film and Istituto Luce/Cinecittà,

a prestigious state-owned company, acquiring films including 'East Is East', 'Good Bye Lenin!', 'Italian for Beginners', 'C.R.A.Z.Y.', 'Lourdes' and 'Le Quattro Volte'. In 2012, she founded Satine Film Distribuzione, a company that scouts projects for international co-productions and domestic distribution.

Company profile Satine Film Distribuzione's main area of activity is scouting projects for international coproductions, and completed features films for domestic distribution. Recent releases include Benh Zeitlin's 'Beasts of the Southern Wild', Felix Van Groeningen's 'The Broken Circle Breakdown' and Zeresenay Mehari Berhane's 'Difret'.

Mohammed Belhaj - Qatar

Executive Producer | Al Jazeera Documentary Channel | belhajm@aljazeera.net



Mohammed Belhaj is an Executive Producer and Commissioning Editor at Al Jazeera Documentary Channel (AJD). He represents AJD on the Network Programming Committee, which finances projects of interest to all the Network's channels. He is an award-winning documentary writer and director who has made many documentaries all over the

world. With over 25 years of professional experience in France, Morocco, Middle East and Canada, Belhaj has worked on numerous subjects and in varying environments. He oversees documentary courses at the training centre of Al Jazeera Network as well as workshops in various Arab countries.

Company profile Al Jazeera Documentary Channel is an Arabic-language documentary channel and a branch of the Al Jazeera Network. It was launched on 1 January, 2007. It aims to provide viewers an immense number of high-quality documentary films.

Lotfi Bencheikh - UAE

Co-Founder | Aflamnah | lotfi@aflamnah.com



As a television professional with extensive knowledge and know-how of the short film form, Lotfi Bencheikh still falls prey to that mixed sweet and bitter thrill of chasing elusive ideas. He loves finding solutions to problems by applying practical intelligence and harnessed creativity. His broadcast and creative knowledge is an accumulation of layers of experience acquired through experimenting, testing, observing and sharing knowledge and ideas with those great individuals he has had the pleasure

to work with, whether in Rome, London or Dubai, in an edit suite, sound suite or on set. He is still learning. As an award-winning, bilingual, creative producer/director with management experience as director of On-Air Promotions and many years' experience in short-form promotional production, Bencheikh thrives on generating new ideas for launches, campaigns and programming. He believes in end-user engagement through creativity and the supremacy of the product.

Company profile Aflamnah is the first digital platform dedicated to crowdfunding in and for the Arab world. It seeks to help independent filmmakers, artists, geeks, students and innovators to raise funds for their projects within 100 days, by getting people excited enough to support their ideas and provide sufficient finances to make them happen. Launched in July 2012, Aflamnah has dominated in the field of film and supported several award-winning projects, including 'When I Saw You', 'A World Not Ours' and 'Champ of the Camp'.

Mohamed Bendjebbour - UAE / France

Regional Audiovisual Attaché | Khaleeji French Film & TV Office | mobendjebbour@gmail.com



Mohamed Bendjebbour has more than 20 years of experience in the entertainment industry, in both the private and public sectors, bridging the French cinema and

media industry with the US and Indian entertainment sectors, and now, in the Gulf region, between the GCC countries and France.

Company profile The Khaleeji French Film & TV Office is aimed at developing co-operation in the field of entertainment between the industries in the Gulf countries and France. The company is based in Dubai and works with the embassies of France in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Yemen.

Reda Benjelloun - Morocco

Director | TV 2M | reda.benjelloun@2m.ma



Born in 1966, Reda Benjelloun is a graduate of the Sorbonne. He began his career as a law consultant. In 1995, he started a career as a journalist at TV 2M, first as a reporter and news presenter, and afterwards as a news magazine producer. He is currently the

director of magazine and documentary programming. In 2011, he launched the weekly documentary television programme 'Des Histoires et des Hommes', which broadcasts national and international acquisitions and co-productions in prime time.

Company profile Created in March, 1989, TV 2M is the second public Moroccan television channel, which holds the best audience and advertising market share. It is broadcast worldwide via satellite, TNT and on terrestrial channels. TV 2M programs a weekly primetime slot of documentaries called 'Men and Stories'.

Hayet Benkara - Canada

Consultant | hb@hayetbenkara.com



Benkara spent six years as the Manager of the Sales Office, the unofficial market of the Toronto International Film Festival. Many other prestigious festivals and programmes, including Cannes, Berlin, Rotterdam, CineMart, Guanajuato, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Istanbul, Dresden, Doha and

the Bingerlab, have benefited from her extensive network and knowledge of the global marketplace. In 2013, she launched STUDIO, the first year-round professional training programme for mid-career producers and filmmakers, at TIFF.

Paolo Bertolin - Italy

Correspondant | La Biennale de Venezia - Venice Film Festival | paolo.bertolin@labiennale.org



Paolo Bertolin is a festival programmer, film critic and producer. He joined the Venice International Film Festival as a member of the selection committee in 2008. Since 2010, he has worked as a regional correspondent, covering Korea, South and Southeast Asia, Oceania and Turkey. He also worked or still works for the Udine Far East Film Festival, Nyon

Visions du Réel, the International Film Festival Rotterdam, the Cannes Critics' Week, and the International Film Festival Bratislava. In 2013, he joined the Doha Film Institute as Programme Advisor for the Asia-Pacific region. Bertolin has producer credits on the Berlinale 2015 competition entries 'Big Father, Small Father and Other Stories' and 'Chitrashala'.

Company profile The Venice Film Festival is the oldest and longest-running film festival in the world. The Festival's aim is to raise awareness about, and promote the various aspects of, international cinema in all its forms: as art, entertainment and industry, in the spirit of freedom and dialogue. The Festival also organises retrospectives and tributes to major figures as a contribution towards a better understanding of the history of cinema.

Henrik Bo Nielsen - Denmark
CEO | Danish Film Institute | hbn@dfi.dk



Henrik Bo Nielsen was born in Denmark. He became affiliated with the daily newspaper 'Information' in 1991 and was its Chief Executive from 1992 to 2007. He carried out an extensive financial, organisational and editorial restructuring

of 'Information', which included the establishment of the newspaper's website and new revenue-generating business areas. Since April, 2007, he has been CEO of the Danish Film Institute.

Company profile An important task of the Danish Film Institute (DFI), the national agency for film and cinema culture in Denmark, is to provide a framework for film funding that promotes diversity and a willingness for risk in the industry. The Institute does this by offering many gateways to production support, by highlighting talent development and by keeping a sharp eye on new digital platforms. A cornerstone of Danish film policy is the funding of films for children and youth, to which 25 per cent of all subsidies are allocated. The Institute strongly encourages international partnerships, allowing for between seven and nine minor co-productions per year.

Rémi Bonhomme - France
Programme Manager | La Semaine de la Critique | r.bonhomme@semainedelacritique.com



Rémi Bonhomme has collaborated with the Critics' Week at the Festival de Cannes since 2003 and was appointed Programme Manager in 2009. Based in Paris and Beirut, Bonhomme is also a board member of the Metropolis Art Cinema and a co-founder of MC Distribution. He was associate producer

on the Lebanese feature film 'Every Day Is a Holiday' by Dima El-Horr, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2009. He has served on festival juries in Busan, Morelia, Thessaloniki, Los Cabos, Durban and Buenos Aires.

Company profile A sidebar section of the Festival de Cannes, the Critics' Week has remained steadfast in its tradition of discovering emerging talent. Ever since it was conceived by the French Union of Film Critics in 1962, the objective of the Critics' Week has been to showcase short films as well as first and second feature films by directors from all over the world. A reflection of a mixture of demand and curiosity, the Critics' Week explores new creations through a selective programme of 10 short and 10 feature-length films.

Dora Bouchoucha - Tunisia
Producer | Nomadis Images | nomadis.images@gmail.com



Dora Bouchoucha studied English Literature and has been a film producer since 1994. She has produced and co-produced several Tunisian and foreign documentaries and short and feature-length films, including Jamila Sahraoui's 'Barakat' (2006), and Raja Amari's 'Satin Rouge' (2002) and 'Buried Secrets'

(2009). She founded the Sud Écriture workshops in 1997 and is actively involved in training and promotion for Southern cinema. She was head of the Journées Cinématographiques de Carthage in 2008 and 2010, head of Fonds Sud in 2010/2011 and President of Aide aux Cinémas du Monde in 2012.

Company profile Nomadis Images is a Tunisian audiovisual production company whose main activities include the production of short and feature-length fiction films, documentaries and commercials; service provision; and training. The company's filmography includes 'Buried Secrets' (2009), 'Barakat' (2006) and 'Satin Rouge' (2002).

Mohammed BuAli - Bahrain
COO | Nooran Pictures | m.buali@nooranpictures.com



An independent Bahraini filmmaker, Mohammed Rashed Buali has authored, directed and produced a number of award-winning short films and documentaries including 'Absence', 'The Good Omen', 'Canary', 'Huna London'

and 'Reclaim', the winner of the Golden Lion at the 12th International Architecture Exhibition, at the Venice Biennial in 2010. His most recent project was the feature-length 'The Sleeping Tree', which premiered at the Dubai International Film Festival.

Company profile Specialised in film production, scriptwriting and media project development, Nooran Pictures is an incubation agency based in Bahrain. Productions include 'The Sleeping Tree'.

Valerio Caruso - Belgium
Director | Euromed Audiovisuel | vcaruso@euromedaudiovisuel.net



Valerio Caruso has worked as an audiovisual consultant for several international organisations. In 2002, he created Cineuropa.org, the most-visited website about European cinema.

Caruso works for two European Union programmes in the audiovisual field: Euromed Audiovisuel, which deals with Arab countries; and ACPCultures+, which deals with African countries.

Teresa Cavina - Italy / UAE

Programming Director | Abu Dhabi Film Festival | tcavina@adff.ae



A veteran of festival programming, Teresa Cavina began her career at the Venice Film Festival in 1989, then moved to the Locarno Film Festival in 1998, where she started a programme devoted to video art, and launched Open Doors, a co-production platform with a special focus on extra-European and developing countries. She was asked to start the Rome Film Festival, where she was co-artistic director for the first three editions and directed the New Cinema Network. From 2009 to 2012, she was the

artistic director of FIPA Biarritz, a festival focused on documentaries and television drama. Since 2000, Cavina has sat on the International Board of Advisors of The Noir at the Festival of Courmayeur, and since 2006 she has been on the International Board of Advisors of HAF, the co-production forum of the Hong Kong International Film Festival. In 2009 she began her co-operation with the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, where she has been Director of Programming since 2010.

Company profile Presented each October, the Abu Dhabi Film Festival is committed to curating exceptional programmes to engage and educate the local community, inspire filmmakers, and nurture the growth of the regional film industry.

Gianluca Chakra - Lebanon / UAE

Managing Director | Front Row Filmed Entertainment | gianluca@frontrowent.biz



Gianluca Chakra has been Managing Director of Front Row Filmed Entertainment since 2003, presenting films from festivals to be distributed all

over the GCC and other territories. He also deals with films for upload to iTunes.

Company profile Launched in 2003 by Gianluca Chakra, Front Row has established itself as the leading independent film distributor in the Middle East. It has proved its efficiency on all media platforms. Front Row has also partnered with the Kuwait National Cinema Company and Real Image Labs in order to expand its business throughout the region.

Peter Chappell - UK

Producer/Director | Luna Films Ltd | peterchappell@gmail.com



Peter has worked extensively in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. As director, he made a drama adapted from Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer's book 'Oral History'. His films have won numerous international awards, including the Canadian Film and Television Academy's Award for Best Scientific Documentary and the Parliamentary

Assembly of Europe's Prix Europa for 'The Origins of AIDS', and the Silver FIPA for 'Our Friends at the Bank', which also won the Outstanding Journalism Award at the Ökomeia Festival in Germany. Chappell has organised workshops in Tunisia, Palestine and Qatar, and is on the advisory board of MAISHA in Uganda.

Company profile Luna Films is a London-based independent film and television production company. It was incorporated to provide a platform for production following the opening up of the broadcasting sector to independent companies in the 1980s. It aimed to produce documentary and fiction films and to extend the networks and training activities of its two principal producers, Holly Aylett and Monica Henriquez.

Ziad Cortbawi - Lebanon

Managing Director | Televue International | ziadc@televue-int.tv



Ziad Cortbawi is Managing Director of Televue International S.A.L., a Beirut-based company founded in 2006, with offices in Lebanon and Dubai. Televue specialises in sales and distribution of

all-rights feature films, television movies, mini-series, series and documentaries, benefiting cinemas, TV stations, cable and VOD platforms, and airlines.

Frédéric Corvez - France

CEO | Urban Distribution International | frederic@urbandistribution.com



Frédéric Corvez started his career at Equinoxe (Sony Pictures International and Canal+), where he was in charge of international development. As a member of the reading group at Studio Canal, he contributed to the creation of Kanpai Distribution. He joined MK2 and then Celluloid Dreams, where he directed and developed the TV department. In 2004, Corvez founded

Urban Distribution International, a world sales company. In 2006, he created GOMEDIA, a post-production facility, and in 2011, he founded Urban Factory, an independent company dedicated to domestic production and international coproductions. The same year he launched a theatrical distribution company, Urban Distribution.

Company profile Urban Distribution International presents international arthouse films by promising young filmmakers and renowned directors whose films distinguish themselves through innovation and originality. Since its creation in 2004 by Frédéric Corvez, UDI has always been driven by the same goal: to bring quality cinema to the largest audience possible on every continent.

Laurent Crouzeix - France

Co-Executive Director | Clermont-Ferrand International Film Festival |
l.crouzeix@clermont-filmfest.com



Laurent Crouzeix is Co-Executive Director of the Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival and Market. He is Programmer of the International Competition and Project Manager on the shortfilmdepot.com online platform. Crouzeix is also Coordinator of Euro Connection, the

co-production meetings for short films that he launched in 2009. He also produces targeted industry meetings and implements partnerships with other festivals and markets. He is regularly invited to industry events as expert in Europe and beyond.

Company profile The Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival attracts 160,000 admissions, while 3,000 industry delegates converge each year for the Short Film Market. It is a qualifying festival for the Academy Awards, a BAFTA-recognised festival, and a nominating festival for the European Film Awards. The 38th edition took place in February, 2016. The team behind the festival also manages an array of year-round activities, including film education, film commission and a resource centre.

Jamel Dallali - Qatar

Director of Production | Al Jazeera Documentary Channel | dallalij@aljazeera.net



Jamel Dallali is Manager of Production at Al Jazeera Documentary Channel.

Company profile Aljazeera Documentary Channel is an Arabic-language documentary channel and a branch of the Al Jazeera network. It was launched on 1 January, 2007. It aims to provide viewers an immense number of high-quality documentary films.

Rawan Damen - Qatar

Senior Producer and Director | Al Jazeera Network



Rawan Damen is a senior commissioning producer for Al Jazeera's weekly documentary strands 'Focus' and 'Palestine Under Focus'. As a film director, her profile includes several documentary series, including 'Arab Women Pioneers', 'Al-Nakba', 'The Homeland's Owners', 'The Price of Oslo', 'The Bitter Peace', 'The Road to Jan 25' and 'Red Card for

the President'. Her award-winning documentary series 'Al-Nakba' has been translated into seven languages, and received worldwide appreciation. Damen holds a BA in Media and Sociology from Birzeit University and an MA with distinction in Communication Studies from Leeds University.

Company profile Al Jazeera Network is one of the world's leading media corporations, encompassing Al Jazeera Arabic, Al Jazeera English, Al Jazeera Balkans, Al Jazeera Mubasher, Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, the Al Jazeera Media Training Centre, Al Jazeera Centre for Studies.

Nicolas Damuni - Lebanon

Filmmaker | 'Maqloubeh'



Nicolas Damuni studied cinema in Beirut. He has worked as a director, editor, colourist and special-effects creator on several projects in France and in the Middle East. In 2005, his work was

selected for the Mediterranean Films Crossing Borders Festival and, in 2006, he was selected for the Berlinale Talent Campus.

Matthieu Darras - Italy / France

Head of Programmes | TorinoFilmLab | matthieu.darras@torinofilm.it



The founder of NISI MASA, the European network of young cinema, Matthieu Darras has ideated and managed dozens of international workshops related to scriptwriting, filmmaking, and film criticism. He was a regular member of the Cannes Critics' Week selection committee from 2005 to 2011, and is artistic director

of the Alba Film Festival in Italy, and the International Film Festival Bratislava. He now works as delegate for Eastern Europe at the San Sebastian Film Festival. Darras has worked for the TorinoFilmLab since its inception in 2008, where he is currently Head of Programmes.

Company profile TorinoFilmLab is a training, development and production film fund with a special focus on first- and second-time feature filmmakers from all over the world. With its variety of programmes and awards, TorinoFilmLab supports up-and-coming talent from script development through to production.

Claire Dobbin - Australia

Script Consultant | claire@clairedobbin.com



Claire Dobbin is an Australian script advisor and editor who works with development agencies and filmmakers in Australia, France, India, New Zealand, Norway, the UAE, the UK and Yemen. She is Deputy President of the international script workshop Équinoxe Europe, where she is a script advisor to international participants. She has taught screenwriting at the major film schools

in Victoria, Australia, including the Victorian College of the Arts and the RMIT post-graduate screenwriting programme. From 1986 to 2000, Dobbin was Senior Script Executive at the Australian Film Commission. Since 2003, she has been Chair of the Melbourne International Film Festival, and is Chair of its film investment fund. She was President of the Jury of the Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in 2012.

Didar Domehri - France

Producer | Full House - Maneki Films | didar@fullhouse-films.com



Didar Domehri is the founder of Maneki Films and Full House, and the former Head of International Sales at Films Distribution. She is a member of the CNC Aide aux Cinémas du Monde Committee. Her production credits include Laurent Cantet's 'Return to Ithaca', which screened in Venice Days; JB Andréa's 'La

Confrérie des larmes'; the omnibus '7 Days in Havana', which premiered at Cannes; Wang Xiaoshuai's '11 Flowers', which played in Toronto; Pablo Traperó's 'Elefante Blanco', which screened at Cannes; Tarzan and Arab Abunasser's 'Dégradé'; and Santiago Mitre's 'La Patota', both currently in post-production.

Company profile

Full House is the common label of Maneki Films and Borsolino Production, set up in 2009 by Didar Domehri, Laurent Baudens and Gael Nouaille. To date, Full House has produced four films and co-produced four others. Its structure aims at producing French and foreign pictures as main producer or coproducer.

Mike Downey - UK

CEO | Film and Music Entertainment (F&ME) | mike.downey@fame.uk.com



Mike Downey is the founder and CEO of Film and Music Entertainment (F&ME), an independent UK production powerhouse, with partners Sam Taylor and Stephen Daldry, a four-time Academy Award nominee for Best Director. Downey is Deputy Chairman of the European Film Academy and a BAFTA Council Member.

His books 'The Film Finance Handbook - A Guide for European Producers' are published by MEDIA. He is Business President of the Motovun Film Festival in Croatia, Artistic Advisor to the Zagreb Film Festival and Artistic Director of the Pula Film Festival.

Company profile

For 15 years, Film & Music Entertainment has been at the forefront of independent production in the UK, Europe, Africa and Latin America, creating a world cinema brand based on quality, commitment and a passion for creativity. It has 50 films in its current catalogue, including a winner of the Golden Lion from Venice, an Academy Award nominee and numerous official entries in the Sundance, Berlin, Montreal, Toronto, Cannes and San Sebastian film festivals. The Film & Music Entertainment brand is synonymous with quality feature films via a wide variety of international authors.

Nadia Dresti - Switzerland

Artistic Direction Delegate | Festival del film Locarno | direction@pardo.ch



In 1999, Nadia Dresti became a member of the selection committee of the Festival del Film Locarno and was nominated Head of the Industry Office. In 2003, she took part in the launch of Open Doors, the festival's co-production workshop; in

2006, she became its Delegate of Artistic Direction. In 2010, she launched Industry Days and in 2013 became Head of International. Dresti has been a member of the Federal Commission for Cinema (CFC) since 2012.

Company profile

Comprised of several sections, the Festival del film Locarno aims to promote personal filmmaking of artistic merit; to provide a showcase for each year's major new international films of the year; and to take stock, in its competitive sections, of new perspectives of filmmaking expression, concentrating especially on new film directors and industries.

Andrea Gambetta -Italy

President | Solares Fondazione delle Arti | agambetta@solaresdellearti.it



Andrea Gambetta is President of Solares Fondazione delle Arti. He has been producing documentaries and short films since 2001. Examples include 'Super 8 Stories' by Emir Kusturica; 'Na specie de cadavere lunghissimo' and L'ingegner Gadda va alla guerra' by Fabrizio Gifuni and Giuseppe Bertolucci; 'The Wizard of Cinema: The Incredible Story of Mr.

Corman'; and 'Ulidi piccola mia' by Mateo Zoni. He is co-producer of 'Full Metal Joker' by Emiliano Montanari and 'The Salt of the Earth' by Wim Wenders. Gambetta is currently working on the co-production of two projects with Vatican Television Centre: one focused on the Swiss Guard, the other Pope Francesco.

Company profile

Solares Fondazione delle Arti has worked for years in the design and executive production of spectacular events, related mainly to interdisciplinary cross-pollination among the arts. The foundation is headquartered in Parma, where it is responsible for the management of a theatre, a cinema, and a gallery for art and photography exhibitions. In addition, Solares is active in producing events and exhibitions nationally and internationally, with museums and theatres, both public and private.

Rosie Garthwaite - Qatar

Executive Producer | Mediadante | rosiegarthwaite@gmail.com



Rosie Garthwaite is the Executive Producer of Mediadante, an award-winning independent production company she co-founded. Mediadante is based in Qatar and makes documentaries and interactive transmedia projects, and generates online content and news about the MENA region for the world. In 2014, she won the CINE Golden Eagle award for

her series following the first Saudi woman to climb Mount Everest. She is a former British army officer and author of the award-winning 'How to Avoid Being Killed in a War Zone'. In 2015, Garthwaite aims to complete her first feature documentary, 'The Workers Cup', about the hidden life of migrant workers in Qatar.

Company profile

Mediadante, an award-winning independent production company based in Doha and London, tells the stories of the Middle East and North Africa to a global audience. Our network of award-winning film makers based across the region have the access, understanding, experience and creativity needed to make documentaries, news and innovative content about the complex societies in which we live, love and work. In 2014, Mediadante won the CINE Golden Eagle award for documentary making for a series following the first Saudi woman, the first Qatari man and the first Palestinian man to scale Mount Everest.

Charles Gillibert - France

Producer | CG Cinéma | charles.gillibertasst@cgcinema.eu



In 2013, Charles Gillibert founded CG Cinéma, a film production company focused on international projects. In its first year, CG began the production of Olivier Assayas' 'Sils Maria', Mia Hansen-Løve's 'Eden', and Laure de Clermont-

Tonnerre's 'Rabbit'. Between 2006 and 2012, Gillibert was at MK2, where he produced, co-produced, and supervised the distribution and sales of more than 20 films. In 2010, he was a member of the board of MK2 SA.

Company profile

Founded by Charles Gillibert in 2013, CG Cinéma is a film-production company focused on international projects. In its first year, CG Cinéma began the production of Olivier Assayas's 'Sils Maria', Mia Hansen-Løve's 'Eden', and Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre's 'Rabbit'. Between 2006 and 2012, while at MK2, Charles Gillibert produced, co-produced, and supervised the distribution and sales of more than twenty films. In 2010, he was a member of the board of MK2 SA.

Georges Goldenstern - France

Director | Festival de Cannes Cinéfondation | georges.goldenstern@festival-cannes.fr



Georges Goldenstern has been in charge of cinema for the European channel Arte since its inception. Currently, he is the Executive Manager of Cinéfondation.

Company profile

The Cinéfondation lends support to new generations of filmmakers through the Selection, for which 20 short films from schools are chosen for the Official Selection of the Festival de Cannes; the Residence, for which 12 filmmakers are chosen annually to write the screenplay of their first or second feature film over a four-and-a-half month period in Paris; and L'Atelier, for which 15 projects are chosen, for whose filmmakers we arrange appointments with industry professionals during the Festival de Cannes to enable them to complete financing for their films.

Tala Hadid - UK

Filmmaker | 'The Narrow Frame of Midnight'



Tala Hadid was born in London. She graduated from Columbia University in New York City and is an alumna of the Sundance Institute Directors Lab. Her films include the feature-length documentary 'Sacred Poet' (2001), 'Your

Dark Hair Ihsan' (2005), which won the Short Film Award in the Panorama section of the Berlin International Film Festival, and 'The Narrow Frame of Midnight' (2014).

Khalifa Saleh Al-Haroon - Qatar

Co-Founder | ILoveQatar.net | kei@iloveqatar.net



Khalifa Saleh Al-Haroon is the co-founder and director of ILoveQatar.net.

I Love Qatar (ILQ) was established in 2008 by Khalifa Saleh Al Haroon as a way to promote Qatar both nationally and internationally, and help bridge the gap between the local and expat communities. Since then, we have grown rapidly, and have become known for promoting the best events and keeping the community informed on all things Qatar. Between our various social channels, we now boast more than 2.7 million YouTube views, including those for the online series #QTips which has become a national sensation. On Facebook, we support a community of more than 165,000 and on Twitter we curate and create content for more than 130,000 followers. A winner of the Start Up of the Year and Best Use of Social Media awards, with our background in growing our own social media channels, including ILoveQatar, Qatar Events and Qatar News, we have recently set up a Social Media Management division - ILQ Social. With both local and international clients ILQ Social has grown from strength to strength.

Teresa Hoefert de Turégano - Germany

Funding Advisor | Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH |
t.hoefert-de-turegano@medienboard.de



Teresa Hoefert de Turégano is a funding advisor at the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, where she is responsible for international co-productions. She is Canadian and has both academic and professional experience in the European film milieu. She taught Cinema at the University of Lausanne and worked

for both Eurimages and the European Audiovisual Observatory. She also works as a consultant on film and cultural policy and has evaluated for the EU-ACP film fund, Media and Creative Europe. Her publications include a book and numerous articles on various subjects related to film and the politics of cinema.

Company profile

The Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg was established in 2004 as the central agency for film funding and media development in the regions of Berlin and Brandenburg. With an annual budget of approximately EUR 26 million for film funding, the Medienboard supports national and international film productions and has both cultural and economic objectives. Financing is available for development, slates, production, distribution and other activities.

Bilal Hoosein - Qatar

Head of Acquisitions | Al Jazeera English | bilal.hoosein@aljazeera.net



Bilal Hoosein began his career in television 15 years ago. After obtaining a postgraduate degree in politics, he began working as a professional news cameraman and video editor, covering the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Based in South Africa, he travelled extensively on the African continent working as a

freelance producer and reporter. In 2005, he started his own television production company with a focus on documentary production, sales and acquisitions for the international broadcast market. He is currently working with the Al Jazeera English Channel as Head of Documentary Acquisitions.

Company profile

Al Jazeera English is an international news channel with more than 60 bureaux worldwide that span six continents. Since its establishment in 2006, it has grown in reach and popularity due to its global coverage from under-reported regions. The channel currently broadcasts to more than 250 million households in 130 countries. Al Jazeera English is part of the Al Jazeera Network, one of the world's leading media corporations, encompassing Al Jazeera Arabic, Al Jazeera English, Al Jazeera Balkans, Al Jazeera Mubasher, the Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, the Al Jazeera Media Training Centre and the Al Jazeera Centre for Studies.

Fadi Ismail - UAE

Director of Group Drama | MBC Group | fadi@mbc.net



Fadi Ismail has over 23 years of experience working in news, current affairs, documentaries and drama. Previously, he has been part of the management launch team for Al Arabiya News channel; Assistant Director, News and International Operations; Producer and Reporter for special events, documentaries, telethons and live political chat shows. He has advised

various existing channel regarding revamping projects as well as launching new channels. He has been in his current position as General Manager at mbc since 2002, where he is responsible for selecting, buying and distributing hundreds of hours of Turkish, Indian, Korean work, and adapting scripted long telenovella formats and other dramatic content.

Company profile

O3 Productions specialises in the production, acquisition and distribution of original and innovative Arabic drama series, Arabic movies, Turkish drama series and other international scripted drama formats. Our expertise and high level of commitment to quality covers the entire value chain of audiovisual content production, acquisition and distribution. O3's expertise is growing intensively to include high-end Arabic television drama series. Our reputation of being leaders in the Arabic television drama market is growing with every new production.

Ali Al Jabri - UAE

Festival Director | Abu Dhabi Film Festival | aljabri@adff.ae



Ali Al-Jabri is a professional theatre and film actor. He started his career in acting for theatre in 1988, and has worked with many established and respected directors. Al-Jabri held the position of Secretary

General of the Emirates Film Competition from 2001 to 2009. He became the Managing Director of the Competition until he was appointed Festival Director of the Abu Dhabi Film Festival in 2012.

Company profile

Presented each October, the Abu Dhabi Film Festival is committed to curating exceptional programmes to engage and educate the local community, inspire filmmakers, and nurture the growth of the regional film industry.

Annemarie Jacir - Palestine / Jordan

Writer / Director / Producer | Philistine Films | annemarie.jacir@gmail.com



Annemarie Jacir has had two of her films premiere as official selections of the Festival de Cannes, one in Venice and most recently in Berlin, where 'When I Saw You' won the award for Best Asian Film. She has written, directed and produced more than sixteen films. The founder of Philistine Films, Jacir regularly collaborates with her fellow filmmakers.

She teaches screenwriting, and works as a freelance editor and screenwriter. With a commitment to teaching, training and hiring locally, her focus is on promoting independent cinema in the region. She is currently completing a screenplay for Mira Nair and is in development on her next film.

Company profile

Based in Jordan and Palestine, Philistine Films is known for its interest in challenging and original films from directors with a distinctive vision, and has established itself at the forefront of independent cinema in the region. We aim to challenge the creative, financial and practical obstacles that confront filmmakers working outside the mainstream. Philistine Films also concentrates on education and training with the conviction that in order to build a truly independent cinema, a self-sufficient industry should exist with professional crew and truly independent voices.

Philip Jones - Australia

Writer, Curator | philip.jones@samuseum.sa.gov.au



Philip Jones is a museum curator and writer, specialising in the Australian frontier and the encounters that took place there during the colonial period. In 2008, he won the inaugural Prime Minister's Literary Award for Non-Fiction for his book 'Ochre and Rust: Artefacts

and Encounters on Australian Frontiers'. He has worked with Les Films de la Drève on diverse projects since the 1990s. In 2007, he published a book and curated an exhibition on Australia's Muslim cameleers.

Abdulhamid Juma - UAE

Chairman | Dubai International Film Festival | abdulhamid.juma@tecem.ae



Abdulhamid Juma was part of the team that founded the Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF) in 2004, and was appointed Chairman of the Festival in 2006. His extensive experience in leadership roles has been integral to establishing DIFF as a world-class event.

Prior to his appointment, Juma served as Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Media City. He currently sits on the board of the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority and is also the Deputy Director General of Dubai Technology and Media Free Zone Authority.

Company profile

The Dubai International Film Festival is the destination for the discovery of Arab cinema, and a showcase of the best of Asian, African and world cinema. Its Dubai Film Market covers the script-to-screen needs of the more than 70 nations between Europe and the Far East.

Vanja Kaludjeric - Croatia / Denmark / France

International Advisor | CPH:DOX | vanjak@cphdox.dk



Vanja Kaludjeric is a Croatia-born festival programmer. She started out working at the Motovun Film Festival in Croatia and the Slovenian Cinematheque, followed by the Human Rights Film Festival, the ZagrebDox Pro workshop and the Animafest. After moving to Paris, she was in charge of acquisitions at The

Coproduction Office from 2008 to 2010. She managed Paris Project for two years at the Paris Cinema Film Festival. In 2012, she joined Les Arcs European Film Festival as head of Industry. She has also worked at the HAF - Film and Financing Market in Hong Kong, CPH:DOX and the Sarajevo Film Festival.

Company profile

CPH:DOX presents non-fiction, art cinema and experimental film with a specific focus on hybrid genres. The festival is one of the largest documentary events in Europe, and includes art exhibitions, concerts, seminars, debates and special live events. The industry branch consists of the financing forum CPH:FORUM, CPH:MARKET, and the distribution company DOX:BIO. In 2009, CPH:DOX initiated the international film production programme DOX:LAB, where 8-12 films are produced annually by directors in teams of two.

Ryan Kampe - USA

President | Visit Films | info@visitfilms.com



Prior to founding Visit Films, Ryan Kampe spent a number of years in international distribution at Focus Features. With Visit Films, he has been responsible for the worldwide sales and development of a number of important American independent and international films

that have premiered in festivals such as Cannes, Sundance, Berlin and Toronto, from filmmakers as diverse as Harmony Korine, Werner Herzog, the Duplass Brothers, Valerie Donzelli, Joe Swanberg and David Robert Mitchell.

Company profile

Visit Films is a worldwide films sales company specialising in director-driven work that premieres at the world's top film festivals. Titles in Visit's catalogue include 'People Places Things', 'Unexpected', 'It Follows', 'Cave of Forgotten Dreams', '10.000 KM' and 'Charlie's Country'.

Alaa Karkouti - UAE

Co-Founder & Managing Partner | MAD Solutions | alaa.karkouti@mad-solutions.com



A renowned film analyst and an influential professional within the cinema and entertainment industry in the Arab world, Alaa Karkouti is known for his

efforts in assembling complete statistical and analytical archives on the economics of filmmaking.

Company profile MAD Solutions is the first company in the Arab world that focuses on the marketing and promotion of Arab films around the world. It was founded by leading film analyst Alaa Karkouti in partnership with renowned artist Maher Diab. It aims to provide integrated creative solutions for the entertainment industry.

Antoine Khalife - Egypt / UAE

Special Advisor / Producer | Arab Media Distribution | akhalife@amc-art.com



Antoine Khalife is a producer and Special Advisor to the Cairo-based broadcasting corporation ART. As associate producer, he had been involved in many films, including Nadine Labaki's 'Where Do We Go Now?' and Hany Abu-Assad's 'Omar'. In addition to his work with ART, Khalife

is Director of the Arab Programme at the Dubai International Film Festival. He is the former Head of Festivals and Films at Unifrance. He studied Sociology, Communication and Mass Media in Paris, and holds a Ph.D from the University of Paris VII.

Company profile ART - Arab Radio and Television - was established in 1993, and is the largest broadly diversified media conglomerate in the Arab world. The group companies operates in theatrical film and television production, acquisitions and distribution, television broadcasting, teleports and pay TV. ART has been involved in films including Nadine Labaki's 'Caramel' and 'Where Do We Go Now?', Chawki Megri's 'The Kingdom of Ants', Hany Abu-Assad's 'Omar', and 'El Jazira', parts 1 and 2.

Joe Khalil - Qatar

Associate Professor in Residence | Northwestern University in Qatar | joekhalil@hotmail.com



Joe Khalil is Associate Professor in Residence at Northwestern University in Qatar.

Company profile Founded in 2008, Northwestern University in Qatar offers top-ranked programmes for Bachelor of Science degrees in Journalism or Communication, providing all the technical skills required to launch rewarding professional careers.

Alice Kharoubi - France / UAE

Head of Department / Shorts Programmer | Cannes Court M trage / Abu Dhabi Film Festival | akharoubi@adff.ae



After studying Communication in France and USA, Alice Kharoubi started to collaborate with the Festival de Cannes, working for the March  du Film. She is now Head of Cannes Court M trage, an entity dedicated to short films developed by the Festival de Cannes. In parallel, she

has been the short film programmer for the Abu Dhabi Film Festival since its creation, and is a programmer for Festival Tous  crans in Geneva. Kharoubi is also a member of several short film selection committees and has participated as a jury member in festivals all over the world.

Company profile Cannes Court M trage, an entity developed by the Festival de Cannes, is dedicated to short films. It unites the Official Competition and the Short Film Corner, a meeting place for filmmakers that takes place during the Festival.

Presented each October, the Abu Dhabi Film Festival is committed to curating exceptional programmes to engage and educate the local community, inspire filmmakers, and nurture the growth of the regional film industry.

Kim Ji-Seok - South Korea

Executive Programmer | Busan International Film Festival | yijin1@biff.kr



Kim Ji-seok is Executive Programmer of the Busan International Film Festival, through which he has made a substantial contribution to discovering and presenting the new film talents of Asia. Thanks to his efforts, the festival has become a central hub of Asian cinema and one of the most important film festivals in the world. He is responsible

for the official selection of the A Window on Asian Cinema section, which presents internationally acclaimed Asian films and new films from world-famous Asian filmmakers, as well as that of New Currents, the section that introduces up-and-coming Asian directors who deserve to be in the spotlight.

Company profile Since its inception in 1996, the Busan International Film Festival has quickly grown to become the largest film festival in Asia. The festival has established its role as a strong supporter of the film industry through its various programmes, including the Asian Film Market, the Asian Project Market, the Asian Cinema Fund and the Asian Film Academy.

Jason Kliot - USA

Founder | Open City Films | jk@opencityfilms.com



Jason Kliot is the producer of more than 40 feature films by acclaimed directors including Jim Jarmusch, Brian De Palma, Steven Soderbergh, Miguel Arteta, Hal Hartley, Nicole Holofcener, Alex Gibney and Todd Solondz. From auteur-driven projects to commercial box-office hits to theatrical documentaries, Kliot's films

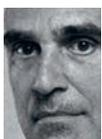
have won several awards at the Sundance Film Festival, the Berlin International Film Festival, the Festival de Cannes and the Venice Film Festival, including two Sundance Grand Jury Prizes and the Silver Lion for Best Director at Venice. He has been nominated for an Academy Award and 25 Independent Spirit Awards.

Company profile

Open City Films is a New York-based production company dedicated to the production of high-quality independent films that are both commercially and critically successful. Throughout their prolific careers, founders Jason Kliot and Joana Vicente have produced pioneering works by first-time filmmakers and have championed the distinctive visions of established directors.

Čedomir Kolar - France

General Manager | ASAP Films | ckolar@noos.fr



Čedomir Kolar was born in the former Yugoslavia and graduated in film production from the Belgrade Academy of Dramatic Arts. Before moving to Paris, Kolar worked in film and television production in Rome for 16 years. After moving to Paris in 1990, he produced more than 25 feature films and won

various awards, including an Oscar, a Golden Globe and the screenplay award in Cannes for Danis Tanović's 'No Man's Land', and the Golden Lion in Venice for Milcho Manchevski's 'Before the Rain'. Most recent productions include Ritesh Batra's 'The Lunchbox' and Danis Tanović's 'Tigers'.

Company profile

ASAP Films is an independent production company jointly created in 2003 by producer Čedomir Kolar, Academy Award-winning director Danis Tanović and producer Marc Baschet. The company has produced more than 10 feature films.

Shawkat Amin Korki - Iraqi Kurdistan

Filmmaker | 'Memories on Stone'



Shawkat Amin Korki was born in 1973. Originally from Zakho in Iraqi Kurdistan, he and his family fled Iraq's military dictatorship to Iran in 1975, where they lived in exile for 25 years. There, Korki studied cinema. Following many award-winning short films, he gained

international recognition with the completion of his debut feature film in Iraqi Kurdistan, 'Crossing the Dust' (2006), and his follow-up feature, 'Kick Off' (2009). He now lives and works in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan.

Christophe Leparc - France

Managing Director | Quinzaine des Réalistes | cleparc@quinzaine-realistes.com



Christophe Leparc has been Managing Director of the Directors' Fortnight at the Festival de Cannes since 2001. He has worked in the film industry since 1990, specialising in the organisation of film festivals. In 1994, he began to

work for the Mediterranean Film Festival of Montpellier as a prospector and programmer of retrospectives. He was programme manager of the International Critics' Week at Cannes from 2000 to 2008.

Company profile

Among the various sections of Cannes Film Festival, the Directors' Fortnight is distinguished by its independent-mindedness, its non-competitive nature and its catering to non-professional audiences. Striving to be eclectic and receptive to all forms of cinematic expression, the Fortnight pays particular attention to the annual production of fiction features, short films and documentaries, to the emergence of independent filmmaking, and to contemporary popular genres, provided these films are the expression of an individual talent and in an original directorial style.

Marie-Pierre Macia - France

Producer, Sales Agent | MPM Film | mpmacia@mpmfilm.com



Marie-Pierre Macia began her career at the Cinémathèque Française and studied film conservation at the American Film Archives. She has been a programmer with the San Francisco International Film Festival, and was Director of the Directors' Fortnight at the Festival de Cannes from 1998 to 2002. In 2007 she

created MPM Film. Macia was the director of the Abu Dhabi Film Festival's SANAD fund for three years and is currently the director of Crossroads, the Thessaloniki Film Festival's co-production forum. Her lengthy experience and knowledge of cinema has gained her professional recognition worldwide.

Company profile

Over the last seven years, MPM Film has produced more than 10 feature films, including Adrian Sitaru's 'Picnic', which played at TIFF and in Venice Days in 2008; Béla Tarr's 'The Turin Horse', which was in competition at the Berlin International Film Festival, where it won the Silver Bear and FIPRESCI Prize; and Julia Murat's 'Historias', which played in Venice Days and at TIFF. Currently, MPM Film is preparing the upcoming films of Paz Encina and Lucrecia Martel. MPM Film International's sales line-up includes Jasmila Zbanic's 'For Those Who Can Tell No Tales', Pepe Valle's 'Workers', Maria Florencia Alvarez's 'Habi - La Extranjera', Mahdi Fleifel's 'A World Not Ours' and Jem Cohen's 'Museum Hours', among others. With extensive experience, both artistic and financial, and an important network in the industry, MPM Film's wish is to support the independent production of confirmed film directors and to discover the directors of tomorrow.

Mohammad Makki - Saudi Arabia

Owner-CCO | Shubbak | anggi@shubbak.tv



Mohammad Makki is a 26-year-old Saudi Arabian, who graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Marketing from King Abdul Aziz University. He started making short films at the age 15. He won a third-place award at the Gulf Film Festival for the short film 'Badri?', which he wrote and directed. A year later,

the same festival presented his 'Frozen Dance', which he also wrote and directed, in its official selection. He ranked first place throughout the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in a youth competitive for art and creativity. Makki created, wrote and directed 'Takki', one of the best Saudi web series.

Company profile Shubbak is a film-production house focusing on narrative content for television series, and short and feature films.

Haifaa Al Mansour - Saudi Arabia

Filmmaker | haifaa.almansour@gmail.com



Haifaa Al-Mansour is Saudi Arabia's first female filmmaker, and is regarded as one of the most significant cinematic figures in the Kingdom. She finished her bachelor's degree in Literature at the American University in Cairo and completed a Master's degree in Directing and Film Studies from the University of Sydney. The success of her three short films, as well as the international acclaim of her award-winning 2005 documentary 'Women Without Shadows', influenced a

whole new wave of Saudi filmmakers and made the issue of opening cinemas in the Kingdom a front-page discussion. Within the Kingdom her work is both praised and vilified for encouraging discussion on topics generally considered taboo. Through both her films and her work in television and print media, Al-Mansour is famous for penetrating the wall of silence surrounding the sequestered lives of Saudi women and providing a platform for their unheard voices.

Vincent Maraval - France

Sales Agent / Co-Founder | Wild Bunch | edevos@wildbunch.eu



Vincent Maraval co-founded Wild Bunch in 1999 as a department of StudioCanal. Currently regarded as one of the strongest acquisition and distribution professionals in Europe, he has shown an outstanding ability to identify new directorial talent, and to nurture their

careers. He carries the characteristically diverse Wild Bunch editorial policy, having attracted such talents as Ken Loach, Peter Mullan, Guillermo del Toro, Alexandre Aja, Hayao Miyazaki, Nanni Moretti, Lou Ye, James Gray, Woody Allen and Darren Aronofsky.

Company profile Created in 2002 Wild Bunch is a French film distribution and international sales company. Originally a division of StudioCanal, the company has distributed and sold films including 'Land of the Dead', 'Southland Tales', Woody Allen's 'Cassandra's Dream' and 'Vicky Cristina Barcelona', 'Whatever Works', Steven Soderbergh's 'Che', 'The King's Speech' and 'The Artist'. Wild Bunch also handles international sales for Studio Ghibli.

Rima El Mismar - Lebanon

Film Programmes Manager | AFAC - Arab Fund for Arts and Culture | rima.mismar@arabculturefund.org



Born in Lebanon in 1975, Rima El Mismar completed her studies in Communication Arts with a Radio/TV/Film emphasis at the Lebanese American University in Beirut. Before graduating in 1998, she started writing for local newspapers and cultural supplements, focusing on

cinema, before pursuing her professional career as a film critic as of 1999. El Mismar joined the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC) in June 2011, where she oversees all film programmes as Film Programmes Manager.

Company profile The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC) was established in 2007 as an independent initiative that funds individuals and organisations in the fields of cinema, the performing arts, literature, music and the visual arts, while facilitating cultural exchange, research and cooperation across the Arab world and globally. Active in 18 Arab countries, the Fund runs two programmes for film - General Grants for Cinema, which accommodates all types and lengths of film projects, and the AFAC Documentary Programme, for creative Arab documentaries that tackle social realities and social justice in the Arab region.

Guneet Monga - India

Producer | Sikhya Entertainment | guneet@sikhya.in



Voted as one of the top 12 women achievers in the Global Entertainment industry by 'The Hollywood Reporter' and among the top 50 Indians changing India by 'India Today', producer Guneet Monga has been a gamechanger in representing Indian cinema at a global level. In a short span of time, Monga has carved

her niche and is one of the youngest producers in India. She has to her credit some trailblazing films, including the Oscar-nominated short film 'Kavi', directed by Gregg Helvey; the cult film 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'That Girl in Yellow Boots' and the current blockbuster 'The Lunchbox'.

Company profile

Sikhya Entertainment has changed the way Indian cinema is viewed internationally. Spearheaded by noted film producer Guneet Monga, the team at Sikhya consists of passionate individuals who have previously been involved in the making of groundbreaking films like 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'Shaitan' and 'That Girl in Yellow Boots', to name just a few. Driven by creating content-led cinema, Sikhya's homegrown films have not only travelled to prestigious international film festivals like Cannes, Toronto and Venice, but also have demonstrated commercial potential - the company's latest offering, 'The Lunchbox', has broken box-office records worldwide.

Odette Makhoulf Mouarkech - Lebanon

Filmmaker | 'The Wall'



Odette Makhoulf Mouarkech obtained her Diploma in Cinema from USEK in 2000 and a Master's degree in Cinema Studies from Paris 8 in 2004. 'The Wall'

won the Best Short Film Scenario Award from Metropolis and was selected for the delegation of the European Union to Lebanon at the 17th European Film Festival.

Valérie Mouroux - France

Directrice du département Cinéma | Institut Français |

valerie.mouroux@institutfrancais.com



A graduate of the École Normale Supérieure and holder of an Agrégation in French Literature, Valérie Mouroux dedicated the first 10 years of her career to teaching Literature and Cinema. In 1998, she switched to directing Écrans Nord-Sud, an association that deals with the promotion of African cinema. In

2002, she was recruited by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Head of the Documentary Films Office, then of French Cinema. Since 2009, she has been Director of the Cinema Department of the Institut Français, the public operator of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for cultural affairs abroad.

Company profile The Institut Français is the agency of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs for cultural action outside France. It promotes French films and film heritage through non-commercial distribution and film literacy initiatives. It also supports world cinema through La Fabrique des Cinémas du Monde, the Cinémathèque Afrique and the Aide Cinémas du Monde, a fund co-managed with the CNC.

Hania Mroué - Lebanon

Director | Metropolis Cinema / MC Distribution | hmroue@metropoliscinema.net



Hania Mroué is Founder and Director of Metropolis Art Cinema, the first arthouse cinema in Lebanon, which opened in 2006 and aims to support regional and international productions by presenting audiences with alternative cinema. In 2009, Mroué launched MC Distribution, a distribution company specialising in independent Arab titles,

and she is also a founding member of Beirut DC, which aims to produce and promote independent Arab cinema, create a network for communication and collaboration among Arab filmmakers, and establish a media library to house the archives of independent Arab works. In addition, Mroué also was Managing Director of Cinema Days of Beirut.

Company profile Metropolis Cinema is an arthouse cinema that opened in Beirut 2006. Its two-screen theatre is dedicated to showing auteur films from all over the world, including classics of all eras and genres, and recent independent Arab productions. It is also a hub for more than 12,000 children who attend its year-round screenings and activities. MC Distribution handles the distribution activities of Metropolis. Its catalogue includes around 50 Arab films and internationally acclaimed titles.

Talal Al-Muhanna - Kuwait

Producer | Linked Productions | contacttalal@hotmail.com



Talal Al-Muhanna was born in Kuwait and raised and educated in the USA and the UK. He earned BA and MA degrees in Film and Moving Image Production from Leeds Metropolitan University and a Certificate in Fundraising from New York University. He produces documentary and fiction films internationally, with a special emphasis on projects by Arab

filmmakers and films highlighting arts and culture. Films directed or produced by Al-Muhanna have won awards, been broadcast on ARTE, ZDF, YLE and NTR, among others, and have screened at numerous festivals internationally, as well as regionally in Doha, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Beirut and Cairo.

Company profile Linked Productions develops and produces narrative films and documentaries with a focus on stories and subject matter set in the Middle East, Asia and Africa. The company places special emphasis on the support and promotion of early-career filmmakers of Middle Eastern and Arab descent.

Jan Naszewski - Poland

CEO | New Europe Film Sales | jan@neweuropesales.com



Jan Naszewski is a sales agent and festival organiser, and the owner of the Warsaw-based boutique world sales company New Europe Film Sales, which sells short and feature films. Naszewski has organised industry events at the T-Mobile New Horizons International Film Festival and collaborated with Connecting Cottbus. He is an expert for the European Film Academy (EFA Young Audience Award 2014 selection committee) and various

European institutions, and is a graduate of and guest lecturer at EAVE and the Wajda School in Warsaw. He co-produced the short film 'La Isla' by Dominga Sotomayor and Kasia Klimkiewicz, which won the Canon Tiger Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam in 2014. He is a member of the board of Europa International network of European sales agents.

Company profile New Europe Film Sales is a boutique sales company based in Warsaw that works with content from around the world. Founded in 2010 by Jan Naszewski, EAVE expert and industry manager for the New Horizons International Film Festival, the company has a leading position in the short-film market, where it works with directors such as Ruben Östlund and represents six filmmakers whose work was shortlisted for the Academy Awards. Of the 17 feature films in the company's catalogue, seven had their world or international premieres at the Berlin International Film Festival, including Generation winners 'Violet' and 'Mother I Love You'; three at the International Film Festival Rotterdam; and three at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival, including Latvia's Oscar candidate 'Rocks in My Pockets'.

Savina Neirotti - Italy

Director | TorinoFilmLab | savina.neirotti@torinofilmlab.it



Born in Genova, Savina Neirotti graduated with a degree in Philosophy and completed the first year of a Master's degree in Aesthetics at the University of Pennsylvania. After returning to Italy, she became Head of the Press and Communication Office of the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI, where she was also in charge of the Educational

Department. She then founded Scuola Holden together with Alessandro Baricco. She is Director of Scuola Holden's Master in Narration Techniques and supervises all the school's activities. She has ideated and directed Script&Pitch since 2005, and the TorinoFilmLab since 2008. She is also Head of Programme of Biennale College - Cinema.

Company profile TorinoFilmLab is a training, development and production film fund with a special focus on first- and second-time feature filmmakers from all over the world. With its variety of programmes and awards, TorinoFilmLab supports up-and-coming talent from script development through to production.

Orwa Nyrabia - Syria / Germany

CEO / Producer | Proaction Film GmbH | orwa@proactionfilm.com



An actor by education, Orwa Nyrabia co-founded Proaction Film in 2002, worked as a journalist for five years, directed advertisements and short documentaries, played the main role in Youssef Nassrallah's 'The Gate of Sun' (Cannes, 2004) and served as first AD on various feature films, including 'Sacrifices'

(Cannes, 2002). Since 2005, Nyrabia has been dedicated to creative documentary film production and international coproduction. He has served repeatedly on festival and fund juries both regionally and internationally, and also as a trainer and consultant for film productions around the world.

Company profile Proaction Film is an award-winning Arab world film and television production company, established in Damascus in 2002. The company has activities in Syria, Egypt and Germany. Its film catalogue has been released theatrically, broadcast on television, and won awards all around the world. Recent productions include 'The Mulberry House' by Yemeni filmmaker Sarah Ishaq, 'Silvered Water', the Cannes, TIFF, NYFF, CIFF and Grierson Award 2014 winning Syrian/French film by Ossama Mohammed and Simav Bedirxan, as well as 'Return to Homs', the Sundance Grand Jury Award Winner 2014, which screened at more than 90 festivals and is currently available on all major VOD platforms.

Karel Och - Czech Republic

Artistic Director | Karlovy Vary International Film Festival | och@kviff.com



Karel Och studied law and graduated with a degree in film theory and history from Prague's Charles University. Since 2001, he has worked for the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival as a member of the selection committee. He has programmed KVIFF's documentary competition and curated tributes and

retrospectives to Sam Peckinpah, John Huston, Michael Powell & Emeric Pressburger, Jean-Pierre Melville and Elio Petri, among others. In 2010, Och was appointed Artistic Director of the Karlovy Vary IFF. He is a member of the European Film Academy, FIPRESCI and the LUX prize selection committee.

Company profile The Karlovy Vary International Film Festival is the leading film event in Central and Eastern Europe. Established in 1946, the Festival annually presents up to 200 features in four competitions and a rich sidebar programme.

Roberto Olla - France

Executive Director | Eurimages | roberto.olla@coe.int



Roberto Olla is the Executive Director of Eurimages. An Italian national, he has a degree in public law and holds a Ph.D in European law. Before joining Eurimages in 2002, he worked in the distribution department of the MEDIA Programme of the EU and was a legal adviser on

audiovisual matters to the European Commission. Olla participates as a legal expert in several European training initiatives in the film sector, and has often been a panellist on industry seminars concerning cinema co-production.

Company profile Eurimages is the Council of Europe Fund for the co-production, distribution, exhibition and digitisation of European cinematographic works. Set up in 1988, it currently has 35 member states. By providing financial support to co-productions, Eurimages aims to foster co-operation among professionals.

Rickard Olsson - Germany / Italy / Sweden**Acquisition Consultant | Picture Tree International GmbH | rickard@picturetree-international.com**

Rickard Olsson has worked in various roles and positions within the European film industry since 1995, for companies and institutions including the regional fund Film i Väst, the Swedish Film Institute, the MEDIA Programme of the EU and, more recently, Deputy Director and Head of Studies for the European

producer programme Maia Workshops. He holds a Master's degree in Audiovisual Management and regularly lectures at training initiatives alongside consultancy assignments in the cinema sector. He joined the newly launched sales company Picture Tree International as Acquisitions Consultant in 2014.

Company profile

Picture Tree International GmbH is an integrated world sales and production company with headquarters in Berlin. Its core business is the worldwide licensing of film rights and the co-production of international feature films in an integrated business model. The company handles an overall international sales line-up of up to eight films per year, including two co-production projects.

Camille Pagès - France**Business Affairs and Sales Manager | WIDE | cp@widemanagement.com**

Camille Pagès holds a BSc in International Marketing and a Finance degree from the University of Southern California, and a Master's degree in International Business from HEC Paris. She worked at Warner Bros. Entertainment and SND

Films before joining Wide in 2012. As the Business Affairs and Sales Manager at Wide, she handles all producer and distributor relations from acquisitions to international sales.

Company profile

Founded in 1997 by Loïc Magneron, WIDE is a leading independent sales company currently representing more than 20 new features films every year, and a library of more than 400 fiction titles and 300 documentaries. Our catalogue contains a variety of movies from internationally acclaimed directors, including restorations of classics like Max Ophüls's 'Lola Montes' and Jean-Luc Godard's 'Vivre sa vie', among others, as well as a selection of genre and horror films from around the world.

Heidi Palm Sandberg - Norway**Managing Director | Sørfond | heidi@filmfrasor.no**

Heidi Palm Sandberg is Managing Director of Sørfond, whose grants stimulate the production of films in developing countries, where such production is limited by political or economic causes. The grants seek to contribute to strengthening film as a

cultural expression, to promote diversity and artistic integrity on the international film scene, and to strengthen freedom of expression. They also contribute to increased co-operation between the Norwegian and international film industries.

Company profile

Sørfond has supported 18 projects between 2011 and 2014, among them Raouf Peck's 'Murder in Pacot' (Haiti, 2014), which premiered at TIFF and was selected for the Panorama section of the Berlin International Film Festival in 2015; Đap Cảnh Giua Không's 'Flapping in the Middle of Nowhere' (Vietnam, 2014), which also premiered at TIFF and won the Critics' Award in Venice; and Afia Nathatiel's 'Dukhtar' (Pakistan, 2014), which also had its premiere at TIFF.

Seri Park - South Korea**Asian Project Market Coordinator | Busan International Film Festival | seri@asianfilmmarket.org**

Seri Park began her career in the film festival field as a coordinator of the Asian Film Academy, a support programme organised by the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) that encourages young filmmakers from Asia. Subsequently,

she has worked for the Asian Project Market at BIFF for more than two years, supporting talented filmmakers and producers and seeking investors all over the world.

Company profile

Since its inception in 1996, the Busan International Film Festival has quickly grown to become the largest film festival in Asia. The festival has established its role as a strong supporter of the film industry through its various programmes, including the Asian Film Market, the Asian Project Market, the Asian Cinema Fund and the Asian Film Academy.

Mirsad Purivatra - Bosnia and Herzegovina

Festival Director | Sarajevo Film Festival | mirsad.purivatra@sff.ba



Mirsad Purivatra is Director of the Sarajevo Film Festival. He produced Danis Tanović's 'Cirkus Columbia', and was a co-producer of 'Once Upon a Time in Anatolia', directed by Nuri Bilge Ceylan and a producer of 'Bridges of Sarajevo', which was presented in the Official

Selection of the Festival de Cannes in 2014. He also teaches production at the Sarajevo Academy of Performing Arts. He is the recipient of numerous national and international awards and recognitions, including the Chevalier de l'ordre des arts et des lettres.

Company profile

The Sarajevo Film Festival is an international film festival with the specific goal of supporting and promoting Southeastern European cinema and authors. To this end, the festival founded CineLink, a regional co-production market, and established the Sarajevo Talent Campus, an educational programme.

Nadia Raïs - Tunisia

Filmmaker | 'Survival Visa'



Nadia Raïs was born in Tunis. She has a Master's degree in Art Science and Techniques, specialising in Graphic Design. She worked for two years on a feature-length animated film as an animator and illustrator, then spent several years

working in advertising, on campaigns and animated films. She is a founding member of the Tunisian Association for Animated Movies. Her short films are 'L' Ambouba' (2009) and 'L' Mrayet' (2011).

Jean-Pierre Rehm - France

General Director | FIDMarseille | jprehm@fidmarseille.org



Since 2002, Jean-Pierre Rehm has been the director of the FIDMarseille - International Documentary Film Festival. A graduate of the École Normale Supérieure, where he studied Modern Literature and Philosophy, Rehm is an editor of 'Cahiers du cinéma' and a

regular author of film and art reviews. He has curated a number of exhibitions of contemporary art in France and abroad, including at the Cairo Museum of Modern Art, the Witte de With in Rotterdam, and the Yokohama Art Centre.

Company profile

FIDMarseille is an international competitive film festival. Rooted in documentary practice, it also includes narrative features and shorts, and is primarily open to contemporary cinema. Four years ago, the festival took the decisive step of welcoming fiction films alongside documentaries in the official selection. In 2014, FIDMarseille presented about 150 films, most of which were world or international premieres. FIDLab is the FIDMarseille international co-production platform for projects at every stage of production. Ten projects are selected for two days of presentations, workshops, one-on-one meetings and discussion panels.

Jason Resnick - USA

Principal | Resnick Entertainment | jason.resnick@gmail.com



From 1998 to 2008, Jason Resnick served as an executive at Universal Pictures and Focus Features. His most recent title was Senior Vice President and General Manager, Worldwide Acquisitions, for the Universal Pictures Group. Resnick was in charge of all acquisitions and co-productions for all of Universal's

distribution platforms worldwide. His acquisitions for Focus included 'The Motorcycle Diaries', 'Swimming Pool', 'Brick', 'Mean Creek' and 'My Summer of Love'. His acquisitions for Universal included 'Ray', 'Drag Me to Hell', 'Mulholland Drive', 'Brotherhood of the Wolf', 'Gosford Park' and 'In the Bedroom'.

Oussama Rifahi - Lebanon

Executive Director | AFAC - The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture | rifahi@arabculturefund.org



Oussama Rifahi joined AFAC as Executive Director in July, 2010. Previously, he was Managing Director for Museum Development in New York with Global Cultural Asset Management. As Director of Special Projects for the Guggenheim

Foundation, Rifahi led feasibility studies of modern and contemporary museums in Lithuania and France. From 2003 to 2006, he was a project manager at Mubadala in Abu Dhabi and an advisor to the Chairman of TDIC.

Company profile

AFAC was established in 2007 as an independent initiative that funds individuals and organisations in the fields of cinema, the performing arts, literature, music and the visual arts, while facilitating cultural exchange, research and cooperation across the Arab world and globally. Active in 18 Arab countries, AFAC runs two programmes for film - General Grants for Cinema, which accommodates all types and lengths of film projects, and the AFAC Documentary Programme, for creative Arab documentaries.

Vida Rizq - UAE

Founder | Aflannah | vida@aflannah.com



Vida Rizq is the Principal Founder of Aflannah. She combines her enthusiasm and passion for crowdfunding for the Arab world and for pioneering that space with a wealth of experience in the media and entertainment industry. Rizq has worked with major media organisations

including Microsoft's MSN, Showtime, the Dubai International Film Festival and Abu Dhabi Media. She thrives on challenging projects that have change and innovation at their heart. Her aspiration for Aflannah is that the stories told through the platform will make a difference.

Company profile

Aflannah is the first digital platform dedicated to crowdfunding in and for the Arab world. It seeks to help independent filmmakers and artists raise funds for their projects by getting people excited to support their ideas and provide sufficient finances to make them happen. Launched in July 2012, Aflannah has dominated in the field of film and supported several award-winning projects, including 'When I Saw You', 'A World Not Ours' and 'Champ of the Camp'.

Christian Routh - Spain / UK

Film Consultant | christianrouth5@gmail.com



Christian Routh was originally a film rights buyer in the UK. During the 1990s, he was Head of Selection at the European Union's Media Programme development agency, the European Script Fund and EMDA. Since 2000, Routh has been based in Spain, working as a script

analyst and film consultant for a variety of international agencies. He has also initiated various training programmes such as Four Corners (connecting a group of European film schools), and the Hezayah script workshops at the Doha Film Institute in Qatar.

Ghassan Salhab - Lebanon

Filmmaker | ghassansalhab@gmail.com



In addition to making his own films and video works, Ghassan Salhab collaborates on various screenplays in Lebanon and France, and teaches film in Lebanon. He has directed six feature films: 'Beyrouth fantôme' (1998); 'Terra Incognita' (2002); 'The Last Man' (2006); '1958' (2009); 'The Mountain' (2011); and 'The Valley' (2014). All his films have been selected for various

international film festivals. In addition, he has made numerous short films and videos, including 'Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere - Diptych'; 'Le Massacre des innocents - triptych'; '(Posthume)'; 'Narcisse perdu'; 'My Living Body, My Dead Body'; 'La Rose de personne'; 'Afrique fantôme'; and 'Après la mort', among others.

Mohamed Samir - Egypt

Producer/Director | DayDream Art Production | daydream@ddartproduction.com



Mohamed Samir has graduated from the Higher Institute of Cinema in Cairo as a film editor, and subsequently through his work as an editor he has dealt with all aspects of the film scene.

In 2007 with the rise of the independent cinema movement in Egypt he decided to establish his own post-production/production company "DayDream Art

Production" to serve and support this movement, which he feels passionately about promoting.

With his experience in the commercial mainstream film making scene, DayDream could have a unique impact, combining the understanding of the commercial market along with the artistic approach of the Director's Films.

Company profile

DayDream Art Production is a Cairo-based production entity operating in the Middle Eastern market and offering a variety of production and post-production filmmaking services. Mohamed Samir, the creator of DayDream, has 17 years of experience in the video- and filmmaking industry in Egypt and the Middle East. DayDream was created in 2007 with an aim to put the Egyptian film industry back on the international scene. DayDream Art Production is focused on producing director's films and aiming to distribute these films internationally. Examples include 'Factory Girl', the latest feature film project directed by Egyptian cinema icon Mohamed Khan.

Georges Schoucair - Lebanon

Producer | About Productions | contact@aboutproductions.com



A very dynamic entrepreneur, Georges Schoucair created multiple business ventures and started producing films in 2005 under the banner of About Productions. Under his management, the company succeeded to become one of the most acknowledged film production companies in the Middle East. His films have been exhibited worldwide and

received vast acclaim from both critics and public. Reaching out to Middle Eastern audiences, Georges established MC Distribution, an entity that distributes Arab and international films throughout the region. In 2008, he took on the role of vice president of Metropolis, a unique art house cinema venture in Beirut.

Company profile

About Productions produces feature films and documentaries with a distinctly Arab voice, expressing the identity of the region. Since 1998, the company has brought together an important network of Arab and Lebanese artists. About Productions has a strong partnership with MC Distribution, a company dedicated to promoting films from the Middle East along with priority access to Metropolis Cinema, the only arthouse theatre in Lebanon.

Shirine Sinno - Lebanon

Post-Production Expert | the postoffice | shirinesinno@hotmail.com



Shirine Sinno started in 2002 as the first Colorist from the Middle East region, working alongside directors and cinematographers from the USA, Europe and the Middle East, using a Pogle/Telecine and Lustre DI grading systems. She built a solid reputation grading commercials, features, music videos and documentaries at The Gate. Her sophisticated eye for colour and light

was initially developed through her initial interest in photography and lighting for theatre. She holds a BA in Communication Arts from the Lebanese American University in Beirut and an MA in Digital Special Effects from Bournemouth University. Currently, Sinno works at the postoffice, in the only DCI grading theatre in the Middle East.

Company profile

Established in Beirut in 1998 by Mahmoud Korek and Ghada Oueidat, the postoffice is a post-production, special-effects and animation company. From the advent of post-war Lebanese cinema up to current events in the Arab world, the postoffice has played an atypical and decisive role in feature films such as Ghassan Salhab's 'The Valley', which was selected for many festivals and won the Best Arab Director Black Pearl Award at the last Abu Dhabi Film Festival; and remarkable documentaries like Ali Atassi's 'Our Terrible Country', winner of the Grand Prix at FID Marseille in 2014. Other films include 'Heritages', 'Blind Intersections', 'Asfour', 'Roubama' and 'Haunted'.

Konstantina Stavrianou - Greece

Managing Director | Graal | kstavrianou@graal.gr



Konstantina Stavrianou was born in Athens and co-founded Graal s.a. in 1999. Since 2003, she has been working in film as a post-producer on short and feature films, as well as documentaries. She oversees the co-production and post-production sectors for both Greek and international productions, and is Graal's

managing director. She has served as a jury member at co-production markets at festivals in Thessaloniki, Istanbul and Romania. She is currently producing two feature films as well as co-producing four international projects. She is a Berlinale talents alumni and a member of the EAVE network.

Company profile

Graal S.A. is a production and post-production facility in Greece. Currently in its 16th year of operation, the company is clearly focused on cinema. In 2003, Graal entered international co-production and has continued with a wide selection of projects. It has a significant international track record, with its films selected for Cannes, Venice, Berlin and other international festivals. Graal has co-produced 47 films to date and has a portfolio of approximately 370 titles. Since 2010, it has been the main sponsor of the Agora Film Market section of the Thessaloniki International Film Festival, offering a complete image post-production award.

Bianca Taal - The Netherlands

Programmer and Manager of CineMart | International Film Festival Rotterdam | b.taal@filmfestivalrotterdam.com



After finishing her Film and Television Studies at the University of Utrecht, Bianca Taal started working with the International Film Festival Rotterdam in 2001 as a staff member of the Hubert Bals Fund and the CineMart. From 2005 - 2007 Bianca was co-Head of the CineMart. Consecutively Bianca has been director of

the Hubert Bals Fund from 2007 - 2009. From 2009 - November 2011, Bianca worked as Head of Programmes at the Binger Filmlab in Amsterdam. Currently she is back at the IFFR where she is responsible for the programming of features from the Middle East, and co-heading CineMart.

Company profile

The International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) offers a quality selection of independent and innovative cinema, video and media art. During the 12 days of the festival, hundreds of filmmakers and other artists present their work to a large audience and 2,500 film professionals in 25 screening rooms at eight festival venues. Through CineMart, the co-production market of the festival, and the Hubert Bals Fund, IFFR seeks to support filmmakers and producers in realising their projects.

Lorna Tee - Malaysia, The Netherlands

Producer | Paperheart Limited | lorna.tee@gmail.com



Producer Lorna Tee is a well-known personality on the Asian film scene. In 2005 she managed marketing and distribution at Focus Films Hong Kong. After that, she managed the Asian office for 'Variety' as their Business Development Manager. She then became General Manager of the Asian investment

fund Irresistible Films. Currently, Tee manages her own production company, Paperheart, to produce films across Asia. Tee also works alongside numerous other international films festivals, including CinemAsia and the Berlinale, and film funds, including Back Up Media Group, as a consultant.

Company profile

Paperheart Limited is an independent film production company set up by producer Lorna Tee and writer-director Ho Yuhang, who have collaborated on numerous projects that have won awards on the international film festival circuit. The company strives to collaborate and support young and talented filmmakers in Asia.

Adeline Fontan Tessaur - France

Managing Director and Head of International Sales and Acquisitions | Elle Driver | adeline@elledriver.eu



Before the creation of Elle Driver, Adeline Fontan Tessaur had eight years' experience in television and feature film acquisitions and international sales with TF1 International in Paris. She then moved to the cinema department as VP of International Sales and Acquisitions,

where she handled around a hundred new feature films including 'La Vie en rose', 'Spy Bound' and 'The Syrian Bride'. In early 2008, she co-founded the foreign sales company Elle Driver, currently considered one of the leading sales and acquisitions outfits worldwide.

Company profile

Elle Driver, an international sales and acquisitions company based in Paris that is committed to represent and grow with the world's most creative rising talents, from well established to first-time and arthouse directors. Across a broad spectrum of budgets and content, Elle Driver's slate emphasises a diversity of films, each with a unique universe and sensibility. Our ambition is to promote worldwide an activist, different - sometimes risky - cinema, through an original, demanding and alternative line-up. Recent highlights include '20 Feet from Stardom' by Morgan Neville (Oscar winner for Best Documentary); 'What We Do in the Shadows' by Taika Waititi and Jemaine Clement; 'Dead Snow I & II' by Tommy Wirkola; Coixet's new film 'Nobody Wants the Night'; Benoit Jacquot's '3 Hearts' and 'Diary of a Chambermaid'; and 'D egrad ' by Tarzan and Arab Abunasser, among others.

Intishal Al Timimi - UAE / The Netherlands

Arab Programming Director | Abu Dhabi Film Festival | ialtimimi@adff.ae



Intishal Al Timimi is a film programmer. He is currently the director of Arabic programming and of SANAD fund at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival. Previously, he was the artistic director of the Arab Film Festival in Rotterdam for nine years. He has created and organised several special programmes about Arab and Iraqi all

over the world. He has participated as a jury member at several International film festivals, among them Parma, Singapore, Delhi, Ismailia, Munich, Tallin and Guanajuato. He is a member of the board of NETPAC and served as a jury member on NETPAC juries in Berlin, Locarno, Karlovy Vary and Toronto.

Company profile The Abu Dhabi Film Festival, presented each October, is committed to curating exceptional programmes to engage and educate the local community, inspire filmmakers and nurture the growth of the regional film industry.

Sacha Tohme - Lebanon

Managing Director | Moving Turtle | stohme@movingturtle.net



Sacha Tohme is Managing Director of Moving Turtle, a distributor and an aficionado of cinema.

Company profile Moving Turtle is a growing independent distribution company based in Beirut and serving the entire Middle East region. Our team brings a wealth of film expertise to deliver quality entertainment. We pride ourselves on formulating enriching relationships with international directors, producers and fellow distributors. We are committed to bringing quality cinema of differing genres to a range of audiences throughout the region by dedicating equal time, energy and attention to all our titles. Moving Turtle specialises in distribution along all platforms of high-end, award-winning arthouse movies in the MENA region. Titles include 'Winter Sleep', 'Amour' and 'Difret', among many others.

Adriek Van Nieuwenhuyzen - The Netherlands

Head of Industry Office | International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam | adriek@idfa.nl



Adriek van Nieuwenhuyzen was born in the Netherlands, and obtained her Master's degree in Theatre and Film Science in 1989 from the University of Utrecht. During her studies, she began to specialise in documentary and was involved in the first edition of IDFA, then a small but sparkling initiative to bring back documentary to the big screen in Amsterdam. In 1993, she became Deputy

Director at IDFA, and since 2007 she has been Head of the Industry Office. In this position, her main occupation is the general policy of the Forum. She is also responsible for the general policy of Docs for Sale and IDFAcademy. She is a member of the selection committee of the IDFA Bertha Fund, which aims to generate more attention for the voices of filmmakers in the developing world.

Company profile Since its launch in 1988, IDFA has been one of the world's leading documentary film festivals, dedicated to the exhibition and promotion of groundbreaking creative documentaries. It has consistently served up the latest works of the world's leading documentarians to a discerning and discriminating audience, and has dedicated itself to the task of devising innovative funding structures to ensure continuing production of top-level documentary films.

Joana Vicente - USA

Executive Director | Independent Filmmaker Project | jvicente@ifp.org



Joana Vicente has been the Executive Director of the IFP and the Made in NY Media Center by IFP since December 2009. Before IFP Vicente, she and her partner Jason Kliot produced or executive produced more than 40 films, including 'Coffee and Cigarettes', 'Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room' and 'Welcome to the Dollhouse'. Vicente

co-founded three film production entities with Kliot: Open City Films, Blow Up Pictures and HDNet Films. Vicente graduated from the Catholic University of Portugal with a Master's degree in Philosophy and began her career as the press attaché for the Portuguese delegation to the European Parliament.

Company profile The Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP) champions the future of storytelling by connecting artists with essential resources at all stages of development and distribution. The organisation fosters a vibrant and sustainable independent storytelling community through year-round programmes, which include the Independent Film Week, 'Filmmaker Magazine', the Gotham Independent Film Awards and the Made in NY Media Center by IFP, an incubation space developed with the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment. During its 36-year history, IFP has supported more than 8,000 projects and offered resources to more than 20,000 filmmakers, including Debra Granik, Miranda July, Michael Moore, Dee Rees and Benh Zeitlin.

Cat Villiers - UK

Producer | [Autonomous | cat@autonomous.uk.com](mailto:cat@autonomous.uk.com)



Producer Cat Villiers's first feature film 'Before the Rain' won the Venice Film Festival's Golden Lion and was nominated for an Academy Award. She has produced, executive-produced and co-produced many award-winning films, including Bernard Rose's 'Ivansxtc', Danis

Tanović's Golden Globe and Academy Award winner 'No Man's Land' and 'Cirkus Columbia'; Sundance Audience Award winner 'Saving Grace'; BAFTA winner 'Kiss of Life'; Nick Cave and John Hillcoat's 'The Proposition', and Hanan Abdalla's 'In the Shadow of a Man'.

Company profile

Award-winning producer Cat Villiers's many credits include 'Before the Rain', 'No Man's Land' and 'The Proposition'. She produces through her company Autonomous; recent films range from Hanan Abdalla's documentary 'In the Shadow of a Man' to Tala Hadid's 'The Narrow Frame of Midnight' and Danis Tanović's most recent film, 'Tigers'. Villiers currently has four films in various stages of production. She is also a Trustee, with directors Mike Leigh and Simon McBurney, of the Katrin Cartlidge Foundation, which gives awards to new voices of independent world cinema annually.

Marietta Von Hausswolff Von Baumgarten - Sweden

Head of Development / Script Consultant | [Mother of Sons | vonvon@comhem.se](mailto:vonvon@comhem.se)



Marietta Von Hausswolff Von Baumgarten is Head of MotherofSons (MOS), a development and film production company based in Stockholm. She works in art, music, theatre and television drama as a screenwriter, script consultant, director and creative producer. She is the director and creative producer of 'KREV?!', a transmedia/

feature film project in development that was introduced at Power to the Pixel; CPH:DOX; and at CineMart. She is the Minister of Persuasion for the State of the Kingdoms of Elgaland-Vargaland (KREV).

Hossam Wahbeh - Qatar

Head of Training Programmes Section | [Al Jazeera Network | wahbehh@aljazeera.net](mailto:wahbehh@aljazeera.net)



Hossam Wahbeh studied Media Design at the University of Mainz. He holds a Master's degree in Media Authorship from the Hochschule der Medien in Stuttgart as well as a Ph.D in Fine Arts from the Bauhaus University in Weimar. Previously a lecturer in documentary film and journalism at Al-AQSA University,

he is currently the Head of Training Programmes Development at the Al-Jazeera Media Training and Development Centre, a trainer for the Documentary Film Workshops and Diploma, and a lecturer in television directing, presenting, reporting, filming and aesthetics.

Company profile

Al Jazeera Network is one of the world's leading media corporations, encompassing Al Jazeera Arabic, Al Jazeera English, Al Jazeera Balkans, Al Jazeera Mubasher, Al Jazeera Documentary Channel, the Al Jazeera Media Training Centre and the Al Jazeera Centre for Studies.

Michael J. Werner - The Netherlands / Hong Kong

Chairman | [Fortissimo Films | michael@fortissimo-hk.com](mailto:michael@fortissimo-hk.com)



Michael Werner has more than 35 years' experience in international film sales and consulting, specialising in the Asia-Pacific region. He joined Fortissimo Film Sales as an external consultant in 1995 and in

2000 became a partner in the company. Prior to joining Fortissimo, Werner focused on major commercial films, handling such titles as 'Die Hard 3', 'Talk Radio' and 'Evita'

Company profile

Fortissimo is one of the world's leading international film, ancillaries, and television-sales organisations, specialising in the production, presentation, promotion and distribution of award-winning and innovative films. Approaching 25 years in business, Fortissimo currently represents more than 300 films, including features and shorts from every corner of the globe. Upcoming titles include John Cameron Mitchell's 'How to Talk to Girls at Parties' and Terence Davies's 'Sunset Song'.

Andy Whittaker - UK

CEO | [Dogwoof | andy@dogwoof.com](mailto:andy@dogwoof.com)



Andy Whittaker is the founder of Dogwoof, and has established the company as the leading film distributor of social-issues films. Whittaker looks after Dogwoof's business strategy, which is intimately

linked to the development of its online activities. Previously, he had a successful career at eBay, Nomura Investment Bank, and Ernst & Young.

Company profile

Based in London, Dogwoof is the leading UK theatrical film distributor for documentary and social-issues feature films. Films include 'Restrepo', 'Son of Babylon', 'Black Gold', 'A Small Act', 'Food Inc.' and 'Even the Rain'.

Gamila Ylstra - The Netherlands

CEO | Binger Filmlab | gamila@binger.nl



Gamila Ylstra is CEO of Binger Filmlab, where she is in charge of its mission, vision and strategy. Previously, she was Head of the Film Department of the Ministry of Culture and Project Manager at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, and Managing Director of Film Investors Netherlands, executing a tax scheme for Dutch filmmaking. In 2004, she joined

the national broadcaster NPS as Director of TV. For EYE Institute, she developed a plan for the nationwide digitisation of cinema. Ylstra is board member of the Dutch Media Fund, the distributor CinemaDelicatessen and LivingMediaArt. She is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Netherlands Film Festival.

Company profile

Binger Filmlab is an Amsterdam-based international feature-film and documentary development centre, where writers, directors and producers bring their projects into an inspiring environment of fellow filmmakers. They are coached and supported by internationally acclaimed advisors. Projects completed for release in 2015 include Matt Sobel's 'Take Me to the River', Jennifer Kent's 'Strangerland', Jan-Willem van Ewijk's 'Atlantic', Peter Hoogendorn's 'Between 10 and 12' and Marinus Groothof's 'The Sky Above Us'.

Michel Zana - France

Distributor/Producer | Sophie Dulac Productions-Distribution | mzana@me.com



After studying Cinema at ESEC, Michel Zana worked in Los Angeles from 1988 to 1996 as a production assistant, casting director and line producer. Upon his return to France, he was a line producer for seven years on documentaries for television (Artline Films & SZ Productions). In 2003, Zana joined Sophie Dulac as a producer and Head of Distribution.

Credits as producer and distributor include 'The Band's Visit', 'Last Days in Jerusalem', 'The Silence of Joan' and 'Hannah Arendt'. Currently, Zana is in post-production with Semih Kaplanoglu's 'Grain' and financing 'Ana, My Love', the fourth film by Calin Peter Netzer.

Company profile

Sophie Dulac Distribution was created in 2004 to distribute theatrical films produced by Sophie Dulac Productions and to act as a regular distributor. Presently, SD Distribution is releasing 10 to 12 features per year. To date, SD Distribution has distributed more than 70 films, including French and international features.