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مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام

DOHA FILM INSTITUTE

Delegates Guide

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Fatma Al Remaihi
CEO,
Doha Film Institute
Director, Qumra



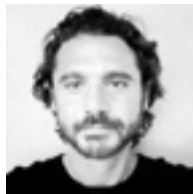
Elia Suleiman
Artistic Advisor,
Doha Film Institute



Hanaa Issa
Director of Strategy and Development
Deputy Director, Qumra



Khalil Benkirane
Head of Grants



Ali Khechen
Qumra Industry
Manager
Film Training Senior
Manager



Jovan Marjanović
Industry Advisor



Chadi Zeneddine
Film Programmer

QUMRA PROGRAMMING TEAM



Jaser Alagha
Qumra Industry
Coordinator



Aya Al-Blouchi
Qumra Master Classes
Senior Coordinator
Youth Programmes Senior
Coordinator



Quay Chu
Development
Executive



Anthea Devotta
Qumra Industry Senior
Coordinator
Film Workshops & Labs
Senior Coordinator



Mayar Hamdan
Qumra Shorts Coordinator
Development Assistant



Yasmine Hammoudi
Qumra Production
Coordinator



Karem Kamel
Qumra Talks Senior
Coordinator
Film Programming Senior
Coordinator



Maryam Essa Al Khulaifi
Qumra Pass Senior
Coordinator
QFF Programme Manager
Animation Producer



Meriem Mesraoua
Grants Senior Coordinator



Vanessa Paradis
Grants Coordinator



Nina Rodriguez
Qumra Industry Senior
Coordinator



Alanoud Al Saiari
Qumra Pass Coordinator
Film Workshops & Labs
Coordinator



Wesam Said
Grants Assistant



Eliza Subotowicz
Grants Senior Coordinator



Rawda Al-Thani
Film Programming
Assistant



Jana Wehbe
Qumra Industry Senior
Coordinator



Ania Wojtowicz
Qumra Shorts Coordinator
Film Workshops & Labs
Senior Coordinator

Qumra Masters

Bennett Miller



BENNETT MILLER is an Academy Award-nominated film director best known for his narrative features 'Capote', 'Moneyball', and 'Foxcatcher'. Miller made his feature debut in 1998 with the critically acclaimed and award-winning documentary 'The Cruise'. In 2005, he earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Director for 'Capote', starring Philip Seymour Hoffman in his Oscar-winning performance as Truman Capote. Miller's 2011 feature 'Moneyball', starring Brad Pitt, was also praised by critics, and went on to receive six Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture. Miller was honoured at the Festival de Cannes in 2014 with the Best Director prize for his most recent feature film, 'Foxcatcher', starring Steve Carell, Channing Tatum, and Mark Ruffalo. 'Foxcatcher'

was nominated for five Academy Awards, including Miller's second nomination for Best Director.

Sandy Powell



'Michael Collins' (1996), 'Interview with the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles' (1994), and 'The Crying Game' (1992). She worked extensively with Derek Jarman, on 'Wittgenstein' (1993), 'Edward II' (1991), 'The Last of England' (1987), and 'Caravaggio' (1986). Her work can also be seen in Justin Chadwick's 'The Other Boleyn Girl' (2008), Christine Jeffs's 'Sylvia' (2003), Haynes's 'Far from Heaven' (2002), Mike Figgis's 'Miss Julie' (1999), and Anand Tucker's 'Hilary & Jackie' (1998).

In 2011, Powell was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for her services to the film industry. In 2016, along with its Oscar nominations, her work on Branagh's 'Cinderella' and Haynes's 'Carol' was nominated for BAFTAs and Costume Designers Guild Awards. Her more recent credits include John Cameron Mitchell's 'How to Talk to Girls at Parties' (2017), for which she received a British Independent Film Award nomination, and Haynes's 'Wonderstruck' (also 2017).

Powell recently completed work on Rob Marshall's upcoming 'Mary Poppins Returns', and is currently working with Scorsese on 'The Irishman', marking her seventh collaboration with the director, with whom she also previously worked on 'The Wolf of Wall Street' (2013), 'Shutter Island' (2010), and 'The Departed' (2006).

Costume designer SANDY POWELL has won three Academy Awards, for her work on Jean-Marc Vallée's 'The Young Victoria' (2009), Martin Scorsese's 'The Aviator' (2004), and John Madden's 'Shakespeare in Love' (1998). She has also been nominated for Oscars nine times: for Todd Haynes's 'Carol' (2015) and 'Velvet Goldmine' (1998); Kenneth Branagh's 'Cinderella' (2015); Scorsese's 'Hugo' (2011) and 'Gangs of New York' (2002); Julie Taymor's 'The Tempest' (2010); Stephen Frears's 'Mrs Henderson Presents' (2005); Iain Softley's 'The Wings of the Dove' (1997); and Sally Potter's 'Orlando' (1992).

Powell has collaborated numerous times with Neil Jordan, on 'The End of the Affair' (1999), 'The Butcher Boy' (1997),

Gianfranco Rosi



GIANFRANCO ROSI was born in Asmara, Eritrea, and attended university in Italy before emigrating to the United States in 1985 to study Film at the New York University Tisch School of the Arts. Following a journey to India, he produced and directed his first documentary, 'Boatman' (1993), which was selected for film festivals including the Locarno Festival, the Sundance Film Festival, and the Toronto International Film Festival.

In 2008, his first feature-length documentary, 'Below Sea Level' won the Orizzonti Award at the Venice Film Festival, as well as the Grand Prix and the Prix des Jeunes at Cinéma du Réel, the prize for Best Documentary at the One World Film Festival in Prague, and the Vittorio De Seta prize for Best Documentary at the Bari International Film Festival; it was also

nominated for the European Film Award for Best Documentary.

In 2010, Rosi directed 'El Sicario, Room 164', a film-interview about a killer-turned-informer from a Mexican drug cartel. Despite contrasting reviews, it won the FIPRESCI Prize at the Venice Film Festival and the Doc/it Professional Award for Best Documentary, and was named Best Film at DocLisboa.

In 2013, 'Sacro Gra', won the Golden Lion at the 2016 Venice Film Festival, becoming the first documentary to ever land the prize.

His most recent documentary, 'Fire at Sea' (2016), won the Golden Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival, as well as the European Film Award for Best Documentary. The film was also nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

Tilda Swinton



Tilda Swinton started making films with the English experimental director Derek Jarman in 1985, with 'Caravaggio'. They made seven more films together, including 'The Last of England' (1987), 'War Requiem' (1989), 'The Garden' (1990), 'Edward II' (1991) - for which she won the Best Actress award at the Venice International Film Festival - and 'Wittgenstein' (1993), before Jarman's death in 1994.

Swinton gained wider international recognition in 1992 with her portrayal of the titular character of 'Orlando', based on the novel by Virginia Woolf under the direction of Sally Potter. She has established rewarding ongoing filmmaking relationships with directors including Wes Anderson, Joel and Ethan Coen, Jim Jarmusch, Lynn Hershman Leeson, John Maybury, and Luca Guadagnino, with whom she made 'The

Love Factory' (2002), the widely applauded 'I Am Love' (2009), 'A Bigger Splash' (2015) and the soon-to-be-released 'Suspiria'.

She has also worked with Bong Joon-ho on the international hits 'Snowpiercer' (2013) and 'Okja' (2017), and has featured in the Judd Apatow's critically acclaimed comedy 'Trainwreck' (2015), written by Amy Schumer; Scott Derrickson's Marvel Studios blockbuster 'Doctor Strange' (2016), and David Michod's 'War Machine' (2017). She received both the BAFTA and the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in 2008 for Tony Gilroy's 'Michael Clayton'.

Swinton starred in and executive-produced Lynne Ramsay's 'We Need to Talk About Kevin' (2011). The film debuted in the main competition at the Festival de Cannes to huge critical acclaim and garnered multiple honours, including Golden Globe and BAFTA nominations for Best Actress.

PHOTO: BRIGITTE LACOMBE

Apichatpong Weerasethakul



APICHATPONG WEERASETHAKUL is recognised as one of the most original voices in contemporary cinema. His six feature-length films, short films, and installations have won him widespread international recognition and numerous awards, including the Palme d'Or at the Festival de Cannes in 2010 for 'Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives'.

In 2002, his 'Blissfully Yours' (2002) took the Un Certain Regard Award at Cannes; 'Tropical Malady' (2004) won the Jury Prize in the Cannes Official Competition, and 'Syndromes and a Century' (2006) was recognised as one of the best films of the previous decade in several 2010 polls. Working independently of the Thai commercial film industry, Weerasethakul devotes himself to promoting experimental and independent filmmaking through his production company Kick the Machine Films.

Lyrical and often fascinatingly mysterious, Weerasethakul's film works are non-linear, dealing with memory, and subtly invoking personal politics and social issues. He has also mounted exhibitions and installations in many countries since 1998, and is now recognised as a major international visual artist. His accolades include the Sharjah Biennial Prize (2013), and South Korea's prestigious Yanghyun Art Prize (2014).

His installations have included the multi-screen project 'Primitive' (2009), acquired for major museum collections (including the Tate Modern in London and the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris), a major installation for Documenta 13 in Kassel, Germany, in 2012, and, most recently, the film installations 'Dilbar' (2013) and 'Fireworks (Archives)' (2014), variously presented in one-person exhibitions in galleries in Kyoto, London, Mexico City, and Oslo.

Andrey Zvyagintsev



when Konstantin Lavronenko became the first Russian ever to receive the festival's Best Leading Actor award.

Cannes also presented the international premiere of Zvyagintsev's third film, 'Elena', which took the Special Jury Prize in the Un Certain Regard section.

'Leviathan' (2014) was selected for the Official Competition at Cannes, and won the award for Best Screenplay. 'Leviathan' also became the first Russian film since 1969 to win the Golden Globe for Best Foreign-Language Film; it was nominated for the Academy Award in the same category, and took the Best Film award at the London Film Festival.

ANDREY ZVYAGINTSEV was born in 1964 in Novosibirsk, and graduated from the acting programme at the Russian University of Theatre Arts (GITIS) in 1999, under the tutelage of Evgeny Lazarev. He later went on to take part in independent theatre productions and had a few small parts in films and television programmes.

In 2003, Zvyagintsev shot his first feature-length film, 'The Return'. A debut not only for the director but for the majority of the crew as well, the film was accepted for the main competition at the Venice Film Festival, where it won the Golden Lion. It also took the Luigi de Laurentiis Lion of the Future prize for best first work, with the commendation: "a sublime film about love, loss, and coming of age."

His second film, 'The Banishment', was presented at the Festival de Cannes in 2007,

His most recent film, 'Loveless' (2017) has been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, and was selected for the Cannes Official Competition, where it won the Jury Prize at Cannes. It also went on to be named Best Film at the London Film Festival, making Zvyagintsev only the second director to have won that award twice.

Master Class Moderators

Philippe Azoury



Philippe Azoury is a film critic and essayist based in Paris. For the past 15 years, he has written for 'Libération', 'Cahiers du cinéma', 'Les Inrockuptibles', 'Le Nouvel Observateur', and 'Vogue'. Since 2015, he has also been the editor-in-chief for the cultural section of the fashion and culture weekly 'Grazia'. He teaches at ECAL in Lausanne, and has published 10 books, among them essays about Jean Cocteau, Antoine d'Agata, Philippe Garrel, Jim Jarmusch, and Werner Schroeter, as well as Japanese photography. He is currently working on a book about Jean Eustache, which will be published at the end of this year.

Cameron Bailey



Cameron Bailey is Artistic Director of the Toronto International Film Festival and the overall TIFF organisation. He has been responsible for the vision and programming of the festival since 2008, and was a programmer for the festival for 11 years prior to that. Born in London, Bailey grew up in England and Barbados before migrating to Canada. He has also worked as a film critic prior to taking up his current position. Bailey has served on festival awards juries around the world, including in Beijing, Locarno, Reykjavík, Tokyo, and Zanzibar.

Richard Peña



Richard Peña was the Programme Director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center and the Director of the New York Film Festival from 1988 until 2012. At the Film Society, Peña organised retrospectives of many film artists, as well as major film series devoted to numerous national cinemas. Together with Unifrance, in 1995 he created Rendez-Vous with French Cinema, the leading American showcase for new French cinema. He is Professor of Film Studies at Columbia University, where he specialises in film theory and international cinema, and has served as a Visiting Professor at the Sorbonne, Beijing University, UNAM-Mexico City and the University of São Paulo. He also currently hosts WNET/Channel 13's weekly 'Reel 13'.

Qumra Project Delegates

Oualid Mouaness Director / Screenwriter



Oualid Mouaness, a Sundance Screenwriting Fellow, grew up between Lebanon and Liberia. After receiving his undergraduate

degree with honours from the Lebanese American University in Beirut, Mouaness acquired an MFA in Writing and Directing from Florida State University. He went onto a dense producing career in narrative and documentary films, videos and commercials, most notably David LaChapelle's 'Rize' (2005), Mari Kornhauser's 'Kitchen Privileges' (2000), and Adria Petty's 'Paris, Not France' (2008). He has directed several short films, the last of which, 'The Rifle, the Jackal, the Wolf and the Boy', was shortlisted for an Academy Award.

Georges Schoucair Producer



A Lebanese producer and the CEO of About Productions, Georges Schoucair has developed and produced critically acclaimed films

and has contributed to the establishment of an attractive and globally acknowledged environment for film investments in Lebanon and to the development of Lebanese cinema. In parallel with About Productions, Schoucair founded MC Distribution, a distribution company that releases Arab and international films in the Middle East, and has since 2008 been the acting vice-president of Metropolis, an art-house cinema venture in Beirut. His most recent endeavour is Schortcut Films, whose objective is to identify and invest in high-quality international independent films.

Myriam Sassine Producer



Myriam Sassine majored in Cinema Studies, and received her MA in Cinema Research in 2009. Since 2010, Sassine has worked with About

Productions in Lebanon, and produced several feature documentary and fiction films, such as Corine Shawi's 'e muet' (2013), Myriam El Hajj's 'A Time to Rest' (2015), Vatche Boulghourjian's 'Tramontane' (2016), and Rana Eid's 'Panoptic' (2017). She has been a participant of DocMed 2011, the Torino Film Lab Interchange programme in 2012, and in Berlinale Talents in 2014. She is the COO of Schortcut Films, a company dedicated to co-producing international features, and the director of the Maskoon Fantastic Film Festival.

Tricycle

Tricycle (Lebanon), a recently formed production entity, is a subsidiary of Tricycle Logic (US), which has been in operation since 2000. Oualid Mouaness, the principal of Tricycle, has a track record of producing award-winning, socially conscious films, as well as high-profile commercials, music videos and live events. Tricycle's main objective in establishing a presence in the Middle East is to embark on facilitating Levant-centric projects, with the belief that the best way to effect positive change in the world is through storytelling and the arts.

About Productions

About Productions produces feature films and documentaries with a distinctly Arab voice, expressing the identity of the region. Since 1998, the company has managed to bring together an important network of Arab and Lebanese artists, and produced numerous award-winning films. About Productions has a strong partnership with MC Distribution, a company dedicated to promoting new films from the Middle East along with direct and priority access to the sole art-house theatre in Lebanon, Metropolis Cinema. The company's main objective remains to help structure Lebanese and Arab cinema craft into a solid industry.

Amphitheatre

See catalogue p. 110

Mahdi Ali Ali

Director / Screenwriter



Mahdi Ali Ali is a Qatari filmmaker and the Gulf Development Manager at the Doha Film Institute. Through the years, he has successfully

worked with major industry players in providing filmmakers in Qatar with comprehensive learning initiatives. Mahdi has contributed as Executive Producer and supervisor on more than 30 short films produced by the Institute. He holds an MFA from EICAR, the International Film School of Paris, and has made short films including 'Champs Elysées, I Love You' (2009) and 'The Gulf Habibi' (2011), as well as other shorts for Al Jazeera Documentary and Al Jazeera Children's Channels.

Bandits

See catalogue p. 98

Sara Al Obaidly

Director / Screenwriter



Sara Al Obaidly is a photographer and director living between London and Doha. She studied Art Foundation at the Ravensbourne

College of Design and Communication, and graduated in 2010 with a BA and an MA in Sustainable Design from the University of Brighton. While studying at La Fémis during the Gulf Summer University programme, she had the opportunity to direct a short film project. She is currently in development of her first full-length feature 'Hitch 60', which was awarded a development grant by the Doha Film Institute, and with which she participated in Qumra 2017. In parallel, she is also writing her first short, based on an excerpt from 'Hitch 60'. The project was selected for DFI's Short Scriptwriting Lab this year. Additionally, Al Obaidly was a Doha Fire Station Artist in Resident (2015-16), with her photographic work, which was exhibited in the National Portrait Gallery, London in 2014 and 2016, selected by 'TIME' magazine's Lightbox for the Best Portraits of 2014, and gained an Honorary Mention in the Life Framer Awards, in the Youthhood category in 2016.

Batata

See catalogue p. 74

Noura Kevorkian
Director / Producer



Noura Kevorkian is a Lebanese-Canadian filmmaker. Along with her film studies, Kevorkian holds a Bachelor's degree from the University

of Toronto, specialising in Economics and Middle East Studies. She made her filmmaking debut with the multi-award winning short 'Veils Uncovered' (2002), which was followed by her feature-length debut 'ANJAR: Flowers, Goats and Heroes' (2009). Her '23 Kilometres' (2015) was selected for the Official Competition at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Kevorkian is currently directing 'Batata', her second feature-length documentary.

Saaren Films

Based in Toronto and founded by Noura Kevorkian, Saaren Films has produced several award-winning feature and short documentary films, including Kevorkian's 'ANJAR: Flowers, Goats and Heroes' (2009), and 'Veils Uncovered' (2002). Saaren mostly works with Arab filmmakers and routinely co-produces with companies in Canada and Lebanon. The company's latest production is Kevorkian's '23 Kilometres' (2015), an Official Competition entry in the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. Saaren's slate currently includes the feature-length documentary 'Batata', as well as several other films at various stages of development.

Behind Closed Doors

See catalogue p. 40

Hend Fakhroo
Director / Screenwriter



Hend Fakhroo is a Qatari writer and director. She graduated with honours in 2005 from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. Her first

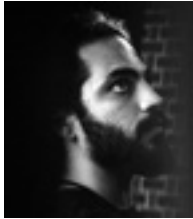
short film, 'His Name' (2012), screened at various international festivals, including the Short Film Corner at the Festival de Cannes, the Doha Tribeca Film Festival, and the River Film Festival. Her second film, 'The Waiting Room' (2016), had its home premiere in two competitions at the Ajyal Youth Film Festival, and its international premiere, also in competition, at the Dubai International Film Festival. It was screened at the Festival de Cannes Short Film Corner, and was an official selection of the Beirut International Film Festival, as well as the Malmö Arab Film Festival. Fakhroo is currently developing her first feature-length film.

Burn the Bird

See catalogue p. 112

Zahed Bata

Director / Screenwriter



Zahed Bata is a Qatar-based Palestinian filmmaker. He has worked on a variety of film projects, including documentaries,

narrative and experimental films such as Jaser Al-Agha's 'Good as New' (2014), Nissryne Dib's 'Upon the Death of a Nation' (2015), Layan Abdulshakoor's 'The Dog's Children' (2016), and Bayan Dahdah's 'Shishbarak' (2016), as well as advertisements for clients including Al Jazeera, Ooredoo, Barwa, and Al Bandari Real Estate, among others. He has worked on more than 30 projects, among them 13 short films, as a director of photography and gaffer. Two years ago, Zahed wrote the first draft of his own first short film, 'Burn the Bird.'

Nouf Al Sulaiti

Producer



Nouf Al Sulaiti is a Qatari filmmaker. Now in her final year at Northwestern University in Qatar, she has worked on numerous film

projects, both fiction and documentary, including Yassine Ouahrani's 'Noor' (2017), Zaki Hussain's 'How to Get Over a Heartbreak' (2017), and her own 'Outdated' (2016) and 'Papers' (2016), both of which she also produced. Al Sulaiti has received grants to make Zaki Hussain's 'Terima Kasih', which she is producing, and her own current short project, 'Gubgub'. She has worked on projects with both the Doha Film Institute and the Film House, where she worked on short films, and on commercials for clients including Ooredoo and Silatech. She is currently a teaching assistant in Documentary Production and previously for Media Construction at Northwestern University in Qatar.

Mayar Hamdan

Producer



A storyteller and filmmaker, Mayar Hamdan graduated from Northwestern University in Qatar with a degree in Media Industries and Technology.

During her studies, Mayar was president of Studio20Q and founded Not Another Film Club. She was awarded Studio20Q grants for her films 'Asfoora' (2014) and 'Man Down' (2015). 'Asfoora' won the Best Short Narrative Award at the Ajyal Youth Film Festival, and the Audience Choice Award at the Washington Arab Film Festival, and screened at the Chicago Palestinian Film Festival, among others. More recently, Hamdan has worked on numerous projects as a script editor, producer and art director. She currently works at the Doha Film Institute as a Film Training and Development Assistant.

Chained Prey

See catalogue p. 114

Muhammad Refaat
Director / Screenwriter



In 2006, Muhammad Refaat left the faculty of engineering to study Television and Cinema Directing at Cairo University. For

his graduation project, he wrote and directed his debut short documentary, 'The Kingdom' (2010), which was named Best Foreign-Language Film at the International Student Film Festival Hollywood. In 2010, he received a scholarship to study Film Production in the Netherlands, where he participated in making a feature-length documentary about the experiences of international students abroad. In 2014, Refaat moved to Doha to join the Al Jazeera Documentary production team. There, he has worked as a commissioning producer on several films around the MENA region. In 2017, he wrote the short film 'Chained Prey' at the Doha Film Institute-Torino Film Lab's Short Scriptwriting Narrative Scriptwriting Lab. The screenplay went on to win the Best Screenplay award at the Cinephilia screenwriting lab at the Arab Film Festival in Rotterdam.

Chaos

See catalogue p. 76

Sara Fattahi
Director



Sara Fattahi was born in Damascus in 1983. In 2010, she started to produce and direct her own documentary films independently. She finished her

first short documentary '27 Metres' in 2013. Since 2014, she has collaborated in researching and writing independent short film projects. 'Coma' (2015), her first feature-length documentary, was granted the Regard Neuf Award for Best First Feature Film at Visions du Réel and took the FIPRESCI Award at the Viennale Film Festival in 2015, and has been screened in numerous festivals, such as MoMA's Doc Fortnight, the Berlin International Film Festival, and the São Paulo Film Festival.

Raya Yamisha
Editor



Raya Yamisha was born in Damascus in 1986. She is a film editor based in Beirut. She has edited a number of feature-length creative

documentaries, among them Sara Fattahi's 'Coma', Avo Kaprealian's 'Houses Without Doors', Afraa Batous's 'Skin', and Orwa Al Mokdad's '300 Miles'. Currently, she is editing Ghiath Haddad and Saeed Al Batal's 'Al Sahra'. She has also edited short films, among them Abo Ghabi's 'Blue', Haddad and Al Batal's 'Frontline', and Rawad Al Zakout's 'Alourjouha Choreograph'. Since 2014, Yamisha has worked as an editor at Bidayyat for Audiovisual Arts, and recently was an editing trainer for Bidayyat's Introduction to Directing Documentary programme for young filmmakers. She also worked at Tigerproduction as an animator from 2004 to 2010.

Maha Al-Jefairi

 Director / Screenwriter

Maha Al-Jefairi is a Qatari director and writer, and holds a degree in Communications from Northwestern University in Qatar. She is deeply

interested in storytelling, which has helped shape her worldview and identity. Often, she is drawn to stories that are the polar opposite of her own life and reality, which is why she favours science fiction, which for her provides the most honest portrayal of the human experience because its stories never limit how they explore those concepts. Currently, Al-Jefairi is going into production on her first short film, 'Me, Myself and A.I.'. 'Connect' is her second film.

Jemina Legaspi

 Producer

Jemina Legaspi is a Filipina filmmaker based in Doha. She has produced short films including Omar Khalifa's 'Aqila' (2017), Dimirti Salomao's

'Confessions' (2017) and 'Somewhere, Sometime' (2017), and Nissryne Dib's 'Upon the Death of a Nation' (2015). In 2016, she received a grant to direct her own film, 'Key Hole'. Legaspi is fond of using her passion for storytelling to show the struggles of children worldwide, and is now focusing on working in animation. She is currently a junior producer at The Film House, and works on various productions related to short films and commercials.

The Film House

Made up of talented, experienced and creative storytellers, producers, documentarians, animators, photographers, and filmmakers, The Film House is an award-winning, Doha-based film, video, and multi-media production company unlike any other in the region. With a wealth of local knowledge, and with Qatar's community in mind, the company is primed to foster local talent and to redefine visual storytelling in the region. The Film House is a home for high-calibre international and local productions; it has produced dozens of short films and is currently producing feature-length films and documentaries by Qatari filmmakers, as well as television series for the BBC, CNN, and PBS.

Fernando Martín Restelli

 Director

Fernando Martín Restelli was born in 1991, and currently lives and works in Córdoba, Argentina. A filmmaker, editor and cinematographer,

he studied at the Universidad de Córdoba. His short film 'Merodeo' (2016) received the Special Jury Prize at the Valdivia International Film Festival, and was selected for several other festivals. 'Constructions', his first feature-length film, is currently in progress; with it, he participated in the Rough Cut Lab at Visions du Réel, the Mar del Plata International Film Festival, pitch sessions at DocMontevideo and TransLAB at the Transcinema Festival Internacional de Cine. In 2016, he received a scholarship to attend the IDFAcademy in Amsterdam.

Milagros Cabral Montejano

 Producer

Milagros Cabral Montejano was born in 1990 in Posadas, Misiones, Argentina. In 2009, she began her BA studies in the arts, and

then began working in audiovisual production in 2013. She produces the web magazine www.publacionemergente.com, which combines visual arts, design, and photography. Since 2015, she has been part of Periferia Cine, an independent film production company. Cabral Montejano is currently producing 'Constructions' and 'La Yunga'. In 2016, she received a scholarship to attend the IDFAcademy programme. In 2017, she participated in the Talents BA programme at BAFICI.

Periferia Cine

Periferia Cine is a young production company based in Córdoba, Argentina, that generates committed, creative documentaries and non-fiction films for an international audience, helping filmmakers explore and shape their own personal voices, with a special focus on fresh and new talent and contemporary social issues. Periferia's films have participated and received awards and recognition in various film festivals, including Visions du Réel, the International Documentary Festival Amsterdam, MDQFilmFest, the Valdivia International Film Festival, the Transcinema International Film Festival, and DocMontevideo.

Dead Dog (working title) See catalogue p. 42

Sarah Francis
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



Sarah Francis grew up in Beirut and graduated from IESAV at Saint Joseph University. Since 2005, she has worked as a freelance director

and has participated in several workshops and labs. Her feature-length documentary 'Birds of September' (2013) screened at numerous international festivals and museums, and won several awards. Her work also includes short videos. She is currently developing a project with the support of the Asian Cinema Fund. With 'Dead Dog', her upcoming fiction project, she was a participant of Cinephilia Bound in collaboration with La Maison des scénaristes at the Festival de Cannes in 2017, and is also attending other major film labs.

Displaced in Heaven See catalogue p. 56

Khaled Jarrar
Director



Born in the occupied West Bank in 1976, Khaled Jarrar currently lives and works in Tucson, where he researches the

potential fallout of the proposed border wall between Mexico and the United States. He is also working on a film and multimedia series that documents his month-long journey with a group of migrants who travelled to Europe last year in order to draw attention to the plight of Syrian refugees.

Thomas Kaske
Producer



Thomas Kaske was born in 1984. After living in Nairobi, he decided to study Social and Cultural Anthropology and Film Studies at the Freie Universität

Berlin. Since 2008, he has worked for the MA Visual and Media Anthropology there. In 2013, he began to study Media Art and Media Design at the Bauhaus University in Weimar. During his MFA studies, he directed and produced experimental short films. After obtaining his degree, he worked as a Junior Producer and Archive Researcher for the Berlin-based companies Ilanga Films and Molly Aida. Since 2016, he has worked as an independent producer.

Kaske Film

Kaske Film produces creative essay and documentary films that express aesthetic, innovative, and experimental ways of storytelling. The company's various projects combine personal and critical approaches to historical, social, and political topics. As a cultural film production house, Kaske Film seeks German and international funding opportunities, and to establish international co-productions and creative partnerships, in order to realize and finance projects, and maintain the integrity of the author's vision.

The Fifth Resurrection of Farid

See catalogue p. 62

Khalid Youssef

Director / Screenwriter / Producer



Born in Cairo in 1978, Khalid Youssef is a filmmaker, screenwriter, editor, and actor. After finishing university studies in Egypt, he travelled to study

filmmaking, theatre, and photography in Madrid, for well over a decade. He finished his first film, 'Zero in Conduct', in 2007, and it travelled to various film festivals, including the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. He also shot, produced, directed, edited, and wrote the feature-length film 'Overground' (2015), in addition to 10 other short films. Among them is '1995', which was selected for five festivals, among them the Göttingen International Ethnographic Film Festival.

A Gaza Weekend

See catalogue p. 44

Basil Khalil

Director



Academy Award and Palme d'Or nominee Basil Khalil is a writer and director, born and raised in Nazareth to a Palestinian father

and British-Irish mother. After working on a number of television productions in London, Khalil directed his Oscar-nominated short film 'Ave Maria' (2015), which was described by the 'New York Times' as the "Middle Eastern answer to 'Curb Your Enthusiasm'". The film premiered in the Official Competition of the Festival de Cannes before going on to screen at more than 200 festivals and winning more than 35 awards. Khalil is a member of AMPAS and sits on the committees that nominate short films and feature-length animated films for the Academy Awards.

Daniel Chan Khalil

Screenwriter



Raised in Hong Kong, Italy, Spain, and the UK, Daniel Chan holds a BA in Arabic and Spanish, and an MA in Chinese Studies from SOAS,

University of London. His screenwriting debut, on the Academy Award-nominated short film 'Ave Maria', gained him four international awards for his writing. He is currently working towards a PhD in Classical Chinese Literature while writing for a couple of feature films and a television series.

Nouf Al Sulaiti

Director / Screenwriter



Nouf Al Sulaiti is a Qatari filmmaker. Now in her final year at Northwestern University in Qatar, she has worked on numerous film

projects, both fiction and documentary, including Yassine Ouahrani's 'Noor' (2017), Zaki Hussain's 'How to Get Over a Heartbreak' (2017), and her own 'Outdated' (2016) and 'Papers' (2016), both of which she also produced. Al Sulaiti has received grants to make Zaki Hussain's 'Terima Kasih', which she is producing, and her own current short project, 'Gubgub'. She has worked on projects with both the Doha Film Institute and the Film House, where she worked on short films, and on commercials for clients including Ooredoo and Silatech. She is currently a teaching assistant in Documentary Production and previously for Media Construction at Northwestern University in Qatar.

Justin Kramer

Producer



Justin Kramer is an American filmmaker and artist. His career started in New York City, where he formed Elwood Gentry

Production. His producing, directing, and cinematography have been seen in numerous award-winning short films, television shows, feature documentaries, music videos, and commercials. Kramer has displayed photography work at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, and has lectured at Harvard University on documentary filmmaking. In 2009, he moved to Qatar to join the Doha Film Institute. Since, Kramer has developed The Film House, the first company of its kind in Qatar, producing documentaries, commercials, and design at a world-class level. Kramer's first feature-length documentary, 'Zabaleen' (2016), was selected for several film festivals.

The Film House

Made up of talented, experienced and creative storytellers, producers, documentarians, animators, photographers, and filmmakers, The Film House is an award-winning, Doha-based film, video, and multi-media production company unlike any other in the region. With a wealth of local knowledge, and with Qatar's community in mind, the company is primed to foster local talent and to redefine visual storytelling in the region. The Film House is a home for high-calibre international and local productions; it has produced dozens of short films and is currently producing feature-length films and documentaries by Qatari filmmakers, as well as television series for the BBC, CNN, and PBS.

Hadeer Omar

Director / Screenwriter



Hadeer Omar is an Egyptian visual communicator and time-based media artist based in Qatar. After receiving her BFA in Graphic

Design, she returned to Egypt to apply visual arts to her practice. Omar attained an MFA in Design Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University Arts in Qatar. She crosses disciplines and mediums within art, design, and film, presenting her identity through her work, which showcases her interest in the concept of hacking cultures visually. Omar was awarded an honorary mention for her concept 'zarabizi Keyboard' at the STARTS Prize – Grand Prize of the European Commission honoring Innovation in Technology, Industry and Society Stimulated by the Arts. The project was exhibited at the Ars Electronica festival in Linz, Austria, and the Drive: Volkswagen Group Forum in Berlin, Germany. Recently, her visual diaries were displayed at the 20/20/20 exhibition at VCU Arts Qatar's gallery and at the Calligraphies in Conversation 2017 Exhibition at the San Francisco Public Library. Currently, she works as a teacher assistant at the Art Foundation Department at VCU Arts Qatar.

A Kasha

See catalogue p. 68

hajooj kuka
Director / Screenwriter



hajooj kuka is a filmmaker from Sudan. kuka's 2014 feature documentary, 'Beats of the Antonov', had its premiere at the

Toronto International Film Festival, where it won the People's Choice Documentary Award. The film has been broadcast on POV, screened at more than 60 festivals and won seven international awards. kuka also trains and works with young filmmakers across Sudan.

Steven Markovitz
Producer



Steven Markovitz is one of Africa's most pioneering producers, with 20 years' experience on some of the continent's important

features and documentaries. Steven co-produced the Congolese thriller 'Viva Riva!' (2010), which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and won MTV's Best African Movie and a record six African Movie Academy Awards. He also produced Wanuri Kahiu's award-winning Kenyan science fiction short film 'Pumzi' (2009), which was selected for the Sundance Film Festival. In addition to 'Logs of War', Markovitz is currently producing 'Rollaball', a documentary set in Ghana, and 'African Metropolis', a series of short fiction films in seven African cities, and an eight-part documentary series for Al Jazeera.

Big World Cinema Led by Steven Markovitz, Big World Cinema was established in 1994 and has produced, co-produced and executive-produced short and feature-length fiction and documentary films. The company's award-winning projects include 'Stories of Our Lives' (winner of the Teddy Award at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2015); 'Beats of the Antonov' (winner, Toronto International Film Festival People's Choice Documentary Award in 2014); 'Viva Riva!', which was selected for the Berlin and Toronto International Film Festivals; and 'Congo in Four Acts', which was selected for the Berlinale, the International Documentary Festival Amsterdam and the Hot Docs Canadian International Film Festival. The company has an extensive production and distribution network across Africa.

Khuzama

See catalogue p. 46

A.J. Al Thani
Director / Screenwriter



A.J. Al Thani is a Qatar-born filmmaker. Her love for movies and moviemaking began at the age of six when she saw 'Star Wars'

(1977) in the cinema in 1999. She began to pursue her dream of being a filmmaker with the launch of the Doha Film Institute. Her relationship with the Institute began in 2010 when she participated in one of its first film workshops, which opened the door for many local filmmakers to pursue their passion.

Justin Kramer
Producer



Justin Kramer is an American filmmaker and artist. His career started in New York City, where he formed Elwood Gentry

Production. His producing, directing, and cinematography have been seen in numerous award-winning short films, television shows, feature documentaries, music videos, and commercials. Kramer has displayed photography work at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, and has lectured at Harvard University on documentary filmmaking. In 2009, he moved to Qatar to join the Doha Film Institute. Since, Kramer has developed The Film House, the first company of its kind in Qatar, producing documentaries, commercials, and design at a world-class level. Kramer's first feature-length documentary, 'Zabaleen' (2016), was selected for several film festivals.

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Late to Die Young

See catalogue p. 84

Dominga Sotomayor
Director / Screenwriter



Dominga Sotomayor was born in Santiago de Chile in 1985. Her first feature film, 'Thursday Till Sunday' (2012), was developed at the

Cinéfondation Résidence at the Festival de Cannes, won the Tiger Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, and was named best film at IndieLisboa, New Horizons, and the Valdivia International Film Festival. She co-directed 'The Island' (2013), which also claimed a Tiger Award. In 2015, her medium-length film 'Mar' had its premiere in the Forum section at the Berlin International Film Festival, and she also released 'Aqui, Em Lisboa', a collective film directed with Gabriel Abrantes, Denis Côté, and Marie Losier.

Sophie Mas
Co-Producer



Sophie Mas was born in Paris in 1980. She joined RT Features in 2012. Since then, she has been working with Rodrigo Teixeira and

Lourenço Sant'Anna to scout projects, and develop and produce both emerging and established talented directors. Her filmography includes: Robert Eggers's 'The Witch' (2015), Jonas Carpignano's 'A Ciambra' (2017), Ira Sachs's 'Love is Strange' (2014) and 'Little Men' (2016), Jeremy Jasper's 'Patti Cake\$', Luca Guadagnino's 'Call Me By Your Name' (2017), Crystal Moselle's 'Skate Kitchen' (2018) and James Gray's 'Ad Astra', which will be released in 2019.

RT Features

RT Features focuses on developing, producing, and financing high-quality content ranging from original projects to acquisitions. Dedicated to working with talented young directors, Roberto Teixeira formed a joint venture with Martin Scorsese's Sikelia Productions that aims to produce films from emerging filmmakers worldwide. Their first project, Jonas Carpignano's 'A Ciambra', premiered in the recent Directors' Fortnight at the Festival de Cannes, and was selected as Italy's entry to the Academy Awards.

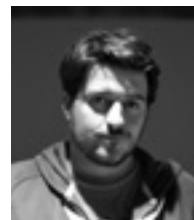
Cinestacion

Cinestación is a creative platform for auteur filmmaking in Latin America. With a growing catalogue of films and directors, we tell stories with strong points of view, collaborating with global partners and supporting audacity and quality. Cinestación's work has been recognised by world-class film festivals, including the Berlinale, the Festival de Cannes, the International Film Festival Rotterdam, the Valdivia International Film Festival and the Sundance Film Festival.

The Load

See catalogue p. 86

Ognjen Glavonić
Director / Screenwriter



Ognjen Glavonić was born in 1985 in Pančevo in the former Yugoslavia. His short films have been selected for more than 50 international

film festivals. 'Zivan Makes a Punk Festival', (2014), his first medium-length documentary, had its premiere at Cinéma du Réel and has been screened at more than 40 international film festivals, among them the International Film Festival Rotterdam, CPH:DOX, and IndieLisboa. His feature-length documentary 'Depth Two' (2016) had its premiere in the Forum section at the Berlin International Film Festival, and was named best film at DokuFest Prizren, Message to Man St. Petersburg, OpenCity Docs London, the Festival dei Popoli Firenze, and Kassel Dokfest, among others. 'The Load' is his feature-length narrative debut.

Stefan Ivančić
Producer



A film director, producer and film programmer, Stefan Ivančić was born in the former Yugoslavia in 1985. His short films have been

shown at festivals including the Festival de Cannes, the International Film Festival Rotterdam, Visions du Réel, the Torino Film Festival, the San Sebastián Film Festival and FIDMarseille. Ivančić is a producer of Ognjen Glavonić's feature 'The Load', which is supported by the CNC, visions sud est, the Hubert Bals Fund, Eurimages and The Doha Film Institute. He is currently co-producing Ivan Salatić's 'Sailor Girl', among other films. He works at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade and is a member of the selection committee of Pardi di Domani at the Locarno Festival.

Non-Aligned Films

Founded by young directors Ognjen Glavonić and Stefan Ivančić, together with producer Dragana Jovović, Non-Aligned Films is a production company based in Belgrade. The idea behind the company is to act as a platform for producing the films of an upcoming generation of Serbian filmmakers. Non-Aligned Films produced three short films in 2014: Stefan Ivančić's documentary '1973' and his fictional 'Moonless Summer'; as well as the experimental documentary 'Heavens', directed by Jelena Maksimović and Ivan Salatić. 'Depth Two', a documentary by Glavonić, had its world premiere in the Forum section at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2016. 'The Load' is the company's debut feature-length fiction film.

Naz (working title) See catalogue p. 58

Omar El-Khairy Director



Omar El-Khairy is a playwright and screenwriter, and holds a Ph.D in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science. A

former Leverhulme Associate Playwright at the Bush Theatre, his plays include 'Burst', 'Sour Lips', 'The Keepers of Infinite Space', 'The Chaplain: or, a short tale of how we learned to love good Muslims whilst torturing bad ones', and 'Homegrown'. His work is published by Oberon Books. 'No Exit' (2014), his first short film, had its world premiere at the Dubai International Film Festival. His new short film, 'White Girl', is currently in production.

Ana Naomi de Sousa Director



Ana Naomi de Sousa is a Peabody award-winning filmmaker and writer. Her work addresses history, architecture and identity. She co-

directed 'Saydnaya - Inside a Syrian Torture Prison', a collaboration between Forensic Architecture and Amnesty International that gained international media attention and was awarded a Peabody Award in 2017. She has directed several short documentaries for television, including 'The Architecture of Violence' and 'Angola - Birth of a Movement', both for Al Jazeera English.

Elhum Shakerifar Producer



Elhum Shakerifar is a BFI Vision Awardee and BAFTA-nominated producer whose productions have been broadcast internationally and

screened at festivals including the Berlin International Film Festival, the International Film Festival Rotterdam and the Dubai International Film Festival. Her credits include Carol Salter's 'Almost Heaven' (2017), Sean McAllister's 'A Syrian Love Story' (2015), and Saeed Taji Farouky's 'The Runner' (2013). In 2017, she was awarded Women in Film and Television's BBC News and Factual Award.

Hakawati

Hakawati was founded in 2017 to produce, distribute and curate films with the art of storytelling at their core. Set up by BAFTA-nominated producer Elhum Shakerifar, and building on her multi-award winning productions and curatorial work to date, Hakawati supports storytellers with distinctive vision and enables new talent to take creative risks. Hakawati is committed to the broader visibility of independent film, giving platforms to quieter voices and unique individual – often minority – perspectives in relation to a dominant whole. In making creatively bold films with integrity, representation and reframing narratives are at the heart of what we do. The company's projects are all derived from the central tenet that a good story is in the telling, and that, after all, we are the stories we tell. Hakawati is supported by the prestigious BFI Vision Award – awarded once every three years to leading UK producers; Shakerifar was the only documentary producer among the 2016 recipients.

Nine Months War

See catalogue p. 94

László Csujá
Director



László Csujá was born in 1984. He graduated in Scriptwriting from the Hungarian Academy of Film and Drama. His short films have

been screened at film festivals across Europe, among them the Tampere and Edinburgh International Film Festivals. He attended, among others, Talents Sarajevo, the Berlinale Talent Campus, and the Aristoteles Documentary Workshop. Csujá's first feature-length fiction film, supported by the Hungarian Film Fund, is currently in post-production.

Ágnes Horváth-Szabó
Producer



In 2011 Ágnes Horváth-Szabó debuted as a producer with a short film that had its premiere at the Berlin International Film Festival in

the Short Film Competition. Since then, she has contributed to award-winning art-house films, documentaries and shorts as a freelance producer, associate producer, and production manager. She began producing documentaries in 2015, and is an Ex Oriente Film workshop graduate, a EURODOC Training Programme alumna, and participated in the Emerging Producers Programme in 2017. Her first feature-length documentary as a producer is expected this year.

ELF Pictures

ELF Pictures, run by former freelance producers Ágnes Horváth-Szabó and András Pires Muhi, is a Budapest-based production company. The two producers fused in 2016 to provide a hub for filmmakers of their generation to grow together. ELF Pictures produces feature documentaries with a human, political, art, and sports focus. Since 2018, ELF also functions as a theatrical distributor, bringing international and domestic fictions and documentaries to screens across Hungary.

Noura Dreams

See catalogue p. 48

Hinde Boujemaa
Director / Screenwriter



Hinde Boujemaa is a Tunisian director. In 2012, she directed her first feature-length documentary, 'It Was Better Tomorrow', which

was selected for the Venice Film Festival, won the Muhr for Best Director at the Dubai International Film festival, and was named Best Documentary at Douz Doc Days. In 2014, her short fiction film 'And Romeo Married Juliet' won Best Short Film awards at Dubai, the Alexandria Film Festival, the Oran Film Festival, and the Verona Film Festival, where it also took an award for Best Actress. Boujemaa is now preparing the feature-length fiction film 'Noura Dreams'.

Imed Marzouk
Producer



Imed Marzouk was born in 1973. After studying international commerce at HEC, he obtained a degree in marketing. In 2000, he

joined Canal Horizon Tunis, where he was Production Manager. In 2002, he founded the production company Propaganda Production with Néjib Belkadhi. He is now working on three features films: 'Vent du nord' by Walid Mattar; 'Regarde-moi' by Néjib Belkadhi; and 'Noura rêve' by Hinde Boujemaa.

Propaganda Production

Propaganda Production is a Tunisian broadcasting company, created in 2002 by Imed Marzouk and Néjib Belkadhi. Its primary activities include the production of short and feature-length films, documentaries, broadcast series, and commercials. Notable projects include 'VHS-Kahloucha' (2006) and 'Bastardo' (2012), both by Néjib Belkadhi; 'And Romeo Married Juliet' (2014) by Hinde Boujemaa; and 'As I Open My Eyes' (2014) by Leyla Bouzid.

Okht Rjal

See catalogue p. 120

Obada Yousef Jarbi Director



Born in 1995, Obada Yousef Jarbi is a Jordanian resident of Qatar. An aspiring filmmaker, Jarbi is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree

in Mass Communication and Broadcast Journalism at Qatar University. He began his filmmaking career in 2014, when he began filming and producing local films, and made his directorial debut with the documentary 'Addicted to Alienation' (2016). Recently, Jarbi completed his second short film 'The Fishermen' (2017), through the Doha Film Institute's documentary workshop. Through his filmmaking, Jarbi hopes to send a meaningful message to audiences.

Pastimes

See catalogue p. 106

Majid Al Remailhi Director



Majid Al Remailhi is a Qatari filmmaker and artist. He is interested in the practice of filmmaking as a tool for investigating the

institutional and social purview of art in Qatar and the Gulf region. He is also part of the artist collective Ab6al (with Abdullah Al Mutairi and Sarah AbuAbdallah), which explores the crossover of youth and ideas of development in the Gulf. He recently completed his first short film, 'Domestic Acoustics' (2017), through the Doha Film Institute's Documentary Lab, which was mentored by award-winning filmmaker Pablo Iraburu; the film explores the scope of domesticity as a space for art and concealed life. Currently, Al Remailhi is working on another short documentary about the unravelling of art practices and their respective collections in Qatar.

Amal Al-Muftah

Director / Screenwriter



Amal Al-Muftah was born in Doha in 1994. She started making films in high school, including 'Al-Kora' (2013) and the award-winning

'Alhamali' (2014). After graduating from high school, she enrolled in the Northwestern University in Qatar Communications programme. During her first year there, she worked on 'Smicha' (2016) with Innovation Films, and 'Eh fe Amal' (2015). Her third narrative film, 'Sh'hab', is currently in post-production.

Suzannah Mirghani

Director / Screenwriter



Suzannah Mirghani is a Communication and Media Studies graduate and independent filmmaker working on highlighting stories from the

Gulf region, with a focus on Qatar. Being of multicultural background, Mirghani is interested in stories that examine the interconnectedness of multiple – sometimes seemingly opposed – ethnicities and identities. She is especially interested in exploring the wealth of multicultural encounters that occur in a traditionally cosmopolitan place like Qatar. She is the writer and director of several short films, including, 'Hind's Dream' (2014) and 'Caravan' (2016).

Eiman Mirghani

Producer



Eiman Mirghani is an independent Sudanese filmmaker based in Doha. After graduating with a BA in Media and Film Studies

from the University of Nottingham in 2015, Mirghani began her career working in the Doha film scene as an assistant director, art director, and production coordinator. In 2017, she produced two art films directed by Kuwaiti artist and filmmaker Maysaa Al Mumin, and shot and directed her own short narrative film 'Is That All There Is?'

Meryem Benm'Barek

 Director / Screenwriter

Meryem Benm'Barek was born in 1984 in Rabat. She studied Arabic Languages and Civilisations at the National Institute of Oriental

Languages and Civilizations in Paris before entering the directing department at INSAS in Brussels in 2010. There, she directed five short films, notably 'Nor' (2013) and 'Jannah' (2014), which was selected for numerous international film festivals, and was considered for submission for an Academy Award in 2015. She also creates sound design art and has had regular exhibitions at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. She is currently finalizing her first feature-length film, 'Sofia'.

Lisa Verhaverbeke

 Artistic Producer

After completing her production studies at La Fémis, Lisa Verhaverbeke worked as a documentary production manager, while

keeping a foot in fiction as a script reader, in particular for Fidélité Films, whose ranks she joined in 2014 in the capacity of Head of Development. She is currently acting as Artistic Producer on Meryem Benm'Barek's 'Sofia'.

Merieme Addou

 Director / Producer

Born in Morocco, Merieme Addou graduated from Mohammed V University with a degree in Law, and a Master's degree in Documentary

Film. She has been a freelance producer for ADTV, Qatar TV, BBC 2, Radio 4, BBC World, and SABC, among other outlets, and has worked as a freelance correspondent for Radio D-W.

Curiosa Films

Curiosa Films was born from Olivier Delbosc's desire to build a new production structure after almost 20 years at the helm of Fidélité Films with Marc Missonnier. Strengthened by his experience as a producer, which includes the production of more than 70 feature films of all genres in less than 20 years, Delbosc, with Emilien Bignon by his side, wishes to promote auteur films, both demanding and popular. He thus continues to collaborate with renowned authors such as Xavier Giannoli, André Téchiné and Bertrand Blier, while also developing new relationships with directors including Claire Denis, Martin Provost and Erick Zonca, among others, and producing first feature films by such new directors as Étienne Comar and Lou Jeunet.

IrisProd

Based in Rabat, IrisProd is an established video and film production company that produces and co-produces documentaries that are auteur-driven and produced creatively.

Tiny Souls

See catalogue p. 78

Dina Naser
Director / Producer



A Jordanian director, writer, and producer with Palestinian roots, Dina Naser holds a BA in Art and Graphic Design. Following her passion

for filmmaking, she was granted the scholarship for DOCNOMADS Mobile Documentary School for a two-year MA programme in Lisbon, Budapest, and Brussels. She worked her way through a variety of television and film productions, until she began to direct and produce independently. Her first works are inspired by stories from her homeland. Her short films include 'Shamieh' (2011), the award-winning 'One Minute' (2015), and 'Sea Wash' (co-director, 2016), a short experimental film that pictures refugees who lost their lives at sea. 'Tiny Souls', a documentary project first realized in a nine-minute format, will be Naser's first feature-length film.

Palmyre Badinier
Producer



Palmyre Badinier has worked in the fields of journalism, diplomacy, and international artistic exchanges. Her career in the film industry

began in 2006, when she was an associate producer with the Palestinian production company Dar Films. In 2008, she co-founded Paris-based Les Films de Zayna, an independent production company with a strong focus on stories and talents from the Arab world. Badinier executive-produced the documentary collection 'Family Albums' (2011), Nassim Amaouche's 'Terra cognita' (2012); Syrian directors Rana Kazkaz and Anas Khalaf's 'Deaf Day' (2011); and Raed Andoni's feature-length films 'Fix Me' (2009) and 'Ghost Hunting' (2017). Since 2017, Badinier has produced her film projects through Urban Factory (France) and Akka Films (Switzerland). She is a member of the EAVE network.

Urban Factory

Founded in 2011, independent French production company Urban Factory (UF) is the sister company of Urban Distribution International (UDI). UF has always been driven by the same goal: to make quality cinema and bring it to the largest audience possible on every continent. UF has produced and co-produced 11 art-house films by promising young filmmakers and renowned directors.

Underdown

See catalogue p. 80

Sarah Kaskas
Director



Sarah Kaskas received her MFA in Cinematic Arts in 2011. Her thesis film, 'Fugue' (2011), toured to several festivals before being sold to BBC

Arabic's 'Alternative Cinema'. In 2013, her animated short film 'Wanderland' won an award at the Co-Production Forum at the Stuttgart International Animation Festival, and was nominated for the Robert Bosch Film Prize in 2014. In 2016, Kaskas co-directed 'Bread and Tea', which was named Best Short Documentary at Iran's Cinéma Vérité. Her upcoming feature documentary was nominated for the Robert Bosch Film Prize 2017 and received a production grant from the Doha Film Institute. She resides in Beirut and is an Assistant Professor of Film at the Lebanese American University.

Liliane Rahal
Producer



Liliane Rahal is a Lebanese producer who has more than 10 years of experience in film production in Beirut and the region. Her work includes

award winning television commercials, corporate films and documentaries. In 2013, Rahal pursued her love for photography by teaching a year-long workshop to incarcerated women in Lebanon. She produced and co-directed 'Bread and Tea' (2016), a short film revolving around the life of a Syrian child in a refugee camp, which won best short documentary at Cinéma Vérité 2016 in Iran. Rahal recently executed the production of the sci-fi web series 'Arabs in Space, a first of its genre in the region.

Karaaj Films

Karaaj Films produces independent fiction and non-fiction films and web series. The company is run by Lebanese producer Liliane Rahal and director Sarah Kaskas, an eclectic team who bridge their passion for storytelling with their technical skills. Keeping in line with their organic and independent filmmaking approach, the team recently produced the award-winning short documentary 'Bread and Tea', which to date has appeared at 12 festivals in under a year. The team has also secured a production grant from the Doha Film Institute for their upcoming feature documentary 'Underdown', which will be released in 2019.

The Unknown Saint

See catalogue p. 50

Alaa Eddine Aljem
Director / Screenwriter



Trained at ESAV Marrakech and INSAS in Brussels, Alaa Eddine Aljem directed several short films, among them 'The Desert Fish' (2015), which

had great coverage in the film festival circuit and took the Critics, Screenwriting and Grand Prize at the Moroccan National Film Festival. 'The Unknown Saint' is Aljem's debut feature, currently in financing. With this project, he participated in the Open Doors Lab at the Locarno Festival, where it won the ICAM award. It was also selected for La Fabrique des Cinémas du Monde in Cannes in 2016, and took part in the Sundance Screenwriters Lab. In 2016, Alaa was named by 'Screen International' as one of the Five Arab Stars of Tomorrow.

Alexa Rivero
Producer



Alexa Rivero is the founder and producer of Paris-based production company Altamar films. With over a decade of work experience with

production, distribution, sales, and festivals, she has been involved in a broad range of films. Formerly an executive at Memento Films and production manager for several production companies, her past production credits include Asghar Farhadi's 'The Past' (2013), Rodrigo Plà's 'The Delay' (2012), and Nuri Bilge Ceylan's 'Winter Sleep' (2014).

The Voice of Amirah

See catalogue p. 52

Khalifa Al-Thani
Director / Screenwriter



Khalifa Al-Thani is an independent filmmaker who holds a Bachelor's degree in Film and Video from the School of Visual Arts. He is in the

final stages of development with both the short film 'Collect Your Belongings', and the feature-length 'The Voice of Amirah'. Al-Thani currently works on the development team at the Doha Film Institute.

Altamar Films

Founded in November 2014 by Alexa Rivero after a decade of work experience with distribution, sales, and production companies, Altamar Films is a Paris-based company established to produce up-and-coming filmmakers with international scope. Focused on quality features with international appeal, great impact in critics and audience as well as high exposure in the festival circuits and the independent distribution network, altamar films works with first-time directors and new filmmakers, as the discovery of new talents is the company's priority.

Nadim Cheikhrouha

Producer

nadim.cheikhrouha@gmail.com



Nadim Cheikhrouha graduated from HEC in 1998. After a year at TF1 Films Production, he moved to presales at TPS Cinema. In 2002,

he joined Mandarin Films, where he held the position of CEO for four years before producing on his own several feature films and documentaries, such as Mohamed Ben Attia's 'Hedi' (2016) and Kaouther Ben Hania's 'Beauty and the Dogs' (2017).

Industry Delegates



Jad Abi-Khalil - Lebanon**Beirut DC | Director Beirut Cinema Platform (BCP)**

Jad Abi-Khalil was born in Lebanon, and completed his cinema studies at IESAV at Saint Joseph University in 1998. He has directed numerous short films and feature documentaries, beginning his career in the latter in 2007. Abi-Khalil is a founding member of Beirut DC, a cultural association for Arab Cinema. He served as chair of its board of directors from 2009 until 2013. He was also the head of its DOCmed programme from 2011 until 2013, and is now Head of Beirut Cinema Platform (BCP).

Beirut DC supports, promotes and provides assistance to Arab cinema and filmmakers. It aims to help artists complete their creative works, and also promotes Arab films on a national and international level via local and worldwide connections. These collaborations are made possible due to projects undertaken by Beirut DC in production, workshops, promotion, and distribution, such as ACDIR, Arab Film Weeks, Beirut Cinema Days, Beirut Cinema Platform, DOCmed, Medscreen, and Pile et Face.



Mark Adams - UK**Edinburgh International Film Festival | Artistic Director**

Mark Adams is Artistic Director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival. He has been Chief Film Critic for respected film trade paper 'Screen International' and was also a film critic for 'The Sunday Mirror' in the UK. He has written for 'Variety', 'The Hollywood Reporter', and 'Moving Pictures International', as well as many national newspapers in the UK. He was Head of Programming at the National Film Theatre in London for six years, and also Director of Cinema at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) in London.

The Edinburgh International Film Festival is one of the oldest film festivals in the world and shows the best in new cinema as well as staging retrospectives, focuses on national cinema, and in-person events. It shows cinema from around the world and is a popular destination for filmmakers, sales agents, distributors, and film lovers.



Karim Aïtouna - France**Haut les Mains | Producer**

Karim Aitouna is a Moroccan producer, established in France and working between Lyon and Tangier. He has produced short film, feature-length fiction, and documentaries. He was part of Emerging Producers 2013 in Jihlava IDFF. He is a member of EAVE and EURODOC, and is a lecturer for the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes French Regional Fund.

Founded by Karim Aïtouna and Thomas Micoulet, Haut les Mains is a production company based in Lyon and Tangier. The company's completed films include Ahmed Fawzi Saleh's 'Poisonous Roses', which premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, Ră Di Martino's 'Controfigura', which was selected for the Venice Biennale, and the MML Collective's 'Sans bruit, les figurants du désert'. Anna Roussillon's 'I Am the People' was selected for the ACID programme at the Festival de Cannes, and won awards at the at Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival and Belfort Entrevues, while David Yon's 'The Night and the Kid' was selected for the 65th Berlin International Film Festival.



Bobby Allen - UK**MUBI | VP Content**

Bobby Allen is Senior VP of Content at MUBI, one of the fastest-growing independent VOD platforms in the world, where he is responsible for all programming, content, and editorial. He is also leading MUBI's move into theatrical distribution and co-production. Before joining MUBI, Allen was an independent film producer and VP of Sales and Acquisitions at Celluloid Dreams, Head of Production at MTV Films Europe, and Head of Acquisitions at Film Four, and he has held senior executive positions in international film sales and acquisitions at companies such as Lionsgate, Mayfair Entertainment, and PolyGram Film International.

MUBI is a curated subscription video-on-demand service that takes film curation to the next level by offering just 30 handpicked gems online. Every day one is added to the list, and one is removed from the program. MUBI is a global service, streaming cult, classic and award-winning films to members in more than 200 territories. In October 2015, MUBI launched Paul Thomas Anderson's 'Junun' as the first in a series of global exclusive releases, theatrical releases and original productions. MUBI has offices in London and New York City.



Ramzan Alnoimi - Qatar
Al Jazeera Media Network | Creative Director and Branding Consultant

Ramzan Alnoimi is a creative director and branding consultant who specialises in media and commercial advertising. He has worked for the Al Jazeera Media Network for over 17 years. During this time, he has worked as an operations manager assistant and head of studio directors, directing many television shows and corporate films. Currently, he heads creative strategy and production for the Al Jazeera Media Network, leading the creative team, as well as the studio's set design and channels branding.

Launched in 1996, Al Jazeera was the first independent news channel in the Arab world dedicated to providing comprehensive news and live debate. Since then, it has added new channels and services while maintaining the independent and pioneering spirit that defined its character. Each subsidiary follows the same principles - values that inspire it to be challenging and bold, and provide a "voice for the voiceless" in some of the most under-reported places on the planet.



Zeynep Atakan - Turkey
Zeyno Film | Producer

Zeynep Atakan was born in İstanbul in 1966, and graduated from the Film and TV department at Marmara University's Faculty of Fine Arts. In 2007, she founded Zeyno Film and went on to win the European Film Academy's Prix Eurimages European Co-Production award in 2010. Atakan started the Antalya Film Forum, a co-production and project development market organised as part of the International Antalya Film Festival since 2014, and continues to work as its director. She is also the art director of the Sabancı Foundation Short Film Platform.

Zeyno Film was founded in 2007 by Zeynep Atakan. Having incorporated Atakan's previous productions, Zeyno Film aims to produce and market films of international standards in Turkey and worldwide. The company has produced Nuri Bilge Ceylan's 'Climates', 'Three Monkeys', 'Once Upon A Time In Anatolia', and 'Winter Sleep'. Zeyno Film is also currently producing his 'The Wild Pear Tree'.



Habib Attia - Tunisia
Cinétéléfilms | Producer

Tunis-born Habib Attia's latest ventures as a producer include several creative documentaries and feature films, among them Kaouther Ben Hania's 'Beauty and the Dogs' (2017), which premiered in the Un Certain Regard official selection at the Festival de Cannes, where it won the Best Sound Creation award. He produced Kaouther Ben Hania's 'Zineb Hates the Snow' (2016), which premiered at the Locarno Festival and won a Golden Tanit in Carthage Film Festival, was named Best Documentary in Cinemed Montpellier, and was selected for the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam and the Dubai International Film Festival. Ben Hania's 'Challat of Tunis' (2014), which opened the ACID programme at the Festival de Cannes, won the Best First Film award at Namur, and prizes for Best Director and Best Film at the Beirut Film Festival.

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



Deema Azar - Jordan
TaleBox | Producer / Script Consultant

Deema Azar is a Jordanian film producer and script consultant. She is also co-founder and managing partner at TaleBox, a Jordanian production and training company based in Amman that fosters and nurtures new talents in Jordan and the region. Azar occupied the position of Regional Training Manager at the Royal Film Commission - Jordan, where she managed all regional training programmes aimed at Arab filmmakers. Azar is also an independent script consultant, a reader for the Doha Film Institute, and a Torino Film Lab 2017 Story Editing programme alumna.

TaleBox nurtures rising film directors and fosters up-and-coming producers. Our work includes film development and production, training, story editing, and script consulting. Stemming from our belief in the importance of telling unique stories from our region, and our desire to contribute to the development and empowerment of the Jordanian and Arab cinema industry, we established TaleBox in 2016. We are a young Jordanian production and training company based in Amman with a focus on emerging voices and local and regional talents.



Cameron Bailey - Canada
Toronto International Film Festival | Artistic Director

Cameron Bailey is Artistic Director of the Toronto International Film Festival and the overall TIFF organisation. He has been responsible for the vision and programming of the festival since 2008, and was a programmer for the festival for 11 years prior to that. Born in London, Bailey grew up in England and Barbados before migrating to Canada. He has also worked as a film critic prior to taking up his current position. Bailey has served on festival awards juries around the world, including in Beijing, Locarno, Reykjavík, Tokyo, and Zanzibar.

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



Amra Bakšić Čamo - Bosnia and Herzegovina
SCCA/pro.ba | Producer

Amra Bakšić Čamo is one of the founders of SCCA/pro.ba, an independent film, video and TV production company from Sarajevo. She has produced and co-produced award-winning short films, as well as art videos, documentaries, television programs, and feature-length films. For the past 15 years, she has been the head of CineLink, a regional co-production market and project development platform of the Sarajevo Film Festival. Amra also lectures at the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo.

SCCA/pro.ba is a film and TV production company established in 1998. The company's films have participated and won awards in festivals around the globe, including the Berlin International Film Festival, the Venice Film Festival, the Festival de Cannes, the International Film Festival Rotterdam, the Locarno Festival, the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, and the Sarajevo Film Festival.



Zsuzsi Bánkuti - Germany
The Match Factory | Head of Acquisition

Zsuzsi Bánkuti worked for 12 years in distribution, festivals, and cinema exhibitions in Hungary, before becoming Head of Acquisitions at The Match Factory in 2012.

The Match Factory is dedicated to bringing the finest in art-house cinema to the international market. Since its foundation in 2006, the company's passion has been to work with films of unique vision from around the globe. The Match Factory has built strong relationships with acclaimed directors and producers, while working simultaneously to discover promising new filmmakers with a compelling and original style.



Radosława Bardes - Poland
Orka Film | Producer/ Head of International Productions

Radosława Bardes is Head of International Co-productions at Orka Studio. She has worked on films such including Andrzej Wajda's 'Walesa: Man of Hope' (2013), and more than 100 episodes of television series such as 'Recipe of Life', 'Times of Honour', and 'Residency', among many others. For two years she also managed Orka's sound post-production studio. In 2017, three films she co-produced had their international premieres: Egle Vertelyte's 'Miracle' (at the Toronto International Film Festival), Jason Cortlund and Julia Halperin's 'Barracuda' (at SXSW), and Elizaveta Stishova's 'Sulayman Too' (TIFF). She is currently producing Vinko Bresan's 'What a Country' and Bartek Kędzierski's 'Iggly the Eagle'.

Orka Film is a Polish production and post-production company established in 1995 that specialises in visual effects and animation. While the company initially focused on the commercial market, Orka quickly became the top Polish motion-picture facility, providing full-service production and post-production for the greatest Polish and international commercial and feature-length film projects. Over most of its 20 years of activity, Orka has gathered the most advanced technology in Poland under one roof.



Joslyn Barnes - USA
Louverture Films | Producer

Joslyn Barnes is a writer and Emmy-nominated producer. Among the films she has produced since co-founding Louverture Films are Abderrahmane Sissako's 'Bamako', Tia Lessin and Carl Deal's 'Trouble the Water', Göran Hugo Olsson's 'Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975', Eugene Jarecki's 'The House I Live In', Elia Suleiman's 'The Time that Remains', Apichatpong Weerasethakul's 'Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives' and 'Cemetery of Splendour', Tala Hadid's 'House in the Fields', Deepak Rauniyar's 'White Sun', Lucrecia Martel's 'Zama', Yance Ford's 'Strong Island', and RaMell Ross's 'Hale County This Morning, This Evening'. In 2017, Barnes received both the Cinereach Producer Award and the Amazon Studios Producers Award.

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



Violeta Bava - Argentina
Ruda Cine / Venice Film Festival | Producer / Programmer

Violeta Bava was born in Argentina and holds a double degree in Theory, Aesthetics and History of Cinema and Drama from the University of Buenos Aires. She has been Programmer of the Buenos Aires International Film Festival and Co-Director of BAL, a leading co-production market for Latin American films. She was part of the Torino Film Lab Advisory Board and since 2012 has been the Latin American delegate for the Venice International Film Festival. She is also a consultant for the Doha Film Institute, and Founder and Producer at Ruda Cine, a film production company based in Argentina.

Ruda Cine is a production company based in Buenos Aires whose recent feature-length productions include Milagros Mumenthaler's 'The Idea of a Lake' (2016) and Eduardo Williams's 'The Human Surge' (2016), which won the Golden Leopard for Best Film at the Locarno Festival. Ruda Cine's catalogue includes Martín Rejtman's 'Two Shots Fired' (2014) and Mumenthaler's 'Abrir puertas y ventanas' (2011), winner of the Pardo d'Oro for Best Film, the Pardo d'Argento for Best Actress and the FIPRESCI Award at the Locarno Festival, among many other awards.



Mohammed Belhaj - Qatar
Al Jazeera Documentary Channel | Executive Producer and Commissioning Editor

Mohammed Belhaj is an Executive Producer and Commissioning Editor at Al Jazeera Documentary Channel. He is an award-winning documentary writer-director who has worked all over the world. As a decision-maker, he has attended various international documentary film festivals and events, documentary courses, master classes, and many training workshops.

Al Jazeera Documentary Channel is an Arabic-language channel that was launched in January 2007. In terms of content, we are looking for original human stories related to Arab and Muslim communities around the world. In addition, we are interested in minority issues and human topics with global interest. In terms of approach, we are looking for creative work based on observation of the attitudes and reactions of the characters while dealing spontaneously with the real.



Kaouther Ben Hania - Tunisia
Filmmaker

Kaouther Ben Hania is a director and screenwriter who has made three short films: 'La Breche' (2004), 'Me, My Sister and the Thing' (2006), and 'Wooden Hand' (2013). Her first feature-length film, 'Challat of Tunis' (2013) opened the ACID section at the Festival de Cannes in 2014, and 'Zineb Hates the Snow' premiered at the Locarno Festival in 2016. Her 2017 film 'Beauty and the Dogs' screened in the Un Certain Regard of the Festival de Cannes.



Reda Benjelloun - Morocco
TV 2M | Director

Reda Benjelloun is a graduate of the Sorbonne. He began his career as a law consultant. In 1995, he became a journalist at 2M TV, first working as a reporter and news presenter, and later as a news magazine producer, becoming director of magazines and documentaries. Since 2011, he has worked on the weekly documentary TV programme 'Des histoires et des hommes'.

Created in March 1989, 2M TV is the second Moroccan public TV channel, and has the largest audience and advertising market share. It is broadcast worldwide via satellite, TNT, and terrestrial. 2M programmes a weekly primetime slot of documentaries called 'Des histoires et des hommes'.



Hayet Benkara - Canada
Prodigy 360 | Consultant

Hayet Benkara has years of international experience working extensively with some of the most prestigious film festivals. After managing the Sales Office, the unofficial market of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), she managed the Talent Development Programmes at TIFF, including Studio, the first year-round professional training programme for mid-career producers, directors, and screenwriters, and the Talent Lab. Benkara has worked for the Festival de Cannes Producers Network, the Co-Production Market of the Berlin International Film Festival, the International Film Festival Rotterdam, the Dubai International Film Festival, the Guanajuato Film Festival, T-Mobile New Horizon, the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, the Doha Film Institute, the Locarno Festival, and, most recently, the Bosphorus Film Festival.

Prodigy 360 is a company founded by Hayet Benkara to advise young and established filmmakers, producers, and screenwriters on development, production, co-production, distribution, marketing, and festival strategies.



Paolo Bertolin - Italy
Venice International Film Festival | Consultant

Paolo Bertolin is a festival programmer, film critic, and producer. He joined the Venice International Film Festival as a member of the selection committee in 2008. Since 2010, he has worked as a regional correspondent, covering several territories in the Asia-Pacific region. He has also collaborated with the Beijing, Bratislava, Hanoi, Mumbai and Rotterdam International Film Festivals, the Doha Film Institute, the Udine Far East Film Festival, Visions du Réel, and the Cannes Critics' Week. Bertolin has producer credits on the Berlin International Film Festival Competition entries 'Big Father, Small Father and Other Stories' (2015) and 'A Lullaby for the Sorrowful Mystery' (2016).

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



Bero Beyer - The Netherlands
International Film Festival Rotterdam | Festival Director

Before being appointed in 2015 as General and Artistic Director of International Film Festival Rotterdam, Bero Beyer worked as an independent producer based in the Netherlands. Through his company Augustus Film he has produced a number of award-winning films, such as 'Atlantic' (2014), 'Paradise Now' (2005), and 'Rana's Wedding' (2002). From January 2013 until July 2015, Beyer served a three-year term as Film Consultant for the Dutch Film Fund, specialising in art-house films and international co-productions.

The International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) is one of the biggest cultural events in the Netherlands, and one of the largest audience-oriented film festivals in the world. It focuses on independent and remarkable cinema, priding itself on being a supportive platform where both audiences and industry are invited to look ahead. Combining within its organisation a festival, a fund (Hubert Bals Fund) and a co-production market (CineMart), IFFR offers a launching pad and supportive platform for innovative and talented filmmakers.

Lolwa Al Binali - Qatar
beIN | Team Leader - Training and Development

Lolwa Al Binali is a training and development team leader at beIN Media Group. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business and Administration, and has more than 15 years' experience in training and development, as well as talent management.

beIN is a leading global network broadcasting in the Middle East and North Africa, covering various territories that include Australia, Canada, France, Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, and the USA. beIN is a multi-genre platform that provides exclusive access to prime sporting competitions including the FIFA World Cup, the UEFA Champions League, and football leagues from Europe. It also offers a complete spectrum of entertainment, including blockbuster movies, the most popular television series, and a variety of kids' channels. beIN aims to be a leading global, diversified sports and entertainment media company, active in the production and distribution business.



Wahiba Bouhalais – Qatar
Al-Araby TV | Reporter / Producer

Wahiba Bouhalais has years of experience working with some of the most prominent networks in the Arab world. She is currently a reporter and producer for Al-Araby TV.

Al-Araby Al-Jadeed is a fast-growing news and current affairs website bringing you the biggest stories from the Arab world and beyond. Launched in September 2014, The New Arab operates globally with journalists on the ground in over 20 countries. Non-partisan, our editorial line is independent and objective. Our diverse and extensive pool of journalists enables us to provide astute reporting, and encourages positive debate, on many topics including politics, society, sport and culture. Although it is headquartered in London, the network has offices in several Arab and western capital cities, with its busiest and most significant one in Doha.



Bassem Breche – Lebanon
Scenario Beirut | Screenwriter / Director

Bassem Breche is an Emmy Award-winning scriptwriter and director. He started his career as an actor in Lebanon and the UK, appearing in 'Blind Flight' (2003) and 'Hamburg Cell' (2004), before moving into writing and directing. Since 2007, Breche has directed three short films: 'Both' (2007); 'Ziu' (2013); and 'Free Range' (2014), which premiered at the Cannes' Critics Week, and won awards at various film festivals. As a scriptwriter, Breche has written a number of web series and films, including 'Shankaboot' (2009 – 2011), 'Fasateen' (2012), 'The Little Drop' (2015), and 'Aleph' (2017). Baseem is the founder and director of Scenario Beirut, a collective of screenwriters based in Beirut. Currently, he is working on his feature-length film 'The Maiden's Pond'.

Scenario Beirut is a collective of screenwriters who offer thorough script consultancy services covering reading, writing, and development of scripts. We create shows and work with individual writers, directors, producers, and production companies from Lebanon and abroad.



Emilie Bujès – Switzerland
Visions du Réel / Artistic Director | visions sud est / Expert

Emilie Bujès is the artistic director of Visions du Réel, International Film Festival Nyon. She is also a member of the Image/Mouvement commission of the National Centre for Visual Arts in Paris and an expert for the Swiss fund visions sud est. She was previously an independent curator, teaching at the Geneva School of Art and Design, as well as Deputy Artistic Director of the La Roche-sur-Yon International Film Festival. She has been a curator at the Contemporary Art Centre Geneva, and contributed to the programmes of various film festivals and art institutions such as the Berlin International Film Festival, Transmediale, and CAC Vilnius.

Visions du Réel, Festival International de Cinéma Nyon, Switzerland, is one of the leading documentary film festivals in Europe. Created in 1969, the festival and its industry section offer project development, encounters, and discussions, as well as a variety of points of view and approaches of the "cinéma du réel" in competitions for feature- and medium-length, and short films as world or international premieres.



Anne Iris Cadoux – France
Eurimages | Project Manager

Anne Iris Cadoux is a project manager at the Council of Europe's Eurimages fund. She is in charge of co-productions for feature-length fiction and animation films.

Eurimages is the cultural support fund for film of the Council of Europe. Established in 1989, it promotes independent filmmaking by providing financial support to feature-length films, animation and documentary films. With an annual budget of €25 million, the fund aims to promote international co-operation across borders.



Teresa Cavina - Italy
Film Curator and Industry Consultant

Teresa Cavina is an Italian festival programmer, script analyst, and co-production expert. From 1989 to 1997, she was a programmer at the Venice International Film Festival, and in 1998, she moved to the Locarno Festival, which she co-directed from 2001 through 2005. In 2006, she launched the Rome International Film Festival, where she was Artistic Director until 2008. In Rome, she founded the New Cinema Network, an international co-production platform featuring training and support for second-time filmmakers. From 2009 to 2012, Cavina was Artistic Director of the Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels (FIPA), and she was Programming Director of the Abu Dhabi Film Festival from 2009 to 2014, where she co-created Sanad, a fund that provided support to Arab filmmakers and films relevant to Arab culture and heritage. Currently, she focuses on working closely with filmmakers, producers, script labs, and funding bodies, including Premiosolinas, the Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF) and Talents Sarajevo. Cavina is also part of the programming team for Venice Days, the independently organised section of the Venice International Film Festival.



Sata Cissokho - France
Memento Films International | Acquisitions and Festivals

Sata Cissokho joined Memento Films International in 2014 as Festivals Manager. She also handled the art-house label ARTSCOPE, whose titles include Chaitanya Tamhane's 'Court' (2014), which won the Lion of the Future and Orizzonti Awards at the Venice International Film Festival, and Gabriel Mascaro's 'Neon Bull' (2015), which took the Special Jury Prize at Venice. In 2018, she became Head of Acquisitions. She previously worked at New York-based independent distribution company Zeitgeist Films, and assisted in the Tribeca Film Festival's programming department. She has taken part in several co-production platforms, working as Industry Co-ordinator for the Paris Project, Les Arcs Co-Production Village and Paris Co-Production Village.

Memento Films International is a select sales company that tracks and represents high-profile, director-driven independent films. We commit to only eight to ten projects a year, and offer tailor-made synergies and business expertise through production, financing, and international sales.



Cara Cusumano - USA
Tribeca Film Festival | Director of Programming

Cara Cusumano is Director of Programming of the Tribeca Film Festival, where she oversees feature film and television programming. She previously programmed for the Hamptons Film Festival, including curating its Conflict and Resolution competition and Academy Award-qualifying short film programme, and has also worked with film organisations including the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, the Brooklyn Film Festival, the Independent Filmmaker Project, POV, Chicken & Egg, and the Sundance Institute. She frequently serves on festival juries and panels, including CPH:DOX, the Santiago International Film Festival, Silverdocs, DOC NYC, and Nordisk Panorama, and is a member of the nominating committees for the Cinema Eye Honors, the IDA Awards, and the Gotham Awards.

The Tribeca Film Festival is a cultural event for the new age of storytelling that brings together visionaries across industries and diverse audiences. It celebrates the power of storytelling in a variety of forms – from film to television, VR to online work, and music to gaming. As a platform for creative expression, independent filmmaking, and immersive entertainment, Tribeca champions emerging and established voices, discovers award-winning filmmakers and creators, curates innovative experiences, and introduces new technology and ideas through premieres, exhibitions, talks, and live performances.



Jamel Dallali - Qatar
Al Jazeera Documentary Channel | Manager of Production Department / Filmmaker

Jamel Dallali is a filmmaker, producer and director. He holds a Master's degree in Documentary Practice from Brunel University in England. His work has won awards at international festivals in Bahrain, Morocco, Tunisia and Iraq. In 2016, Dallali was president of the selection jury for the LatinArab Forum in Argentina, and he was also a member of the jury for FEDEO in Morocco in 2017.

Launched in 1996, Al Jazeera was the first independent news channel in the Arab world dedicated to providing comprehensive news and live debate. It challenged established narratives and gave a global audience an alternative voice – one that put the human being back at the centre of the news agenda – quickly making it one of the world's most influential news networks. Since then, it has added new channels and services, with more than 70 bureaus around the world, while maintaining the independent and pioneering spirit that defined its character.



Matthieu Darras - Italy
TorinoFilmLab | Artistic Director

Matthieu Darras is Artistic Director of TorinoFilmLab, and collaborates with various film talents initiatives such as When East Meets West's First Cut Lab, and Venice's Gap Financing Market. As a festival programmer, he notably worked for Cannes Critics' Week and as Artistic Director of the Alba and Bratislava International film Festivals. He is currently a delegate of the San Sebastian Film Festival in charge of Eastern Europe. He also writes for the French film magazine 'Positif'. Darras founded and directed NISI MASA, the European Network of Young Cinema.

TorinoFilmLab is a year-round lab that supports emerging talents from all over the world, through training, development, and funding activities. TorinoFilmLab runs several training initiatives: ScriptLab, FeatureLab, and SeriesLab. These programs reach their conclusive moment at the TorinoFilmLab Meeting Event. TorinoFilmLab provides production and distribution grants to feature films developed in its programmes.



Heino Deckert - Germany
Deckert Distribution | CEO

Heino Decker is a producer and managing director of Ma.ja.de. Filmproduktion and Ma.ja.de. Fiction based in Leipzig and Berlin, and runs Deckert Distribution for documentaries. His new company, Pluto Film, specialises in the distribution of art-house and cross-over fiction films as well as cinematic works by emerging talents. In 1995, Deckert founded d.net, an informal union of six European colleagues who joined forces to exchange ideas and initiatives. He has produced more than 100 award-winning documentaries with filmmakers like Sergei Loznitsa, Viktor Kossakowsky, and Ai Weiwei.

Deckert Distribution is a world sales company for documentaries, and stands for excellent, director-led, award-winning films. We distribute creative documentaries from around the globe for which we see potential on the international market. Deckert Distribution GmbH was established by Managing Director Heino Deckert in 2003 in Leipzig.



Olena Decock - Canada
**Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival |
Programmer, Funds and Conference**

Olena Decock is Interim Funds Manager and Industry Conference Programmer at the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival. In this role, she works with filmmakers from around the world on their projects and oversees the organisation's investment in their work and professional development. She supports a shared love of film and filmmaking by curating on-stage talks, master classes, and filmmaking workshops for both Hot Docs and the Toronto International Film Festival. Decock has a background in festival programming, which includes two years as the Programming Associate to TIFF's selections from the Middle East and Africa.

Hot Docs, North America's largest documentary festival, offers an outstanding selection of more than 200 films from Canada and around the world to audiences of more than 215,000. Hot Docs also features a documentary market, with programmes including the Hot Docs Forum, a dynamic pitching event that stimulates international co-production financing. Its Deal Maker and Distribution Rendezvous are pre-arranged one-on-one pitch-meeting programmes for projects at various stages. Additionally, the Hot Docs portfolio of production funds is now at \$8-million and has supported 224 documentary projects to date with cash grants and professional development opportunities.



Jean des Forêts - France
Petit Film | Producer

Jean des Forêts operates his own company, Petit Film, where he produces and co-produces films from a variety of directors, cinéastes, visual artists, formalists, and storytellers, working at all times in close cooperation with distributors, sales agents and festivals. Jean des Forêts is also EAVE national coordinator for France and head of studies of one of the EAVE's international workshops, Puentes.

Petit Film produces and coproduces director-driven films, French or foreign, at all times working in close cooperation with distributors and sales agents. Recent titles include 'Diane Has the Right Shape' by Fabien Gorgeart, 'Raw' by Julia Ducournau (Cannes Critic's Week 2016 - Fipresci prize), 'Aloys' by Tobias Nölle (Berlin International Film Festival Panorama 2016 - Fipresci prize). 'Kairos' by Nicolas Buenaventura is currently in post-production, and 'Unconditional' by Stéphane Demoustier has just commenced production.



Didar Domehri - France
Maneki Films - Full House | Producer

Didar Domehri is a French producer and former head of sales at Films Distribution. Since creating Maneki Films and the label Full House in 2009, she has produced 11 films including 'The Summit' and 'Paulina' by Santiago Mitre, 'Bang Gang' by Eva Husson, and 'Return to Ithaca' by Laurent Cantet. She has been a producer trainer for Cannes Critics' Week NEXT STEP, TorinoFilmLab and a member of the selection committee for the Cinéfondation Residence. She is also a group leader for EAVE and vice-president for CNC Aide aux cinémas du monde.

Maneki Films is a French production company founded in 2009 by Didar Domehri under the label Full House. Maneki Films has completed 11 features, including Santiago Mitre's 'La Cordillera' (2017), which was selected for Un Certain Regard at the Festival de Cannes; and Eva Husson's 'Girls of the Sun', and Peter Webber's 'Pickpockets', both of which are in post-production. The company also worked on Mitre's 'Paulina' (2015), which took the Grand Prix at the Cannes Critics' Week; Arab and Tarzan Nasser's 'Dégradé' (2015), another Cannes Critics' Week selection; and Laurent Cantet's Venice Days Award-winning 'Return to Ithaca' (2015).



Nelleke Driessen - The Netherlands
Nine Film | Director of Sales

Nelleke Driessen was Managing Director of Fortissimo Film Sales from 2004 to 2016, and is currently Director of Sales at Nine Films. Her knowledge and practical experience in acquisitions and distribution, and the international sales process, has taught her how important it is to create a hybrid approach to production, marketing, sales, and distribution.

Nine Film is a new world sales company that focusses on bringing quality feature films and documentaries to the international market. We are constantly on the lookout for films from upcoming talent as well as from highly acclaimed directors. We combine old and new distribution models with an emphasis on theatrical distribution.



Catherine Dussart - France
CDP | Producer

Catherine Dussart studied Economics, starting her career as a publicist before going on to produce short films, then documentaries and feature films for television and cinema. Dussart was a member of the committee of Cinémas du Monde, a member and the vice-president of the CNC's Avance sur Recettes, and a member of the Commission d'aide à la distribution. Since 1994, she has produced and co-produced feature films and documentaries through her company CDP.

CDP was founded in 1994 by Catherine Dussart. Among the company's latest productions are Rithy Panh's 'The Missing Picture', 'France Is Our Mother Land', and 'Exil'; Reine Mitri's 'In this Land Lay Mines'; F.J. Ossang's '9 Fingers'; Gurvinder Singh's 'Chauti Koot'; and Min Bahadur Bham's 'Kalo Pothi'. CDP's slate currently features nine films in production, from directors including Panh, Amos Gitai, and Peter Greenaway.



Lorenzo Esposito - Switzerland
Locarno Festival | Film Programmer

Born in Rome, Lorenzo Esposito has worked as a film programmer for the Locarno Festival's selection committee since 2013. He writes for several Italian newspapers and magazines, and has published numerous monographs and articles on cinema. Esposito is the editor of the online cinema magazine 'Film Parlato'. Since 2003, he has been working for Fuori Orario, a programme on Italian public television channel Rai Tre, curating shows about films and directors.

The Locarno Festival is an annual film festival held every August in Locarno, Switzerland. Founded in 1946, it is one of the longest-running film festivals, and is also known for being a prestigious platform for art-house films. The festival screens films in various competitive and non-competitive sections, including feature-length narrative and documentary, short, avant-garde, and retrospective programs. With 12 sections, three competitions, and 25 awards, quality and variety are a key element of the Locarno Festival.



Hosam Etani - Qatar
Al Jazeera Media Network | EP of News

Housam Itani is an executive producer at Al Jazeera Arabic Channel. He studied journalism at the Lebanese University Faculty of Information and Documentation.

Launched in 1996, Al Jazeera was the first independent news channel in the Arab world dedicated to providing comprehensive news and live debate. It challenged established narratives and gave a global audience an alternative voice – one that put the human being back at the centre of the news agenda – quickly making it one of the world's most influential news networks. Since then, it has added new channels and services, with more than 70 bureaus around the world, while maintaining the independent and pioneering spirit that defined its character.



Paul Gilbert Federbush - USA
Sundance Institute Feature Film Program | International Director

As the International Director of the Feature Film Programme at the Sundance Institute, Paul Federbush pursues exciting emerging filmmakers and screenwriters from around the world for the institute's artist development programmes. He also manages Screenwriters Labs in various regions around the world, giving emerging filmmakers and screenwriters the unique opportunity to work intensively on their feature-film screenplays with in-depth project guidance that encourages innovation and creative risktaking. Before joining Sundance, Federbush was a founding partner of the boutique specialised theatrical distribution company Red Flag Releasing, with ancillary digital distribution deals through Warner Bros. Federbush has previously served as Senior Vice President of Production and Acquisitions at Warner Bros.' specialised division Warner Independent Pictures. As one of its founding members, Federbush oversaw acquisition, development and production on Academy Award winners and nominees such as 'Slumdog Millionaire', 'March of the Penguins', and 'Paradise Now'.

Founded by Robert Redford in 1981, the Sundance Institute is a global, nonprofit cultural organisation dedicated to nurturing artistic expression in film and theatre, and to connecting brave, distinctive new work with global audiences. The institute promotes independent storytelling to unite, inform, and inspire, regardless of geo-political, social, religious, or cultural differences. The Sundance Institute is internationally recognised for its annual Sundance Film Festival and its artistic development programmes for directors, screenwriters, producers, film composers, playwrights, and theatre artists.



Nathan Fischer - France
Stray Dogs | Managing Director

A business school graduate, after stints in leading sales, production and distribution companies in France and the United States, Nathan Fischer started Stray Dogs in January 2015.

Launched in 2015, Stray Dogs is a sales agency dedicated to bringing edgy, international, director-driven films with cult potential to worldwide audiences. We aim to provide our distributors and programmers with fresh and compelling content, which will appeal to younger audiences and gain value over time.



Ricardo Giraldo - Mexico
Cinema23 / Fenix Film Awards | Director

Ricardo Giraldo has worked in film promotion since 2005. He studied contemporary classical music composition combined with audio-visual media, working briefly in museography. His musical studies took place in Mexico and the Netherlands, and his compositions and audio-visual works have been presented in various festivals and venues around the world. As Director of Cinema23 and Fénix Film Awards since 2012, Giraldo's work aims for the construction of a participative film community, mainly from Latin America, Spain, and Portugal, and to promote and give visibility to the film culture of those regions. Ricardo previously worked as Director of the Ambulante Film Festival.

Cinema23 organises the Fénix Film Awards, and promotes cinema culture from Latin America, Spain, and Portugal. It is formed by the most outstanding film professionals from the region, with more than 900 filmmakers, critics, film promoters, programmers, film festival directors, academicians, distributors, and exhibitors. The Fénix Film Awards held its fourth edition in December 2017, which was broadcast live on TV to more than 50 countries.



Natalia Gozdzik - Germany
Razor Film | Producer

Natalia Gozdzik was born in Poland, where she obtained a Master of Law degree, focusing on Polish and international intellectual property law. After her studies, she was an assistant at Eurimages, a Strasbourg-based support fund for European co-productions. She then moved to Berlin, where she began to work for Rohfilm, where she worked as an assistant producer, unit manager, and line producer. In 2013–2014, she attended Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris, a master class for young European film producers. Since August 2016, she has worked for Razor Film in Berlin.

Founded in 2002 by Gerhard Meixner and Roman Paul, Razor Film produces national and international feature films from art-house to cross-over, focusing on new talent and high quality. To date, Razor's productions have won two Golden Globes, were twice nominated for Academy Awards, and have had their premieres and won awards at major festivals worldwide.



Reem Haddad - Qatar
Al Jazeera Media Network | Senior Producer, Commissioning Editor

Reem Haddad is the Commissioning Editor for 'Witness', Al Jazeera English's flagship documentary strand, where she covers the Middle East and Africa. Over the last 10 years, she has produced various Al Jazeera programmes such as 'Everywoman', an award-winning magazine show that featured women's stories from around the world. She helped launch the innovative talk show 'The Cafe', and produced a number of the episodes. She has also directed and produced documentaries including one on Tawakkol Karman, the Nobel Peace Laureate from Yemen. Haddad was Senior Producer and Director of Al Jazeera's web documentary 'Life on Hold'.

Launched in 1996, Al Jazeera was the first independent news channel in the Arab world dedicated to providing comprehensive news and live debate. It challenged established narratives and gave a global audience an alternative voice – one that put the human being back at the centre of the news agenda – quickly making it one of the world's most influential news networks. Since then, it has added new channels and services, with more than 70 bureaus around the world, while maintaining the independent and pioneering spirit that defined its character.



Tala Hadid - Morocco
Kairos Films | Director

Tala Hadid's work has screened at festivals around the world, and has received numerous awards, including an Academy Award. In 2015, Hadid's 'House in the Fields' was selected to screen as a work-in-progress at the Venice International Film Festival, where it was awarded two prizes. The film was also the recipient of the Commune di Milano prize for Best Feature Film at the 2017 FCAAL Milano Film Festival, the prize for Best Documentary Film at the Hong Kong International Film Festival, and the 2017 John Marshall Award in the United States.

Founded by Tala Hadid, Kairos Films is dedicated to developing, producing and marketing original, artistically rigorous, innovative, and socially conscious films, in Morocco and internationally. The company's first film, 'House in the Fields', was awarded various post-production prizes at the Final Cut in Venice workshop at the Venice Biennale. Besides its own productions, the company will also develop a range of high-quality film, visual art, and theatre productions in Morocco, in collaboration with both film professionals and a wide range of cultural producers.



Teresa Hoefert de Turegano - Germany
Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH | Funding Advisor

Teresa Hoefert de Turégano is an advisor to the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg for international co-productions, documentary, and experimental projects. She also manages various international programmes at the Medienboard. Before that, she taught cinema at the University of Lausanne, and worked for Eurimages and the European Audiovisual Observatory at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. She also works as a consultant for the Creative Europe Media Programme and UNESCO, among others. She has published a book and numerous articles related to film, politics, and culture.

The Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg was established in 2004 as the central regional agency for film funding and media development in Berlin and Brandenburg. With an annual budget of approximately 26 million for film funding, the Medienboard supports national and international film productions and has both cultural and economic objectives.



Alexis Hofmann - France
BAC Films | Head of Acquisitions

Alexis Hofmann graduated from La Fémis. After working for the Centre national de la cinématographie (CNC), he joined Haut et Court, and then Memento Films, working in the programming and marketing departments for both. He joined Bac Films in 2006 as a programmer, later becoming Marketing Project Manager. Hofmann has overseen acquisitions for Bac Films since 2014.

Bac Films is active in theatrical distribution, TV sales, production, international co-production, and global sales. For over 30 years, Bac has been among France's top independent distributors, with more than 500 films, nine of which have won the Palme d'Or at the Festival de Cannes.



Samer Jaber - Qatar
Qatar Television | Head of Production

Samer Jaber has directed a variety of drama series and produced more than 100 television programmes ranging from documentary to live to pre-recorded. He completed his education at the London Film Academy. He has worked at several stations including Al Jazeera Kids, Arab Radio and Television, and AlRayyan, and is now Head of Production at Qatar TV.

Qatar Television is a Qatar Government-owned public service national television channel in Qatar that is owned and run by Qatar General Broadcasting and Television Corporation. The channel broadcasts various programmes including news, economical bulletins, documentaries, religious programmes, and entertainment. Launched in 1970, QTV was the first television network to produce and transmit its own programmes in the country. In 1974, it began transmitting colour broadcasts. It had a monopoly on television audience until 1993, when Qatar Cablevision began broadcasting satellite channels. Despite the broadening of television offerings, Qatar TV remains popular among locals.



Bilal Hoosein - Qatar
Al Jazeera English Channel | Director of Programmes

Bilal Hoosein began his career in television just over a decade ago as a professional news cameraman and video-editor covering the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Based in South Africa, he travelled extensively on the African continent working as a freelance producer and reporter. In 2005, he started his own television production company with a focus on documentary production, sales, and acquisitions for the international broadcast market. He joined the Al Jazeera English Channel in 2010 as Head of Documentary Acquisitions, and now works there as Executive Producer of Acquisitions.

Al Jazeera English is an international news channel with more than 60 bureaus around the world that span six continents. Since its establishment in 2006, it has grown in reach and popularity due to its global coverage from under-reported regions. The channel currently broadcasts to more than 250 million households across 130 countries.



Annemarie Jacir - Palestine
Philistine Films | Director / Writer / Producer

Annemarie Jacir has had two films premiere at the Festival de Cannes, and one at each of the Berlin and Venice International Film Festivals. Her 'Like Twenty Impossibles' was the first Arab short film to be an official selection in Cannes, and it broke ground as a finalist for the Academy Awards. Her first feature, 'Salt of this Sea', was Palestine's entry to the Academy Awards in 2008, won the FIPRESCI Prize, and was named Best Film in at the Sguardi Altrove Film Festival in Milan and the Traverse City Film Festival. 'When I Saw You' was named Best Asian Film at the Berlinale, and Best Film at film festivals in Abu Dhabi; Amiens, France; Olympia, Washington; and Phoenix, Arizona. Her latest film, 'Wajib', won the Best Film prize at festivals in Amiens, Dubai, Mar del Plata, and Kerala.

Philistine Films is an independent production and services company founded in 1997 with offices in Jordan and Palestine. Philistine Films was created to support new voices, and to offer a platform for the emerging independent Arab film scene. We focus on producing and co-producing feature-length narrative and documentary films, and finding unconventional stories and fresh narratives. We also offer production services. We hope to challenge the creative, financial, and practical obstacles confronting filmmakers working outside the mainstream.



Wouter Jansen - The Netherlands
Some Shorts | Distribution / Festivals and Markets

Wouter Jansen holds a Master's degree in Cultural Policy and Patronage. He started working as the head of the program department of the Go Short - International Short Film Festival Nijmegen in 2009. In his current position, he is in charge of all competition programmes. In 2013, he started the festival strategy and distribution company Some Shorts, which specialises in visually powerful and daring short and feature-length films. With Some Shorts, Jansen tries to support upcoming talented filmmakers and follows their work throughout their career.

Some Shorts is a sales and festival strategy and distribution company specialising in visually powerful and daring films, many of which have premiered at prestigious festivals and won numerous awards. We work with a small catalogue to ensure the potential of each film is fully realised.



Jon Kamen - USA
RadicalMedia | Chairman & CEO

Jon Kamen's artistic vision has solidified RadicalMedia's position as one of the leading generators of award-winning film and television productions worldwide. RadicalMedia's work includes the Academy Award-winning 'The Fog of War', the Oscar-nominated and Emmy Award-winning 'What Happened, Miss Simone?', the Oscar-nominated 'Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory', the Emmy-winning 'Under African Skies', 'Keith Richards: Under the Influence', 'Whitey: The US vs. James J. Bulger', 'Hamilton's America', 'Cold Blooded: The Clutter Family Murders', and 'My Next Guest Needs No Introduction with David Letterman'.

We are not just a production company. We are not an advertising agency. Nor are we a television studio. Or a technology incubator. We simply make things. And help others make things. Because, at our very core, we are collaborators. We are a community of artists, directors, producers, coders, thinkers, makers, and doers who try to embrace the future. We don't specialise in one thing, because a good idea can be anything. But we think we've made a few beautiful things so far. And what excites us the most is what we have yet to make.



Thanassis Karathanos - Germany
Twenty Twenty Vision / Pallas Film GmbH | Producer

Thanassis Karathanos graduated with a degree in Political and Economic Sciences from the University Panteion in Athens. In 1998, he founded the film production company Twenty Twenty Vision in Berlin and in 2003 the company Pallas Film in Halle, Germany. He is a member of the European Film Academy and the German Film Academy.

Since their founding, Twenty Twenty Vision and Pallas Film have continuously produced award-winning feature films and documentaries including Aktan Arym Kubat's 'Centaur', Olivier Assayas's 'Clouds of Sils Maria', Bruno Dumont's 'Ma Lout', Sergey Dvortsevov's 'Tulpan', Sam Garbarski's 'Irina Palm', Rahul Jain's 'Machines', Naomi Kawase's 'An', Mahmoud Al Massad's 'Blessed Benefit', Rafi Pitts's 'Soy Nero' and 'The Hunter', Bohdan Slama's 'Something Like Happiness', Filippos Tsitos's 'My Sweet Home', and Paul Verhoeven's 'Elle'.



Mouhamad Keblawi - Sweden
Malmö Arab Film Festival | Festival Manager

Mouhamad Keblawi is Malmö Arab Film Festival's originator, manager, and artistic director. Keblawi has an extensive background in television production, and has worked as a project manager, director, and producer of numerous films and television series.

Malmö Arab Film Festival is the largest film festival with a focus on Arab cinema in Europe. The festival is unique in the way it promotes cultural exchange, as a venue for diversity and for Arab cinema in Sweden and Europe, as well as a platform for co-operation between the Nordic countries and the Arab world in the area of film. An essential part of the festival is its film industry platform, the MAFF Market Forum - MMF, whose goal is to bring together producers, financiers, and film professionals from Scandinavia and the Arab world.



Ali Al Khalaf - Qatar
Qatar Today TV | General Manager

Ali Al Khalaf is the general manager of Qatar Today TV, and a prominent actor and host who appears on numerous national television shows. He is also a director and producer of short films.

Qatar Today TV is a Qatari channel that covers a wide range of national events and occasions for all ages. It also produces numerous programmes covering a variety of topics.



Alice Kharoubi - France
Marché du Film, Festival de Cannes | Screening Department

After studying Communications in France and the United States, Alice Kharoubi began to collaborate with the Festival de Cannes, working for the Marché du Film. She has been Head of Cannes Court Métrage, an entity dedicated to short films developed by the festival, for 10 years. She was the short film programmer for the Abu Dhabi Film Festival since its first edition, and was the programmer for Festival Tous Écrans in Geneva. She has now returned to working with the screenings department at the Marché du Film. Kharoubi sits on several short film selection committees, and has participated as a juror at festivals worldwide.

Every year in May, Cannes becomes the largest trade hub for the film industry. The Marché du Film is a vital meeting point for more than 12,400 industry professionals, including 3,900 producers, 3,300 buyers and distributors, and 1,000 festival programmers – a place to meet peers from around the world, and boost business opportunities.



Rabih El-Khoury - Germany
Film Prize of the Robert Bosch Stiftung | Curator

Rabih El-Khoury holds a BA in Journalism from the Lebanese American University in Beirut, and has a Master's degree in Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship from Goldsmiths, University of London. Since its inception in 2006, he has been working with Metropolis Cinema, the sole art-house cinema in Lebanon, and is now a member of its administrative board. He is currently Programme Manager of Talents Beirut, holds the Head of Programming position at Beirut Cinema Days, is a programmer for Alfilm – the Arab Film Festival in Berlin, and is a curator of the Film Prize of the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

The Film Prize of the Robert Bosch Stiftung is a competition and year-long training programme offering tailor-made workshops to young emerging talents from Germany and the Arab world. Each year, it awards three prizes for international co-operation between young German and Arab filmmakers to realize a joint film project. The prizes, each worth up to €60,000, are awarded in the categories of short animation, short fiction and short or feature-length documentary. The aim is to provide first international co-producing experience and support in the film business, as well as to foster intercultural exchange.



Kim Young-woo - South Korea
Busan International Film Festival | Programmer

Kim Young-woo studied at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, in Visual Arts with a major in television. He has worked in programming for several film festivals in South Korea. Since 2014, he has worked for the Busan International Film Festival, where he is in charge of Asian cinema.

The Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) has become not only Asia's leading film event but also a bridge between South Korea, Asia, and the world beyond. Given the scale and scope of the Festival's initiatives and offerings, BIFF could be best described as a unique collection of "islands" (its film programme, the Asian Film Market, the Asian Cinema Fund, the Asian Film Academy, et al.) clustered around the Busan Cinema Centre megastructure.



Smriti Kiran - India
Mumbai Film Festival | Creative Director

A journalist, creative director, producer, and author, Smriti Kiran has been part of the entertainment industry for the last two decades. Her extensive experience in television programming took shape at multiple networks, including NDTV, Star Movies, Star News, Star Plus, Star World, and Zee TV. An avid believer in the power of narrative, she wrote the screenplay book of the record-breaking film '3 Idiots' and produced the screenplay books of auteur extraordinaire Guru Dutt. Kiran is at present Creative Head of the television production house Cherry Tree Productions, which produces Film Companion, and Creative Director of the Mumbai Film Festival.

The Mumbai Film Festival is an inclusive movie feast. We showcase the latest cutting-edge, independent cinema - art-house fare alongside genre movies from Bollywood and Hollywood and international cult movies. We offer the best of world cinema to the people of Mumbai, and we offer the best of Indian cinema to the world. The festival is run by the Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI), a non-profit trust. Over the last 19 years, MAMI has consistently shaped the cinematic landscape of India.



Adel Ksiksi - Qatar
Al Jazeera Media Network | Manager of Planning and Scheduling

Adel Ksiksi joined the Al Jazeera Documentary Channel in 2010. As Manager of Programming, he is responsible for developing plans for programme strands and preparing the programming grid on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. He also oversees the global planning effort with regards to special events, series, and long- and short-term programmes, planning to increase viewership ratings.

At Al Jazeera Documentary, we tell the stories that deserve to be told. Real-life portraits of the people and places that make up our world— raising awareness and inspiring millions of people across the Middle East. Our 24-hour programming is diversified and of the highest quality. It encourages innovative thinking in Arabs worldwide, and inspires future generations of great filmmakers. We show documentaries whether political, historical, social, or cultural; our mission is to make brilliant films.



Meshaal Al Kubaisi - Qatar
Golden Screen Production | General Manager

Meshaal Al Kubaisi has 20 years' experience in directing, documentaries, programme production, and participation in local and international film festivals. He is also a jury member of the Al Jazeera Documentary Film Festival, and the Doha Film Institute's Made in Qatar film programme.



Pierre-Alexandre Labelle - USA
Under the Milky Way | Co-Founder

Originally from Canada, Pierre-Alexandre Labelle studied at McGill University in Montreal and moved to France to work as a derivatives trader for Cargill. In 2005, he became interested in film distribution, and launched one of the first independent VoD platforms in France. In 2010, he co-founded Under the Milky Way, one of the leading international digital distributors of films, where he is primarily responsible for international business development. He has been based in New York City since 2011.

Under the Milky Way is an international company dedicated to digital film distribution and marketing. Its main activities consist of international rights aggregation and distribution on transactional Video on Demand (TVoD) platforms. Under the Milky Way works with a large number of Global VoD Platforms, such as Amazon, Google, Microsoft, and Netflix, and was also awarded the global iTunes "preferred aggregator" status in 2011. The company is fully operational in more than 100 territories and serves all kinds of rights-holders (producers, distributors, and sales agents) out of 13 regional offices in Asia, Europe, and North America.



Jason Kliot - USA
Open City Films | Founder

Jason Kliot is the co-founder, along with Joana Vicente, of Open City Films and the pioneering digital production company Blow Up Pictures. Along with Vicente, Marc Cuban and Todd Wagner, Kliot founded HDNet Films, the first HD Production and Distribution Studio in the United States. An acknowledged expert in multi-platform production and distribution, Kliot has consulted and worked with Hearst, Condé Nast, Time, Inc., HBO and 'The Wall Street Journal'. He is a Distinguished Lecturer at Brooklyn Colleges Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, and has been a professor at New York University and Columbia University.

Open City Films is a New York-based production company dedicated to the production of high-quality independent films that are both commercial and critical successes. Throughout their prolific careers, founders Jason Kliot and Joana Vicente have produced pioneering works by first-time filmmakers and have championed the distinctive visions of such established directors as Miguel Arteta, Brian De Palma, Alex Gibney, Hal Hartley, Nicole Holofcener, Jim Jarmusch, Amir Naderi, Steven Soderbergh, and Todd Solondz. Open City Films have won awards at festivals in Berlin, Cannes, and Sundance, as well as from the Gothams and the Independent Spirit Awards, among others.



Brigitte Lacombe - USA
Lacombe, Inc. | Photographer

Award-winning French photographer Brigitte Lacombe has been capturing portraits for over 30 years, as well as working as a photographer on film sets for iconic directors such as Lynne Ramsay, Spike Jonze, Martin Scorsese, and Steven Spielberg. Since 2009, she has been working on a project for the Doha Film Institute – a collection of more than 350 portraits of international filmmakers and actors called 'I Am Film'. In 2012, Qatar Museums commissioned Lacombe for the project 'HEY'YA: Arab Women in Sport', which was shown at the 2012 London Olympics and is still being exhibited around the world.



Marian Lacombe - France
Lacombe, Inc. | Filmmaker | janet@briggittelacombe.com

Marian Lacombe was raised in France and studied in New York. For the past 20 years, she has worked as a reporter, anchorwoman, and editor-in-chief on daily news and magazine shows for the private French television channel M6 in Paris. She opened and ran its correspondent headquarters in Lyon and Marseilles, and is now an independent documentary filmmaker.



Fiona Lawson Baker - Qatar
Al Jazeera English | Executive Producer

Fiona is the Executive Producer of the 'Witness' programme, the flagship observational documentary strand on Al Jazeera English. Fiona has more than 15 years' experience in global factual television in Asia, Australia and the UK. She started her broadcast career at BBC London. As an Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) graduate, she worked for SBS television in production, commissioning, and acquisitions. Since 2008, she has worked in Malaysia and Singapore, overseeing productions for Al Jazeera English, ZDF, and the Crime & Investigation, Discovery, and History Channels.

Al Jazeera English is a 24-hour English-language international news and current affairs channel with a reputation for fearless reporting from the heart of the story. Its award-winning programming takes viewers inside the key stories to provide the grassroots perspectives that reveal the human face of world news. It transmits to more than 310 million households in more than 130 countries on six continents.



Christophe Leparc - France
Directors' Fortnight, Festival de Cannes / Managing Director | Cinemed / Director

Christophe Leparc is the Managing Director of the Directors' Fortnight at the Festival de Cannes, and Director of Cinemed, Mediterranean Film Festival of Montpellier, France. He has been working in the film industry since 1990, specialising in the organisation and programming of film festivals. Leparc worked as Programme Manager for the Cannes Critics' Week between 2000 and 2008. Since 2007, he has been Managing Director of the Directors' Fortnight, another sidebar of the Festival de Cannes.

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



Ingrid Lill Høgtun - Norway
Barentsfilmm | Producer

Among other films, Ingrid Lill Høgtun has co-produced Jerzy Skolimowski's 'Essential Killing' (2010), the winner of numerous awards worldwide, including the Special Jury Prize and the Best Actor award at the Venice International Film Festival. She was Executive Producer for the TV series 'Hellfjord', and Senior Producer for the Tommy Wirkola's feature 'Dead Snow'. She co-produced Hala Elkoussy's 'Cactus Flower' (2017), which was selected for the International Film Festival Rotterdam's Bright Future competition, and M. Siam's documentary 'Amal', which opened the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam in 2017. Lill Høgtun is currently co-producing the Ukrainian feature 'Luxembourg' by award-winning director Myroslav Slaboshpytskiy, and the Sudanese-Egyptian feature 'You Will Die at Twenty' by Amjad Abu Alala.

Barentsfilmm AS was established in Norway in 1994. The company focuses mainly on art-house films and international co-productions. Among others, Barentsfilmm has produced most of the acclaimed Norwegian director Knut Erik Jensen's features, including the festival and box-office hit 'Cool and Crazy'. Occasionally, the company ventures into mainstream projects and has co-produced films such as Tommy Wirkola's 'Dead Snow' and is currently developing the magical family feature 'Phoenix'. In 2017 the company co-produced the Egyptian-Lebanese theatrical documentary 'Amal' by M. Siam, selected as the opening film of the International Documentary Festival Amsterdam's competition section.



Funa Maduka - USA
Netflix Inc. | Content Acquisition

Funa Maduka is a global content acquisitions executive for film at Netflix Inc., focusing primarily on content from Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Prior to her post at Netflix, she worked at Participant Media, supervising campaigns around original content for Pivot. She has held leadership and strategic positions at McKinsey and Company, the Oprah Winfrey Foundation, the Clinton Foundation, and Goldman Sachs. She holds a BA in History from Cornell University and a Masters in Business Administration from the Harvard Business School.

Netflix is the world's leading internet television network with more than 75 million members in more than 190 countries, enjoying over 125 million hours of films and television shows per day, including original series, documentaries and feature films. Members can watch as much as they want, anytime, anywhere, on nearly any internet-connected screen. Members can play, pause, and resume watching, all without commercials or commitments.



Thomas Mai - Australia
Smart Film Income | Founder

Thomas Mai has worked in the film industry for more than 20 years and is currently on track to become a Doctor in Creative Industries at the University of Queensland. He has produced eight feature-length films, and started and runs Lars von Trier's sales company, selling hundreds of films that have won Academy Awards and prizes at film festivals in Berlin, Cannes, and Sundance, among others. Recently, Mai has become a crowd-funding pioneer, having run more than 22 campaigns and raising almost \$1 million for first-time filmmakers.

Smart Film Income empowers filmmakers with innovative information through podcasts, tutorials, videos, and coaching. The company was founded in 2014, and has helped many filmmakers reach their budgeting and audience goals.



Jovan Marjanović - Bosnia and Herzegovina
Sarajevo Film Festival | Head of Industry

Jovan Marjanović has been involved in the Sarajevo Film Festival since 1999, first as a technician and programme coordinator and later as Manager of CineLink. He is now on the festival's Executive Board as Head of Industry. Marjanović has produced a number of award-winning documentaries, shorts and feature films, and consults for several international film institutions. He was on the Board of Management of the Bosnian National Film Fund from 2011, and headed it from 2014 to 2016. He has served as the National Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Eurimages since 2006.

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



Aranka Matits - Germany
Featurette | Acquisitions and Co-Productions

As the founder of boutique agency Featurette, Aranka Matits advises on acquisitions, co-productions, and strategic planning. Current and past clients include a roster of theatrical distributors, international sales agents, on-demand platforms, and VOD aggregators, as well as a multinational broadcaster. In addition, she teaches workshops on sales, distribution, and project marketing around the globe. She is also a regular speaker at events hosted by EAVE, the Producers Network or ACE Producers. She regularly serves on project development and festival juries, and is a voting member of the European Film Academy.

Featurette advises on acquisitions, co-productions, and strategic planning. Clients include a roster of theatrical distributors in the Benelux countries, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Portugal, and the UK; and platforms and aggregators, as well as a multinational broadcaster. Recent acquisitions include 'Custody,' 'The Florida Project,' 'Foxtrot', 'God's Own Country', 'I Am Not a Witch', 'On Body and Soul', 'Petit Payson', and 'Una Mujer Fantástica'.



Tara Maurel - France
CNC | Project Manager, International Cooperation, Co-Production & Bilateral Funds

After Master's studies in Law and International Relations, Tara Maurel experienced the French diplomatic and cultural network in Myanmar and China before joining the international policy unit of the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée in 2016. She is now a project manager in charge of co-production, co-operation, and the Francophonie.

The Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée is a publicly administered French film agency. Its primary missions are regulation; support for the film, broadcast, video, multimedia, and technical industries; the promotion of film and television for distribution to all audiences; and the preservation and development of film heritage.



Pierre Menahem - France
Still Moving | Producer, Head of Sales

Pierre Menahem is a Paris-based film executive with 20 years of experience in the industry. He worked at Celluloid Dreams as director of sales and acquisitions for 10 years before founding Scalpel Films. During this period, he served as a jury member at several festivals and participated in numerous workshops on international sales and co-productions. In 2011, he created a sales division in the production company MPM Film. He founded the international production and sales company Still Moving with Juliette Lepoutre in 2015.

Still Moving is a Paris-based production and sales company dedicated to emerging directors and challenging art-house films from all over the world. The company's recent titles from the MENA region include Omar El Zohairy's 'Feathers of a Father', Ala Eddine Slim's 'Tlameess' and 'The Last of Us', and Tamer El Said's 'In the Last Days of the City'.



Benjamin Mirguet - France
Mômerade | Editor

Benjamin Mirguet trained as a building engineer and a finance specialist before directing the short film 'The Dead Hear Not the Bells' in 2006. From 2010 to 2011, he programmed the Directors' Fortnight at the Festival de Cannes, with Frederic Boyer. As an editor, he has worked on films by Niles Atallah, Carlos Reygadas, Ben Rivers, and Spiros Stathoulopoulos, as well as with French artist Philippe Parreno for his exhibition at the Tate Modern in 2017. Together with Matthieu Darras, Mirguet runs the First Cut Lab, a workshop that focusses on editing consulting in Trieste.

Mômerade is a Paris-based film company founded by Lucie Kalmar, a producer and consultant, in 2005. The company cares for cinematic works, both long and short, meant for festivals, theatres, galleries, or the world wide web. We dedicate ourselves to the films we love and help them to be financed, shot, edited, heard, sold, shown, and seen.



Luke William Moody - UK
Sheffield Doc/Fest | Director of Programming

Luke Moody leads the curation of the film programme at Sheffield Doc/Fest across short and long-form documentary films and events. Previously, he was Head of Film at Doc Society, where he commissioned long-form documentary cinema across six international film funds from development to completion, including the Academy Award-winning 'Citizenfour', and supporting the development of titles such as 'Black Mother', 'Bisbee 17', 'Shirkers', and the CPH:Forum project 'Riotville'. He also co-founded and curated the creative documentary festival Frame of Representation at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), London.

Sheffield Doc/Fest is a world leading and the UK's premier documentary festival, celebrating the art and business of documentary and all non-fiction storytelling. Operating in the heart of the UK, we're a hub for all documentary and non-fiction content across all platforms, from feature-length to shorts, and including interactive, augmented reality, and virtual reality projects.



Bob Moore - Canada
EyeSteelFilm | Co-President, Creative Producer

Bob Moore is Co-President and Creative Producer at EyeSteelFilm in Montreal, where he has produced more than 25 feature documentaries since 2008. Along with his talented partners and collaborators, he has been the recipient of more than 100 international awards, including Canadian Screen Awards, Emmys, Golden Horses, and festival grand jury prizes. Moore also oversees EyeSteelFilm's dedicated theatrical distribution company and Creative Reality Lab, which explores meaningful interactive storytelling. He was the subject of a Producer's Spotlight at the Marché du Film at the Festival de Cannes in 2017, regularly consults with national and international film organisations, and enjoys working with and mentoring emerging filmmakers.

EyeSteelFilm is a film and interactive media company dedicated to using cinematic expression as a catalyst for social and political change. It was created to develop cinema that empowers people who are ignored by mainstream media, a mandate that has taken the company to explore projects, people, and ideas around the world.



Hania Mroué - Lebanon
Metropolis Art Cinema / MC Distribution | Director

Hania Mroué is Founder and Director of Metropolis Art Cinema, the first art-house cinema in Lebanon. Opened in 2006, Metropolis aims to support regional and international productions by presenting audiences with alternative cinema, including recent independent titles, cult films, creative documentaries, and experimental video. In 2009, Mroué launched MC Distribution; a distribution company specialising in independent Arab titles. She is also a founding member of Beirut DC, which aims to produce and promote independent Arab cinema, and create a network for communication and collaboration among Arab filmmakers.

Metropolis Art Cinema is an art-house cinema that opened in Beirut 2006. Its two-screen theatre is dedicated to auteur films from all over the world, including classics of all eras and genres, and recent independent Arab productions. It is also a hub for the more than 20,000 children who attend its year-round screenings and activities. MC Distribution handles the distribution activities of Metropolis. Its catalogue includes around 75 Arab films and internationally acclaimed titles such as 'Beauty and the Dogs', 'Ghost Hunting', 'Mahbas', 'Mommy', 'Mustang', and 'A Separation'.



Wendi Murdoch - USA
The Good Life | Executive Producer

Wendi Murdoch made her debut as a producer with 'Snow Flower and the Secret Fan'. Based on the 2005 best-selling novel of the same name, this historical drama won the Golden Angel Award at the Chinese American Film Festival. Murdoch was a producer of the art documentary 'Sky Ladder: The Art of Cai Guo-Qiang' (2016), which was selected for the London Film and Sundance Film Festivals.



Jan Naszewski - Poland
New Europe Film Sales | CEO

Jan Naszewski is the owner of the Warsaw-based boutique world sales company New Europe Film Sales. His company sold the Icelandic 'RAMS' (Prix UCR 2015, sold to over 50 countries), alongside many acclaimed debuts, and animated and short films (10 Academy Award shortlisted, including the 2017 winner 'Sing' and shorts by Ruben Östlund). Naszewski regularly acts as an expert for festivals, the European Film Academy, Creative Europe, and EAVE.

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



Giona Antonio Nazzaro - Italy
Venice International Critics' Week | General Delegate

Giona A. Nazzaro was born in Zurich and is a general delegate of the Venice International Film Festival Critics' Week, and programmer and curator for Visions du Réel. He is also a member on the board of the Union of Italian Film Critics (SNCCI). He was a member of the selection committee for the Torino Film Festival, programmer for the Festival dei Popoli in Florence, and works for the Locarno Festival. Nazzaro has also worked for the selection committee of the Rome International Film Festival.

The Venice International Film Critics' Week takes place during the Venice International Film Festival and is the longest-running sidebar of the festival, with 31 editions to date. Its primary goal is to showcase challenging films and new directors. All genres are accepted, and renowned directors such as Olivier Assayas, Pedro Costa, Harmony Korine, Mike Leigh, Kevin Reynolds, and many others have been discovered during this week.



Molly O'Keefe - USA
Tribeca Film Institute | Senior Director, Artist Programmes

Molly O'Keefe is Senior Director of Artist Programmes at the Tribeca Film Institute (TFI). Prior to joining TFI, Molly was Director of Development and Production at Sundance Productions, where she developed series for CNN, EPIX, FX, HBO, Ovation, Paramount, and Sony. Before returning to New York City, she worked for Ben Stiller's Los Angeles-based Red Hour Films, and produced Roger Kumble's critically acclaimed play 'Girls Talk' starring Brooke Shields and Constance Zimmer in West Hollywood. She is a graduate of Emerson College and happy to be back in her native New York.

Tribeca Film Institute elevates storytellers of all dimensions of diversity in order to advance racial, gender, and economic equity within the film and media landscape. It believes that, through thoughtful engagement, multiple viewpoints will build a more informed, inspired, and inclusive society. Each year, it identifies a diverse group of exceptional filmmakers and media artists, then empowers them with funding and resources to realise their stories fully and connect with audiences. Changing who is telling the story.



Raymond Phathanavirangoon - Thailand
Southeast Asia Fiction Film Lab | Executive Director

Raymond Phathanavirangoon is a producer and festival programmer who serves as Executive Director of the Southeast Asia Fiction Film Lab (SEAFIC). Previously, he has been a programmer for the Toronto International Film Festival as well as Programme Consultant for the Hong Kong International Film Festival and the Cannes Critics' Week, and was formerly Director of Marketing and Special Projects (Acquisitions) for Fortissimo Films. Phathanavirangoon acted as a reading committee member for the Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum, and has been a juror at festivals in Berlin, Sarajevo, Seattle, and Vladivostok. His producing credits include Boo Junfeng's 'Apprentice' and Pen-ek Ratanarung's 'Samui Song'.

The Southeast Asia Fiction Film Lab (SEAFIC) is a pioneering script lab created for Southeast Asian filmmakers to strengthen the quality of feature-length fiction films from the region. Each year SEAFIC invites first-, second- and third-time filmmakers to work with script consultants and international experts for eight months to develop their projects. The lab consists of three sessions, the first two of which take place in Chiang Mai, and the final session, SEAFIC Open House, in Bangkok. The parallel producers' lab, SEAFICxPAS, is run jointly with Festival des 3 Continents' Produire au Sud.



Anick Poirier - Canada
Seville International | SVP, International Sales

Anick Poirier and her team at Seville International, Entertainment One's boutique film sales outfit, represent a portfolio of award-winning independent films from around the world. Their work includes Xavier Dolan's 'The Death and Life of John F. Donovan', 'Juste la fin du Monde', which won the Grand Prix at the Festival de Cannes, and 'Mommy', which took the Jury Prize at Cannes; the critically acclaimed 'The Babadook', and Academy Award-nominated director Hany Abu Assad's 'The Idol'. Poirier joined the company in 2008, when eOne acquired Les Films Séville, where she had served as VP International Sales since 2002. Previously, she held senior sales roles at Cinar Corporation and Buena Vista Home Entertainment Canada.

Seville International is a versatile, full-service sales agent that licenses theatrical feature films to distributors worldwide. It represents some of the world's best producers and directors with a focus on strong independent films with crossover potential, and art-house films with award pedigree from Quebec, Canada and around the globe.



Mirsad Purivatra - Bosnia and Herzegovina
Sarajevo Film Festival | Festival Director

Mirsad Purivatra is the founder and director of the Sarajevo Film Festival, and the producer or co-producer of films, such as Danis Tanović's 'Cirkus Columbia', Nuri Bilge Ceylan's 'Once Upon a Time in Anatolia', and Cristi Puiu's 'Sieranevada'. He is also a professor at the Sarajevo Academy of Performing Arts, and the recipient of numerous national and international awards and recognitions, including the Chevalier de l'ordre des arts et des lettres from the Republic of France.

Obala Art Centar was founded in 1984 with the purpose of developing and promoting cultural, artistic and educational activities. In 1995, Obala initiated the Sarajevo Film Festival with the aim of helping to reconstruct civil society and retain the cosmopolitan spirit of the city. Today, the Sarajevo Film Festival is the leading film festival in the region, recognised by both film professionals and a wider audience.



Jean-Pierre Rehm - France
FIDMarseille | General Director

Jean-Pierre Rehm teaches history and the theory of art and film in various art schools, while also curating exhibitions for the French Ministry of Culture. He writes regularly for exhibition catalogues, on artists and filmmakers including William Eggleston, Mark Lewis, Roee Rosen, and Tsai Ming-liang. Since 2001, he has been Director of FIDMarseille, the International Film Festival of Marseille.

FIDMarseille is an international competitive film festival. Rooted in documentary practice, it also includes narrative features and shorts, and is primarily open to contemporary cinema. Eight years ago, the festival took the decisive step of welcoming in the official selection of fiction films alongside documentaries. In 2016, FIDMarseille presented about 150 films, for the most part, these were films making their world or international premieres. FIDLab is the FIDMarseille international co-production platform for projects at every stage of production. Ten projects are selected for two days of presentations, workshops, one-to-one meetings, and discussion panels.



Ghassan Salhab - Lebanon
Filmmaker

Ghassan Salhab is a Lebanese screenwriter and film director. He collaborates on various projects and teaches film in Lebanon. He has directed six feature films: 'Beyrouth fantôme' (1998); 'Terra incognita' (2002); 'The Last Man' (2006); '1958' (2009); 'The Mountain' (2011); and 'The Valley' (2014). He has also directed numerous "film-essays" including 'Le voyage immobile', co-directed with M.Soueid, 'Chinese ink', (Posthumous), 'Narcisse Perdu', 'My living body My dead body', and 'La Rose de personne'. In 2016, he was a DAAD (Berlin) guest-resident. He has also published articles in various magazines, and a book, 'Fragments du Livre du naufrage'.



Georges Schoucair
About Productions | CEO

A Lebanese producer and the CEO of About Productions, Georges Schoucair has developed and produced critically acclaimed films and has contributed to the establishment of an attractive and globally acknowledged environment for film investments in Lebanon and to the development of Lebanese cinema. In parallel with About Productions, Schoucair founded MC Distribution, a distribution company that releases Arab and international films in the Middle East, and has since 2008 been the acting vice-president of Metropolis, an art-house cinema venture in Beirut. His most recent endeavour is Schortcut Films, whose objective is to identify and invest in high-quality international independent films.

About Productions produces feature films and documentaries with a distinctly Arab voice, expressing the identity of the region. Since 1998, the company has managed to bring together an important network of Arab and Lebanese artists, and produced numerous award-winning films. About Productions has a strong partnership with MC Distribution, a company dedicated to promoting new films from the Middle East along with direct and priority access to the sole art-house theatre in Lebanon, Metropolis Cinema. The company's main objective remains to help structure Lebanese and Arab cinema craft into a solid industry.



Klaudia Śmieja - Poland
Madants | Producer

Klaudia Śmieja is one of 2016's EFP Cannes Producers on the Move and a European Film Academy member. Her recent co-producing credits include the award-winning Icelandic hit 'RAMS', shot entirely in Poland, Anne Fontaine's 'Innocents' and Yesim Ustaoglu 'Clair Obscur', which had its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. She is currently working as a lead producer on Agnieszka's Holland 'Gareth Jones', and on minority co-productions, which she produces together with Beata Rzeźniczek under Madants.

Madants was founded to focus on independent international film productions. Our ambition is to make art-house cinema with festival and distributive potential.



Alessandra Speciale - Italy
Venice Film Festival / Africa and Arab Countries correspondent |
Final Cut in Venice / Head

Alessandra Speciale is a consultant for Africa and Arab Countries at the Venice International Film Festival, and head of the project of Final Cut in Venice, a workshop to support African and Arab films in post-production. Since 1991, she has been Artistic Director of the African, Asian and Latin America Film Festival of Milan. With the association COE, she has distributed more than 200 films in Italian alternative circuits. She has also collaborated with other festivals, such as the Locarno Festival and the San Sebastián International Film Festival. In 2016, Speciale was elected President of the Milano Film Network.

Final Cut in Venice is a project proposed by Venice Production Bridge, with its sixth edition due to take place in September 2018. This work-in-progress workshop will present six quality rough cuts coming from all African countries, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria, giving filmmakers the opportunity to find the post-production financing necessary to complete their work.



Konstantina Stavrianou - Greece
Graal S.A. | Managing Director

Konstantina Stavrianou was born in Athens and co-founded Graal S.A. in 1999. Since 2003, she has been working in film post-production as a producer on short and feature-length narrative films as well as documentaries. She oversees the co-production and post-production sectors for both Greek and international productions, and is Graal's managing director. Stavrianou has served as a jury member at co-production markets, and at film festivals in Thessaloniki, Istanbul, and Romania. She is currently producing two feature films, and co-producing four international projects. She is a Berlinale Talents alumna and a member of the EAVE network.

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



Nathalie Streiff - France
Institut français | Manager

Nathalie Streiff worked as a programming assistant for several film festivals before supervising the film office at the French Embassy in Berlin. In 2004, she returned to Paris and ran the documentary office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she was later in charge of audio-visual cooperation. From 2009 she ran the Fonds Sud Cinéma programme, jointly with the CNC. Streiff is now in charge of the Cinémas du monde, a fund dedicated to first and second feature films, at the Institut français.

The Institut français is a cultural diplomacy organisation which aims to showcase France's most innovative and creative scene abroad. It promotes French cinema and supports world cinema through the La Fabrique des Cinémas du Monde Pavilion at the Festival de Cannes, the Cinémathèque Afrique, and Aide aux cinémas du monde together with the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée.



Michael Stütz - Germany
Berlin International Film Festival | Curator Panorama /
Programme Manager

Michael Stütz has been a curator and programme manager of the Panorama section of the Berlin International Film Festival since July 2017. He studied theatre, film and media at the University of Vienna and the Freie Universität Berlin, during which time he also worked on film productions at Studio Babelsberg. He began working at Panorama as an assistant to Wieland Speck in 2006. He then took on further roles at Panorama, including office manager, programme coordinator, and programme advisor. Alongside his work at Panorama, he has been involved in numerous other festivals as a guest speaker, curator and jury member.

Berlin: an exciting, cosmopolitan cultural hub that never ceases to attract artists from around the world. A diverse cultural scene, a critical public, and an audience of film-lovers characterise the city. In the middle of it all, the Berlinale: a great cultural event and one of the most important dates for the international film industry. More than 334,000 tickets sold, more than 21,000 professional visitors from 127 countries, including more than 3,700 journalists: art, glamour, parties, and business are all inseparably linked at the Berlinale.



Nadia Tebib - Qatar
Al Jazeera Media Network | Senior Producer

Nadia Tebib has been a Senior Acquisition Producer at Al Jazeera Arabic since 1998. She is responsible for pre-production, production, and post-production, as well as content validation of documentaries within the editorial line of Al Jazeera.

Launched in 1996, Al Jazeera was the first independent news channel in the Arab world dedicated to providing comprehensive news and live debate. It challenged established narratives and gave a global audience an alternative voice – one that put the human being back at the centre of the news agenda – quickly making it one of the world's most influential news networks. Since then, it has added new channels and services, with more than 70 bureaus around the world, while maintaining the independent and pioneering spirit that defined its character.



Sacha Tohme - Lebanon
Moving Turtle | Managing Director

As founder and Director of Moving Turtle, a growing independent distribution company based in Beirut and serving the entire Middle East region, Sacha Thome is committed to bringing quality cinema of differing genres to a range of audiences throughout the region.

Moving Turtle is a growing independent distribution company based in Beirut, and serving the entire Middle East region. Our team brings a wealth of film expertise to deliver quality entertainment. We pride ourselves on formulating enriched relationships with foreign directors, producers, and fellow distributors. We commit to bringing quality cinema of differing genres to a range of audiences throughout the region by dedicating equal time, energy, and attention to all our titles, and specialise in distribution along all platforms of high-end, award-winning, art-house movies in the Middle East and North Africa. Titles include '45 Years', 'Amour' 'In the Fade', 'The Square', 'Winter Sleep', and many others.



Mark Urman - USA
Paladin | President

Mark Urman is a film industry veteran who spent 15 years in key positions at both United Artists and Columbia Pictures. In the independent arena, he ran the Domestic Division of the international PR firm DDA for nine years before becoming Co-President of Lionsgate Releasing. In 2001, he co-founded THINKFilm, which he ran for seven years before founding Paladin in 2008. He has also served as Executive Producer on such acclaimed and award-winning films as 'Monsters Ball', 'Murderball', 'Ultrasuede', and 'War Dance'.

Paladin is a full-service theatrical distributor in the United States that works in conjunction with rights-holders, financiers, and/or ancillary distribution partners who support the releases the company orchestrates. Recent successes include the Sundance hits 'The Little Hours' and 'What We Do in the Shadows', and forthcoming titles include 'All I Wish', 'Anything', 'Krystal', 'Submission', and 'Where Is Kyra?'.



Jacobine van der Vloed - The Netherlands
ACE Producers | Director / Head of Studies

Jacobine van der Vloed is Director and Head of Studies at ACE Producers. She worked for over 10 years for the International Film Festival Rotterdam (CineMart & Hubert Bals Fund), as well as in many other capacities within the industry. In the four years before joining ACE Producers, she co-founded the Art: Film Initiative, worked as a teacher at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg, was a talent agent for directors and screenwriters at Henneman Agency, and consulted for several markets and festivals. She graduated with a Master's Degree in Cultural History from the University of Utrecht in 2002.

ACE Producers is an exclusive network of experienced independent film producers from Europe and beyond. Membership of the network is based on professionalism, mutual trust, collaborative working, and openness to new ideas. A fundamental aim of ACE Producers is to encourage and enable international co-production. Producers with proven experience in their own countries are welcomed into the network after completing the ACE programme of advanced training, which consists of three workshops during one year. The training asserts the position and unique responsibilities of the producer throughout the whole process of a project's development, production, marketing, and delivery to audiences.



Adriek Van Nieuwenhuijzen - The Netherlands
International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam | Head of Industry Office / IDFA Bertha Fund Representative

Adriek van Nieuwenhuijzen obtained her Master's degree in Theatre and Film Science from the University of Utrecht. During her studies, she started specialising in documentaries and became involved in the first edition of the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA). In 1993, she became deputy director at IDFA and from 2007 on she has been Head of Industry there. Besides working at IDFA, she is a member of the selection committee of the IDFA Bertha Fund, which aims to generate more attention for the voices of filmmakers in the global south.

IDFA is an annual leading documentary event, bringing the international documentary community together in Amsterdam. It offers filmmakers a platform to launch their documentaries, including new media documentary projects through IDFA's cutting-edge Doclab programme. IDFA has two markets: the Forum for co-financing and production, and Docs for Sale, a sales market. IDFA created the IDFA Bertha Fund to support filmmakers in the Global South. Stimulating international collaborations and creating visibility for films and their makers are key for IDFA.



Alla Verlotsky - USA
Seagull Films | Programmer

Alla Verlotsky is an international film curator, and the founder and president of New York-based programming, consulting, and distribution company Seagull Films, which is focused on independent and innovative cinema from around the world. Verlotsky was an associate producer on 'Russian Ark', the award-winning film by internationally acclaimed director Alexander Sokurov, and is currently producing the feature documentary 'Red Fantasies' by the Academy Award-winning special effects artist Robert Skotak. She is also committed to film preservation, and is responsible for the restoration of more than 30 titles, some of which are on permanent deposit at George Eastman House, the Martin Scorsese Film Foundation, the Pacific Film Archive, and the Austrian Film Museum.

Seagull Films' programming is an uncommonly bold blend of curatorial adventurousness and cultural excavation. The company has contributed to the international film circuit with critically acclaimed retrospectives, tributes, thematic travelling film series, and individual titles. The company is responsible for introducing US audiences to the work of filmmakers such as Aleksey Fedorchenko, Aleksey Guerman, Michail Kalatozov, Ali Khamraev, Vasilij Klushantsev, Kira Muratova, Aleksander Ptushko, Vasilij Shukshin, and Aleksander Sokurov, among many others.



Joana Vicente - USA
Independent Filmmaker Project | Executive Director

Joana Vicente has co-founded three separate and unique film production entities over the course of her career, including Open City Films, Blow Up Pictures - the first digital production company in the United States - and HDNet Films, an award-winning digital production company founded with Mark Cuban and Todd Wagner. Vicente and partner Jason Klot have produced or executive-produced more than 40 films by acclaimed directors including Miguel Arteta, Brian De Palma, Hal Hartley, Nicole Holofcener, Jim Jarmusch, Steven Soderbergh, and Todd Solondz. Films produced include: 'Coffee and Cigarettes', 'Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room', 'Redacted', 'Three Seasons', and 'Welcome to the Dollhouse'.

The Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP) champions the future of storytelling by connecting artists with essential resources at all stages of development and distribution. The organisation fosters a vibrant and sustainable independent storytelling community through year-round programmes, which include the Independent Film Week, 'Filmmaker Magazine', the Gotham Independent Film Awards, and the Made in NY Media Center by IFP, an incubator space developed with the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment. During its 36-year history, the IFP has supported more than 8,000 projects and offered resources to more than 20,000 filmmakers, including Barry Jenkins, David Lowery, Laura Poitras, Dee Rees, Denis Villeneuve, and Behn Zeitlin.



Marietta von Hauswolff von Baumgarten - Sweden
Script Consultant

Swedish screenwriter Marietta von Hauswolff von Baumgarten wrote and co-produced 'Call Girl', which won the FIPRESCI Prize at the Toronto International Film Festival and was in competition in festivals in Buenos Aires, Taipei, and Torino, and was also presented at the Film Society of Lincoln Center in New York City. Since 2007, she has been connected as a script consultant with TorinoFilmLab, the Binger Film Lab, and the Venice Biennale College Cinema. Other related programs are Feature Expanded; Hezaya labs; Cinelink Drama Sarajevo, and Sundance Labs in Utah. As independent consultant Marietta has worked with filmmakers from 48 countries. She writes and develops Television Drama for some of the important Scandinavian production houses. She is a member of the Swedish Drama Union and the European Film Academy and a Tisch graduate. Marietta is the Minister of a micro-nation called Elgaland-Vargaland, or K.R.E.V.

Hossam Wahbeh - Qatar
Al Jazeera Media Network | Head of Training Programmes Section



Hossam Wahbeh is Head of Training at the Aljazeera training Center. He holds a PhD in Experimental Documentary Film, and has been a documentary filmmaker and mentor for 10 years.

Al Jazeera Training and Development aims to train media amateur professionals both in Al Jazeera and the Arab world.

Michael J. Werner - Hong Kong
M. Werner Film and Media Strategic Consultants | Consultant



Michael J. Wener is a long-time veteran of the film sales business, with more than 35 years experience in international film distribution, sales, production and consulting, specializing in the Asia-Pacific region. He is a producer, strategic consultant and international rep. His producing credits include John Cameron Mitchell's 'Shortbus', Pen-ek Ratanarung's 'Ploy', and Wong Kar Wai's 'The Grandmaster'. He was formerly Fortissimo Films Chairman and a consultant to Fox International Productions.

M. J. Werner Film and Media Strategic Consultants is a Hong Kong-based firm providing advisory and strategic services to filmmakers, producers, studios, film festivals, government agencies, and financiers. Werner has in prior years consulted with CineAsia, Fox International Productions, the Hong Kong-Asia Film Financing Forum (HAF), IBM, the Macau International Film Festival and Awards, Polygram, and Singapore's MDA, among others.



Simon Wilkinson - UK
CiRCA6g | Director

Simon Wilkinson's work incorporates audiovisual, installation, VR, AR, AI, electronic music, online, and performance mediums; often combining multiple approaches simultaneously to create highly immersive narrative environments that invite prolonged audience engagement. His work has been featured at the Tate Modern and regularly tours internationally. Wilkinson is a guest lecturer at a large number of universities around the globe, and also works as a consultant in immersive and transmedia storytelling.

CiRCA6g is the company of transmedia artist Simon Wilkinson. It creates compelling narrative universes comprised of immersive technologies, online, electronic music, performance, gaming, and digital mediums. Works from CiRCA6g's 'Whilst the Rest Were Sleeping' have enjoyed a 20-nation world tour across six continents over the past two years. CiRCA6g also engages in consultation work in the field of transmedia and immersive storytelling.



Hédi Zardi - France
Luxbox | CEO - Sales and Acquisitions

Hédi Zardi began his career at UniFrance, promoting French talents worldwide. In 2008, he joined the Acquisitions Department of the international sales company Fortissimo Films. He worked with Claudie Ossard on the release of Yan Kounen's 'Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky'. In 2010, he started working for Le Public Systeme Cinéma at the International Press Office before joining the film department team as a programmer for the five international festivals the company runs. He acted as associate producer on Michel Franco's 'After Lucia' (2012) and on Gabriel Ripstein's '600 Miles' (2014).

Luxbox is a Paris-based company dedicated to international sales and the co-production of select projects, which began in 2017 by presenting 'Barrage' in the Forum section of the Berlin International Film Festival and 'Bad Lucky Goat' at SXSW. The company handles titles including 'Jeannette, the Childhood of Joan of Arc, Frost' and 'A Ciambra', both of which were selected for the Directors' Fortnight at the Festival de Cannes, 'They', which was also in Cannes as a Special Screening Official Selection, and 'The Eternal Feminine'. In 2017, Luxbox presented 'Cocote' at the Locarno Festival, where it was named Best Film in the Signs of Life section.



Areeb Zuaiter - Jordan

The Royal Film Commission - Jordan | Regional Training Manager

Areeb Zuaiter is a visual storyteller who current supporting local filmmakers as a Regional Training Manager at the Royal Film Commission - Jordan. Zuaiter holds a Master's degree in Film and Video and two bachelors degrees - one in Interior Architecture and another in Communication Arts. She worked as a technology associate with the Associated Press and was a Film and Video Fellow at the National Museum of American History. Among other awards, her short film 'Stained' won the Jury Prize at the 10th European Film Festival, and her thesis project, 'Colours of a Displaced Identity', was nominated for Sony's Outstanding Thesis Awards.

The vision of the Royal Film Commission - Jordan (RFC) is to develop an internationally competitive Jordanian film industry. The RFC is a financially and administratively autonomous public organisation led by a board of commissioners, chaired by HRH Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein. The commission is a member of the Association for Film Commissioners International (AFCI), and works towards a robust Jordanian film industry through education and training addressing the need for innovative methods of communication, and production services.