





FILM FINANCING DOSSIER
2011 FILM GRANTS

2010 marked the first year that DFI sought to expand its reach by providing financing for six projects, incorporating unique methods of storytelling. Films such as “Grandma, A ThousandTimes” and “Hawi” are among the first projects to receive a DFI MENA Film Grant, and have gone on to win awards at international festivals. In 2011, more than 250 applications were submitted, of which 52 were selected for their dynamism in storytelling, the uniqueness of the subject matter, and the breadth of the projects’ ability to engage local and international audiences.

The ethos behind the DFI Mena Grants is developing a culture where filmmakers can cultivate and refine their narratives while being supported throughout the entire creative lifecycle of their projects. By showcasing participants work through various initiatives, including financing and networking programmes, these foundations help secure a vibrant Arab presence within contemporary cinema.

This initiative provides resources at the diverse phases of film creation, including Development, Production, Post-production and Prints and Advertising. Feature narratives, documentaries, shorts, and experimental films are among the diverse stories that are part of this year’s initiative, which will enable filmmakers to secure the tools required to

develop and perpetuate engaging storytelling at festivals around the world.

Assisting in the development of a dynamic filmmaking community also ensures that ideas, scripts, and storyboards are taken from the page and transformed into images on the screen. DTFF 2011 marks the launch of Doha Projects, a DFI initiative that is fully dedicated to supporting all facets of filmmaking and maximising the reach and potential of funded projects, by bridging artists, resources and industry knowledge.

As DFI’s global footprint continues to expand, it offers more opportunities for filmmakers to reach larger audiences and join a growing portfolio of successful projects. Doha Projects and MENA Film Grants directly reflects DFI’s objective of transforming Qatar into a cultural hub through which, the next generation of storytellers can refine their craft. From financing to mentorship, these elements are creating the architecture of a holistic support network; one which will assist participants in all aspects of project development and ensure local and regional voices to continue to be heard.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Post-Production Grantees 11

Production Grantees 33

Development Grantees 87

POST-PRODUCTION GRANTEES

FEATURE NARRATIVE

LUST

MY BROTHER

NORMAL

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

A BREATH OF AIR

YEARNING

FEATURE EXPERIMENTAL

WHAT'S YOUR STORY PART I

ARAB SHORT NARRATIVE

FEBRUARY 19

ARAB SHORT DOCUMENTARY

BLACK COUNTRY

ARAB SHORT EXPERIMENTAL

FROM A CITY WITH NO IMAGES

POST-PRODUCTION
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Khaled El Hagar
Director



Sayed Ragab
Screenwriter



Dima Al-Joundi
Producer



Mohamed Yassine
Producer



Contact

Arabica Movies S. A. L.
Mohamed Yassine
Abdel Aziz Al-Ahdab Street
Art building, 1st floor
P.O. Box 113, Beirut, Lebanon
T: +9611 821 440
mhyassine@hotmail.com

LUST

"El Shooq", Egypt, Qatar, 2011

"Lust" takes us into a marginalised street in Alexandria and the lives of its residents. Umm Shooq is a woman whose feelings of inadequacy drive her to gain power over the world in which she lives.



Umm Shooq has run away from her wealthy family to marry the man she loves and has settled into a life of poverty in a marginalised street in Alexandria. While in this world she sells coffee to neighbours and reads their fortunes. Desperate to pay for a life-saving operation for her son, she returns to Cairo to ask her family for money but cannot face the shame, and starts begging on the streets. Back in Alexandria, her son dies and Umm Shooq returns to Cairo as a beggar.

Shooting Format: 35 mm

Runtime: 130 min

Genre: Drama, Social issues

Exhibition Format: 35 mm

Cast: Badr Sawsan, Rubi, Ragab Sayed, Doaa Teima, Ahmed Azmy, Meyrham

Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I read the script of “El Shooq” for the first time, I felt a shiver down my spine and I was not surprised when the script was chosen by Sundance Screenwriters Lab in 2006 and MFD in 2007. The story is simple, but profound. Pure Egyptian, yet international. It is supported first, by its visual elements and second, by its sparse dialogue in which every word counts towards building mood and revealing the characters’ emotions. “El Shooq” is a social drama about Egyptian society where the story of marginalised people living on a forgotten street subtly parodies the construct of power in Egyptian society.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Khaled El-Hagar, born in Suez, Egypt in 1963, studied law at Cairo University. After working as an assistant director for acclaimed Director Youssef Chahine, he studied scriptwriting and film directing at the UK’s National Film & Television School, Beaconsfield. His first feature “Little Dreams” was made for the German channel ZDF and “Room to Rent” followed. Shot in the UK for Studio Canal, it received eight international awards, and was released across Europe, Canada and USA. Other features include “Stolen Kisses” and “Love of the Girls” and “Ma Fich Gheir Kida”, the first Egyptian musical since the 1940s.

COMPANY PROFILE

Founded in 1997, Crystal Films is a Lebanon based distribution and production company in partnership with Belgian distribution company Cineart. Crystal established, along with Circuit Empire, the first “Europa Cinema Theatre” in the Middle East region, a special programme launched by the European Union to promote Euro-Mediterranean films. Crystal Films has distributed some 25 feature films in the Middle East.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$1,800,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$1,800,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- 3B Productions
- Arabica Movies
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Fonds Sud-CNC
- Francophone Funding

Current Status:

Prints & Advertising

Looking For:

We are looking for a sales agent (worldwide seller), television sales and distributors. Egyptian territory rights have already been sold.

POST-PRODUCTION
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Kamal El Mahouti
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



MY BROTHER

“Mon Frère”, Morocco, France, Qatar, 2012

After a break-up, painter Mo Bensalah throws his body and soul into his art. Constructed like a pictorial and sensorial puzzle, the film is the portrait of an artist caught between France and Morocco, set to the pulsating rhythms of Gnawa folk music.



The feature tells the story of Mo Bensalah, a Moroccan immigrant's son in his forties. We see the essence of Mo who is an artist and painter, through his creative craft; a journey into his paintings. Mo's internal voice and feelings guide us to the heart of his identity crisis, his personal story is revealed to us step by step as it unfolds. “My Brother” is a film about the internal struggles and complexities of being both French, Arab and Muslim in today's society.

Contact

LYRD Productions
Kamal El Mahouti
13 Rue des Ursulines
Saint-Denis, France

lyrd.productions@free.fr

Shooting Format: HD

Runtime: 77 min

Genre: About Family, Drama, Psychological

Exhibition Format: 35 mm

Cast: Zakaria El Ahmadi, Lahcen El Mahouti,
Fatima El Mahouti, Emma Raguin

Language: Arabic, French

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"My Brother" is a film about the internal struggles and complexities of being French, Arab, and Muslim in the current socio-political climate.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Kamal El Mahouti is a French writer and director of Moroccan descent. Born in Casablanca in 1963, he moved to France at the age of six. He studied Film at the University of Paris VIII. In 2001, El Mahouti directed "My Lost Home", which was selected to screen at the Exodes de l'Ecran Festival in Saint-Denis and the Arab Film Biennale at the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris. He has also directed six original stage productions and regularly conducts acting workshops for adults and children. His most recent projects include directing the DV short "The Locals Have Talent" and writing the feature screenplay, "Requiem for a Better World". In April 2006, he initiated the film festival, Panorama des Cinémas du Maghreb, in Saint-Denis, Paris.

COMPANY PROFILE

LYRD Productions is an independent film company based in France which was established in 2010 by Kamal El Mahouti. The organisation collaborates with Molilou Production, a Moroccan production company, which was founded in 2006. LYRD Productions is currently post-producing "My Brother" in order to release the film to wider audiences in 2012. After its release, the company's goal is to produce Kamal's next feature "Requiem for a Better World", and to start searching for development funds.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$180,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$150,600.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- ENJAAZ, Dubai Film Market, UAE
- Fonds Francophone, France
- SANAD, Abu Dhabi Film Festival, UAE

Current Status:

Post-Production

Looking For:

We are looking for an international sales agent and distributors, as well as potential producers for our next project.

POST-PRODUCTION
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Merzak Allouache
Director / Screenwriter



Veronique Zerdoun
Producer



Yacine Djadi
Producer



Contact

Kobal Productions
Veronique Zerdoun
2 bis, Rue Jacques Coeur
Paris, France

T: +33 1 5327 3732
veronique@librisfilms.com

NORMAL

“Normal”, Algeria, France, Qatar, 2011

A new vision of today’s Algerian youth struggling with political and artistic dilemmas.



When the Arab Spring began in Tunisia and Egypt, Fouzi gathered a group of actors to show them footage of a documentary he started shooting two years ago. The subject is about the disillusionment of a youth who are seeking to express their artistic ideas. He then starts seeking for an alternative point of view of the situation, and especially another ending; the sequence of which relies on the actors reactions to the historical change that their country is witnessing. The film explores diverse questions and tensions including: what is the place of creation in Algeria today, how to create without confronting censorship, how can you resist in making films or waking to a new revolution?

Shooting Format: HD

Runtime: 130 min

Genre: Politics

Exhibition Format: DCP

Cast: Adila Bendimerad, Nouha Mathlouti, Nadjib Oulebsir, Samir El Hakim, Ahmed Bebaissa

Language: Arabic, French

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"Normal" is a term frequently used by Algerian youth. It is the symbol of the fatalism and apathy that is affecting many Algerian youth who are leading an existence that is dull and uninspired. I started shooting this film in 2009 during the organisation of a Pan-African Festival, which struggled to succeed due to a lack of culture and the restrictions of censorship. I filmed on the fly in the streets of Algiers to tell the story of a group of young people trying to express themselves in an artistic environment. I finished in the summer of 2011, meeting my characters again and reflecting on new questions in light of the Arab revolution.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Born in Algiers, Merzak Allouache graduated from IDHEC film school in Paris in 1967. In 1976, he shot his first feature, "Omar Gatlato", which screened in the Directors' Fortnight sidebar of the Cannes Film Festival. Since then his many highly acclaimed films include "Un amour à Paris", "Bab-el-Oued City" and "Salut Cousin". In 2003 "Chouchou" became a major commercial success. His most recent feature "Harragas" was selected for the Venice Festival. It received accolades at the Festival of Valencia, Spain and at the Dubai Festival in 2010. "Normal" is his latest feature film.

COMPANY PROFILE

Frédéric Bal is the producer of "That the Truth is Bitter" (1983), a documentary about the arrest and the death of French Resistance member Jean Moulin. His producing credits include "Actors Anonymous", "Our Darling Children", "Before it's Too Late," and as a screenwriter, "Scare me", "The Beautiful Blue", "We Are All Sons of Bastards", "Anatomy of a Couple," "The Queens of Chaos". He is currently developing "The Beautiful Blue" in partnership with Attention Moteur.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$263,040.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$143,040.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Bayafilm, Algeria
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Film Factory, France
- Francophone Funding
- Kobal Productions

Current Status:

Prints & Advertising

Looking For:

We are looking for a worldwide sales company and opportunities through television and festival screenings to show the film around the world.

POST-PRODUCTION
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

A BREATH OF AIR

"Nafass"; Egypt, Qatar, 2012

Tahani Rached
Director / Screenwriter



Dima Al-Joundi
Producer



Karim Gamal El Din
Producer



Over 18 days, Egyptians set out to recreate themselves. Share the amazing experience of Egyptians living a revolution in progress.



In 18 days, the January 25th Egyptian Revolution toppled a three-decade old dictatorship and Egypt set out to recreate itself. This film invites you to share the amazing experience of Egyptians experiencing a revolution that is still in progress.

Contact

Studio Masr
Karim Gamal El Din
15, Studio Masr Street
El-Maryouteya
Gizeh, Egypt

T: +20 233 865 244
karim.g@studiomasr.com
www.studiomasr.com

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 90 min
Genre: Documentary, Social Issues
Exhibition Format: HDCAM
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Egyptian Revolution is an extraordinary historical moment, and I feel privileged to be a documentary filmmaker creating in this period. Documentary is the only film genre that does not distance you from people while creating a narrative. This type of filmmaking allows you to collaborate and get in touch with those who are presenting their reality alongside your input. Sameh, our sound engineer, joined the millions of Egyptians in Tahrir Square demanding the downfall of the regime. In February, he agreed to be the leading character in this film and to share his experiences and the reflections of a nation trying to establish its voice.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Born in Cairo, Tahani Rached studied at the Montreal School of Fine Arts. She started her career as a filmmaker in 1973 with "To Make A Change". Tahani has directed some 20 films throughout her career, 11 of those during her time with the National Film Board of Canada. These include "Beirut! Not Enough Death to Go Round" (1983), "Au chic resto pop" (1990), "Four Women of Egypt" (1997) and "Soraida, A Woman of Palestine" (2004). In 2005, she returned to Egypt and filmed "These Girls", following this in 2007 with "Giran" (Neighbours).

COMPANY PROFILE

Studio Masr has been on the forefront of Arab cinema since 1935. Today it is the only film studio in Africa and the Middle East capable of servicing the industry at all phases, and in adherence to the highest international standards.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$475,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$325,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Studio Masr, Egypt

Current Status:

Post-Production

Looking For:

We are searching for sales and distribution.

POST-PRODUCTION
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Lina Alabed
Director / Screenwriter



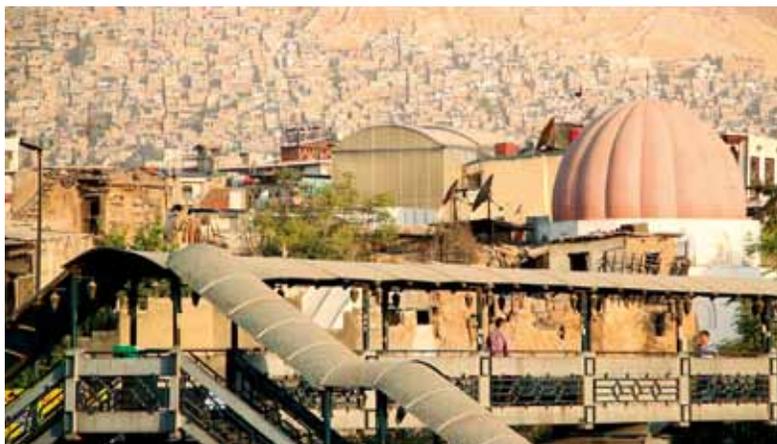
Rami Nihawi
Producer



YEARNING

“Tawq”, Syria, Lebanon, Qatar

Women in Damascus explore ideas about a woman’s place in a masculine society in relation to identity, sexuality and facing their fears.



When I got my first period, my mother kissed me and said with a smile: “Now you are a woman. You must care about your behaviour and movements”. I did not understand what she meant until she forbade me from riding my beloved bicycle. The film brings together Damascene women from differing social and religious backgrounds, each woman shares secrets and recalls incidents connected to their awakening sexual consciousness and the limitation of their existence and desires. “Yearning” explores a woman’s place in a male society and how it affects her womanhood and the relationship to her own body.

Contact

Lina Alabed
Beirut, Lebanon

T: +961 7 6657145
lina.alabed@gmail.com

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 50 min
Genre: Documentary
Exhibition Format: DigiBeta
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I decided to make a documentary about the role of women and level of freedom they have in a male-dominated society, and how it reflects on their sexual consciousness and relationship to their body. To have the courage to fight to make decisions about your own life is difficult but with much change occurring in Arab countries, we can build the foundations for a better and healthier society. I believe that when we have democracy in our country, women will be brave enough to ensure a better life for their daughters.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Lina Alabed is a Palestinian filmmaker born in 1980. After graduating from the Faculty of Journalism at Damascus University, she made a documentary about the Syrian author Mohamed Al-Maghout, which was acquired in 2007 by Al Jazeera. She has worked on several projects and investigative documentaries focusing on conditions for women in the Middle East, including a television trilogy about female fundamentalist organisation Al Qubaiseat. In 2009, she worked with several Danish directors on a documentary about Palestinian refugees between Europe and the Middle East. Lina's second documentary, "Noor Alhuda", was financed by Al-Arabiya TV and won the DOX-BOX jury award for Best Syrian Film in 2010.

COMPANY PROFILE

SakaDo Production was founded in 2011 in Beirut by a group of young people working in the field of independent filmmaking and cinema.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$64,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$25,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Other

Current Status:

Post-Production

Looking For:

We are seeking assistance and sharing information about sales agents, distribution as well as an advisor for festival submissions.

POST-PRODUCTION
FEATURE EXPERIMENTAL

WHAT'S YOUR STORY? PART I

"Sho Qostak - Part I", Palestine, Qatar, 2011

Jamal Khalaile
Director / Producer



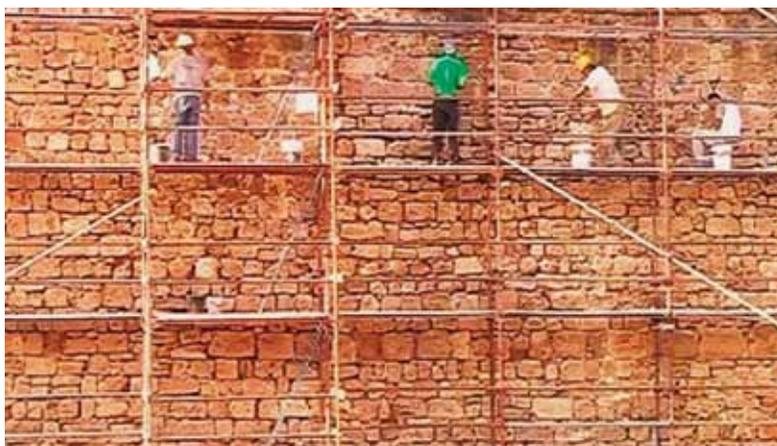
Pauline Carbonnier
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



Baheir Agbariya
Producer



The film "Sho Qostak" - Part I is the first part of a trilogy. It is a reflection from the perspective of an Arab Palestinian Israeli citizen who travels across the country and watches the stories and images of the people and spaces he encounters.



Jamal, a Palestinian citizen of Israel, meets five young Israelis with different ideological perspectives. Through conversations about different topics, they define their identity and express how they see themselves. Furthermore, they explore their identities at a deeper level than the simplistic image of the Israeli as an executioner, and attempt to find the person within the political persona. From this point their discussion moves to ways of giving space for the 'other' to exist without delegitimising their own existence.

Contact

Jamal Khalaile
Bargyiora Street, Apartment 30
Haifa, Palestine

T: +972 549219 029
jkhalaile@gmail.com

Shooting Format: HD

Runtime: 55 min

Genre: Docufiction, Documentary, History, Identity, Middle Eastern, Politics, Religion, Social Issues

Exhibition Format: HDCAM

Cast: Oded Naaman, Naftali Ofer, Hodaya Serloui, Noa Levy, Hussein Mahajne, Bassem Lolo

Language: Arabic, Hebrew

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Films about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict tend to be simplistic, leaving a complicated reality unexplored. The biggest challenge for a victimiser is to confront the guilt that accompanies a massive loss of life. My curiosity – and what I believe is haunting in the film – is to see interviewees twist and turn in their chairs trying to rephrase events while justifying their people's actions. I tried to be as compelling as I could, listening to my enemies tell their version of the story, thus revealing the paradox in which they live.

DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHY

Jamal Khalaile was born in Akko in 1976. He graduated with a Cinema and Television degree from Jerusalem where he studied Directing and Producing. In 2006, he led video workshops at the Jerusalem cinematheque. Khalaile served as location manager for filmmakers Elia Suleiman ("The Time That Remains"), Tawfik Abu Wael ("Tnathur"), Sameh Zoabi ("Man Without Cellphone"), Hiam Abbas ("Inheritance") and was Editor of the feature film "Bena", directed by Niv Klainer. He is currently working as a freelance director, editor, location manager and producer.

Pauline Carbonnier was born in France. Author of numerous documentary films, she wrote and co-directed "Sho Qostak - Part I", with Jamal Khalaile. She is currently co-writing the second part of the trilogy and her first feature film.

COMPANY PROFILE

Baher Agbariya has produced several short fiction and feature documentary films as well as being the co-producer on the fiction film "Atash". Additionally, he has worked as a line producer on several Palestinian and international feature productions: "Paradise Now", directed by Hani Abu Assad; "Tanathur", directed by Tawfik Abu Wael; and "Man Without a Cellphone" directed by Sameh Zoabi. In 2010, he produced his first feature-length film, "Mars at Sunrise", directed by Jessica Habbie.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$24,880.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$15,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Other

Current Status:

Post-Production

Looking For:

We are looking for sales agents and distributors.

POST-PRODUCTION
ARAB SHORT NARRATIVE

Tamara Stepanyan
Director / Screenwriter



Gohar Igityan
Producer



FEBRUARY 19

"February 19"; Armenia, Lebanon, Qatar

A train ride between Yerevan and Tbilisi. Anna and Alex are separated by a wall; a cold, white wall.



It is February 19. The train will depart with Anna and Alex. Years have passed, the day has come for their last meeting. Location: the train. City: Yerevan. She is there – in the train. He enters – and the white thin wall becomes a cold white barrier between them. They will talk, shout, cry, whisper and make love. The dull thin wall remains.

Contact

Tamara Stepanyan
131 Rue de la Roquette
Paris, France

T: +33 1 400 998 91
tamarastepanyan@gmail.com

Shooting Format: HD

Runtime: 42 min

Genre: Drama

Exhibition Format: HDCAM

Cast: Ofelia Zakaryan, Vakhtang Harutyunyan

Language: Armenian (1 line)

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A poem, a picture, a light, a thought and the sound of the train; a feeling that was in me for the past four years – and is now it is on screen. It is time to share.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Tamara Stepanyan was born in Armenia. During the breakdown of the Soviet Union, she moved to Lebanon with her parents and lived through the civil war in 1994. Studying Communication Arts at the Lebanese American University, she graduated with distinction. Tamara has participated in film workshops in Armenia, South Korea and Denmark and made a video/photo/audio installation called "My Beirut" as part of Badguer I in 2009. "Little Stones", a documentary shot in Denmark, participated in Né à Beyrouth and Ayam Beirut el Cinemaiya in Lebanon and CPH DOX in Denmark.

COMPANY PROFILE

The Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts, Ashkal Alwan was founded in 1994 and is committed to the creation and exchange of artistic practices. As a non-profit organisation, the association is committed to education, production, support and circulation of creative and intellectual endeavours rooted in an engagement with society.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$15,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$10,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Ashkal Alwan, Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- The National Cinema Fund of Armenia

Current Status:

Prints & Advertising

Looking For:

The film has been finalised and is ready to be screened and distributed. We are looking for distributors who are interested to print, market and distribute the film.

POST-PRODUCTION
ARAB SHORT DOCUMENTARY

Mahmoud Omar
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



BLACK COUNTRY

"Belad Kosh", Egypt, Qatar, 2011

During a time of incredible change in Sudan, music represents freedom and can also act as an instrument of cultural unity.



The Tanbour instrument is an object of cultural unity; unrestricted by religion or nationalism it exists in contrast to the racial tensions that inundate the new nation being built by the South Sudanese. Just as music represents freedom, this documentary demonstrates how it can also be an object of unity in times of incredible change.

Contact

Mahmoud Omar
3 B Mohammed Hagag of
Mahmoud Basuny St, Downtown,
3rd floor, Flat n10.
Cairo, Egypt

T: +33 622 844 698
mamovibe@gmail.com

Shooting Format: HD

Runtime: 19 min

Genre: Based on a True Story, Docufiction, Immigration,
Politics, Social Issues

Exhibition Format: HDCAM

Cast: Noury Gad Almawla, Tayfour Marghany, Kassem, Amado Alfandi

Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am an independent filmmaker and producer aiming to show a different perspective to viewers through the telling of my story. "Black Country" explores my personal opinion about the separation of North and South Sudan and how I view the change. I believe that creating two countries, we make less friends.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Mahmoud Omar was born in 1975. He is an Egyptian artist, filmmaker and producer. He has worked on several productions as assistant in the US and Egypt. He has written several scripts and is a talented photographer, musician and actor.

COMPANY PROFILE

Mamovibe Production is a newly formed company which aims to support independent filmmakers across the world in creating and developing their ideas.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$35,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$35,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Mamovibe Production

Current Status:

Prints & Advertising

Looking For:

We are seeking more information about marketing the film.

PRODUCTION
ARAB SHORT EXPERIMENTAL

FROM A CITY WITH NO IMAGES

“Min Madine Bala Souwar”, Lebanon, Qatar

Sabine El Chamaa
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



Images of Beirut shot over six years are shown to a confused traveller who claims he comes from a city with no images. How should the narrator explain what images are?



Many images...

First: A woman looks at a book of pictures. She cries. “Have you seen what they did to my city?” Pictures make her cry. Can she slap the picture to hurt it the way it hurt her?

Second: A wide-angle image of Beirut being bombed in 1982. An image betrays an angle of experience that the narrator never had. In the image, the narrator stands next to a soldier in the city but, in memory, she is someone inside the buildings being bombed. The two images meet. They fight.

Third: A grandmother sits with her neighbour watching the live bombing of Beirut in 2006. How can they watch such images? Why don't they stand and yell in horror?

And more images remain.

Shooting Format: MiniDV
Runtime: 40 min
Genre: Docufiction
Language: Arabic

Contact
Saba Films
Sabine El Chamaa
El Mama Street
Khalaf Building
Beirut, Lebanon

T: +961 3483040
sabafilms@yahoo.fr

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It is through questioning my own practice of taking images that this project came about. Images can be communicators, emotional blackmailers, offenders, symbols, thieves that steal memories. It's hard to conceive of one's life without the exchange, duplication and fighting for or against images. It also seems unlikely for a city to be able to exist without images, which is the reason why the fictional protagonist of this film is actually the resident of a city with no images. By questioning the very essence of images, some of the masks that images take on start to become apparent.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Sabine El Chamaa is a Lebanese filmmaker who studied film at the University of Southern California. She worked as a freelance editor in the US and in Europe before focusing on writing and directing her own films. El Chamaa currently lives in London where she is pursuing a doctorate in Media at Goldsmiths University of London.

COMPANY PROFILE

I usually self-produce my own projects because they are more challenging in their narration, and funds are harder to secure for them because of their experimental approach.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$25,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$20,500.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Other

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

I am looking for possible partners and co-financers who are interested in more experimental approaches to film.

PRODUCTION GRANTEES

FEATURE NARRATIVE

BASTARDO

BEIRUT HOLD'EM

IBN BATTUTA

MOSQUI CINEMA

PLAYGROUND STORIES

STABLE UNSTABLE

STANDSTILL

UNTIL MORNING

WHEN WE'RE BORN

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

CHALLAT OF TUNIS

CINEMA PALESTINE

CONFESSION AND STRUGGLE

FIDAÏ

HOME SWEET HOME

THE MAGHREBIM

MOHAMMAD SAVED FROM THE WATERS

MY LOVE AWAITS ME BY THE SEA

NOTES ON A TUNISIAN ODYSSEY

ZAYNAB'S SISTERS

ARAB SHORT NARRATIVE

THE FINAL JOURNEY

GRANDMA

HANEEN

RUMORS

THE TUNNEL

THE WALL

PRODUCTION
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Nejib Belkadhi
Director / Screenwriter



Imed Marzouk
Producer



BASTARDO

"Bastardo", Tunisia, France, Qatar, 2012

This is the story of Mohsen, a 'bastard' whose origins and history are unknown. He has always been excluded and rejected by the inhabitants of the rundown district where he lives.



"Bastardo" is the story of Mohsen, 'the bastard', whose origins and history are unknown. He was found in a dustbin 30 years ago by Am Salah, his adoptive father, and has always been excluded and rejected by the residents of the rundown district where he lives. After being fired from his job, Mohsen, in cahoots with his friend Khlifa, places a GSM relay on his roof for a substantial monthly payment. The aerial will allow the locals to have access to mobile phones for the first time.

Contact

Propaganda Productions
Imed Marzouk
41, Avenue Habib Bourguiba
La Marsa, Tunisia

T: +21671744815
i.marzouk@gnet.tn

Shooting Format: 35 mm
Runtime: 90 min
Genre: Drama
Exhibition Format: 35 mm
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

For this story, I was inspired by a house dominating a run-down area on the outskirts of Tunis. In the years preceding the writing of the script, I observed the chaotic evolution of the building that grew over the years to become an architectural freak. One day, a GSM relay was placed on top of the house and the money from this device allowed new windows, facades and tiles to revise the space. As the inhabitants' lives were evolving, I began fantasising about the interior and the characters living inside, until one was introduced to me.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1972 in Tunis, Nejib Belkadhi studied Management and Marketing at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Commerciales in Carthage. His initial experience in film and theatre was as an actor, but his directing career began with Canal+ Horizons TV as the creator, director and co-presenter of "Chams Alik" from 1999 to 2001. In 2002, he founded Propaganda Production with Imed Marzouk. His first docu-fiction, "VHS-Kahloucha" (2006), was selected for 50 film festivals and has won seven awards.

COMPANY PROFILE

Propaganda Production was founded in 2002 by Imed Marzouk and Nejib Belkadhi. They produce shorts, feature films and documentaries, including "VHS Kahloucha" by Nejib (Official Selection at Cannes; Sundance Competition in the documentary section; and winner of a gold Muhr at the Dubai Film Festival in 2006). Shorts include "Tsawer" by Neji, "Condamnation et offrande" by Walid Mattar, "Linge sale" by Malik Amara, and "Mrayet" by Nadia Raies.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$1,312,246.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$794,230.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- 1001 Productions, France
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Fonds Sud, France
- Ministry of Culture, Tunisia
- Propaganda Production, Tunisia

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We are looking for an international sales agent.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Michel Kammoun
Director / Screenwriter



Georges Schoucair
Producer



Edouard Mauriat
Producer



BEIRUT HOLD'EM

"Beirut Hold'em", Lebanon, France, Qatar

Ziko, a 40 year old gambler and ex-con, reunites with his boyhood friends in the city of Beirut and is determined to make a fresh start.



Ziko is an ex-con freshly out of prison and ready to start a new life. Determined to win back Carole, the love of his life, he plans to open a gambling joint. Reuniting with childhood friends, he learns that his brother died in an illegal motorbike race and decides to save his brother's friend from the same deadly fate. Driven by a relentless will to succeed, Ziko sets out on a journey through contemporary post-war Lebanon, a place comprised of a unique mix of violence, tenderness, tensions and a sense of lightness.

Contact

About Productions
Christian Eid
699 Saifi Building, Lebanon Street,
4th floor
Beirut, Lebanon

T: +961 1 447 824
christian@aboutproductions.com
www.aboutproductions.com

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 135 min
Genre: Comedy, Drama, Politics, Social Issues, War
Exhibition Format: 35 mm
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I will treat "Beirut Hold'em" with a sensory approach in order to capture the intangible emotions the city generates, and embody its unique atmosphere. The protagonist will often evolve in real situations in order to represent the country's actual essence and heartbeat. The codes of the genre are manipulated and adapted to Lebanese society. Protagonists continuously gamble, which mirrors the idea of the Lebanese population gambling on its unknown destiny, and the notion of the state gambling on its own future, like a game of Russian roulette.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Michel Kammoun was born in 1969 in Beirut. After studying architecture in Beirut, he went to Paris to study filmmaking. His short films have participated in prestigious international festivals and have been widely broadcast. His critically acclaimed debut feature, "Falafel" won top international awards and participated in major film festivals worldwide including the Tribeca Film Festival, Tokyo Film Festival and the Dubai International Film Festival.

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 a network of Arab and Lebanese artists. About Productions has a partnership with Pacha Pictures, a sales agency and MC Distribution, a distribution company, both are dedicated to promote films from the Middle East along with securing priority access to the sole art house theatre in Lebanon, Metropolis Cinema. The company maintains a sizeable pipeline of projects at various stages. In 2010, it signed a landscape joint venture with LMP – New York and Travesia Productions – Argentina.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$2,660,393.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$889,093.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Lucky Monkey Pictures, UK
- Sherezade Films, Bahrein

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We have a French co-producer and 33% of the budget secured. We are still looking for distribution (especially for the Middle East and France), world sales and the additional financing.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Tariq Tegua
Director / Screenwriter



Yacine Tegua
Producer



IBN BATTUTA

"Ibn Battuta", Algeria, France, Lebanon, Qatar

Three people on very different journeys cross paths in Beirut despite lies, oversights, missteps, dead-ends and ever present ghosts.

While covering community clashes in southern Algeria, Ibn Battuta, a journalist, finds himself picking up the trail of forgotten uprisings against the Abbasid Caliphate. For the purpose of his investigation, he goes to Beirut allegedly to study the state of the "Arab nation". Nahla, a young Palestinian whose family has found refuge in Greece, also heads for Beirut taking funds to other Palestinians. In US-occupied Iraq, Mr. Prince is making easy money and, seeking to preserve his loot, he too moves to Beirut. They will all meet despite a myriad of factors, tensions, missteps, dead-ends, lies, oversights, and ever present ghosts.

Contact

Neffa Films
Yacine Tegua
71, Rue du Colonel Si M'hamed
Ain BenianAN, Algeria

T: +213 3362096500
teguiyac@yahoo.fr

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 120 min
Genre: Drama, Politics, Social Issues
Exhibition Format: 35 mm
Cast: Fethi Ghares, Diana Sabri
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Amidst the teargas of the Algerian riots, rebels mention the Zanj to Algerian journalist Ibn Battuta. It pushes him on a journey across the Middle East spurred by a desire to know more about the Zanj, black slaves of the 8th and 9th Centuries who eventually staged an uprising against the Abbasid Caliphate. His journey ends at the mingling waters where the Tigris and the Euphrates join the waters of the Arab-Persian Gulf. As the journalist becomes a genealogist for long lost struggles, is he, like the Algerian rioters, expressing a need to reinvent his thinking in the face of oppression?

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Tariq was born in Algeria in 1966 and studied Visual Arts and Philosophy. In 2003, he taught Art History and the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Algiers and was a Freelance Photographer for the Alger-Républicain (Algerian daily newspaper) and latter Assistant Photographer to Krzysztof Pruszkowski in Paris. Tariq has directed shorts including "The Dog" in 1996, and two features "Gabella" (Inland) in 2008 and "Rome Rather than You" in 2006.

COMPANY PROFILE

Neffa Films is an independent Algerian film production company created in Algiers during 2004. Neffa Films produced two feature films: "Rome Rather Than You" (2006) and "Inland" (2008).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$728,975.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$550,636.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- About Productions, Lebanon
- Captures, France
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- FDATIC, Algeria
- Fonds Val de Marne, France
- Hubert Bals Fund, Netherlands
- INA, France
- Neffa Films, Algeria
- Sanad, Abu Dhabi
- Zendj, France

Current Status:
Production

Looking For:

We are still looking for additional post-production financing.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Mohamad Malas
Director / Screenwriter



Samer Mohamad Ismail
Screenwriter



Georges Schoucair
Producer



MOSQUI CINEMA

"Namou Cinema", Syria, Lebanon, Qatar

Ghalia believes that she's the reincarnation of another woman named Zeina. When Ghalia sleeps, Zeina leaves her body and walks the streets of Damascus, and there she meets Samer, a young projectionist who is passionate about film.



Ghalia believes that a girl called Zeina, who drowned in the sea the same day Ghalia was born, has inhabited her soul. Her neighbour Samer, is a projectionist at the cinema who brings films home to screen in his room. While Ghalia's asleep, Zeina leaves her body to check on her parents after 23 years – and meets Samer. As Zeina falls in love with Samer, Ghalia is in love with her Japanese teacher and dreams of leaving for Japan. The two girls' love stories exist in two different times simultaneously.

Contact

Dunia Films
Mohamad Malas
Omar Al Mokhtar B1 F4
Damascus, Syria

T: +963 1 1442 4837
duniafilm@gmail.com

Shooting Format: HDCAM

Runtime: 100 min

Genre: Drama, Fantasy, Romance, Social Issues, Women Interest

Exhibition Format: 35 mm

Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am an independent filmmaker constantly struggling to make movies in a country with low production capacities. "Mosqui Cinema" pushes me to find a modern cinematographic language to talk about the current landscape in Syria. The reincarnation theme allows a playful implementation of fiction and fantasy. The three main characters intimately reflect my experience in the country whether through the general sociopolitical circumstances, daily life or my personal relationship with cinema and filmmaking. "Mosqui Cinema" is an expression of what my generation has gone through but also an attempt to witness what the youth faces today.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Mohamad Malas was born in 1945 and studied filmmaking in VGIK Moscow from 1969 to 1974. Soon after, he directed "Al Quneitra 74" and "The Memory and Furat". He went on to direct many films including "The Dreams of the City" (1984), "The Night" (1992), "On the Sands, Under the Sun" (1998), "Passion" (2004) and "Al Mahhed" (2007). "The Dreams of the City" received many awards such as the prestigious Golden Palm at the 1984 Cannes Festival and "The Night" won awards at several festivals including The Freiburg Festival, Switzerland and The Bruges Festival, Belgium, in 1993.

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 a network of Arab and Lebanese artists. About Productions has a partnership with Pacha Pictures, a sales agency and MC Distribution, a distribution company, both are dedicated to promote films from the Middle East along with securing priority access to the sole art house theatre in Lebanon, Metropolis Cinema. The company maintains a sizeable pipeline of projects at various stages. In 2010, it signed a landscape joint venture with LMP – New York and Travesia Productions – Argentina.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$700,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$100,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Other

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

The project still requires funding to complete the budget, a co-producing partner and sales and distribution.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Brahim Fritah
Director / Screenwriter



Philippe Delarue
Producer



PLAYGROUND STORIES

“Chroniques d’une Cour de Récré”, France, Qatar, 2012

“**Playground Stories**”, inspired by the author’s childhood memories, takes us into the heart of Paris in 1981 and the everyday life of an imaginative 10-year-old boy.



Brahim and his family, who are of Moroccan descent, live on the grounds of a crane construction factory in Paris where his father works as caretaker. Every evening, after the plant manager and his employees have left, Brahim and his 13-year-old brother Larbi help their father clean the empty offices. The children suddenly find themselves rulers of an immense kingdom, where their curiosity and imagination run wild. Standing at the end of the factory yard is an old crane and, when night falls, it inspires Brahim’s imagination, working its way into his dreams.

Contact
Futurikon Productions
Brahim Fritah
62, Rue Olivier Métra
Paris, France

T: +33 661 729 141
brahimfritah@hotmail.com

Shooting Format: Super 35 mm
Runtime: 90 min
Genre: About Family, Biography, Friendship, Identity, Immigration, Period Piece
Exhibition Format: 35 mm
Cast: Yanis Bahloul, Rocco Campochiaro, Mostefa Djadjam, Dalila Ennadre, Vincent Rottiers, Raphaël Ferret
Language: Arabic, French

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"Playground Stories" is based on my own memories, both real and imaginary. This film is a journey back to my childhood, through the eyes of little Brahim, my narrative twin. The narrative path follows the meandering route of one's memories, shaped by a writer's objectivity, enabling me to push fiction even further. Events take place over a compact period of time, covering a few months in 1981. The realistic or impressionistic transitions that Brahim encounters shape his life. A delicate framework is in play: the dualistic context in which Brahim 'grows up' in the playground and in the factory yard.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Brahim Fritah was born in Paris in 1973 and studied at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs. Straddling the border between several different artistic fields, merging documentary and fiction, he has developed a unique and original style over the years. He has directed "Sweeper's Chronicles" (1999), "A Woman Alone" (2004), "The Train" (2005) and "The Painting" (2008). These films have been selected for and won prizes at numerous festivals worldwide. In 2003, Brahim took part in the Cannes Film Festival's Cinéfondation as a writer-in-residence and wrote the screenplay for a feature-length film, "Slimane the Magnificent".

COMPANY PROFILE

Furturikon was founded in 1996 by Philippe Delarue, CEO and Executive Producer. Based in Paris, London and Angoulême, it specialises in the production and worldwide sales of animation programmes, feature films and documentaries. The company's aim is to produce innovative, entertaining and enlightening work, inspired by the creative minds of French and international writers and artists. Furturikon is also open to international influence, utilising and developing the creative synergies between cinema, television, multimedia, music and publishing.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$1,629,457.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$1,492,188.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- ACSE, France
- Basse Normandie (Réécriture), France
- CNC Aide à la Réécriture, France
- Departement du Val de Marne, France
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Jour2Fête (theatrical distributor), France
- Orange Cinéma Séries, France
- Touscoprod (Internet Fund Raising), France

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We are looking for sales agents, distributors and television pre-sales.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Mahmoud Hojeij
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



STABLE UNSTABLE

“Tale3 Nazel”, Lebanon, Qatar

On the last day of the year, seven people reveal their inner secrets and hidden desires on a psychiatrist’s couch in Beirut.



“Stable Unstable” is set in an apartment building in the heart of Beirut on the last day of the year. Against the backdrop of social strains and mounting tension due to daily life struggles and unmet aspirations, seven people start their day by visiting their psychiatrist as part of a weekly ritual. On the couch in their psychiatrist’s office, they face themselves and their loved ones as they try to define what is most important to them. Each of them, from the patients to the residents of the building, has a different story to share, different inner secrets and hidden wishes.

Contact

Transit Visa
Mahmoud Hojeij
Kornish Al Mazraa
Beirut, Lebanon

T: +961 3 631 309
mhojeij@hotmail.com

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 90 min
Genre: Drama
Exhibition Format: 35 mm
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As I am writing this, I hear in the background of my city the sounds of bullets being fired because our students have just passed the government official tests today. I'm not only thinking about the students but of the random people that may be hit by these same bullets, fired as an act of celebration. These bullets are why I decided to write the story of my film, "Stable Unstable". The cinema I love is the one that allows you not only to travel to new places but also towards old traditions. The cinema I like to create is the one that revisits traditions and tries to raise questions. The question is: to what extent can cinema change traditions?

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Mahmoud Hojeij is an award-winning filmmaker who has worked and studied on three continents. He is the recipient of several international and national awards in filmmaking, has had numerous articles written about his artistic endeavours, and his films have screened widely throughout the world. He has edited three books on photography, taught at several universities in Lebanon and published numerous articles. He lives and works in Beirut.

COMPANY PROFILE

Transit Visa represents a new approach in media with a focus on video and film production. A unique combination of experience, talent and creativity brings an added dimension to our work. At Transit Visa we believe in bringing passion and high production value to every project.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$435,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$100,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Private Investors, Lebanon

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We are looking for possible investors.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Majdi El-Omari
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



STANDSTILL

"Standstill", Canada, Palestine, Qatar, 2011

Arihote (John), a Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) photographer whose life is at a standstill, witnesses a revenge killing in Montreal by Widad, a Palestinian refugee.



Arihote is a Kanienkehaka photographer whose life is at a standstill. When he witnesses the murder of a neighbour, his stagnant existence is unexpectedly revitalised. Instead of calling the police, he finds himself clearing up the crime scene and helping the murderer, Widad, to avoid arrest. As Arihote embarks on a quest to rebuild his relationship with his son and resolve his feelings about his father's suicide, he tries to figure out why he is allowing his interest in life to be revived by Widad. Their chance encounter may set both men on a new course.

Contact

Phoenix Films
Majdi El-Omari
4806 Harvard Avenue
Montreal, Canada

T: +1 514 484 5228
melomari@gmail.com
cinemapalestine.wordpress.com/
cinemapalestine

Shooting Format: HDV

Runtime: 100 min

Genre: Drama, Identity, Immigration, Politics

Exhibition Format: 35 mm

Cast: Nadine Neemeh, Wahiakeron George Gilbert,
Iohahiiio Curotte, Tatum McComber, Jean-Pierre Lefebvre

Language: Arabic, English, Mohawk

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Elements of my work have been selected for several international festivals, but "Standstill" represents my first feature film. In my creative practice, I often explore themes of existentialism, undiscovered voices and alienation. This film enters into diverse dialogues about social and political forces that shape an audience's engagement with the film, and the characters' reality and ability to communicate on screen.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Majdi El-Omari is a Palestinian-Canadian filmmaker who grew up in Egypt. He studied Cinema at the Cairo Film Institute and received a MFA in Film Production from Montreal's Concordia University. His films tell stories that grow out of the existential situation of individuals living in a world that casts them in the role of victim. Apart from producing his own films, Majdi collaborates with other filmmakers who share his perspective. He is executive producer of "Juliano", a new documentary directed by Emtiaz Diab about the recently deceased Palestinian filmmaker and theatre director Juliano Khamis.

COMPANY PROFILE

Founded in 1988 by Benoit Pilon, Jeanne Crepeau and Manon Briand, Les Films de l'Autre is a Quebec filmmakers collective dedicated to promoting cinéma d'auteur through its strong support for artistic freedom in cinema and video. Since its inception, Les Films de l'Autre has seen many of its productions gain international recognition and win numerous awards at several festivals. To date, the company has produced or co-produced 13 feature films, 11 medium-length and 37 short films. All are written, directed and produced by its active members who are independent filmmakers and producers.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$1,073,637.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$415,036.59

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Omari Les Productions des Films de l'Autre, Canada
- Phoenix Films, Palestine

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We are looking co-production opportunities, television pre-sales and distributors.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Hisham Bizri
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



Andrew Fierberg
Producer



UNTIL MORNING

“Until Morning”, Lebanon, USA, Qatar

“Until Morning” is a moving drama set in Beirut, Lebanon. The story chronicles the passage of three couples throughout the city the day before Christmas Eve.



“Until Morning” offers a kaleidoscopic view of the lives of several citizens in Beirut over the course of a single day: a well-to-do couple struggles with the memory of their young son’s tragic death; a disaffected photo-essayist tries to find a way to make a life for himself and his fiancée; and a mechanic pawns his wife’s jewelry to place a risky bet at the racetrack. This film portrays resilient, essentially good people striving to make the best possible lives for themselves while moving in confined circles among the strife and trauma of their daily existence. “Until Morning” is a tale of struggle, recovery and rebirth.

Contact
Studio Fierberg
United States of America

andrewfierberg@mac.com

Shooting Format: Digital
Runtime: 99 min
Genre: Drama, Family, Musical, Social Issues
Exhibition Format: 35 mm
Cast: Alexander Siddig
Language: Arabic, English

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"Until Morning" tells of the inner consciousness of individuals living in post-war Beirut. It shows an uncompromising reality and a genuine exploration of human emotions. The film advocates self-knowledge and an encouragement to reach a true understanding of things as they truly are so that we are able to grasp the potential of all human actions.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Hisham Bizri was born in Beirut, Lebanon. He began his career as a stage actor and director at college while studying Physics and Mathematics. He started his career in film working under Raúl Ruiz and James Shamus in NYC, and Miklós Jancsó in Budapest. Hisham has directed 15 short films and won numerous awards including the Rockefeller, Guggenheim and American Academy Rome Prize. In 2004, he co-founded the Arab Institute of Film with the Danish Film Institute. He is currently the Professor of Film at the University of Minnesota.

COMPANY PROFILE

Andrew Fierberg has produced over 30 provocative, award – winning independent films. His feature films include Steven Sheinberg's "Secretary"; "Fur: An imaginary portrait of Diane Arbus"; Lodge Kerrigan's "Keane"; Sally Potter's "Yes and Rage"; Michael Almereyda's "Hamlet"; Jill Sprecher's "13 Conversations About One Thing"; Jonathan Nossiter's "Sunday"; Gina Kim's "Never Forever" and Zoe Cassavette's "Broken English". He has championed the early acting careers of Maggie Gyllenhaal, Agigail Breslin, Julia Stiles, Amy Ryan and Vera Farmiga, and worked with other such notable actors as Bill Murray, Nicole Kidman, Robert Downey Jr., Judi Dench, Jude Law, Joan Allen, Ethan Hawke, Davis Suchet, Sam Shepard and Alan Arkin. He has produced with Steven Soderberg, David Lynch, Martin Scorsese and Woody Allen.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$1,400,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$250,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Other

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are currently seeking co-producing partners as well as additional production financing.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Tamer Ezzat
Director / Producer



Nadine Shams
Screenwriter



WHEN WE'RE BORN

"Lama Benetweled", Egypt, Qatar

In a country emerging from a revolution, the dreams of three young Egyptians' are intertwined in a contemporary story about Egyptian reality.



A revolution has shaped the nation, and the dreamscape of three Egyptians are interconnected in an exploration of the realism of Egyptian life. Beltagy works in his family business but yearns to rebel against his father to pursue a singing career. Farah is a romantic passionate Coptic woman who finds herself falling in love with a carefree Muslim man. Can the relationship survive religious differences? Amin, a macho athletic trainer and newlywed, wants his own gym but must put manly pride on the line to fulfill his dream. Amongst the loss of security, paralysing traffic and family pressure, will they make the best choice?

Contact

Watan Films
Tamer Ezzat
9, El Saraya St., El Manial, 1006
Cairo, Egypt

T: +20 2 23657573
tamer.ezzat2005@gmail.com

Shooting Format: RED

Runtime: 120 min

Genre: Based on a True Story, Drama, Musical,
Religion, Romance, Social Issues, Women's Interest, Youth

Exhibition Format: 35 mm

Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The idea of this film emerged from making the 2006 documentary "The Place I Call Home," a story of belonging and immigration. After screening the film around the world I realised that from the day we are born, we are all searching for happiness and chasing personal dreams, no matter where we come from or what we believe. We often struggle when our dreams conflict with the labels that we are given at birth such as gender, nationality and religion. The film is partly inspired by the lives of the real people in the documentary.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Tamer Ezzat is an Egyptian filmmaker who started his career in 1994 as an editor for famed Egyptian directors such as Yousef Chahine's "Silence... We're Rolling" and Yousry Nasrallah's "On Boys, Girls & the Veil, the City". He went on to study Directing and Special Effects at NYU and NYFA. In 2002, he returned to Cairo to start directing and producing award-winning documentaries including "Everything Is Gonna Be Alright!" and "The Place I Call Home". His fiction feature debut "The Ring Road", which he wrote and directed, premiered at the Cairo International Film Festival in 2010. He is currently working on a documentary about the 2011 Egyptian revolution.

COMPANY PROFILE

Watan Films is a newly established company continuing on the path of the two previous production names, Myth Productions and In-House Productions, through which it produced several award-winning documentaries and short films, as well as television commercials and corporate videos including "The Decision" (Short 2001), "Everything is Gonna Be Alright" (Feature Documentary 2004) and "The Place I Call Home" (Feature Documentary – 2006).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$790,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$150,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Other

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are looking for script marketability, funding, co-production, world sales and distribution.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Kaouther Ben Hania
Director / Screenwriter



Habib Attia
Producer



Julie Paratian
Producer



Contact

Mr. Habib Attia
23, Rue d'Andalousie,
Borj Baccouche
L'Ariana, Tunisia

T: +21 670 731 986
M: +21 623 449 001
mh.attia@cinetelefilms.net

CHALLAT OF TUNIS

"Challatt Tunes", Tunisia

The story of Challatt, a supposed fundamentalist who slashes women's buttocks with a razorblade in Tunisia, reveals what urban myths tell us about our society, culture and identity.



Tunis, 2003, a man on a moped, razor blade in hand, prowls the streets. He's on a mission to slash the most beautiful buttocks of women strolling down the city's sidewalks. They call him Challat; in Tunisian dialect, the word means blade and is most likely a distortion of Gillette, a famous razor blade brand with the slogan "the best a man can get." Eight years later and Challat has just been freed from jail, and Tunisian filmmaker Kaouther Ben Hania sets out to find him. She wants to know what motivated him to slash women like herself.

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 80 min
Genre: Comedy, Social Issues, Women Interest
Exhibition Format: 35 mm
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As a Tunisian, and as a woman, I want to regain my right to speak out, to say what I think of Challatt, of chauvinism, of misinformation. The myth of Challatt and his popularity is a perfect way to delve into these issues. My sense of humor and natural irony will be my allies, allowing me to address the issues while keeping the tone light and entertaining. In Tunisia, what makes people tick is their sense of irony when faced with serious and suffocating issues. I want my film to represent a Tunisia that knows how to laugh at itself – and hopefully listen.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Kaouther Ben Hania has studied cinema in both Tunisia and France. She has been based in Paris for the past four years and has recently started working on international films both in fiction and documentary. Her several short films include "Me, My Sister and The Thing" (2006), which had a long and successful run on the international festival circuit. Her last documentary film "Imams Go to School" premiered at IDFA 2010 and was selected in several international film festivals including the Dubai International Film Festival in December 2010. She is now developing with Cinetelefilms her first feature film "La Cité de Plomb".

COMPANY PROFILE

Since 1983, Cinetelefilms has been one of the leading production companies in Tunisia and the Arab World. In 2009 and 2010, it produced more than 20 documentaries and television films for international television channels and short films including the feature film "Laila's Birthday" directed by award-winning Palestinian filmmaker Rashid Masharawi. "Laila's Birthday" premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and was distributed in more than 15 countries. The feature-length documentary "No More Fear" directed by Tunisian director Mourad Ben Cheikh, explores the Tunisian revolution of January 2011. This film was the official selection of the 64th Cannes Film Festival.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$700,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$425,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Arab Fund for Arts and Culture in partnership with Sundance Institute
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- EED EZEF, Germany
- Fonds Sud CNC, France
- Georges Foundation, Switzerland
- NRK, Norway
- Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
- TG4, Ireland

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We are searching for broadcasters, co-production or pre-sale as well as world sales agent and regional distributors.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

CINEMA PALESTINE

"Cinema Palestine", Palestine, Canada, Qatar, 2012

Tim Schwab
Director / Screenwriter



Majdi El-Omari
Producer



A poetic documentary exploring the emergence of a Palestinian cinema in recent years, and the concepts of land and space in work by Palestinian filmmakers.



This film will focus on the 'fourth wave' of Palestinian cinema, running from 1980 to the present and is now considered a significant artistic force in world cinema. Films from this period have screened in major festivals such as Cannes, Berlin, Venice and Toronto, and have received globally renowned awards. Constructed in a series of dialogues in which the filmmakers speak on a series of linked themes, the subjects address their ancestral roots, their relationship to the landscape, the political situation and the concept of a Palestinian 'national' cinema.

Contact

Phoenix Films
Majdi El-Omari
4806 Harvard Avenue
Montreal, Canada

T: +1 514 484 5228
melomari@gmail.com
cinemapalestine.wordpress.com/
cinemapalestine

Shooting Format: HDV

Runtime: 80 min

Genre: Documentary, Identity, Middle Eastern, Politics

Exhibition Format: HDCAM

Language: Arabic, English

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

From a creative standpoint, "Cinema Palestine" presents an opportunity to combine my interests in the landscape and the culture around exile and diaspora. I strive to create work that has inherent value as an artistic interpretation as well as a historical and critical document of a particular people, moment or movement in history. My area of interest enables me to explore the ideas of land and space through the work of Palestinian filmmakers, while also offering an opportunity for them to interpret and explain their own works- an exploration of an environment and people. The elements of this filmic exploration recognise diverse narrative forms, which become as important as the stories they frame.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Tim Schwab is a Film and Television Production graduate from Montana State University and has an MFA in Cinema Production from Concordia University. He is a producer, director and editor whose films and experimental works have screened at festivals, museums and on television around the world. His many awards include the Documentary Achievement Award from the International Documentary Association for "The Burning Barrel" (1997). His recent work includes the CBC documentary "Being Osama". He is currently working on a multimedia community art project about the Montreal neighbourhood of NDG and the oral history project "Stories of Montrealers Displaced by War, Genocide and Other Human Rights Abuses".

COMPANY PROFILE

Phoenix Films is a film production company owned by Majdi El-Omari and registered in Quebec since 1997. The company initially produced films that were directed by the owner, but the organisation is starting to expand its vision and scope of work. Phoenix Films has recently begun to produce work by other filmmakers who share El-Omari's perspective, and projects that are relevant to the company's vision of engaging filmmaking. Phoenix Films co-produced "Being with Juliano", a documentary directed by Emtiaz Diab. The company is also producing Tim Schwab's film about Palestinian cinema. Other documentaries in the development phase include films exploring the situation of women in Tunisia and in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$288,487.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$188,519.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Credit d'impot Provincial, Quebec, Canada
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Fonds de Recherche Sur la Societé et la Culture, Quebec, Canada
- Phoenix Films, Quebec, Canada - Palestine

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We are looking for co-producers, television pre-sales and distributors.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Eliane Raheb
Director / Screenwriter



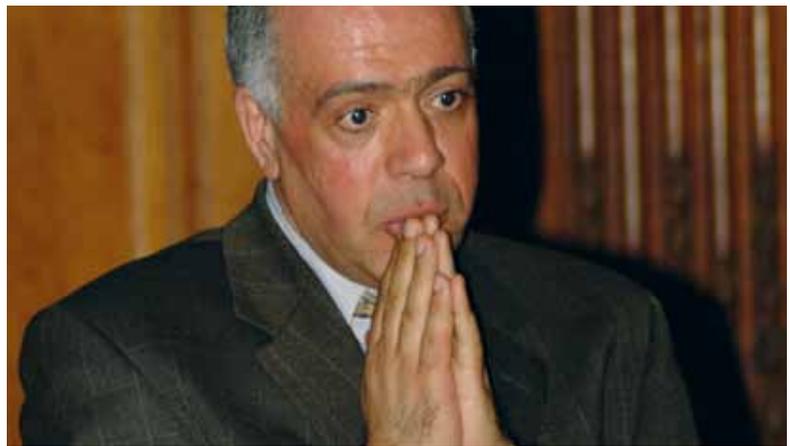
Nizar Hassan
Producer



CONFESSION AND STRUGGLE

“litiraf”, Lebanon, Qatar

An ex-militia officer responsible for many casualties in the Lebanese Civil War, comes face-to-face with relatives of the victims of a conflict marked by ethnic and religious brutality. Through these encounters he seeks redemption for his crimes.



Two people irrevocably changed by war come together in “Confession and Struggle,” an unflinching look at the brutal Civil War in Lebanon that took thousands of lives and changed many others. Today, Assaad Shaftari, a former Christian militia leader once known as a killing machine, now seeks redemption. And Maryam Saiidi, a Muslim woman, still struggles to find her son who disappeared 30 years ago during a military operation in relation to Shaftari’s previous militia actions. Will their encounter bring hope, answer questions and provide closure for the wounds of a war fought almost a generation ago?

Contact

ITAR Productions
Nizar Hassan
Furn El Chebbak, Saamout Street,
Ghattas bldg
Beirut, Lebanon

T: +961 1 293212
n.hassan@itarproductions.com

Shooting Format: HDV
Runtime: 80 min
Genre: Documentary
Exhibition Format: HDCAM
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I was never convinced by the post-war Lebanese government's promise of peace and reconciliation between different sects. Since the end of the Civil War I have not noticed any significant change in the mindset of the people of Lebanon. When I read that one of the main figures of the war, Assaad Shaftari, was apologising for his actions. I started to believe that his confession might help build a platform for peace. I thought that making a film about Assad's confession could have lasting meaning, to help us understand humanity and the consequences of war, not only in Lebanon but throughout the world.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Eliane was born in Lebanon in 1972. She has directed two short fiction films and three documentaries among which "Hayda Lubnan", a 58 minutes documentary broadcasted on Arte, ZDF, NHK and Al Jadeed TV stations. The film has won the Excellency award in Yamagata film festival. Her previous documentary "Intihar (Suicide)", a 26 minutes documentary commissioned by O3 production, broadcasted on Arabia TV in 2003, received an award at the Mumbai Film Festival. Eliane is one of the founders of the cultural cooperative for cinema between Beirut and DC. Since 2001 she is the Artistic Director of the Arab film festival Ayam Beirut al Cinem'iya.

COMPANY PROFILE

Itar Productions is a documentary production house established in 2007, based in Beirut and Amman, and working across the Arab region. In 2008, Itar produced two documentaries for "Liban Mosaïque Eclatée" broadcast on ARTE/ZDF; "Hayda Lubnan" (This is Lebanon) by Eliane Raheband and "Janoub" (South) by Nizar Hassan. "Hayda Lubnan" received the excellency award at the Yamagata Film Festival and aired on NKH and Al JadeedTV. Itar produced "Awdat ilal Zat" (Return to the Self, 2009) for the Al Jazeera documentary channel. Current projects include the cross media documentary project "Free Arabs"; a feature documentary by Eliane Raheb, "The confession"; and "Yasmine and Mohammed" by Regine Abadia.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$200,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$180,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Al Jazeera, Qatar
- Alter Cine Fund, Canada
- Asian Film Fund, Korea
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- DocMZ, Korea
- Dubai Desert Doors Fund, Dubai
- Enjaaz Fund, Dubai
- Fonds International de la Francophonie, France
- Umam Research and Documentation, Lebanon

Current Status:

Post-Production

Looking For:

We are searching for broadcasting.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Damien Ounouri
Director / Screenwriter



Mathieu Mullier
Producer



Alexandre Singer
Producer



Contact
Kafard Films
Mathieu Mullier
8, passage Montbrun
Paris, France

T: +33 6 0357 6588
matmullier@kafardfilms.fr
www.kafardfilms.fr

FIDAÏ

"Fidaï", Algeria, France, China, Germany, Qatar

The story of the filmmaker's great uncle who joined the secret National Liberation Front during the Algerian revolution. It is a revealing account of attempted murder, dark secrets and the settling of scores.



During the war in Algeria, El Hadi, the great uncle of filmmaker Damien Ounouri, joined his sister in France and became an active member of a secret armed group known as the National Liberation Front (FLN). Attempted murder, imprisonment and finally deportation back to Algeria in 1962, define his personal journey and reveals the whole story. Now 69 years old, the film marks the first time El Hadi has revealed this dark chapter of his past.

Shooting Format: Digital 4K
Runtime: 90 min
Genre: Based on a True Story, Documentary, History, Social Issues, War
Exhibition Format: 35 mm
Cast: El Hadi
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As a child, I often questioned my father about the story of his uncle that was revealed through mere footnotes as the elders were veiling this period in silence. My imagination filled in details: he would have been a shadow fighter with a gun to defend a noble cause; would have learned reading and writing in jail. Beyond the family ties, his story leads me to wider concerns – what history remembers from wars is often not what has been experienced by its participants. Through his example and the Mujahideen he knew, I wanted to depict the experience of these workers-soldiers.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Damien Ounouri was born in Clermont-Ferrand, France in 1982 to a French mother and Algerian father. He studied film theory at Sorbonne University, while developing his cinema practice with independent filmmakers group, Li Hua Films. His first documentary "Xiao Jia Going Home" was about sixth generation Chinese filmmaker Jia Zhang-Ke. "I Wish I Knew" (2010) screened at many festivals around the world. He has directed several short films and documentaries including "Changping", "Sonata in a Small Chinese Town" (2007) and "Away from Nedjma" (2009). He is also a tutor, conducting cinema workshops for children and teenagers in Algeria and France.

COMPANY PROFILE

Kafard Films was established in Paris three years ago to create international collaborations between directors, actors, and technicians. The company has extensive knowledge in production, and launched a technical department to facilitate producers and directors shooting in film format. They have also developed a 3D department with its own equipment and technicians.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$629,632.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$331,632.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- A.F.A.C., Lebanon
- Cirta Films, Algeria
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- INA, France
- Mec Film, Germany
- Région Auvergne, France
- Xstream Pictures, China

Current Status:

Post-Production

Looking For:

We are searching post-production funds, distributors and broadcasters and international sales.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Nadine Naous
Director / Screenwriter



Monika Borgmann
Producer



Céline Loiseau
Producer



Olivier Bourbeillon
Producer

Contact
TS Productions
Céline Loiseau
73 Rue Notre Dame des Champs
Paris, France

T: +33 153 102 400
cloiseau@tsproductions.net

HOME SWEET HOME

"Home Sweet Home", France, Lebanon, Qatar

Nadine Naous tells the story of her father and the school he founded in Beirut in this family portrait set in a country divided by war.



The filmmaker's father spent 40 years of his life as the founder and director of a secular school in Beirut's southern suburbs, once a mixed area but now predominately Shi'a and a Hezbollah stronghold. Today, the 69-year-old founder is drowning in debt and must sell his school. He is devastated. His wife, however, sees selling the school as a relief. The filmmaker returns to her homeland to document this painful period in their lives and in the life of the country.

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 70 min
Genre: Documentary
Exhibition Format: HDCAM
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Only by cobbling together a tale of many individual stories, as different as they may be, can the collective history of the country be told. With the story of my family, both unique and commonplace, I strive to examine the complexity of the situation in Lebanon with all its contradictions, as well as transformations in the physical landscape of the country and the mental outlook of the people which are the result of years of war and political crisis. The period after the war in Lebanon was marked by a collective amnesia which can only be shaken through the telling of as many stories as possible.

I am confident that these stories, like those of my family in their palpable unease, will finally defeat the country's tendency to forget.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Scripwriter and Director Nadine Naous was born in Lebanon. After studying film and literature, she was the author of installations that mix super-8 films, videos, photos and audio pieces. Her first documentary "My Palestine" was broadcast on ARTE and shown in numerous prestigious festivals internationally. "Clichés" her first short fiction film co-produced by ARTE is shown internationally at festivals. Nadine also worked as a scriptwriter with Hiam Abbass on "Inheritance", an upcoming feature film.

COMPANY PROFILE

In 1996, Miléna Poylo and Gilles Sacuto created TS Productions. In December 2004, the company was awarded the Independent Production Prize by IFCIC, and the Duo Revelation Trophy. TS Productions also received seven Césars for the feature film "Séraphine", directed by Martin Provost.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$214,841.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$149,841.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- CNC, France
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Region Bretagne, France

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We are searching for broadcasters.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Ivan Boccara
Director / Screenwriter



Karim Aitouna
Producer



Thomas Micoulet
Producer



THE MAGHREBIM

“Les Maghrebim”, Morocco, France, Palestine, Italy, Qatar, 2012

A rediscovery of his parents’ archival images led Ivan Boccara to question his roots, his identity and the identity of the whole population who left Morocco almost 40 years ago.



The director returns to the roots of his family’s history, starting from footage his parents filmed 40 years ago depicting the Jewish population in Ntifa, a village in the Grand Atlas Mountains in Morocco. He revisits the village where he meets the few remaining Jews and also visits those who left almost 40 years ago to go to France and Israel. He explores the role that the Jewish Agency played in convincing people to leave their country to immigrate to Israel. Do they still remember Ntifa? What relationship do they have today with their roots?

Contact

Hautlesmains Productions
Karim Aitouna
1 Rue Camille Jordan
Lyon, France

T: +33 668 175 187
karim@hautlesmainsproductions.fr
www.hautlesmainsproductions.fr

Shooting Format: HD

Runtime: 90 min

Genre: Documentary, History, Identity, Immigration, Politics

Exhibition Format: HDCAM

Language: Arabic, Berber, French, Hebrew

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I endeavoured to capture the story about a place that is gradually abandoned by the Jewish community. Through this process of storytelling, I seek to understand the motivations and emotions behind the departure or migration of these unique people. Since I have lived in various countries, a personal and global perspective colours the film which has become an exploration of my own multidimensional cultural voice. The process of filmmaking allowed me to distil these particular stories and to perpetuate this narrative in the realm of memory.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Born in Morocco in 1968, Ivan Boccara is based between France and Morocco. He studied cinema and the history of the Berber civilisation in Paris. His work focuses on strong characters, community, minority populations and issues between tradition and modernity. Ivan is also a teacher and advisor in audiovisual and documentary studies.

COMPANY PROFILE

Hautlesmains Productions develops fiction and documentary projects that are both short and feature length. By collaborating with a team of filmmakers and writers, the company is able to produce work that explores an investigation of being human and the questions of humanity. Hautlesmains Productions develop fiction and documentary projects (short and feature film) with a team of filmmakers and writers whose works focus on the question of the human.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$346,100.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$60,851.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- ArteTV, France
- CNC, France
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Procirep, France
- Région Rhône Alpes, France
- Sigma Technologie, Morocco
- Soread 2MTV, Morocco
- Trabelsi Productions, Palestine

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We would like to meet more industry professionals and the commissioning editors of Arab and international television.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Safaa Fathy
Director / Screenwriter



Delphine Morel
Producer



Contact
TS Production
Delphine Morel
73, Rue Notre-Dame des Champs
Paris, France

T: +33 1 53 10 24 00
dmorel@tsproductions.net

MOHAMMAD SAVED FROM THE WATERS

“Mohammad Saved from the Waters”; Egypt, France, Qatar

The story of the filmmaker’s brother who lost his life to kidney failure. The narrative engages in an exploration of the body, tradition, religion and family in modern Egypt confronted with the most rapid changes in its 5,000 year history.



After six years of dialysis and because he refused to accept a transplant, my brother Mohammad died. His kidneys failed because of water. The Nile is sick – 52 canals dump human and industrial waste destroying fish, flora and, above all, human kidneys. Mohamad believed a donor’s body wasn’t his to sell, that it belongs to God. In Egypt, many believe the same yet organ trafficking is widespread, lucrative and prohibitive laws are largely ignored. The story of Mohammad explores body, tradition, religion and family in a country confronted with the most rapid changes in its 5,000 year history.

Shooting Format: HDCAM
Runtime: 75 min
Genre: Documentary, Social Issues
Exhibition Format: 35 mm
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Many Egyptian villages drink polluted water, the Nile is polluted, the air thick with car fumes and factories dump waste in the river. Industrialised agriculture uses unauthorised insecticides, causing food poisoning. Kidney failure is so common that dialysis units are installed across the country. I lost my brother to kidney failure and worry about my family, friends and fellow citizens. What can I do? I make films. Usually, I make them about less topical, less urgent subjects. Here, I am trying to contribute to the safety of my country, to raise the issue of growth and pollution in a sensitive and emotional manner.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Safaa Fathy was born in Minia, Upper Egypt in 1958. She is the director of many films, including "D'Ailleurs" and "Derrida". Inspired by her film, she then co-wrote with Jacques Derrida, one of the most studied of French philosophers, "Tourner les mots"; and "Au bord d'un film". She has also been author to many poetry collections in Arabic and has staged a dozen theatre plays.

COMPANY PROFILE

Delphine Morel produces, writes and directs documentaries since 1996. She has worked with ARTE, FranceTV, Canal+ and many international partners. In 2009, she joined the TS Productions documentary unit. The founders Milena Poylo and Gilles Sacuto have produced 15 feature films, 18 documentaries and 26 short films. In 2009, TS productions won 7 Cesar Awards including Best French Film, for "Seraphine", a feature film by Martin Provost, starring Yolande Moreau and Ulrich Tukur.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$220,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$120,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- AFAC, Jordania
- CNC, France
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Procirep, France
- SANAD, Abu Dhabi Film Festival

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We would like to find a broadcaster for this feature documentary in the Arab world and in Europe, and we are interested in meeting with potential commissioning editors and broadcasters.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

MY LOVE AWAITS ME BY THE SEA

"Habibi Bestanani 3ind Al Bahar"; Jordan, Palestine, Qatar, 2012

Mais Darwazah
Director / Screenwriter



Rula Nasser
Producer



A woman takes a journey back to Palestine. She meets Hasan, her imaginary lover, and through his fantasy world finds the remnants of hope in characters living a harsh reality.



A personal journey that the director embarks upon after discovering the work of artist Hasan Houran. It is the story of a girl who travels back to her homeland looking for her imaginary lover by the sea, meeting on the way people who carry on his legacy. This film pays tribute to an artist whose work is known for its imaginative simplicity; giving a sense of hope to a generation struggling to avoid the numbness imposed on it by the current political and social realities.

Contact

The Imaginarium Films
Rula Nasser
Jebel Webdeih
Amman, Jordan

T: +962 795 520 056
rula.nasser@gmail.com

Shooting Format: HD

Runtime: 90 min

Genre: Biography, Docufiction, Fantasy, Middle Eastern, Politics, Romance, Social Issues

Exhibition Format: HDCAM

Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This film pays tribute to an artist's work that has grown in popularity for its imaginative simplicity, which has fostered hope and a belief in a dream greater than oneself. The film also attempts to manifest the artist's effort to encapsulate the emotional state of the current generation, and its struggle to disrupt the numbness induced by various social and political realities.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Mais Darwazah began her independent film career by making short experimental films. She received a British Council scholarship and completed an MA in Documentary Directing. Her 2008 graduation film, "Take Me Home", screened in numerous international festivals. "My Love Awaits Me by the Sea" is Mais's first feature-length documentary: it has participated at the Berlinale's DocStation (2009) and was granted the Sundance Documentary Fund (2010) and the Sanad Development Fund (2011).

COMPANY PROFILE

Imaginarium Films was founded in 2010 by the independent producer Rula Nasser, who pioneered the new wave of independent cinema in Jordan. The establishment of the company was to meet the needs of filmmakers and to act as an incubator that perpetuates their narratives, ideas and visions of cinema's future. This organisation provides the creative community with a platform to freely express their skills, collaborate and cultivate a unique filmic voice.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$168,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$120,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Arab Cultural Fund
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Private Investors, Jordan
- Royal Film Commission, Jordan
- SANAD Abu Dhabi Development Fund, UAE
- Sundance Documentary Development Fund, USA

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We are searching for sales agents, distributors, film festival programmers, commissioning editors, and television professionals.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

NOTES ON A TUNISIAN ODYSSEY

"Notes on a Tunisian Odyssey"; France, Tunisia, USA

Kays Mejri
Director / Screenwriter



Matt Peterson
Director / Screenwriter

Thameur Mejri
Producer



Jackie Raynal
Producer

An exploration of Tunisia's false memories and those that created them, with a view toward its future visions of itself.



Examining the culture and history of Tunisia and how it has been mediated or ignored by the Western lens, the film follows the events of January 2011 which culminated in the toppling of President Ben Ali. The film looks both backward and forward from this point of inspiration for pro-democracy revolutionary movements worldwide. Kays Mejri and Matt Peterson use distinct approaches to collaborate on a documentary that is part essayistic ethnography, political portrait and a touristic travelogue.

Contact
Matt Peterson
Brooklyn
New York

T: +1 914 309 2243
matt@mattpeterson.org

Genre: Documentary, Education, History, Politics, Social Issues
Exhibition Format: 35 mm
Language: English, French

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Our work focuses on experience, the experience of place, history, and memory, and the collective processes, that shape our subjectivities. In examining these processes of understanding, we can re-teach ourselves new forms of relations and from there envision and actualise new ways of living. We work with encounters, critical encounters with the locations and moments of forgotten histories, and spontaneous encounters with those who wish for something else. For us, Tunisia represents an exciting space to enter into, with a people who wish to begin again.

DIRECTORS' BIOGRAPHY

Matt Peterson is an archivist, curator, and writer based in New York City. He has produced seven short videos which have been screened on television, as well as at community gardens, cultural centres, galleries, microcinemas, museums, and theatres throughout the United States. He is a member of Red Channels, a radical collective of cultural workers.

Thameur Mejri is a Tunisian filmmaker, currently based in Montreal. As a director, he has worked with his brother to create four short films which have won awards at festivals in New York, Los Angeles, Damascus, Sicily and Tunis. As a co-director and first assistant, he has worked on a number of film and television productions, including the short film "Perversion" (2006), which screened at Cannes, Carthage, Melbourne, and Montpellier. He also co-produced the documentary feature film, "The Unreturned" (2010), about Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Syria, which played at the Full Frame and Human Rights Watch Film Festival.

COMPANY PROFILE

Jackie Raynal Films is the company of Jackie Raynal, distributor, editor, exhibitor, and filmmaker, based in New York and Paris.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$90,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$45,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- French and Tunisian governments
- Jackie Raynal Films, USA

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

At this stage of production we are looking for additional financing to fund further trips to Tunisia. Resources are needed to fund the crew's flights, lodging and travels within the country.

PRODUCTION
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Carolina Popolani
Director / Screenwriter



Bernadette Carranza
Producer



ZAYNAB'S SISTERS

"Sorelle", Egypt, Italy, Qatar, 2011

A young Italian-Egyptian woman meets activist women of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.



Sama, a 25-year-old woman of Egyptian origin raised in Italy, has just graduated in Political Science. She decides to wear the veil with pride while aware of the repercussions that may entail in Italy. She plans a trip to Egypt to deepen her knowledge of the role of women in Islamic countries. There, Sama will film women involved in politics, communications, welfare and who serve in the Muslim Brotherhood movement. She explores how women in Islamic contexts can have important roles in society.

Contact

Intesa & CP
Carolina Popolani
Via Cairoli 33
Rome, Italy

T: +39 066 832 740
caro.popolani@gmail.com
www.atabulo.com

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 52 min
Genre: Documentary
Exhibition Format: HDCAM
Language: Arabic, Italian

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Through this documentary film, I am attempting to understand elements of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, and the possibility of Islamisation in Egypt after the fall of the Mubarak regime. I feel that the evolution and growth of the Muslim Brotherhood should utilise the perspectives of women, as they could represent a unique shift for the movement. Today, the 'sisters' work primarily in charity organisations and generally do not achieve leadership positions inside the movement or in politics. However, this film aims to represent the changing face of Egypt's socio-political landscape.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

After working in Milan as an editor in film and at Rai Television, Carolina Popolani moved to Rome where she worked for 13 years as Senior Editor and Producer for the Arab satellite channel, Television Orbit. Her Syrian origins and knowledge of the Arab world led her to become interested in integration, the environment, human rights and women's issues, particularly in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean.

COMPANY PROFILE

Intesa & CP is a company that has been operating in the documentary production field for decades. It provides consulting services for institutions and creates traditional as well as multimedia communication campaigns, which are infused with a strong social commentary. In particular, the company designs intercultural projects in the area of the new European countries and in the Mediterranean, with the purpose of promoting an open dialogue among nations. Intesa & CP produce film, shorts, documentaries and news reports that have won an Oscar® nomination and various other international prizes.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$97,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$97,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- La7 Telecom Italia Media- SKY, Italy

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We are looking for co-producers and broadcasters interested in pre-sales.

PRODUCTION
ARAB SHORT NARRATIVE

Ehab Tarabieh
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



Sol Goodman
Producer



THE FINAL JOURNEY

"The Final Journey", Syria, United States of America, Qatar, 2012

Mustafa crosses the Israeli border from Syria to the Golan Heights on a winter night to return to his last memory of happiness before he dies.



Stricken by Alzheimer's, Mustafa steals across the Israeli border from Syria with the help of a local smuggler. His trip is one way because he is approaching the end of his life and trying to find the home he had before becoming a refugee.

Contact
RailRoad Films
EhabTarabieh
Majdal Shams P.O. Box 386

info@railroadfilms.net

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 25 min
Genre: About Family, Based on a True Story, Biography, Drama, History, Identity, Immigration, Middle Eastern, Social Issues, War
Exhibition Format: HDCAM
Cast: Tarek Kubti
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This is my story and it strives to encapsulate the voice and narrative of my people. It is the story of humankind and the borders drawn between citizens, a division that splits spaces, dialogues and ideas. The film endeavours to enter into the areas in between, and to explore our human relationship with the places we occupy.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Born in Majdel Shams on the Golan Heights, Ehab Tarabieh first studied classical violin at the Conservatory of Damascus before studying film in the Czech Republic. He currently lives in Jerusalem working as a community filmmaking instructor with local Palestinians. Ehab is about to embark on pre-production on a narrative short and is developing a feature-length script for production next year. His filmography comprises the short films "Aida" (2008), "Salma is Going to Damascus" (2009), "The Forty Second Winter" (2009) and "Chance" (2010), which won first prize in the Haifa Film Festival's Arab Director section.

COMPANY PROFILE

RailRoad Films is a small production company based in Tel Aviv, with partners in Gaza, Marrakech and New York. Upon founding the company two years ago, Sol Goodman focused on fiction and non-fiction films, telling small but universal stories. Over the past two years, the company has expanded to offer a wide array of production services while working throughout the Middle East on films aimed at exploring otherwise unknown stories and communities. As part of an initiative to bring Israelis closer to fringe communities, the audio department at RailRoad Films has recently started producing pop, hip hop, rock and reggae albums in Arabic, along with Palestinian folks songs, and has created a library introducing contemporary Arabic literature to an Israeli audience.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$24,150.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$17,185.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Ehab Tarabieh, Golan Heights, Syria
- Eli Gelfand Film Fund, Palestine
- Gesher Film Fund, Palestine
- Sol Goodman, USA

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We are looking for additional funding.

PRODUCTION
ARAB SHORT NARRATIVE

Merva Faddoul
Director / Screenwriter



Alicia Fahada
Producer



Jad Moussa
Producer



Contact
3 Little Red Hens / MervCreations
Merva Faddoul
1729, 2nd Avenue #5A
New York, USA

T: +1 347 2599834
merva.faddoul@gmail.com

GRANDMA

"Teta", Lebanon, Qatar, 2011

A story about family, faith and the genuine miracles that change our hearts and minds.



Sarah is a teenager living with her grandmother Marta and younger sister in Byblos, Lebanon. Stigmatised by their community because Sarah's mother has left, the family's life is turned upside down when a Virgin Mary in Marta's shrine starts leaking oil – it's a miracle. Marta becomes the centre of attention in town, while Sarah's skepticism strains their already fragile relationship. "Grandma" is a universal story about faith, family and true miracles that change hearts and minds.

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 24 min
Genre: Comedy, Drama, Religion, Youth
Exhibition Format: HDCAM
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

For as long as I can remember I've built worlds, characters and stories in my mind. At age 13, I stood as a clueless kid on my balcony in Byblos, Lebanon, declaring my dream of becoming a filmmaker to my friends. Seventeen years later, I returned to the same location and shot "Teta" (Grandma). Equipped with funding from the Doha Film Institute and National Geographic All Roads Film Project along with an MFA from the University of Southern California and a dozen trials and triumphs in films; I couldn't help but notice that 13-year-old smiling back at me from the same balcony.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Merva Faddoul grew up in Byblos, Lebanon, with four siblings and a wild imagination. She has a BA in Communications from the Lebanese American University and an MFA in Film Production from the University of Southern California. Her documentary "T for Middle Eastern" played at several international festivals including the Short Film Corner at the Cannes Film Festival, Annual Arab Film Festival in San Francisco and the Human Rights Nights in Bologna. In addition, her fiction script "Teta" has won National Geographic's All Roads Seed Grant. She is currently in development on several feature projects including "Lebanese Beauty" and "Hummus Wars".

COMPANY PROFILE

Jad (1988) grew up in Amchit, Lebanon. As a kid, he loved showbiz and started performing to his friends and family. At age 17, he discovered the audio-visual field of study, instantly fell in love and chose it as a major. In 2007, he joined the Visual Arts faculty at the Holy Spirit University in Kaslik, Lebanon, and his passion for movies and filmmaking continues to grow. Jad met Merva in 2007 and the two started a partnership which resulted in their collaboration on "Teta". He recently wrote and directed his film "In Loving Memory" and has worked in the camera department on the feature film "Tannoura Maxi" (2011).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$15,500.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$15,500.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- National Geographic All Roads Film Project

Current Status:

Prints & Advertising

Looking For:

"Grandma" is ready to be shown and at the moment we are looking for regional and international venues to screen the project. Our main goal is to gain marketing and distribution insights for the project and to help screen it in as many venues around the world as possible.

PRODUCTION
ARAB SHORT NARRATIVE

Ossama Bawardi
Director / Screenwriter



Annemarie Jacir
Producer



HANEEN

"Haneen", Palestine, Jordan

A story about nostalgia, loneliness, and the absence of love. Haneen is an old woman surviving within the memories of her home, struggling between slow monotony and her passion to rediscover life.



Haneen, a woman in her mid-60s, lives alone in a Palestinian city estranged from her husband and son. The municipal authorities arrive on her street and hang uniform plastic numbers on all the houses. With her usual determination, Haneen removes her number. After befriending Salem, a new boy in the neighbourhood who steals oranges from her garden, their relationship deepens when the Army arrests his father. The authorities return with a new number and re-affix it to Haneen's house. She lives her past and present in solitude and nostalgia waiting for unanswered letters to be returned.

Contact
Philistine Films
Ossama Bawardi
P.O. Box 910901
Amman, Jordan

T: +962 7 8617 2865
ossama_b@hotmail.com

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 18 min
Genre: Drama
Exhibition Format: 35 mm
Cast: Suad Amiry, Mohamed Abdallah Saleh
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Every name in Arabic has a meaning. "Haneen" means nostalgia. For me, the meanings are endless, hanging somewhere between that place where everything is left to the formations of a new memory. It keeps you alive, full of hope, and it slowly kills you, pulling you away from a reality. Waiting for memories to come back takes many forms. Space creates consciousness and so Haneen lives in slowness with all the details that fill her time. I tried to make an intimate portrait that somehow reveals the loneliness of human beings and the worlds they build around them.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Ossama Bawardi is a filmmaker based in Palestine and Jordan. He has been involved in various Palestinian productions including "Paradise Now" and Annemarie Jacir's "Salt of this Sea". He has participated in the Tribeca Film Festival's All Access Programme and has been invited to speak on several panels on film production in the Middle East, and alongside Michael Moore at the Traverse City Film Festival. Ossama directed a short art video that combined dance and music that was shown at the Ramallah Modern Dance Festival. He is currently producing Annemarie Jacir's feature "When I Saw You".

COMPANY PROFILE

Philistine Films is an independent production company founded in 1997. Based in Jordan and Palestine, Philistine Films was created to support new voices and to offer a platform for the emerging independent Arab film scene. Our company goal is to focus on development and co-production of independent feature and documentary films and find unconventional stories and fresh narratives. We hope to challenge the creative, financial, and practical obstacles confronting filmmakers working outside the mainstream.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$50,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$34,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Qattan Foundation, Palestine
- Mawred, Egypt
- Philistine Films Jordan

Current Status:

Prints & Advertising

Looking For:

We are looking for funding for sound editing and music design.

PRODUCTION
ARAB SHORT NARRATIVE

Azza El-Hassan
Director / Screenwriter



Saad Darwazeh
Producer



Serge Lalou
Producer

RUMORS

“Esha’aa”, Jordan

A trail of shoes is the only thing left as refugees flee because of a rumor that another massacre is about to be committed in their camp.



Souad and her neighbours’ hearts go out to the people who live around the block, victims of the Sabra and Chatila refugee camp massacre. Yet, when a rumor begins that another massacre is being committed in the camp, hundreds of refugees flee to her neighbourhood seeking refuge, Souad and her neighbours make sure that none of the refugees find shelter in their homes. Inspired by real life events, “Rumors” is a short fiction about how war and fear can strip us of our humanity.

Contact
Saad Darwazeh
75 Wasfe AlTal St, B.B. ground floor
Amman, Jordan

T: +962 7 9557 1710
azzaelhassan@mac.com

Genre: Based on a True Story, Drama
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Set during the aftermath of a massacre, "Rumors" is a film about the witnesses of the horrific event, rather than the victims. The witnesses are burdened by what they see and what they know. Their fear strips them of their humanity. In many ways they are you and I, sitting in a cinema watching the film.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Azza El-Hassan has won several international film awards; her films have been shown on television networks such as the BBC, ARTE, YLE, MBC and in international festivals around the world including Japan's Yamagata, IDFA in The Netherlands and Germany's Leipzig. She won the 2006 Luchino Visconti Award, 2002 Grierson Award and the 2001 Jury Award at Arab Screen Independent Film Festival. Azza's recent latest fiction feature "Musical Chairs" is in pre-production and has received the 2010 Torino Film Lab Production Award, 2009 Development Award at the Berlinale Talent Co-Production Market and 2008 Carthage Film Festival Script Award.

COMPANY PROFILE

Founded in 2006, Nazwa Productions is the twin sister of the Yamama Production house in Palestine which was established in 1996. Together, the two companies have been involved in several international co-productions. They have produced work for television channels including the BBC, ARTE, YLE, ARD, Al Jazeera, Al Arabia and many others. Currently Nazwa is producing "Musical Chairs", a feature film directed by Azza El-Hassan along with other fiction and documentary productions.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$119,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$22,600.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Les Films d'Ici, France
- Nazwa Productions, Jordan

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We are currently looking for partners in Lebanon who can help us execute the production as the story is set in Beirut in 1982. We are also looking to complete our financing production budget and seeking television channels for pre-sales.

PRODUCTION
ARAB SHORT NARRATIVE

Karim Souaki
Director / Screenwriter



Chawki Al Majari
Producer



Ala Eddine Slim
Producer



THE TUNNEL

“Damousse”, Tunisia, Qatar, 2012

Isolated in a remote and empty landscape, a family tries to cope with the death of a child.



In a remote desert, a couple try to survive a family tragedy: the loss of their only child. The film delivers a story of two solitary quests for reconciliation with oneself, with others and especially for survival.

Contact

Exit Productions
Ala Eddine Slim
3, rue Kamel Attaturk, Passage 2,
Immeuble 1
Tunis, Tunisia

T: +216 713 480 38
slim_alaeddine@yahoo.fr
www.exitprod.com

Shooting Format: HD

Runtime: 18 min

Genre: Drame

Exhibition Format: 35 mm

Cast: Bachir Salhi, Ferial Chammari, Zoubeir Bokri

Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The film is a story of a couple trying to survive after the death of their son. Everything is communicated with silence through the exchange of glances, gestures and shifting environments. The places in the film reflect the interior of the characters' mental and emotional landscape. The film explores rebirth in the wake of failure and loss.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Tunisian-based Karim Souaki, has directed documentaries since 2004. He is preparing his first feature film, which is slated to shoot in November 2011.

COMPANY PROFILE

Exit Productions is an independent production company based in Tunisia. It has produced more than 10 films since 2005 which have been selected for various festivals. In 2011, the company has produced a feature documentary, a short and a feature film.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$70,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$61,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Ministry of Culture, Tunisia
- Tunisian producer

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We are looking for representatives to help promote the film.

PRODUCTION
ARAB SHORT NARRATIVE

THE WALL

"Al Hayt", Lebanon, Qatar

Odette Makhoulf Mouarkech
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



Abla Khoury
Producer



Twenty years after the end of the Lebanese war, a wall is about to fall, unveiling truthful, heartfelt emotions that kept a neighbourhood together in difficult times.



In the eastern region of the Beirut suburbs, the filmmaker's family used to hide in Mary's house, known to be the safest house in the neighbourhood. It became that way thanks to the living room wall that was built with reinforced concrete and which, according to the owner, was indestructible. Twenty years after the end of the war, Mary's son, George, decides to break down the wall. The idea of losing it and everything that it represents leads the filmmaker to create a series of interviews with people who lived at Mary's place during that period.

Contact
Odette Makhoulf Mouarkech
odettemakhoulf@gmail.com

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 30 min
Genre: About Family, Based on a True Story, Female Director, Social Issues
Exhibition Format: HDCAM
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This film has already haunted me for 10 years. And then, one day, "The Wall" was brought to life. It was a necessity for me- an emergency, because I want to remember, at all cost. Remember everything: the good and the bad; war and love. I want to let the people who influenced my childhood speak; say that everything has not gone to waste; that we have learned, immortalising a world that means a lot to me. Some would say one wall less, so what? But what about the walls we wrap ourselves in?

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Odette Makhlouf obtained her diploma in Cinema from USEK in 2000 and her Masters degree in Cinema Studies from Paris 8 in 2004. "The Wall" is the winner of the best screenplay from a pitch session led by Metropolis and the CCF.

COMPANY PROFILE

Ginger Beirut is a production company launched in 2010 which specialises in features and short films, documentaries, television series, music videos and public-service announcements. Projects include "The Mountain"; a feature film by Ghassan Salhab (2010); and "Fasateen" by Mashrou' Leila, a music video by Jowe Harfouche and Diane Farah (2010). Our current slate comprises "Where Do We Go Now?", a feature film by Nadine Labaki; "Gate 5", a documentary feature by Simon El Haber; "Al Shahroura", a television series for Al Sabbah Media Productions; and "Behind the Window", a short film by Nagham Abboud. We are already in pre-production for a new Hisham Bizri feature, with other diverse projects in the pipeline.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$20,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$7,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Ginger Beirut Productions SAL, Lebanon

Current Status:

Production

Looking For:

We are looking for potential co-producers.

DEVELOPMENT GRANTEES

FEATURE NARRATIVE

BREATHE

THE EYE OF THE DEVIL

FEVERS

A GAZA WEEKEND

HOUSEKEEPING

NOSTALGIA

ON THE IDENTITY OF SHIDYAQ

SHADOW OF A MAN

RED OLIVE TREE

A REVERENCE FOR SPIDERS

UPSIDE DOWN

WINDOW

X KIDS

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

ASPHALT

DONA CESARIA

WALOU

ARAB SHORT NARRATIVE

7 KM - SEVEN KILOMETERS

MAQLOUBEH STEP BY STEP

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Jihane Chouaib
Director / Screenwriter



Nathalie Trafford
Producer



BREATHE

“Mon Souffle”, Lebanon, Qatar

**How do you come home when everything has changed?
The story of an inner adventure through legends and lies of
a young woman in search of her identity in contemporary
Lebanon.**



Nada, a young ballet dancer, leaves Paris and returns for the first time to Lebanon, the country she left when she was a child. She rediscovers her abandoned family house partially destroyed by bombing and the garden turned into a garbage dump. She decides to settle in this place full of childhood memories and sets herself a mission: to find the body of her grandfather who vanished during the Civil War. Her quest takes her the length and breadth of Lebanon, through legends and secrets- an inner adventure for a young woman in search of her identity.

Contact

Paráiso Production
Nathalie Trafford
7 Impasse des Chevaliers
Paris, France

T: +33 143 159 191
paraisofilms@libertysurf.fr

Shooting Format: 35 mm

Genre: Coming of Age, Drama, Family, Female Director, Friendship, Identity, Middle Eastern, Women, Youth

Exhibition Format: 35 mm

Language: French

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

My general approach to the film is sensual, as the character's relationship with identity unfolds in a specific place, with its light, nature and skins. I also want to make the audience feel the invisible presences that haunt Nada: the barbarism of the old Civil War beneath the surface of contemporary Lebanon; and the family as a body tormented by ghosts born of silence and secrets. Despite the hidden horror, a certain fantasy and lightness is present in the tone, as Nada experiences her journey of self-discovery while traveling with her brother in the freedom of childhood.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Jihane Chouaib was born in Beirut just before the Civil War. In 1976, her family settled in Mexico, where Jihane spent her childhood. As a teenager, she studied philosophy in France and discovered the theatre. Jihane has directed five short films, including the critically acclaimed "Sous mon lit", which was voted Best Short Film by the French Journalists' Union and was shown in the Semaine de la critique at Cannes in 2005. She has just finished a feature documentary, "Pays rêvé", and has written her first feature film, "Breathe" (Mon Souffle).

COMPANY PROFILE

Paraíso Production is based in Paris and has produced arthouse films since 1996. The company looks for emerging directors with a creative and personal approach to filmmaking, developing long-term collaborations with them. It only works with high-quality arthouse films and our catalogue includes nine features and more than 20 shorts. Paraíso has contributed to the emergence of such talented directors as Andrés Wood, Ricardo Larrain, Matias Bize, Bruno Rolland, Camila Guzmán, Alicia Scherson, Katell Quillévére, Jihane Chouaib, Fabianny Deschamps and Jérôme Schlomoff.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$2,280,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$57,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Né à Beyrouth, Lebanon

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We expect to find most of the budget in France through public subventions and television presales. We are looking for co-producers and partners from the Arab world to raise the additional funding. The script has received a subsidy from the French Ministry of Culture.

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Katia Jarjoura
Director / Screenwriter



Jérôme Bleitrach
Producer



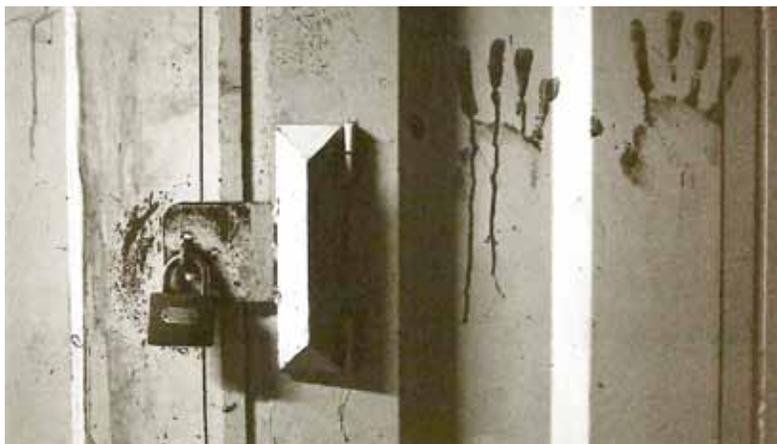
Monika Borgmann
Producer



THE EYE OF THE DEVIL

"Ayn al-Shaytan", Iraq, Lebanon, Qatar

In a remote village in Iraq in 1988, a housewife is hiding her brother in her house. Then one day her husband comes home from the war.



Iraq, 1988. In a small village on the outskirts of the desert, Hana is hiding her brother in her house. Outside, the Iran-Iraq war is raging and Saddam Hussein's tyrannical regime is sowing fear among the people. Hunted down by security agents, Jawad, who deserted, has shut himself away in a tiny room in his sister's house. A courageous wife and mother, Hana puts herself at risk to feed him daily while also taking care of her two kids and trying to cope with social hardship. But one day Hana's husband comes back from the war and the family's precarious situation soon becomes unbearable.

Contact

Bizibi
Katia Jarjoura
119 Rue du Faubourg Saint Antoine
Paris, France

T: +33 173 706 016
gadjadila@gmail.com

Shooting Format:

Runtime: 90 min

Genre: Drama, Female Director, Psychological, Social Issues, Suspense, War

Exhibition Format: 35 mm

Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"The Eye of the Devil" is a 'film about war' without being a 'war film'. In the story; which unfolds almost completely inside a single house- war is a backdrop, a mood, a background noise, but it's never directly shown. I'm much more interested in its pervasive effects on individuals- the way it distorts the human mind and body, and how, in the long term, it slips under one's skin and becomes like second nature. Another self. In this film, there is no good and evil, no heroes- only people trying to survive, at any cost.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

A Lebanese-Canadian filmmaker, Katia Jarjoura directed several documentaries in the Middle East, ("Caught in Between"; "The Road to Kerbala"; "Goodbye Mubarak!") which have been screened worldwide and broadcast on various international channels, including ARTE, Al Jazeera and CBC. Her work focuses on war-torn countries like Iraq, Iran, Palestine and Lebanon, portraying people caught in the midst of political turmoil. In the last few years, Katia has moved into fiction, writing screenplays and directing her first short film, "In their Blood", which won the France 2 Award at the Brest Film Festival. "The Eye of the Devil" will be her first feature film.

COMPANY PROFILE

Founded in 1988 by two young French producers, Emmanuel Agneray and Jérôme Bleitrach, Bizibi Production has produced several short films and features which have been internationally renowned and critically acclaimed. Its producers have a strong interest in the Middle East and have supported such emerging filmmakers from the region as Syrian director Meyar al-Roumi ("Rehleh") and Lebanese filmmaker Hany Tamba ("Beyrouth After Shave"), winner of a César for Best Short film. The company's debut feature, "Or mon trésor", won the Caméra d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 2004. The duo have numerous feature projects in development, including "The Eye of the Devil".

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$750,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$37,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Umam Production, Lebanon

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are currently looking for a script doctor who can accompany the screenwriters in their writing process.

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Hicham Ayouch
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



FEVERS

"Fièvres", France, Morocco

Benjamin is a wild teenager, violent and rebellious. When his mother goes to jail, he makes a decision to go and live with the father he has never met.



Karim Zeroubi is released from prison a lost and broken man. He wanders the streets and ends up in Cité Berthe, a violent project in the suburbs where he grew up. When Benjamin's mother goes to jail, he is faced with the choice of staying in a home or going to meet the father he has never met. Karim is trying to adapt, leading a solitary existence until an ex-lover arrives with Benjamin claiming that the boy is his son. Together, a father and his son try to find the light.

Contact

Hicham Ayouch
17, Rue Omar el Kindy, Casablanca,
Quartier Bourgogne Morocco
Casablanca, Morocco

T: +21 267282341
ayouch23@hotmail.com

Shooting Format: HDCAM

Genre: Drama

Language: French

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I always wanted to make a movie in a French suburb, and I was looking for the story I was going to fall in love with. I do not want to give a simplistic view showing burning cars and hooded violent youths. There is no doubt that this violence exists but I also want to show the poetry and the immense desire to live that blooms in the suburbs; a world where characters are often funny, engaging, creative and very human.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Hicham Ayouch is a Moroccan filmmaker born in 1976. A former journalist, he worked with several French channels before becoming a writer and director. His first two features were documentaries: "The King's Queens" about the status of the women in Morocco and "Angel's Dust" about autistic teenagers. He has also directed two shorts "Bomblywood" and "As They Say". His first fiction feature "Heart Edges" about a dead fishing village was recently followed up with "Cracks", a love triangle between three misfits in Tangiers. He is in development with two fiction features: "Samba Do Maaouz", a satirical tale set in Morocco and "Fevers".

COMPANY PROFILE

There is no production company at the moment.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Financing already in place: (USD) \$50,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- CNC, France
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are looking for producers and distributors.

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Basil Khalil
Director / Screenwriter



Helge Albers
Producer



A GAZA WEEKEND

"Osboo' Ghazaawi", Palestine, Germany, Qatar

Israel's borders are sealed off due to an epidemic of a new virus and Gaza offers the only escape to freedom.



Waleed runs an unlicensed DVD shop in Gaza, and in a botched business deal he loses a small fortune; his wife's jewellery. Meanwhile the breakout of a rampant virus in Israel forces the international community to quarantine the country and cut it off from the rest of the world by land, air and sea. Waleed undertakes a fast cash job smuggling an Israeli family into Gaza, then onto a boat departing from the port, but complications arise when the boat is delayed and Waleed must hide the Israeli family in the basement of his own crowded house.

Contact
Code 81
Basil Khalil
United Kingdom

T: +44 798 696 9169
basil.khalil@code81.com
www.code81.com

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 90 min
Genre: Action, Comedy, Politics, Suspense, War
Exhibition Format: 35mm
Language: Arabic, English, Hebrew

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am a strong believer in thought provoking and entertaining films. A light-hearted story set in a fictional contemporary period would present the world with something new and refreshing, a comedy with a heart, coming from Gaza. I plan to tell a story where the characters' human side shines through the absurd world they live in. In times of hardship and despair, there will always be people who will put their differences and personal gain aside. This is Waleed's story, an unlucky man, who gets stuck with a bunch of unwanted guests he learns to love.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Basil Khalil was born and raised in Nazareth to a Palestinian father and English-Irish mother. After graduating from Screen Academy Scotland in Edinburgh with an MA in Producing and Script Development, he produced a number of short films and a feature documentary "Replay Revenge". He currently lives and works in London as a television freelancer and has co-written a television series for Al Jazeera children's channel. "A Gaza Weekend" is his first feature fiction screenplay; with it he has taken part in the Torino Film Lab and Rawi Writer's lab in consultation with the Sundance Institute.

COMPANY PROFILE

Flying Moon was founded in 1999 and is run by Roshanak Behesht Nedjad and Helge Albers. The company concentrates on high quality international feature films with a universal audience appeal. Its better known titles include "Silent Waters" by Sabiha Sumar, "Waiting for the Clouds" by Yesim Ustaoglu, "Summer Palace" by Lou Ye and "The Market" by Ben Hopkins. Recent productions include "Swans" by Hugo Viera da Silva and "The Loneliest Planet" by Julia Loktev starring Gael Garcia Bernal.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$1,644,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$19,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Other

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are searching for equity investment, co-producers, pre-sales and a worldwide sales partner.

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Mazen Khaled
Director / Screenwriter



Antoine Khalife
Producer



Pascal Diot
Producer



Contact
Khazihein Street, Rmeil
Achrafieh, Beirut
Lebanon

T: +961 70962674
antoinek1@hotmail.fr

HOUSEKEEPING

“Housekeeping”, Lebanon, Egypt, France, Qatar

A devoted mother and wife is faced with losing the life of independence that she has worked hard to maintain.



Farida, a strong-willed Egyptian woman in her 50s, is a cleaning lady working and living in an upscale Beirut neighbourhood. She is being threatened with eviction from the home she has lived in for most of her life and her husband is tired of being a ‘stay-at-home’ and insists they move to his family’s village in eastern Syria. With her only son Jad moving to Qatar for work, she fears losing the independence she has worked hard for and spending the rest of her life as a traditional wife and daughter-in-law in a village near the Syrian-Iraqi border.

Shooting Format: Digital Cinema
Runtime: 120 min
Genre: Family, Musical, Social Issues
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In "Housekeeping", I continue to look at the mechanics of the hidden tensions in family structures, which I began to articulate through the play of silence and angst between two brothers in my first short film "Cadillac Blues". In "Housekeeping", I will be looking at a bigger picture. My intention is to look at those tensions, portrayed through warm interactions amongst a cast of lively, even feisty characters. The film proceeds on three parallel levels: the internal, the external, and the social paradigm, which translate in the movie as three levels: a dream world, Farida's world, and the media construct.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Mazen Khaled was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and has studied and lived in Washington DC and Montreal, Canada. He wrote and directed a number of television advertisements as part of his work as a Creative Director before moving into film. Mazen's short films "Cadillac Blues" (2002); "My Queer Samsara" (2009); and "Our Gentleman of the Wings" (2010) have been shown at various international festivals including the Rotterdam International Film Festival, Reykjavik Film Festival, Cork International Film Festival and the Né à Beyrouth Lebanese Film Festival.

COMPANY PROFILE

Il Films is a newly formed Beirut-based company. Its mission is to help in the creation and support of a brave new cinema scene in Lebanon and the Arab world. It aims to collaborate with new and experienced filmmakers alike to produce quality films that combine critical acclaim with mass appeal, and to create community support among industry professionals to help nurture independent filmmaking in the region.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$1,200,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$450,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- About Productions, Lebanon
- IDPL, France
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are looking for international sales agents and distributors.

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Zaid Abu Hamdan
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



NOSTALGIA

"Nostalgia", Jordan, USA, Qatar

An unforgiving neighbourhood, four sisters, and nostalgia that will make dreams come true.



After a lifetime of suppressing traditions in a tough neighborhood in Amman, Zainab – 45, veiled and single – receives a note that could change her life forever. While deciding whether to break free, her father suddenly disappears. At the old family bookshop, a place full of memories of older traditions, Zainab reunites with her three younger sisters to enlist their help. The sisters are now completely different, socially and religiously, creating the perfect formula for disaster. Not until combining forces, will they be able to find their father. But now that Zainab can choose, will she seize her freedom?

Contact

Zaha Productions
Zaid Abu Hamdan
7275 Franklin Avenue, apt 404.
Los Angeles
United States of America

T: +1 323 600 3542
zaid.abuhamdan@gmail.com
www.zahaproductions.com

Shooting Format: Super 16 mm

Runtime: 99 min

Genre: Coming of Age, Drama, Family, Religion,
Social Issues, Women Interest, Youth

Exhibition Format: 35 mm

Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I want to tell a story about people whose lives are dictated by culture, tradition and the need to be socially accepted, a force, which can be destructive at times. I also want to reflect the fun loving and humorous nature of the Jordanian people that comes forth even in difficult times. "Nostalgia" concentrates on the struggles of women with dreams in Jordan. I see "Nostalgia" as an empowering film for women that will enchant both International and Arab audiences.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Acting since he was five, and introduced to the world of storytelling through Sinbad and Superman, Zaid holds a BA in Communication Arts from Lebanese American University and an MFA in Filmmaking from NY Film Academy. He has worked internationally as an Assistant Director, Producer, Writer and Television Reporter. In 2009, he established Zaha Productions, producing 4 short films including "Baram & Hamza" (2010) and "Love...Older" (2011) that won prestigious awards at international film festivals. His projects have been selected for programmes including Torino Film Lab 2010 and the Berlinale Talent Campus 2011. "Nostalgia" is his first feature.

COMPANY PROFILE

Zaha Productions was established in Amman 2009, focusing on fiction film projects for film and television. Zaha provides production services and logistics in Amman, in addition to production services in Los Angeles California. Within two years, and with its flourishing relations with well-established local and international media providers, Zaha Productions owns an archive of internationally awarded short films like "Baram & Hamza", "Love...Older", and the recently Oscar qualified short film "Bahiyah & Mahmoud". Zaha plans production of its first feature film "Nostalgia" in Amman and Dubai 2012.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$1,300,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$28,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Private Equities, Jordan
- Private Equities, UAE

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

The development phase is moving forward quickly and we are looking for international co-producers to get on board for the creative and logistic aspects of the project. We are also starting the preliminary casting process for the four main actresses.

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Shirin Abu Shaqra
Director / Screenwriter



Georges Schoucair
Producer



Emmanuel Barrault
Producer



Contact

About Productions
Christian Eid
699 Saifi Building, Lebanon Street,
4th floor
Beirut, Lebanon

T: +961 1 447 824
christian@aboutproductions.com
www.aboutproductions.com

ON THE IDENTITY OF SHIDYAQ

“Fi Ma Huwa al Faryaq”, Lebanon, France, Qatar

**Omar, Reem and a puppet are stuck in a house haunted
by the 19th century intellectual, Ahmad Fares Al Shidyaq.**



In an old crumbling house, Omar is terrified of the outside and Reem is passing through and needs to remain invisible. Omar spends his days writing about Ahmad Faris Al-Shidyaq; an Arab intellectual from the 19th century. Shidyaq was a linguist, a translator, a newspaper editor, a cynical chronicler of his time, and an amateur musician enamoured with women. Reem interferes in Omar's world of imagination. In the midst of this uncanny atmosphere, a puppet that has developed a life of its own and joins them.

Shooting Format: HD

Runtime: 90 min

Genre: Animation, Based on a True Story, Biography, Fantasy, History

Exhibition Format: HDCAM

Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Cinema and animation are the means to live the fantastic in everyday life. My work has always taken as its base different historical and sociological phenomena of the Arab world and then sought to transmute these phenomena into dreamlike atmospheres.

I began my professional life as a historical researcher, and it was then, 10 years ago, that Ahmad Fares Al Shidyaq, this expansive Arab intellectual and lover of life, captured my imagination. A compulsion to, one day, bring this thinker back to life began.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Shirin Abu Shaqra was born in Doha in 1978 to a Lebanese father and a Syrian mother.

She graduated in 2010 with an MFA in Contemporary Arts from the Fresnoy National Studio for Contemporary Arts in France.

To date, she has made four films, including the poetic essay "Hold on, My Glamourous" that won the best film award at the Lebanese Film Festival in 2009 and two short animation films: "Walking Distance" (2008) and "Conversations with Change" (2010). She is currently working on her first feature film. She lives between Paris and Beirut.

COMPANY PROFILE

DKB Productions has been mainly creating advertisement and corporate films. The company is now opening up to politically committed movies with high artistic standards.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$800,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$5,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Other

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are still looking for the remaining financing, distribution (especially for the Middle East and France), world sales, and television sales (Middle East and France).

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Niam Itani
Director / Screenwriter



Lara Abu Saifan
Producer



SHADOW OF A MAN

"Salaman ya Abi", Lebanon, Qatar

With his wedding approaching, Ahmad attempts to lead a normal life, but the 2006 summer war in Lebanon forces him to confront a dark secret that may jeopardise his future.



Ahmad, 26, is the best mechanic in the mountains of Lebanon. The only car he hasn't had time and courage to fix yet is his father's Peugeot from 1984; the year his dad was killed. When the July War breaks out, Ahmad finds the chance he's always waited for. Amidst the ongoing chaos, the refusal of his mother and the sarcasm of his sister, he slowly starts transforming the bullet ridden rusty car into his wedding ride. But as days pass by and the car gradually comes back to life, dark events ensue and deep wounds surface.

Contact

Lara Abu Saifan
Sadat Street, Ras Beirut
Beirut, Lebanon

T: +961 3968439
lsaifan@gmail.com

Shooting Format: RED

Runtime: 95 min

Genre: Drama, Period Piece, Social Issues, War

Exhibition Format: 35 mm

Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"Shadow of a Man" is a very personal story about a character who witnesses civil war as a child and keeps it in his unconscious until another war comes to awaken the memory. It is a story about home, love, loss, courage and redemption. It is the story of every Lebanese. And it is, above all, the story of each and every person who has an unsettled conflict in their life, internal or external. The setting of the film is very specific, but the characters' plot points and themes will make it easy for universal audiences to identify with it.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Niam Itani was born in 1980 and is a Lebanese filmmaker with a decade of experience in television production and documentary filmmaking. She holds a MFA in Screenwriting and currently teaches scriptwriting at the Lebanese American University in Beirut. Niam has written four feature scripts. Her short narrative "Super.Full." is due to premiere at the Seattle International Film Festival in May 2011. "Shadow of a Man" is her debut feature.

COMPANY PROFILE

Lara Abou Saifan is a freelance producer, production manager and researcher based in Beirut. Her credits include multiple documentary features and series for Al Jazeera, MBC, BBC, and ARTE. Her television production credits include well-known series as "Muslim Women" and the Middle East episodes of "On the Road in America". Lara worked as Line Producer and 1st Assistant Director on the Emmy® Award winning web series "Shankabout". She also produced several short independent films. "Shadow of a Man" is her debut feature narrative as producer.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$1,400,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$20,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Other

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are looking for support to move on to the pre-production and production of the film. This support could range from granting funds, sponsorship, co-production to taking the project to producing or directing labs.

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE NARRATIVE

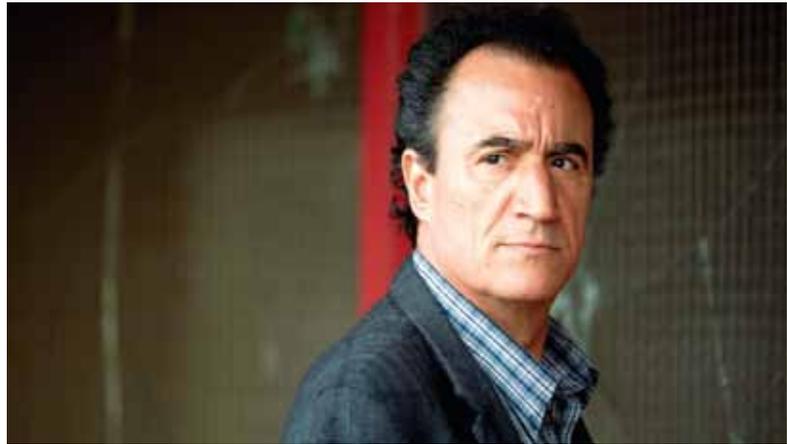
Karim Bensalah
Director / Screenwriter



RED OLIVE TREE

“L'Olivier Rouge”, Algeria, Qatar

Plagued by divided loyalties following the French-Algerian war, the recently deceased Ahmed miraculously rises from the dead to lead his bickering French family to his homeland.



The Belmakis, an upper-middle-class family in France, appear to lead a trouble-free life; however, all is not as it seems. Ahmed, the patriarch, harbours a secret past as a Harki (an Algerian who served on the French side during the Algerian war). His French wife, Françoise, is lonely and depressed. Tarek, their son, still lives at home and has yet to find himself. And daughter Sofia, a law student, has no interest in her Algerian heritage. But Ahmed dies in an accident while driving home. As the family prepares for his funeral, they hear a knocking from inside the coffin. Ahmed emerges alive with a clear purpose: to travel back to Algeria.

Contact

Karim Bensalah
35 Avenue René Coty
Paris, France

karim_bensalah@hotmail.com

Shooting Format: 35 mm

Runtime: 100 min

Genre: About Family, Drame, History, Identity, Immigration, Road Trip

Exhibition Format: 35 mm

Language: Arabic, French

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Questions of how one relates to one's cultures and its landscape, and how they foster our identity - are both concepts central to my work. My second concern is exploring the role of family and collective history, and their ability to shape our sense of identity.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

After spending his childhood in Algeria, Brazil, Haiti and Senegal, Karim Bensalah studied social sciences and philosophy in France. He later attended the London Film School, where he directed the short films "Constant Flow" and "Fatima's Secret". In 2005, he directed a segment of the feature film "Paris La Métisse" along with 15 other young directors. He has also directed short films with the Collectif Tribudom, and created his own installation work. He recently completed "Chibanis", a documentary about Arab workers in France, and attended the 2010 RAWI Screenwriters lab in Jordan and the June 2011 Sundance Screenwriters lab.

COMPANY PROFILE

There is currently no company in place.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$4,000,000.00

Financing already in place: N/A

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Other

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are looking for a producer and financing.

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Faiza Ambah
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



A REVERENCE FOR SPIDERS

"A Reverence For Spiders", USA, Qatar

A New York-based Egyptian Imam helps a dying Christian teenager convert to Islam only to be plunged into a political scandal that threatens his job, his faith and his relationship with his daughters.



New York-based Imam Omar Metwally develops an unlikely friendship with a homeless teenager who sleeps outside his mosque. When the boy asks Omar for spiritual solace after a fatal stabbing, Omar provides him with the Muslim creed of faith and then a Muslim burial. But then the boy's estranged parents show up demanding their son be given a Christian burial and Omar refuses. The ensuing political scandal threatens Omar's job, his faith and the relationship he'd just started building with his young daughters. Confronted with the possibility of losing his daughters, Omar is forced to choose between his mosque duties, his Muslim ideals, and his bond with his daughters.

Contact

Brown-Eyed Films
Faiza Ambah
43 Boulevard Vital Bouhot
Neuilly-Sur-Seine, France

T: +33 750 602 880
ambahfaiza@mac.com

Shooting Format: 35 mm
Runtime: 75 min
Genre: Drama, Family, Friendship, Religion
Exhibition Format: 35 mm
Language: English

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This film is not meant to be a love letter to Arabs or to Islam, though there is tenderness for both. It is the story of one person's messy struggle to be a good man and a good father. I wanted to see what it was like for him to do what he believes is right, only to have it blow up in his face and force him to re-examine his beliefs.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Faiza Ambah is one of the first female Saudi journalists to work as a reporter for Arab News in the late 1980s. She collaborated with Associated Press in the UAE, The Christian Science Monitor and, in 2006, began working as a correspondent for The Washington Post's Foreign Service in Saudi Arabia. In 2009, she decided to focus on filmmaking and recently completed a summer programme at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. Faiza documented her experience at Sundance Institute's RAWI Screenwriters Lab in Jordan, where she honed her storytelling skills under the guidance of the Lab's Creative Advisors.

COMPANY PROFILE

Independent Saudi screenwriter Faiza Ambah founded Brown-Eyed Films in 2011. The company aims to bring compelling stories from the Arab world to a universal audience by elevating the unique voices engaged in Arab storytelling.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$5,000,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$2,500.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Sundance Institute, USA

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are looking for potential producers and directors.

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Ahmad Ghossein
Director / Screenwriter



Georges Schoucair
Producer



UPSIDE DOWN

"Fi Hada Hon?"; Lebanon, Qatar

During the 2006 Israel attack on Lebanon, Marwan gets stuck in the basement of a house with four villagers; above them on the first floor, a group of Israeli soldiers.



In a small village in the south of Lebanon, during the last days of the July War, five people try to escape the bombing. A middle aged woman with her older husband, two old men and Marwan, and a young man recently arrived from Beirut looking for his father. They decide to hide in the ground floor of one of the houses that is not yet destroyed but as they do seven Israeli soldiers enter the first floor. Trapped in their location as well as by their own fears, the next three days sees the situation spiral out of control.

Contact

About Productions
Christian Eid
699 Saifi Building, Lebanon Street,
4th floor
Beirut, Lebanon

T: +961 1 447 824
christian@aboutproductions.com
www.aboutproductions.com

Runtime: 90 min
Genre: Based on a True Story, Drama, Social Issues, War
Exhibition Format: HDCAM
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

During the July 2006 war, I was in the South of Lebanon waiting for ceasefires to take an exceptional snapshot. I saw the destroyed houses and the bodies left in the streets. I felt disgusted. I was ashamed of myself. The same words kept repeating themselves over and over in my head: Why am I shooting? Would it be possible to transmit the odour I smell through my shots? I then realised that taking pictures was a reflex, a way for me to react towards what was going on. But then I felt photography wasn't enough anymore.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Ahmad Ghossein is a filmmaker and video artist who graduated with a BA in Theatre Arts from the Lebanese University. He won Best Director at the Beirut International Film Festival 2004 for his short "Operation N". He has since directed several documentaries and videos including "My Father Is Still a Communist" commissioned by Sharja Art Foundation; "210m" commissioned by Ashkal Alwan for the first edition of video works and "An Arab Comes to Town", a documentary shot in Denmark and produced by DR2. Ahmad is also one of the founders of Maqamat Dance Theatre 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 a network of Arab and Lebanese artists. About Productions has a partnership with Pacha Pictures, a sales agency and MC Distribution, a distribution company, both are dedicated to promote films from the Middle East along with securing priority access to the sole art house theatre in Lebanon, Metropolis Cinema. The company maintains a sizeable pipeline of projects at various stages. In 2010, it signed a landscape joint venture with LMP – New York and Travesia Productions – Argentina.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$1,030,113.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$165,113.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- AUG, Egypt
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are currently looking for an additional scriptwriter. We need to secure the missing financing as well as to find a French co-producer, distributor and world sales.

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Koutaiba Al-Janabi
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



Hanna Heffner
Producer



WINDOW

"Ashubbak", Iraq, Qatar

A young couple from different backgrounds are hiding in a room in Baghdad. The husband wants to leave the country and is prepared to sell his kidney to achieve his dream.



Kaddouri and Fatima, a young married couple from different backgrounds, are hiding in a room in Baghdad to escape death and confrontation with their respective families. The window of the room becomes a character in the film. For Fatima, even this hell is heaven, but Kaddouri is desperate to leave. One day, Kaddouri comes back, he has a large scar on his side; Fatima doesn't know what caused it. Later on, she discovers he sold his kidney to finance the trip. Then comes a call about his younger brother being kidnapped, and the money goes to save the brother's life. Now it is her turn to help Kaddouri realise his dream.

Contact

Real Art Pictures Limited
Koutaiba Al-Janabi
7 Tavistock Terrace
London, United Kingdom

T: +44 207 263 9872
koutaiba@hotmail.com
www.realartpictures.com

Shooting Format: Digital DSLR

Runtime: 90 min

Genre: Based on a True Story, Drama, Middle Eastern, Thriller

Exhibition Format: 35 mm

Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

My film explores the relationship between newly-weds who are subjected to the pressure of being confined in a room that appears to be a refuge, but turns into a prison. I examine how they adapt, and their attempts to escape the prison of their room and their country. One character is ready for anything, even resorting to selling his kidney, while the other is happy to accept the situation. Working with people who had similar experiences and who had never acted before allowed me to run workshops and create the right atmosphere. Using a digital format enabled me to shoot the film in chronological order, providing more room for improvisation, thus fostering a more realistic outcome.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Koutaiba Al-Janabi was born in Baghdad where he worked as a photo journalist after attending photography school in Budapest. In 1983 he studied at the Academy of Film and Drama in Hungary, under Lajos Koltai, the Oscar® winning filmmaker. His final project was on Palestinian camps in the 1980s and his PhD thesis was about film aesthetics in Arab cinema. Koutaiba subsequently worked as a cinematographer and started to produce and direct his own projects.

COMPANY PROFILE

Real Art Pictures is an independent film production company founded in 1998 by Koutaiba Al-Janabi. The organisation has produced a number of short films and documentaries and, most recently, "Leaving Baghdad", Koutaiba's debut feature as a director. There is a growing portfolio of feature projects in development including, "Night Trains" (supported by the Hubert Bals Fund) and "Window".

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$600,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$20,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Baghdadi Dream Films, Iraq
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Real Art Pictures Limited, London, UK

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are looking for industry introductions that will be helpful for the production stage of the film.

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE NARRATIVE

Safinez Bousbia
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



Faycal Hassairi
Screenwriter

Ama Ampadu
Producer



X KIDS

"Nés Sous X", Algeria, Qatar, 2015

Based on a true story, "X Kids" follows the stories of two single mothers, Zohra and Houria.



X kids are children born in Algeria out of wedlock, or as a result of incest, rape or terrorist marriages. They hold no family name, but instead have a first name followed by the letter X. As these children are not socially recognised by the state, they cannot go to school, travel, work or even get married. The stories of these two women are a portrait of two different decades in Algeria: the 1970s, during the socialist regime; and the 1990s, at the time of Islamic fundamentalism. Both women refuse to punish their children for a sin they never committed and struggle against all odds to find a solution.

Contact

Quidam Production El Gusto
Safinez Bousbia
2nd Floor, 13 Baggot Street
Dublin, Ireland

manager@quidam.ie
www.quidam.ie

Shooting Format: 16 mm

Runtime: 120 min

Genre: About Family, Action, Based on a True Story, Drama, Female Director, Thriller, Women

Exhibition Format: 35 mm

Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"X Kids" is a drama and thriller based on the true stories of single mothers in Algeria. I came across the story on one of my visits to Algiers, when I met a struggling young female X kid called Lamia. I tried to help her get a job but, to my surprise, Lamia was not allowed to work or open a bank account because she had no legal or social identity. I went to the authorities to investigate, and they explained she was an 'X kid' and is not recognized in the system. In an attempt to understand her lack of identity, I discovered more X kids from various backgrounds. This is their story.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Safinez Bousbia entered the world of film in 2003 after several years working as an architect. In 2004, she created Quidam Productions, a Dublin-based company dedicated to finding untold stories and bringing them to the screen. She recently produced and directed "El Gusto", a €2.5 million feature-length musical film, edited by legendary Oscar® winning French editor Françoise Bonnot ("Z", "Frida", "Titus", "The Tempest"). Safinez is also developing a script about pirates in the Mediterranean in the 1600's, written in collaboration with renowned scriptwriter Stephen Jeffreys ("The Libertine").

COMPANY PROFILE

Quidam Productions produces compelling film, television and music products for worldwide audiences. Their projects are passionately driven, culturally themed and always of the highest creative and technical quality. Using a fresh thinking, highly experienced and internationally connected team enables them to reach into the most surprising locations to reveal hidden, universal stories driven by themes of music, art, politics and religion.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$6,000,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$37,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- The Irish Film Board, Ireland

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are looking to discover new Arab talent so we can share ideas and stories. We are also in search of sales agents, international co-productions and financing in order to finalise the "X-Kids" project.

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Ali Hammoud
Director / Screenwriter



Abir Hashem
Producer



ASPHALT

"Asphalt", Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, UAE, Qatar

Loaded 18-wheel truck drivers on a journey across the Middle East contemplate their life, work and the people they have left behind. Asphalt is a journey exploring trucking culture in the Middle East.



Long distance truck drivers spend more time on never-ending, dusty roads between Arab countries than at home. On the road, days and nights merge into one and time is transformed into a distance to be crossed with the sole aim of delivering goods and earning a living. Following three long distance truck drivers on the road between Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the GCC countries, the film delves into their work and their homes to examine the lives, relationships and families left behind and whether absence ever becomes the norm.

Contact

Solo Fillms
Abir Hashem
Hamra, P.O. Box 113-7222
Beirut , Lebanon

T: +961 1 352 256
hashem.abir@gmail.com
www.solofilms.net

Runtime: 70 min
Genre: Documentary
Exhibition Format: HDCAM
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Every year my family journeyed from our home in Kuwait through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria until reaching Lebanon. Scores of travelling trucks passed us in the comfort of our air-conditioned car as we crossed the vast desert, made rest-stops and found lodging in small towns as night fell. The visuals lingered with me and raised questions about the constant dislocation and loneliness experienced by truck drivers who set out to transport goods from one place to another to keep our economy thriving. The film is currently in the research and development stage covering the trucking industry, routes and locations, and finding the central characters.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Ali Hammoud is a Lebanese filmmaker, editor and artistic director born in 1972 and raised in Kuwait. He studied Communication Arts at the University of Alabama, Birmingham and worked on a number of projects in Chicago. Since 2001, he's been working as a freelance director and editor for several television stations as well as documentary films in Lebanon. In 2009, Ali completed his debut short documentary "About Those Who Have Gone", which was shown at DocuDays and at the Dubai International Film Festival. He edited a feature documentary called "Tonight's Film".

COMPANY PROFILE

Solo Films is a full service film and video production company based in Beirut, Lebanon, and an office in Doha, Qatar, for the past four years. With a strong, creative and resourceful team, Solo Films aims to create films and videos with high production values and strong narrative elements. We work with accomplished practitioners to find innovative ways of using the moving image to tell a story across multiple platforms. The company deal with broadcasters including the BBC (Channel 2 and Channel 4), Discovery channel, Al Jazeera Documentary, Al Jazeera English, Spanish TV (TVE) and many private foreign production companies.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$166,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$10,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Other

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

The development stage will be complete in November and we will be looking to secure production and post-production.

Dima Al-Joundi
Director / Screenwriter



Christine Pireaux
Producer



Contact
Crystal Films
Dima Al-Joundi
Corniche El-Mazraa, Moussetbe
street, Building Khechen, 2nd floor
Beirut, Lebanon

T: +961 1 312 599
crystalf@cyberia.net.lb

DONA CESARIA

“Dona Cesaria”, Lebanon

The goal is to make a film about Césaria Evora, the famous African famous singer, her capital Mindelo, and the history of Cape Verde through her music; an island where two-thirds of its population are exiled.



Césaria Evora is an internationally renowned singer whose voice rings with the culture, ambience and history of “her” capital Mindelo on Cape Verde, nine islands between desert and ocean, chained to exile and whose singing and music constitute the strongest emotional testaments. To understand her, one must understand the lyrics of her music and her life in Mindelo, where she remained for a long time watching others across the sea, until the day came when she had to leave. Although a travelling lifestyle was required by her profession, she always returned to her island.

Shooting Format: HD
Runtime: 52 min
Genre: Documentary, Musical
Exhibition Format: DigiBeta
Featuring: Cesaria Evora, Jose Da Silva
Language: Cape Verdian Creole

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In 1995, a producer from Cape Verde contacted me to offer me the opportunity to make a film about Césaria Evora, The Barefoot Diva. The only condition was that she had to get along with me, and agree to make the movie together. After we met in Paris, she poured a large glass of cognac and said, "Saoud" (Cheers). I had passed the test. I spent time in Cape Verde where I bathed in poetry, nostalgia and their Portuguese-inspired blues music and shot footage of daily life on the island. Fifteen years later, I came across my footage and was inspired to revive the project.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Born in Lebanon in 1966, Dima Al-Joundi graduated from the Cinema Institute in Brussels in Film Editing and Continuity with distinction. Her first documentary "Between us two...Beirut" was followed by "The Silk Road". She worked in Sri Lanka as a producer and director for Young Asia TV and directed the documentary "The Mask of the Night". She returned to Beirut to establish Crystal Films and produced "Khalass" by Borhane Alaouie and executive produced Egyptian feature "El-Shooq" by Khaled El-Hagar. She directed the multi-award winning documentary "Maid for Sale". In 2010 she directed and produced for Al Jazeera Documentary Channel two documentaries "Strangers' Cemetery" and "Play Time".

COMPANY PROFILE

Founded in 1997, Crystal Films is a Lebanon based distribution and production company in partnership with Belgian distribution company Cineart. Crystal established, along with Circuit Empire, the first Europa Cinema Theatre in the Middle East region, a special programme launched by the European Union to promote Euro-Mediterranean films. Crystal Films has distributed some 25 feature films in the Middle East.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$450,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$68,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Les films de la Passerelle, Belgium

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We are searching for a French co-producer who would secure co-production with a French television channel. We are looking to meet with commissioning editors to secure co-production partnerships with television channels (not pre-sales) and other European co-producers to contribute to territory sales.

DEVELOPMENT
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Hassiba Belhadj
Director / Screenwriter



Olivier Daunizeau
Producer



WALOU

“Walou”, Algeria, France, Qatar

**Algerian youth is looking for hope.
At the end of their road: Walou.**



I hate the bled! When I was young, every summer, going to Algeria, I couldn't do anything without my older brothers, who were treated like kings while I was the 'under-woman'. My aunt told me once: "You like freedom too much!". What could that have meant? Algerians aren't free? My aunt isn't free? Guys leaning up against a wall, no job, nothing to do all day: I hated going to the bled because I hated their lives. In Algeria, people live on hope and regrets. What can the future be, trapped between nothing to expect and nothing to live for?

Contact
Hassiba Belhadj
6 Bis Rue Baudelique
Paris, France

T: +33 620 318 173
hassiba1116@hotmail.com

Shooting Format: HDV
Runtime: 52 min
Genre: Based on a True Story, Biography, Documentary, Family, Female Director, History, Identity, Immigration, Politics, Social Issues, Women, Youth
Exhibition Format: HDCAM
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Algeria is a waiting room, and a place of contradictions, too. It's a room full of people – men and women, sick or not. Some are there by chance, by mistake, still waiting for an answer that will satisfy them – or not. Tomorrow is far away: what are they doing today? They are practicing the future tense. I want to stay in the present for a while, to film this waiting now. What is the future between a rock and a hard place? I want to change the frame. And me in all of this: what am I waiting for?

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Hassiba Belhadj is a French-Algerian director of documentary films and also a production manager working at Zadig Productions in Paris. Graduating from the prestigious European Institute of Cinema and Audiovisual in France, she has worked for many years as Production Manager and Assistant Director with such well-known directors as Tanaz Eshagian, Nino Kirtadzé, Alain Bergala and William Karel.

COMPANY PROFILE

La Factice is a new French documentary production company which develops projects by young authors as well as working with experienced directors. Olivier Daunizeau is the executive producer of a dozen documentaries, most recently Gianfranco Rosi's film "El Sicario-Room 164", produced by Les Films d'Ici (FIPRESCI Award, Venice Film Festival 2010; Best Documentary Feature Award, 2010 Doclisboa). He has also taught documentary production at the Sorbonne. La Factice is developing film projects that are committed to the contemporary world and offer a strong cinematic form.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$250,000.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$58,000.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- La Factice, France
- Fonds Aquitaine (French Federal Fund), France

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We would like to meet Arab co-producers, representatives of international television channels and sales agents for the international market.

DEVELOPMENT
ARAB SHORT NARRATIVE

Oussama Benhassine
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



Malek Ali Yahia
Producer



Yazid Mesken
Producer



Contact
Oussama Benhassine
24, Rue N9, Belle vue sup
Ain Mlila, Algeria

T: +21 377 817 2163
o-ben@msn.com

7 KM - SEVEN KILOMETERS

"7 KM – Sabaa Kilometer", Algeria, Qatar, 2012

Two children are threatened by a terrorist during the Civil War in Algeria.



1992, somewhere in Algeria. Omar and Othman, two boys from the same poor village, walk 7 km every day to school. That day, on the way home, they are attracted by an unusual sound: the director of their school is summarily executed. The killer sees the kids; they run away.

Shooting Format: 16 mm
Runtime: 21 min
Genre: Crime, Drama, Violence, Youth
Exhibition Format: 16 mm
Language: Amazigh, Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

My goal is to make a realistic and engaging film by exploring Civil War in Algeria in the 1990's through the neutral vision of children. In terms of cinematography, I want to capture the suffering of village children who walk great distances every day to get to their school. Friendship, love and hope are themes that populate the film.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Oussama Benhassine is a 29-year-old Algerian with a Bachelor's degree. He has worked as screenwriter and assistant director on various films and has directed many programmes and soap operas broadcast on Algerian television.

COMPANY PROFILE

M.D. Ciné- Malek Ali Yahia- has produced the short films "Khoja" and "Khti" directed by Yanis Koussim. It is the exclusive representative in Algeria of American distribution companies such as Columbia Pictures, Paramount and Universal. The organisation has distributed more than 69 feature films in Algeria.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$60,000.00

Financing already in place: N/A

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- Other

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

We would like to meet distributors.

DEVELOPMENT
ARAB SHORT NARRATIVE

Nicolas Damuni
Director / Screenwriter



Hani Zurob
Screenwriter



Karim Boutros Ghali
Producer



Contact
Nicolas Damuni
178 rue du Faubourg Saint Denis
Paris, France

T: +33 664 173 232
nicolas.damuni@gmail.com

MAQLOUBEH STEP BY STEP

"Maqloubeh Step by Step", Palestine, France

Under curfew, Hani and his friends are preparing a Maqloubeh when unexpected guests break in.



Five young art students awake to the sound of gunfire and bombardment. As the electricity has been cut and a curfew imposed, they do not know what is happening outside. To fill the time, the young men decide to prepare a Maqloubeh for lunch. They all contribute to the preparation of this traditional dish. Meanwhile, they all receive a call from their respective families trying to find out more information. Suddenly, unexpected guests arrive.

Runtime: 11 min
Genre: Dark Comedy
Exhibition Format: 35 mm
Language: Arabic

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Preparing food is a moment of sharing, warmth and security. But soon we discover that these young people are like laboratory mice in a glass case. In this film, we are given a vision of the oppressed, yet we do not see the face of the oppressors, as their weapons and the details of their bodies become their only identity. This story is not intended to be a lesson but rather is designed to allow space for contemplation and questions.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Nicolas Damuni was born in 1973 in Beirut as a Palestinian refugee. In 1994, he studied cinema at USJ, then moved to Paris, where he graduated from ESEC in Image and Sound Technics. Soon after, he joined the Florent Acting School for four years. Since then, he has worked as director, editor, colourist, special effects creator and post-production assistant on several projects in France and in the Middle East. In 2005, his work was selected for the Mediterranean Film Crossing Borders festival and, in 2006, he was selected for the Berlinale Talent Campus.

COMPANY PROFILE

IPS is a Paris-based production and post-production company founded in May 2010 and launched during the Cannes Film Festival. The company provided production services on the television series "Abed Karman", directed by Nader Galal, and also worked with the Sony Europe prototype camera for the production of a short film. Additionally, the company has carried out post-production supervision and consulting for documentaries "In Search of Oil and Sand" and "Mafrouza Parabol" by Emmanuelle Demoris, which IPS also subtitled. The company is collaborating as international production consultant for "Nafas", a television documentary series by Tahani Rached, and was also a post-production consultant for the Cairo Film Connection, 2010.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total Budget: (USD) \$68,152.00

Financing already in place: (USD) \$20,700.00

Financial Partners (already confirmed):

- Crystal Films, Lebanon
- Doha Film Institute, Qatar
- IPS, France

Current Status:

Development

Looking For:

Production and post-production grants.

Contact us:

filmfinancing@dohafilminstitute.com

dohafilminstitute.com

 [@dohafilm](#) | [@dohafilmarabic](#)

 facebook.com/dohafilminstitute

COLOPHON

Published by:

Doha Film Institute
PO Box 23473, Doha, Qatar

Publication Manager:

Myriam Sioufi

Head of Design:

Raymond Bobar

Editors:

Nick Roddick – English Editor
Jill Robson – English Editor
Alexander Wood – Copy Editor

Designed by:

Raymond Bobar
Myriam Arab
Cătălina Zlotea

Interior pages photos: **Brigitte Lacombe and projects promotional materials.**

Printed by:

Atlas Print, Dubai

Print run: **2000 copies**

Printed on **Munken Premium Cream, 90 gsm paper**

Typefaces used: **Linotype Univers, TheSans, Garage Gothic.**

Doha, Qatar, October 2011

