

ELGOUNA   
FILM FESTIVAL  
1ST EDITION  
مهرجان الجونة السينمائي  
SEPTEMBER 22 - 29, 2017

CINEGOUNA  
*platform*  
GUIDE

ELGOUNA   
FILM FESTIVAL  
1ST EDITION  
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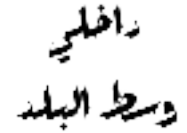


CINEGOUNA  
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## REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ARAB INDEPENDENT CINEMA



## REFUGEE CRISES : SOCIAL IMPACT THROUGH FILMS



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# BRIDGE SCHEDULE

All events are held at AudiMax (TU Berlin)

| Saturday 23   | Sunday 24  | Monday 25   | Tuesday 26  |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Masterclass by Andrea Iervolino</p> <p>FILM PRODUCTION: SURVIVAL TO SUCCESS<br/>10:30 AM</p> | <p>Panel: Evolving Screens: The State of Film Distribution and Exhibition<br/>10:30 AM</p> |   | <p>Masterclass by Osama Fawzi and Mahmoud Hemeida</p> <p>CREATIVE COLLABORATION: DEVELOPING A UNIQUE VISION &amp; LANGUAGE<br/>10:30 AM</p> |
| Coffee Break  | Coffee Break   | Coffee Break  | Coffee Break  |
| <p>Panel: Financing Your Film: Funders in Conversation<br/>12:00 PM</p>                         | <p>Tayarah's Short Film Workshop<br/>12:00 PM</p>  | <p>Panel: State of the Environment: Social Impact through Film<br/>12:30 PM</p> | <p>Panel: Production Stories: Arab Producers in Conversation<br/>12:30 PM</p>   |

| Wednesday 27   | Thursday 28  | Friday 29  |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Masterclass by Jeff Stockwell and Richard Tanne</p> <p>THE SCREENWRITER'S PATH<br/>10:30 AM</p> | <p>Panel: Refugee Crisis: Social Impact through Film<br/>10:30 AM</p>                |  |
| Coffee Break   | Coffee Break   | Coffee Break   |
|  | <p>Panel: Arab Cinema in the World: Tracing the Festival Circuit<br/>12:00 PM</p>    | <p>Masterclass by Forest Whitaker</p> <p>ACTING: THE ART OF THE CRAFT<br/>12:30 PM</p> |
|  | <p>CineGouna Springboard Awards Ceremony for Projects in Development<br/>3:30 PM</p> |  |

## EDITORIAL

Never before has the cinematic art been at such diversifying crossroads, creatively and technically. Almost every aspect of the film industry is radically changing; the way films are financed, developed, produced, packaged, distributed, and even screened or watched. At the same time, the purposeness of the moving image in societal functions have developed drastically, the very nature of our modern social interaction has become rooted in image and visual representation, short video clips fuel mass demonstrations, and audiences are turning to films for a discussion of the social and political narrative.

Rising within such turbulence with extreme force, and taking advantage of such developments, is a new wave of Arab Cinema. The presence of Arab Cinema in international festivals has increased exponentially over the past few years. More and more Arab films are produced and distributed internationally, highly creative Arab films, documentary or narrative, are exploring new ways of being made and finding new audiences.

What is most striking however, is what many working in the regional film industry feel, which is the potential for more, the unanimous feeling that what has happened is only the infancy of a new film generation, and the undeniable promise of the current cinema that what is yet to come is very exciting.

What does a new and fresh film festival, built around a dream, have to offer in this lucid situation? We attempt to engage film and media-makers in many discussions of the medium, focusing on the business, the creative, and the social aspects of filmmaking. We present key masterclasses by some of the local and international industry's most successful and inspiring figures. We incubate creative documentary and narrative film projects to help them find creative and financial support, at the same time organize workshops that question the nature of film screening and distribution, and what it means for Arab Independent Cinema stakeholders. Through Panel Discussions we also present a number of key stages in the life of the film circuit, how they are today and how they are changing, and lastly question the role of film in society, its responsibility and impact.

We hope through this first edition to situate our annual program as a place of film development and financing, but also a place of critical discussion and creative inspiration; all aimed at connecting Arab Cinema with its destined audience around the world.

## WHAT IS THE CINEGOUNA PLATFORM ?

CineGouna Platform is a creative and business hub established with the aim of nurturing and supporting the most promising talents of Egyptian and Arab cinema.

Representatives of some of the most prestigious film festivals, film institutions as well as distributors, film sales agents, major television channels and networks attend and participate in the various activities programmed by the CineGouna Platform.

We bring all of them together to connect the Egyptian and Arab film industry with their counterparts in the international film industry to what we hope will be a regular calendar event and annual event for the development of a new wave of middle eastern and north african filmmaking.

CineGouna Platform incubates two main programs: CineGouna Springboard and CineGouna Bridge.

## CINEGOUNA PLATFORM TEAM



**MOSTAFA YOUSSEF**  
*CineGouna Platform  
Manager*



**GHADA FIKRI**  
*CineGouna Platform  
Coordinator*



**ALIA AYMAN**  
*CineGouna Platform  
Programmer*



**HAKIM  
ABDELNAEEM**  
*CineGouna Springboard  
Programmer*



**NOURAN SHERIF**  
*CineGouna Bridge  
Programmer*



**SONDOS TAREK**  
*CineGouna Platform  
Assistant*



**ABD EL AZIZ  
EL NAGGAR**  
*CineGouna Platform  
Assistant*



**AISHA GHALY**  
*CineGouna Platform Guest  
Coordinator*



**SHIREENA  
EL GALLAL**  
*CineGouna Platform Guest  
Liaison*



## WHAT IS CINEGOUNA PLATFORM

CineGouna Platform is a creative and business hub established with the aim of nurturing and supporting the most promising talents of Egyptian and Arab cinema.

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CineGouna Springboard and CineGouna Bridge.

## WHAT ABOUT THE CINEGOUNA SPRINGBOARD:

CineGouna Springboard is the project development and co-production lab, where we offer an opportunity to find creative and financial support for Arab film directors and producers with films in development or works-in-progress.

The selected projects of the inaugural edition of the festival are:

### **Projects in Development:**

200 Meters, Amin Nayfeh, Palestine

The Balcony of Paradise, Amr Abdel Hadi, Jordan

The House of Silence, Karim Traïdia, Algeria

Backstage, Afef Ben Mahmoud, Tunisia / Morocco

Costa Brava, Mounia Akl, Lebanon

Five Days of Grace, Saleh Nas, Bahrain

Noura in Wonderland, Hinde Boujemaa, Tunisia

Abu Zaabal 1989, Bassam Mortada, Egypt

Transit, Islam Kamal, Egypt

Two Rooms and a Parlor, Sherif El Bendary, Egypt

The Seventh Day Butterfly, Karim Hanafy, Egypt

The Last Rescue, Tamer Ezzat, Egypt

### **Works-in-progress:**

Counting Tiles, Cynthia Shair, Lebanon

Hammam Sokhn (Hot Bath), Manal Khaled, Egypt

In Search of Essam Abdallah, Yasser Naeem, Egypt

Yomeddine, Abu Bakr Shawki, Egypt

The selected projects are presented for a group of 90 international decision makers and industry delegates. CineGouna Springboard will facilitate private meetings between the delegates and the filmmakers of the selected projects.

## MENTORS



### MAAMOUN HASSAN

Mamoun Hassan is a film professional and international film teacher. He has written, directed and edited award-winning films and has held influential positions in Britain as Head of Production at the British Film Institute and MD of the National Film Finance Corporation. He has led UN film departments in Lebanon and Zimbabwe.

He has been a Governor and Head of Directing, Producing and Editing at UK's National Film & Television School and Dean of Editing and consultant at EICTV, Cuba. He has given masterclasses at film schools and other institutions in all five continents. He devised and presented Channel 4's Movie Masterclass series, a unique exploration of the film language of classic directors.

Mamoun produced the prize-winning feature film, *No Surrender*, and co-produced *Machuca*, Chile's most successful film. He also wrote the screenplay of *La Buena Vida*, winner of a Spanish Goya and the premier prize at Huelva in 2008.



### KAIS AL-ZUBAIDI

An Iraqi filmmaker, film editor and archivist. Kais al-Zubaidi worked as a director in Syria following his training in Babelsberg. In the 1960s Syria had become a center for exiled Palestinians as well as pan-Arabists and it was there that the Iraqi filmmaker Kais al-Zubaidi focused his lens on the socio-political situation of the Palestinians. We will screen two films he made during this period and which are both Syrian productions: *Away from Home* (1969) and *The Visit* (1970). Kais al-Zubaidi also worked with the PLO film unit in Beirut intermittently.

Most recently, Kais has published an excellent anthology called *Palestine in the Cinema* (2006). It is an archive of the history of Palestinian cinema and lists over 800 films produced by Palestinian, Arab and non-Arab artists about Palestine and the Palestinian people.

Today he lives in Berlin and supervises the establishment of a national Palestine archive.



### HAYET BENKARA

A Toronto-based Film Industry Advisor. She worked 6 years as the Manager of the Sales Office, the unofficial market, at the Toronto International Film Festival. She is now the Manager of STUDIO a new industry year round programme at TIFF Bell Lightbox ([tiff.net/Studio](http://tiff.net/Studio)). Benkara has also worked for many prestigious film festivals such as Cannes (Producers Network), Berlin (the Co-production market), IFFR (CineMart), the Dubai International Film Festival, the Guanajuato Film Festival (Mexico), Era New Horizon (Poland), the Abu Dhabi Film Festival and most recently the Doha Film Institute.

Over the years, Hayet Benkara has developed a very strong international network and a good knowledge of the international market place. Year round she advises young and more established filmmakers and producers on Development, Production, Co-production, Distribution and Marketing, and Festival strategies.

## JURY



### ALESSANDRA SPECIALE NEZAR ANDARY

Since 2013 Speciale has been the consultant for Africa and Arab Countries at Venice Film Festival and head of the project of Final cut in Venice. Previously she worked as Artistic Director of the African, Asian and Latin America Film Festival of Milan, Italy. With the Association COE she has distributed in the Italian alternative theatrical circuits more than 200 films from the three continents. She has collaborated as programmer for other international film festivals as Locarno, San Sebastian, Kerala and Torino Film Festival. She is also a creative documentary filmmaker, her films have been broadcast by television channels such as Tele+, Rai and Arte. Recently she has been elected President of Milano Film Network, an association that unites seven festivals in Milan and promotes film distribution, film industry events and workshops in Italy.



Nezar Andary is an Assistant Professor of Film and Literature at Zayed University in the College of Humanities and Sustainability Sciences. He has worked in theatre and film production and has been curating film festivals and film series. Nezar earned his Ph.D in Comparative Literature from UCLA, with a focus on the representation of Arab history in contemporary film and literature. Nezar was Artistic Director for Anasy Documentary Awards in 2010, and currently is Artistic Director for the forthcoming documentary series *Perspectives and Retrospectives* in May 2013. Recently in March 2013, he organized a panel on Middle East Film Studies as co-Chair of the Middle East Studies Caucus for the Society of Cinema and Media Studies Conference in Chicago. For the last two years, he has written papers on the relationship of Arab Cinema to recent Arab uprisings.



### HALA GALAL

Co-Founder & Executive Director of SEMAT Production & Distribution. Wrote, directed and produced more than 100 films of various forms and durations; short, long, narrative or documentary. The long documentary 'Women ChitChat' won the Silver Prize at the Arab Rotterdam Film Festival in 2005. Since 2002, Galal initiated independent cinematic education opportunities for young talents. These workshops provided young potential filmmakers with basics of filmmaking, and helped create networks to support independent filmmaking. Between 2003 and 2006 she organized the festival Caravan of the Euro-Arab Cinema, funded by Euromed Audiovisual II. Also worked a tutor in the project "Access to the International Market" dedicated to young Arab producers, under the auspices of the Spanish project International Media Business School.

## AWARDS



\$ 20.000 from El Gouna Film Festival

CineGouna Springboard extends its utmost gratitude to our sponsors and partners who have given their generous support in providing cash or in-kind awards to the best films in development.



\$10,000 from New Century Production



\$10,000 from Creative Media Ventures "Ebda3"



\$5,000 from Mentor Arabia



\$5,000 from Film Factory for Movie Production



\$5,000 for a film in development from AROMA Studios.



\$5,000 worth of post-production services from AROMA Studios

# CINEGOUNA BRIDGE MASTERCLASSES

## FILM PRODUCTION: SURVIVAL TO SUCCESS MASTERCLASS BY ANDREA IERVOLINO

MODERATED BY NICK VIVARELLI  
Saturday 23rd of September, 10:30am, AudiMax (TU Berlin)



Awarded as Best Producer at 71 Venice Film Festival, together with Al Pacino and Barry Levinson, Andrea Iervolino was named filmmaker of the year for his roles as producer of *In Dubious Battle* at Capri Hollywood Film Festival 2016. In 2015 he was named “Ambassador of Italian Cinema in the world” and “Best Italian Businessman of the world”. He was named one of *Variety’s* 2015 Dealmakers. In 2016 he awarded at ICFF – Italian Contemporary Film Festival as Best Producer.

Andrea Iervolino, who has been a producer since the age of 16, produced, financed and distributed over 60 films. Andrea Iervolino and Monika Bacardi’s AMBI Group is currently on a strong upward roll, producing and putting together many of those films that will be screened in forthcoming movie and television seasons.

In this masterclass he will share with us his journey, how he produced his films and found funds for it and how he advanced in his career.

## CREATIVE COLLABORATION: DEVELOPING A UNIQUE VISION & LANGUAGE

MASTERCLASS BY OUSSAMA FAWZI & MAHMOUD HEMIDA  
Tuesday 26th of September, 10:30am, AudiMax (TU Berlin)



Oussama Fawzi is a prominent Egyptian Director whose first three films are collaborations with the widely celebrated Actor Mahmoud Hemida. Their first collaboration was *The Asphalt Kings* (Afareet el-Asphalt) 1995, which won the Jury Award in 1995 in Locarno Festival. The second film, was also produced by Hemida, in addition to him starring in it, and directed by Fawzi, *Fallen Angels Paradise* (Gannet Al Shayateen) 1999 was in official competition in Locarno Film Festival, won the Golden Prize in Damascus Film Festival, and participated in Milano Film Festival. Their third film together, *I Love Cinema* (Baheb El-Cima) won huge local, regional, and international acclaim.

In this masterclass we host a conversation between Oussama Fawzi and Mahmoud Hemida on how they co-operated to make these three outstanding films; what are the key reasons for their collaboration, how they developed the film’s vision, language, and characterizations together, and what are the main stepping stones in this journey.

## THE SCREENWRITER'S PATH MASTERCLASS BY JEFF STOCKWELL & RICHARD TANNE

MODERATED BY GHADA SHAHBENDER  
Wednesday 27th of September, 10:30am, AudiMax (TU Berlin)



Jeff Stockwell and Richard Tanne are two American screenwriters of two different generations and career paths, in and out of big studio productions.

Jeff Stockwell is a writer and producer, known for *Bridge to Terabithia* (2007), *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys* (2002) and *The Ottoman Lieutenant* (2017). He has written many independent and studio projects, now in various stages of development, including *A Wrinkle in Time* with Disney, *Our Wild Life* with New Line, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* with Black Label/Walden. Recently, he spent 2016 as a contract writer at Pixar Animation Studios, and has been an ongoing instructor/mentor with the Screenwriting Lab at Film Independent since 2004.

Richard Tanne is a director, writer and actor, known for his directorial debut *Southside with You* (2016), which has garnered numerous awards and nominations, including a Gotham Award nod as Breakthrough Director of the Year and an NAACP Image Award nod for Outstanding Writing in a Motion Picture (Film). In 2014, Tanne was hired to write an original screenplay for Pixar Animation Studios. He spent the next two years working closely with Disney/Pixar's Chief Creative Officer, John Lasseter.

In this conversation between both of them we discuss the different ways of making it in the industry as a screenwriter, and how the industry itself is evolving, and how this reflects on the nature of storytelling and structure itself.

This Masterclass is presented in partnership with the American Film Showcase and The US Embassy in Cairo, Egypt



## ACTING: THE ART OF THE CRAFT MASTERCLASS BY FOREST WHITAKER

MODERATOR DAVID DARCY  
Friday 29th of September, 12:30pm, AudiMax (TU Berlin)



On one of the most unusual and authentic actors of the past thirty years. There have been very few other actors that bring such an enigmatic quality to their roles so consistently for three decades such as Forest Whitaker; he played a wide variety of different characters throughout his career. His immense talent was hugely influenced by his extremely selective choices which lead to many of his great performances.

He is one of the very few actors that won the Academy Award, BAFTA Award, Critics' Choice Award, Golden Globe Award and SAG Award for the same performance.

In this conversation we wish to explore how his acting career started, what method or practice does he lead with his craft, discuss some of his most memorable roles and how he prepared for them, how he chooses his works and what excites him, and lastly why he pursues production now, and what kind of works does he aim to promote.

# CINEGOUNA BRIDGE PANELS

## FROM DEVELOPMENT TO SCREENING: FOLLOWING THE FILM CIRCUIT

CineGouna Bridge presents a series of panels that bring together key industry professionals to demystify crucial aspects of film financing, production, distribution and exhibition. The panels aim to first and foremost develop the promising talents from Egypt and the Arab world through opening interactive spaces for discussion around the workings of the regional and international film industries today.



## FINANCING YOUR FILM: FILM FUNDERS IN CONVERSATION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 12:00 PM, AUDIMAX (TU BERLIN)

Securing funding is, and perhaps has always been, the most important, yet the most daunting, task in any film's life cycle. In this panel, the speakers who represent three of the most established film funds in the international film industry, will be introducing their respective funds and elaborating on the criteria for projects they are interested in supporting. The panelists will also be sharing some of their insights regarding the economy of filmmaking today and offering practical advice to filmmakers about the most effective strategies for financing their films.

### Moderator:

#### Jad Abi Khalil

Jad Abi Khalil, is a Lebanese director, producer and founding member of Beirut DC, head of Beirut Cinema Platform (BCP). Abi Khalil has directed several short films and feature documentaries of which have been highly recognized in festivals such as Dubai, Carthage and Hot Docs.

### Panel Participants:

#### Mridu Chandra

Mridu Chandra is the Director of IF/Then- a new initiative developed by Tribeca Film Institute (TFI) to stimulate the production and multi-platform distribution of short form documentary storytelling. She is a veteran producer of award-winning documentaries and independent feature films that explore topics of civil rights, peace, gender and sexuality, environmental justice, and the law.

#### Julien Ezanno (CNC) (not edited yet)

Julien Ezanno is the bilateral affairs advisor within the international policy unit of the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC).

#### Jonathan Da Silva (Hot Docs)

Jonathan Da Silva is the Communications Director for Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival in Toronto. Da Silva also oversees marketing and communications for the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, the organization's venue that screens first-run and retrospective documentary programs, as well as hosts speakers series and events.

#### Karin Angela Schyle (Film Prize of the Robert Bosch Stiftung)

Karin Angela Schyle, is the CEO of Schyle filmwork; a company that offers film cultural management. Schyle organized several international cultural events and in 2004 became the festival manager of six editions of the goEast. Schyle has also sat in festival juries and is part of the selection committee for the Film Prize's Project Markets.



## EVOLVING SCREENS:

## THE STATE OF FILM DISTRIBUTION AND EXHIBITION TODAY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 10:30 AM, AUDIMAX (TU BERLIN)

In an age where digital technology has led to a surge in the number of films produced across the globe, the question of distribution has become all the more pressing. Covering different aspects and avenues of distribution; from theatrical releases to TV acquisitions and Videos on Demand platforms, this panel presents a comprehensive view of the market for Arab films today. In addition to explaining fundamental aspects of how distribution works, the panelists will also be sharing their expert advice with the attendees about the challenges and opportunities of film distribution in the region.

### Moderator:

#### Ahmed El Sobky

Ahmed Sobky is the head of acquisitions and sales of Zawya Cinema & Distributions. His latest projects included "In the Last Days of the City", "A Present from the Past" and "I am the People".

### Panel Participants:

#### Gianluca Chakra (Front Row)

Founder and managing partner of Dubai-based Front Row Filmed Entertainment, Digital Aggregator and Responsible for script evaluation and acquisitions for the Middle East and North Africa.

#### Hedi Zardi (Luxbox)

Hédi Zardi, is the CEO of sales and acquisitions of Luxbox; a Paris-based sales and distribution agency. Zardi has worked with the internationally acclaimed producer Claudie Ossard, on the release of Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky, which was the closing film for the Cannes Film Festival..

#### Muhamed El Sheikh (MBC / Shahid.Net)

AlSheikh heads the Content Digital unit in MBC Group. He manages the content strategy, licensing acquisitions and commissioning dealings for SHAHID and SHAHID PLUS VoD platforms.

#### Jessica Khoury (Film Clinic International Distribution)

Currently Responsible for Acquisition and Marketing at Film Clinic IFD- Film Distribution. Has previously worked on Arab Film Distribution at several ventures including MC Distribution.

#### Toni El. Massih (VOX Distribution)

Chief Content Officer of VOX Cinemas. On top of this impressive international accolade, Toni's efforts and knowledge of the industry resulted recently in Majid Al Futtaim securing transformative new partnership agreements.





## PRODUCTION STORIES: ARAB PRODUCERS IN CONVERSATION TUESDAY 26TH OF SEPTEMBER, 12:30 PM, AUDIMAX (TU BERLIN)

This panel brings some of the most daring, dedicated and promising producers from the Arab world together in a conversation about the practices of film production in the region. Covering topics such as the role of the producer, the producer's relationship with the director, the challenges of securing funding and ways through which the myriad hurdles facing film producers are overcome, the panelists will engage in a lively discussion about the biggest challenges they have faced in their careers and how they were able to overcome them and complete their projects.

### Moderator:

#### **Dina Harb**

Film producer DINA HARB is the founder and managing partner of Birthmark Films, a production company based in Egypt. Harb released her first feature "Bashtery Ragel",

Harb holds an MFA degree in Creative Producing from Columbia University in New York.

### Panel Participants:

#### **May Odeh**

May Odeh is a director and producer, known for Diaries (2011), Searching for Napoleon (2006), Izriqag 2013, Roshima (2014) Drawing for Better dreams 2015. Odeh, who holds a Master's degree in film and production, has produced and distributed many Palestinian fiction films. Odeh currently has a production company based in Ramallah-Palestine.

#### **Rula Nasser**

Rula Nasser, is a Jordanian producer who, in 2010, established The Imaginarium Films. Several of Nasser's production and feature films several have participated in prestigious festivals including Cannes, Toronto and Dubai.

#### **Imed Marzouk**

Tunisian producer Marzouk has attended major film festivals including Cannes, Sundance, Venicel, Toronto, Dubai and Rotterdam earning him more than 80 awards. He is currently developing two new features : «Look at Me» by Nejib Belkadhi and «Noura in wonderland» by Hinde Boujamaa.

#### **Safei Eldin Mahmoud**

Safei is the founder and CEO of Red Star Productions. He worked as an executive director on a number of feature fiction films directed by Marawan Hamed including The Yaqubian Building, Ibrahim the White, The Blue Elephant.



## ARAB CINEMA IN THE WORLD: TRACING THE FESTIVAL CIRCUIT THURSDAY 28TH OF SEPTEMBER, 12:00 PM, AUDIMAX (TU BERLIN)

Film festivals are often the gateway for Arab cinema's visibility within the global cinematic landscape. In their celebration of diverse and wide ranging cinematic productions, festivals are vital avenues for films to be seen, acquired, distributed and exhibited to audiences all over the world. On this panel, a number of prominent programmers will discuss the place of Arab Cinema in their respective festivals, giving audiences in attendance the chance to acquire a deeper understanding of the exciting yet highly competitive world of the international festival circuit and the numerous opportunities it opens up.

### Moderator:

#### **Joseph Fahim**

Joseph Fahim is an Egyptian film critic and programmer who was also the former director of programming of the Cairo International Film Festival. He is currently the Arab film delegate of Karlovy Vary Film Festival, a member of Berlin Critics' Week and consultant for various film festivals around the globe.

### Panel Participants:

#### **Kiva Reardon (Toronto International Film Festival)**

Programmer at the Toronto International Film Festival and Miami Film Festival, and the founding editor of cleo (<http://cleojournal.com/>); a journal of film and feminism. Her writing has been published in multiple journals such as: The Globe and Mail, National Post, Filmmaker, The A.V. Club and others..

#### **Bero Beyer ( Rotterdam)**

Bero Beyer is Director of the International Film

Festival Rotterdam, he is currently a Film Consultant for the Dutch Film Fund, focusing on Arthouse films and International co-productions. Beyer is also an established independent film producer.

#### **Elhum Shakerifar**

Elhum is a BAFTA nominated producer and recent recipient of the BFI Vision Award, producing documentaries with partners including BFI, BBC, Sundance, BRITDOC and The New York Times through her company Hakawati.

#### **Harry Vaughn (Sundance)**

Harry has been a programmer for the Sundance Film Festival for over four years. Vaughn has helped select the US and World Competition titles as well as the Documentary Premieres section.

#### **Emanuel Rauco (Venice)**

member of the experts committee that selects movies for the Venice Film Festival, is the Co-artistic director for the Catania and Formia Film Festival and a prominent film critic. Rauco was a film critic and radio presenter for websites and magazines. Rauco currently has a YouTube channel where he critic films.



22<sup>ND</sup> | SEPTEMBER  
29<sup>TH</sup> | 2017

EL GOUNA FILM FESTIVAL  
**CINEMA FOR HUMANITY  
AUDIENCE AWARD**

to a film that exemplifies a humanitarian theme

CINEMA FOR  
HUMANITY

ELGOUNA  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2017  
الغونة  
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المهرجان

# CINEMA FOR HUMANITY



From the film (An inconvenient Sequel)

Directed by: Bonni Cohen, Jon Shenk

## STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT: SOCIAL IMPACT THROUGH FILMS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 12:30 P.M., AUDIMAX (TU BERLIN)

Climate change has a devastating and undeniable effect on all our surroundings, including the nearby coral reef. The undersea reality is coral bleaching which is a sign of mass coral death that is occurring on a scale so vast and a pace so rapid that it defies comprehension. Denying climate change is increasingly hard to believe with the continuing rise in extreme weather. Therefore, our panel will be using the two films; Chasing Coral and An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth To Power to address climate change and the future of corals and discuss how storytelling has become the most powerful tool for conservation and comprehension of global environments..

### Moderator:

#### Geralyn Dreyfous

A producer of Emmy and Academy Award winning and nominated films, recipient of IDA's 2013 Amicus Award for her significant contribution in documentary filmmaking, Dreyfous is the founder of the Utah Film Center and co-founder of Impact Partners Film Fund with Dan Cogan.

### Panel Participants:

#### Heba Shawky

The Managing Director of Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA), an NGO specializing in the field of marine and land conservation in the Egyptian Red Sea. HEPCA seeks to protect and conserve the land and marine ecology and the underwater environment of the coral reef.

#### Ahmed el Droubi

An environmental campaigner and activist, El Droubi has spearheaded a variety of campaigns and has been a team member in several local, international, and independent grassroots movements such as HEPCA, Greenpeace and The Egyptians Against Coal Campaign..

#### Jonathan Da Silva (Hot Docs)

Jonathan Da Silva is the Communications Director

for Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival in Toronto. Da Silva also oversees marketing and communications for the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, the organization's venue that screens first-run and retrospective documentary programs, as well as hosts speakers series and events.

#### Mike Pandey

Pandey, a three time Green Oscar recipient, is a Producer/Director with films focusing on the wildlife and environment. He has won over 300 awards for his work to spread awareness about biodiversity and species conservation.

#### Sarah Johnson

Johnson is a two time Emmy and Peabody award winning independent film producer, she is an executive producer on several notable recent films. Her social issue documentaries include the Academy Award nominated The Square, Chasing Ice

#### Angela Ziltener

Co-CEO and Founder of Green Hummingbird Entertainment, Co-founder of NGO Dolphin Watch Alliance, She was awarded a Masters degree in Biology, studied and worked as a zoologist and educator in a scientific managed zoo.



From the closing film (Human Flow)

Directed by: Ai Weiwei

## REFUGEE CRISIS: SOCIAL IMPACT THROUGH FILM

THURSDAY 28TH OF SEPTEMBER, 10:30 AM, AUDIMAX (TU BERLIN)

The panel gathers a group of filmmakers along with experts to talk about the urgent issue and crisis of refugees today. The discussion includes organizational representatives, activists, and filmmakers who have worked on the refugee crisis to address how filmmakers can use their creative outlet to inspire and trigger action and change. Additionally, the panel questions the filmmaking practice in such situations and conditions; especially the responsibility of the maker and the medium itself towards humanity at large.

### Moderator:

#### Kiva Reardon - TIFF's Africa and Middle East programmer

Programmer at the Toronto International Film Festival and Miami Film Festival, and the founding editor of cleo (<http://cleojournal.com/>); a journal of film and feminism. Her writing has been published in multiple journals such as: The Globe and Mail, National Post, Filmmaker, The A.V. Club and others.

### Panel Participants:

#### Thomas Morgan

Award winning film producer and director of Storied Streets and Waiting for Mamy. His latest film documentary, Soufra, screening at the festival, shows the journey of a group of female refugees who seek to make history by starting the first refugee food truck.

#### Julian Alexander

Alexander produced dozens of films throughout his collegiate career before ultimately taking a seat in the director's chair for his film Buffalo. Julian is now completing his MFA studies at the Northern Film School in Leeds, UK. His latest film Leo will be screening during the festival.

#### Elhum Shakerifar

Elhum is a BAFTA nominated producer and recent recipient of the BFI Vision Award, producing documentaries with partners including BFI, BBC, Sundance, BRITDOC and The New York Times through her company Hakawati.

#### Marco Orsini

President of International Emerging Talent Association, IEFTA. Orsini is also a producer and director, known for Dinner at the No-Gos (2012), The Reluctant Traveler (2009) and Gray Matters (2014).

#### Ragnhild Ek

UNHCR/Egypt & Executive Producer of "Dangerous Crossings» and "Law Kan".

Ek is an award-winning filmmaker and former journalist currently working for UNHCR Egypt, Ek's expertise in using film to communicate different elements of refugees.

## AFS SCREENWRITING WORKSHOP

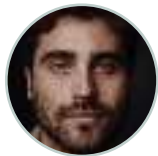
The American Film Showcase brings award-winning contemporary American

documentary and independent narrative films to audiences around the world, offering a view of American society and culture as seen by independent filmmakers. Funded by a grant from the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and produced by the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts (SCA), the Showcase highlights the value of film in fostering understanding and cooperation, dialogue and debate. For more information.

Visit: [www.americanfilmshowcase.com](http://www.americanfilmshowcase.com)



## THE TRAINERS :



**RICHARD TANNE**



**JEFF STOCKWELL**

## THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ARAB INDEPENDENT CINEMA (RCAIC)

In recent years, Arab Independent Cinema has taken new shapes and forms. Despite their similarities, each Arab country faces different challenges when it comes to developing its own cinematic language and in each country, new ways are being found to overcome them.

The Regional Conference for Arab independent Cinema (RCAIC) has been created to bring together film industry professionals from the Arab world in a three-day conference tackling topics related to the production, distribution, and exhibition of independent Arab cinema. Aiming to create a space for healthy dialogue and exchange, the RCAIC is an opportunity for its participants to share experiences, challenges, and solutions that would benefit the Arab film industry as a whole.

The RCAIC program starts with a reception to welcome all its guests on the evening of the 24th of Sep. The program sessions will begin from the 25th of Sep. early morning and to be finished by the 27th of Sep. with a gathering dinner for the program participant. The format of this program is interactive and will be reshaping with its guests' inputs and consultation during the three-days event.

The RCAIC is a program which is organized and managed by Fig Lead Studios, Zawya, with the support of DEDI and IMS.



# DELEGATES PROFILES



**Name:** Maša Marković  
**Company:** Sarajevo Film Festival  
**Position:** Industry Coordinator  
**Country:** Bosnia and Herzegovina  
**Email:** masa.markovic@sff.ba  
**Company profile:**

Over the 15 years since its launch, the Sarajevo Film Festival's industry section has become a major hub for Southeast European film professionals, and has played a crucial role in the expansion of cinematic co-production in the region. It has also become a key destination for professionals from across Europe who are in search of talent and co-production possibilities, or who simply wish to obtain in-depth knowledge about this dynamic region's business development. The Festival's industry offering attracts almost 1,000 professionals to its annual event in late August and includes activities for people from all spheres of the business through its interlinked CineLink Industry Days sections: CineLink Co-Production Market, CineLink Work-in-Progress, CineLink Drama, Docu Rough Cut Boutique, True Stories Market, Talents Sarajevo Pack&Pitch, Avant Premiers, CineLink Talks.



**Name:** Anne-Renée  
**Position:** Producer  
**Country:** Canada  
**Biography:**

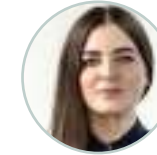
Anne-Renée Duhaime is an actress and writer, known for Tu Dors Nicole (2014), Le service (2017) and La ligne brisée (2008).



**Name:** Jonathan Da Silva  
**Company:** Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival  
**Position:** Communication Director  
**Country:** Canada  
**Email:** jdasilva@hotdocs.ca  
**Biography:**

Jonathan Da Silva is the Communications Director for Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival in Toronto, where he has been since 2004. He and his team oversees all marketing and communications activities for the Hot Docs Festival, North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, and the organization's year round public and industry programming, including national and international screening programs, youth and education initiatives and professional development and production fund programs for industry professionals. Da Silva also oversees marketing and communications for the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, the organization's 684-seat venue that screens first-run and retrospective documentary programs, as well as hosts speakers series and events and the annual Hot Docs Podcast Festival.

**Company Profile:**  
Hot Docs, North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, will present its 25th annual edition from April 26-May 6, 2018. An outstanding selection of over 200 documentaries from Canada and around the world will be presented to Toronto audiences of over 200,000 and 2400+ industry delegates. Hot Docs will also mount a full roster of conference sessions and market events and services for documentary practitioners, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum pitch event and Hot Docs Deal Maker one-on-one pitch meeting service. Hot Docs also manages a \$8M CAD portfolio of production funds, including the Hot Docs-Blue Ice Group Documentary Fund for African filmmakers living and working on the continent and the CrossCurrent Doc Funds for international filmmakers. Year-round, Hot Docs owns and operates the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, one of the first documentary-focused cinemas in the world.



**Name:** Kiva Reardon  
**Company:** TIFF  
**Position:** International Programmer  
**Country:** Canada  
**Email:** kreardon@tiff.net  
**Biography:**

Kiva Reardon is a programmer at the Toronto International Film Festival and Miami Film Festival, and the founding editor of clé, a journal of film and feminism. Her writing has been published in Hazlitt, The Globe and Mail, Maisonneuve, National Post, Filmmaker, The A.V. Club and others. Previously, she's worked at the Doha Film Institute in Qatar and the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival.

**Company Profile:**  
TIFF is dedicated to presenting the best of international and Canadian cinema to film lovers. What began as the Festival of Festivals over 40 years ago, has become the world's most important publicly attended film festival and grown to embrace programming 365 days a year. As a premier cultural institution TIFF offers screenings, lectures, discussions, festivals, workshops, industry support and the chance to meet filmmakers from Canada and around the world.



**Name:** Yilu Yu  
**Position:** Producer  
**Country:** China



**Name:** Lihong Kong  
**Company:** c/o Chinese Shadows (Lya)  
**Position:** Producer  
**Country:** China  
**Email:** lya@chineseshadows.com



**Name:** Anna Purkrabkova  
**Company:** Karlovy Vary International Film Festival  
**Position:** Program Coordinator / Programmer  
**Country:** Czech Republic  
**Email:** purkrabkova@kviff.com

**Biography:**

Anna Purkrabkova is member of the Program Department at Karlovy Vary International Film Festival since 2010. She became a member of the festival selection committee in 2012 and in 2015 she was appointed the Program Coordinator. As a programmer, Purkrabkova is focused on German speaking countries and middle-eastern cinematography. She is also currently coordinating and programming the Future Frames program, which promotes young European filmmakers.

**Company Profile:**

Hosting its 53rd edition in 2018 and selling 140,000 tickets every year, the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival is the largest and most prestigious film event in Central and Eastern Europe. Established in 1946, KVIFF is one of the oldest A-list film festivals (i.e., non-specialized festivals with a competition for feature-length films), a category it shares with the festivals in Cannes, Berlin, Venice, or San Sebastian. The Festival annually presents around 200 films in three competitions and numerous informative sidebars. With an extensive industry programme, it is considered the most important event in the whole region by both filmmakers and distributors, sales agents, and journalists..



**Name:** Mamdouh Saba  
**Country:** Egypt  
**Email:** mamdouhmsaba@yahoo.com



**Name:** Tarek Sabry

**Company:** AFD

**Position:** General Manager

**Country:** Egypt

**Email:** tareksabry7@gmail.com

**Biography:**

Tarek Sabry has been the Managing Partner of Allied For Distribution (AFD) since 2001. Before AFD, Sabry was the Managing Partner of Egyptian Home Entertainment and a Board Member/ Cinema Operating Manager at Egyptian Renaissance Cinema Co. AFD, established in 2014, are distributors of Italia Film, Empire International, Gulf Film, Eagle Films , Falcon Films ,Salim Ramia & Co. in Egypt.

**Company Profile:**

Allied For Distribution, established 2014, distributors of Italia Film, Empire International, Gulf Film, Eagle Films , Falcon Films ,Salim Ramia & Co. in Egypt.



**Name:** Ahmed Hafez

**Company:** Aroma

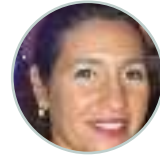
**Position:** Head of Editing Department

**Country:** Egypt

**Email:** ahmed.hafez@graphicaroma.com

**Company Profile:**

Based in Cairo & Dubai , AROMA STUDIOS has worked on over 400 Films , hundreds of TV Series & thousands of TV Commercials. AROMA's secret word is Passion, Passion for Filming , Producing and Development , along with the power of its VFX TEAM , AROMA is recognized as one of the major Studios in the region.



**Name:** Dina Harb

**Company:** Bithmark Films

**Position:** Managing Director

**Country:** Egypt

**Email:** d.harb@birthmarkfilms.com

**Biography:**

Company Profile: Established in 2009, Birthmark Films is an Egyptian based production company that grew over the years to develop and produce its own content. With a special interest in content, Birthmark Films has launched Birthmark Scenario in 2016 as its screenwriting arm. Birthmark Scenario provides script services as well as script development for both feature length films and TV series. Birthmark Scenario offers screenwriting workshops aiming for educating and discovering screenwriting talents. Birthmark films has a vision to become a key player in shaping the Egyptian Cinema Industry through educating, elevating and advocating talents.



**Name:** Ihab Ayoub

**Company:** Collage Film Production

**Position:** Owner

**Country:** Egypt

**Email:** ihayoub@yahoo.com



**Name:** Amr Koura

**Company:** Creative Arab Talent

**Position:** CEO

**Country:** Egypt

**Email:** a.koura@creativearabtalent.com

**Biography:**

Amr Koura decided to pursue a career in media and advertising after completing his studies in Architecture. In 1983, he started to practice photography and became one of the top portrait photographers in that period. After working with Egypt's advertising legend, Tarek Nour as resident photographer, Koura opened his own advertising agency Image, which was later acquired by TMI Advertising, later to be bought by the global agency JWT. In 1990, Koura started Image Productions, the first and groundbreaking professional setup to produce high quality TV commercials to international clients and agencies. In 1998, Koura secured the contract to produce 130 episodes of Alam Simsim, the Egyptian version of the Sesame Street show. In 2010, Koura produced and directed AL Jami'a, (The University), the first ever teen drama for the young Arab audiences. He also produced the horror drama series, Doors of Fear, starring the internationally recognized actor, Amr Waked.

**Company Profile:**

Creative Arab Talent is the first and only professional entertainment talent in the Middle East. It was founded in 2015 and has offices in Cairo, Dubai and Los Angeles.



**Name:** Anne-Renee

**Position:** Producer

**Country:** Canada

**Biography:**

Anne-Renée Duhaime is an actress and writer, known for Tu Dors Nicole (2014), Le service (2017) and La ligne brisée (2008).



**Name:** Kiva Reardon

**Company:** TIFF

**Position:** International Programmer

**Country:** Canada

**Email:** kreardon@tiff.net

**Biography:**

Kiva Reardon is a programmer at the Toronto International Film Festival and Miami Film Festival, and the founding editor of cléo, a journal of film and feminism. Her writing has been published in Hazlitt, The Globe and Mail, Maisonneuve, National Post, Filmmaker, The A.V. Club and others. Previously, she's worked at the Doha Film Institute in Qatar and the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival.

**Company Profile:**

TIFF is dedicated to presenting the best of international and Canadian cinema to film lovers. What began as the Festival of Festivals over 40 years ago, has become the world's most important publicly attended film festival and grown to embrace programming 365 days a year. As a premier cultural institution TIFF offers screenings, lectures, discussions, festivals, workshops, industry support and the chance to meet filmmakers from Canada and around the world.



**Name:** Mridu Mona Chandra

**Company:** Tribeca Film Institute

**Position:** Director, IF/Then Short Documentary Program

**Country:** USA

**Email:** mchandra@tribecafilminstitute.org

**Biography:**

Mridu Chandra is the Director of IF/Then- a new initiative developed by Tribeca Film Institute to stimulate the production and multi-platform distribution of short form documentary storytelling. She is a veteran producer of award-winning documentaries and independent feature films that explore topics of civil rights and peace, gender and sexuality, environmental justice, and the law. These films have premiered at Sundance and SXSW, aired on PBS and HBO, screened for members of the U.S. Congress & the United Nations, and showcased at Museums & film festivals worldwide. She mentors emerging and diverse filmmakers and has taught documentary research, development, and rights clearance courses at The New School, NYU's School of Continuing Studies, and at The New York Film Academy.

**Company Profile:**

Tribeca Film Institute (TFI) is a year-round nonprofit arts organization in New York (affiliated to the Tribeca Film Festival) founded by Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal, and Craig Hatkoff in the wake of September 11, 2001. Each year, we identify a diverse group of exceptional filmmakers and media artists and empower them with funding, tools and platforms to realize their stories and connect with audiences. The Institute creates innovative programs that draw on the power of film to promote understanding, tolerance and global awareness. The IF/Then Short Documentary Program is a new initiative launched by TFI with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. IF/Then provides funding, mentorship and creative distribution for original short documentaries by emerging or underrepresented filmmakers





**Name:** Amr Koura  
**Company:** Creative Arab Talent  
**Position:** CEO  
**Country:** Egypt  
**Email:** a.koura@creativearabtalent.com

**Biography:**  
 Amr Koura decided to pursue a career in media and advertising after completing his studies in Architecture. In 1983, he started to practice photography and became one of the top portrait photographers in that period. After working with Egypt's advertising legend, Tarek Nour as resident photographer, Koura opened his own advertising agency Image, which was later acquired by TMI Advertising, later to be bought by the global agency JWT. In 1990, Koura started Image Productions, the first and groundbreaking professional setup to produce high quality TV commercials to international clients and agencies. In 1998, Koura secured the contract to produce 130 episodes of Alam Simsim, the Egyptian version of the Sesame Street show. In 2010, Koura produced and directed AL Jami'a, (The University), the first ever teen drama for the young Arab audiences. He also produced the horror drama series, Doors of Fear, starring the internationally recognized actor, Amr Waked.

**Company Profile:**  
 Creative Arab Talent is the first and only professional entertainment talent in the Middle East. It was founded in 2015 and has offices in Cairo, Dubai and Los Angeles.



**Name:** Mohamed Hefzy  
**Company:** Film Clinic  
**Position:** CEO / Producer  
**Country:** Egypt  
**Biography:**

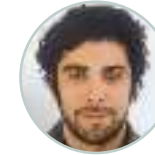
Mohamed Hefzy is an award winning Egyptian screenwriter and producer who has written, produced, and co-produced nearly 30 feature films in Egypt, the US, the UK, and the Arab world. In 2013, Screen International named him as the only Arab among 30 future leaders in film production. In 2016, he was chosen by Variety on top of a list of "Ten names you need to know in the Arab Film Industry". His films have participated widely in major film festivals, including Cannes, Venice, Berlin, Sundance, and Toronto, and have won more than 80 international awards. Hefzy is the former director of the Ismailia International Film Festival for Documentaries and Shorts. He is currently on the Advisory board of Cairo International Film Festival. A board member of the Egyptian Chamber of Cinema since 2013.



**Name:** Daniel Ziskind  
**Company:** Film Clinic  
**Position:** Producer  
**Country:** Egypt  
**Email:** Daniel.ziskind@film-clinic.com

**Biography:**  
 Daniel Ziskind's started his production career in the 1990's where he worked as an assistant director to directors such as Alain Resnais, Yves Robert and Claude Lelouch. He is now a producer for Film Clinic. With such film experience, he later chose to orientate himself towards advertising for which he produced and collaborated to more than 100 publicity spots at Premiere Heure. In 2006, Ziskind moved to Egypt where he has been working since 2006. He was the European representative for the Good News group who notably produced Marwan Hamed's the Yacoubian Building (took part to Berlinale 2006, Panorama). Ziskind was brought on projects such as A Man of Honor (Jean-Claude Cods, 2011), Ibrahim El Batout's Winter of Discontent (2012 - the film participated to the Venice Film Festival - Orrizonti Section), Lara Saba's Blind Intersections (2012) and Ibrahim El Batout's Cat (2014). Ziskind's latest work " Sheick Jackson " by Amr Salama, was selected in Toronto Film Festival in 2017 and is the opening film of El Gouna Film Festival.

**Company Profile:**  
 Film Clinic was founded in 2005 and is managed by the renowned Producer and Scriptwriter Mohamed Hefzy. Film Clinic is now considered one of the leading production companies in the MENA region that not only creates unique features but also empowers talents to do so. We have a passion for the filmmaking industry as we enjoy operating in all its diverse fields on both national and international platforms. Our philosophy is to blend the creative, vibrant ideas of the young generation with the expertise of the best in cinema in order to present strong movies to audiences of exquisite taste and an equal admiration to the beloved silver screen.



**Name:** Wael Omar  
**Company:** Middle West Films  
**Position:** Manager  
**Country:** Egypt  
**Email:** waelomar@gmail.com

**Biography:**  
 Wael Omar is a native Cairene with an inherent passion for all things artistic, chaotic and eccentric. He took a liking to the stage at an early age, acting his way through school and university, eventually graduating from Emerson College, one of the top performing arts and media schools in the US, before settling for a career behind the camera. Since 2001 he has worked up and down the production line doing every possible thing on a movie set that can be done, from credits on Hollywood features to shooting conflict zone documentaries in Central Africa. In 2005 he produced and directed Democracy 76 -a treatise on Egypt's last presidential election, and the events that precipitated it. Upon returning to the Middle East in 2007, with a focus on culturally-minded stories, and a partner as crazy as himself, Wael launched Middle West Films, wholeheartedly dedicated to the indie film scene in the Euro-Med region.

**Company Profile:**  
 Middle West Films was founded in 2008 by a small band of Egyptian indie filmmakers, heritage whores, news junkies, and digital activists looking to engage both the domestic and international markets with fresh new multi-cultural media products. Based in downtown Cairo, we are a company which seeks to develop, incubate, produce, co-produce, and sell films of mutli-cultural appeal; With an anti-excess production philosophy we harness new technology, access a savvy and creative roster of talent, above the line contacts in the Middle Eastern and European markets, and make films with impact and flavor..



**Name:** Yasser Howaidy

**Company:** New Century Production

**Position:** Executive Producer

**Country:** Egypt

**Email:** howaidy@newcenturyproduction.com

**Biography:**

Yasser Howaidy is an Egyptian Filmmaker and Producer with a career in the Egyptian Cinema industry that began in the early 1990's. In 2014, Howaidy became the Executive Producer of New Century Production. Prior to this, Howaidy has worked in Egypt, the UAE as well as many other countries in the world and covered a wide range of expertise in the cinema and documentary genres in the region.

**Company Profile:**

New Century Production aims to support the growth of the Egyptian film market through a constant stream of fresh and professional productions. New Century develops films that are captivating and entertaining for both the Arab and foreign audiences. New Century is a production arm of Dollar Film for distribution that was first founded in 1949 Dollar Film is one of a few incorporations that survived in the market up till now. In 2005, the company kicked off the Egyptian film market with The Seventh Sense "El Hasa El Sab3a" directed by Ahmed Mekky New Century achieved several accomplishments through a number of social films such as Cairo 678 by Mohamed Diab, Asmaa by director Amr Salama, After the battle by Yousry Nasrallah, Decir by Ahmed Abdallah, Out of the ordinary by Daoud Abdel Sayed, which was screened in several regional and international film festivals. In order to guarantee better distribution for films in the market, New Century bought, rent, been in partnership and is in charge of the administration of a number of film theatres across the Egyptian governorates..



**Name:** Ahmed Badawy

**Company:** New Century Production

**Position:** General Manager

**Country:** Egypt

**Email:** badawy@newcenturyproduction.com

**Biography:**

Ahmed Badawy Mostafa is the General Manager of New Century Production. He started his career as an Assistant Producer in Films like El Kafir & Hobak Nar with several film production houses. He worked as a Production Manager in many films such as Yacoubian Building, A'an Al Shawk We Al Hawa, Al Torbini and Esabet Doctor Omar. He has also worked in TV shows and advertisements as an Assistant Producer, Producer & Production Manager.

**Company Profile:**

New Century Production aims to support the growth of the Egyptian film market through a constant stream of fresh and professional productions. New Century develops films that are captivating and entertaining for both the Arab and foreign audiences. New Century is a production arm of Dollar Film for distribution that was first founded in 1949 Dollar Film is one of a few incorporations that survived in the market up till now. In 2005, the company kicked off the Egyptian film market with The Seventh Sense "El Hasa El Sab3a" directed by Ahmed Mekky. New Century achieved several accomplishments through a number of social films such as Cairo 678 by Mohamed Diab, Asmaa by director Amr Salama, After the battle by Yousry Nasrallah, Decir by Ahmed Abdallah, Out of the ordinary by Daoud Abdel Sayed, which was screened in several regional and international film festivals. In order to guarantee better distribution for films in the market, New Century bought, rent, been in partnership and is in charge of the administration of a number of film theatres across the Egyptian governorates.



**Name:** Reem Kozak

**Company:** Rotana

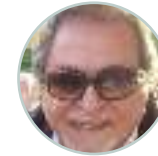
**Position:** Movie channels manager

**Country:** Egypt

**Email:** reemkozak@rotana.net

**Company Profile:**

Rotana Cinema Owns the largest and richest Arabic movie library in the world, containing over 2000 premium production films, Rotana Cinema's movies ranges from golden oldies to the latest blockbusters and anything in between. Guaranteeing the largest assortment of family entertainment and broadcasting only the latest smash hits on the silver screen, Rotana Cinema has become the leading free to air Arabic movie channel in the world.



**Name:** Safwat Ghattas

**Company:** Spot 2000

**Position:** Owner / CEO

**Country:** Egypt

**Email:** safwat@spot2000.com

**Company Profile:**

Company Profile: Spot 2000» Productions is one of the Middle East major Drama production companies. For more than 23 years, «Spot 2000" has developed and produced over 700 hours, which have consistently delivered ratings results. Shot in Egypt and around the world and post-produced in house. The aesthetic and technical qualities surpass the industry's highest expectations. Whether working in new technical formats or delivering celebrated series for the whole Middle East, «Spot 2000" is an industry innovator. «Spot 2000" Productions has a full-time staff of producers, directors, writers, editors, graphic artists, developers, and administrators. and an uncountable numbers of freelancers , starting from TV directors, Cameramen, Lighting people, sound engineers, etc.



**Name:** Ramez Youssef

**Company:** Tayarah

**Position:** Co-Founder / Chief Creative Officer

**Country:** Egypt

**Email:** ramez@tayah.com

**Biography:**

Ramez Youssef is the Co-Founder of Tayarah, a successfully growing digital media agency. Tayarah is a leading <online media> hub, with a bigger scope of work, creating online video content to inspire, educate and entertain the community. Youssef, who graduated from Architectural Engineering with High Honors, was inspired to pursue a career in comedy after completing his military duty. Ramez became the star presenter of Disalata’s famous Youtube show “Mish Impossible” for three seasons.

**Company Profile:**

Tayarah is a creative media production hub, launched in Egypt in September 2014 with the intent to produce online video content that inspires, educates and entertains the community. Started off as disalata back in 2012, introducing online video content for the very first time in the market. By the beginning of 2016 the brilliant star/producer; Hend Sabry decided to join forces with the founders to take Tayarah to the next level, to be a fully-fledged online content creator hub, not just for Egypt but for the whole region. Tayarah executed several successful online marketing campaigns for clients such as Nestle, L’Oreal, Orange, Unilever and more. It is also best known for its online short series «3ala Fein ya Negm?» sponsored by Uber, through which Egyptian celebrities were introduced to the exclusive online video sphere. In addition, catering to effective and positive social change and wholesome community values, Tayarah produced an online video show called «Mish Impossible», hoping to entertain, educate and inspire people to act towards positive community change



**Name:** Mohamed El-Bassiouni

**Company:** Tayarah

**Position:** Co-Founder / Managing Director

**Country:** Egypt

**Email:** bassio@tayah.com

**Biography:**

Mohamed El Bassiouni is the Co-Founder of Tayarah, a successfully growing digital media agency. Bassiouni, a Construction Engineer graduate, held the title of Assistant Chairman of Wataneya for Real Estate Investment. El Bassiouni’s passion for arts, media, film and media along with his aptitude for discovering the potential in people and directing that potential in the right place led him to launch disalata.com. Two years later, disalata evolved into Tayarah; a leading <online media> hub, with a bigger scope of work, creating online video content to inspire, educate and entertain the community.

**Company Profile:**

Tayarah is a creative media production hub, launched in Egypt in September 2014 with the intent to produce online video content that inspires, educates and entertains the community. Started off as disalata back in 2012, introducing online video content for the very first time in the market. By the beginning of 2016 the brilliant star/producer; Hend Sabry decided to join forces with the founders to take Tayarah to the next level, to be a fully-fledged online content creator hub, not just for Egypt but for the whole region. Tayarah executed several successful online marketing campaigns for clients such as Nestle, L’Oreal, Orange, Unilever and more. It is also best known for its online short series «3ala Fein ya Negm?» sponsored by Uber, through which Egyptian celebrities were introduced to the exclusive online video sphere. In addition, catering to effective and positive social change and wholesome community values, Tayarah produced an online video show called «Mish Impossible», hoping to entertain, educate and inspire people to act towards positive community change.



**Name:** Hani Ossama

**Company:** The Producers

**Position:** Producer

**Country:** Egypt

**Email:** hosama@theproducersfilms.com

**Biography:**

Hani Osama has been working on commercials and music videos since he graduated from the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University. In the mid-90s, he began working as an Assistant Director along with Hadi El Bagoury. In 2001, they both founded The Producers, a production company that co-produced films, such as Excuse my French and the thriller Warda, in addition to producing TV drama series using cinematic techniques for the first time in the Arab world.

**Company Profile:**

The Producers is an Egyptian production company that was established in 2001 by prominent director Hadi El Bagoury and Executive Producer Hani Osama. The mission of the company is to become a leading production company in cinema and digital productions, which is not a farfetched dream considering the quality of our services as well as our assets that gives us a head start



**Name:** Youssef Shazli

**Company:** Zawya Cinema & Distribution

**Position:** Managing Director

**Country:** Egypt

**Email:** yshazli@mifegypt.com

**Biography:**

Youssef Shazli, born and raised in Cairo, studied International Development at McGill University. He joined Misr International Films (MIF) working on the Panorama of the European Film, currently in its ninth run. In 2014, he launched Zawya Cinema, one of Egypt’s first arthouse cinemas, and most recently Zawya Distribution, an initiative to promote Egyptian arthouse films locally and abroad.



**Name:** Guillaume De Seille  
**Company:** Arizona Productions  
**Position:** CEO Producer  
**Country:** France  
**Email:** guillaume@arizonafilms.net  
**Biography:**

Guillaume de Seille is the CEO Producer of Arizona Productions. After two awarded short-films as writer/director, he worked for ten years for Canal+ in the cinema department (presales of French and European films), and was the commissioning editor for a few years within the short film department of Canal+ and artistic producer for French public broadcaster France 2. He was the Independent producer since 2000, he produced/co-produced more than forty non-French feature art-house films that were invited in every major festival and theatre released in France. De Seille is the 1998 EAVE graduate, member of EFA, Asia-Pacific Screen Academy, Cesar Academy and SPI in France.

**Company Profile:**

Arizona Productions, Paris based, is led by Guillaume de Seille to mainly produce art-house feature films directed by non-French emerging talents. Bénédicte Thomas is handling domestic theatrical French distribution for most of the coproduced titles.



**Name:** Catherine Dussart  
**Company:** CDP  
**Position:** Producer  
**Country:** France  
**Email:** cdp@cdpproductions.fr  
**Biography:**

Alessandra Speciale has been a consultant of the African and Arabic Countries at Venice Film Festival and the head of the project of Final cut in Venice, a workshop to support African and Arab films in post production. She is also the artistic director of the African, Asian and Latin America Film Festival of Milan, Italy. She has distributed in the Italian alternative theatrical circuits more than 200 films from the three continents with the Association COE. She has collaborated as programmer for other international film festivals as Locarno, San Sebastian, Kerala and Torino Film Festival. She is also creative documentary filmmakers, her films have been broadcast by television channels such as Tele+, Rai and Arte. Recently she has been elected President of Milano Film Network, an association that unites seven festival in Milan and promotes film distribution film industry events and workshops in Italy.

**Company Profile:**

Since 1994, CDP has been producing an array of festival awarded and critically acclaimed feature and documentaries films. Among their directors are Shohei Imamura, Pavel Lounguine, Rithy Panh, Min Bahadur Bham, Yesim Ustaoglu and Gurvinder Singh.



**Name:** Julien Ezanno  
**Company:** CNC  
**Position:** Bilateral Affairs Advisor  
**Country:** France  
**Email:** julien.ezanno@cnc.fr  
**Biography:**

Julien Ezanno is the bilateral affairs advisor within the international policy unit. He was first hired by the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC) in 2001 after a career in the airline industry. He was first appointed at the CEO's cabinet to deal with general issues and was then offered the position to manage international co-production. His task was to develop bilateral relations with all the countries France has signed an Agreement with, encouraging foreign producers to work with French partners. His duties included negotiating new agreements with countries willing to establish a privileged relation with France in the field of film. Ezanno was also the French delegate to the European co-production fund, Eurimages.

**Company Profile:**

Created by the law of 25 October 1946, the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC) is a public administrative organization, set up as a separate and financially independent entity. The centre comes under the authority of the ministry of culture and communication and Frédérique Bredin is its president.



**Name:** Marco Orsini  
**Company:** International Emerging Film Talent Association (IEFTA)  
**Position:** President, Founding Board Member  
**Country:** France  
**Email:** marco@iefta.org  
**Biography:**

Marco Orsini is an award-winning writer, director and producer of film and television, whose narrative work has screened at Tribeca and Sundance, among other important festivals. As a founder and current President of the International Emerging Film Talent Association of Monaco, he is a noted advocate and fundraiser on behalf of film education and industry development in emerging countries.

**Company Profile:**

The International Emerging Film Talent Association (IEFTA) is a Monaco-based non-profit organisation that was founded in 2006. The IEFTA organizes, finances and participates in festivals, exhibitions, education and development. Central to the IEFTA mandate is connecting new and emerging filmmakers with established members of the entertainment community. The IEFTA promotes cultural diversity and international understanding, while supporting film related creativity in developing countries. For more information about the IEFTA, visit [www.iefta.org](http://www.iefta.org).



**Name:** Hedi Zardi

**Company:** Luxbox

**Position:** CEO / Acquisitions & Sales

**Country:** France

**Email:** hedi@luxboxfilms.com

**Biography:**

Hédi Zardi is the CEO and the Acquisition and sales of Luxbox. After studying Cinema in France and Video Art in Barcelona, he moved to Montreal for his final year at university. After his Master's degree, he moved to Paris where he began to work for UNIFRANCE, promoting French talents worldwide. In 2003, he joined Daniel Toscan du Plantier's company, working on the two first editions of the Marrakech International Film Festival, and worked for 5 years for the French Academy Awards, les César. His collaboration included project and artistic direction of several events and handling the communication of the Academy. In 2008, After working freelance on several film festivals, Zardi joined the Acquisitions Department of the international sales company Fortissimo Films. Zardi also collaborated with the Torino Film Lab on their screenwriting workshops. In 2012, he acted as associate producer on Michel Franco's After Lucia, which was awarded the Grand Jury Prize of Un Certain Regard at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival and in 2014 on Gabriel Ripstein's 600 Miles, Best First Feature film at the Berlinale 2015.

**Company Profile:**

Luxbox is a Paris-based company, dedicated to international sales and co-production of select projects. Based on a solid film catalogue and a passionate pool of world cinema directors, the company launched at the EFM 2016, INHEBBEK HEDI (HEDI) by Mohammed Ben Attia (Best First Feature Film and Silver Bear for Best Actor). In Cannes 2016, Luxbox presented APPRENTICE by BOO Junfeng (Un Certain Regard) and MIMOSAS by Oliver Laxe (Grand Prize of the Critic's Week).



**Name:** Marie Gutmann

**Company:** Méroé Films

**Position:** CEO / Producer

**Country:** France

**Email:** marie@meroefilms.fr

**Biography:**

Marie GUTMANN is the Producer / CEO of Meroe films. She graduated from School of Political Sciences (Sciences-Po) in Paris, Marie Gutmann worked for an international publishing group, before becoming Audiovisual Attache at the French Embassy in Morocco. With Meroe films, she is producing creative shorts and feature films, as well as documentaries, films that explore the world we live in, supporting directors worldwide. Marie Gutmann also works as a consultant and script reader for different international film funds and she is in charge of production studies in ESAV Marrakech.

**Company Profile:**

Meroe films is an independant production company based in Paris. At a time when images have become our primary means of understanding the world, Méroé films offers films that, though they are available to all, pique our curiosity - that encourage reflection and stimulate our minds, but that also prompt us to dream and feel. We are actually developing French feature films but international coproductions as well (with Lebanon, Italy and Ukraine), different shorts and documentaries. [www.meroefilms.fr](http://www.meroefilms.fr).



**Name:** Félicie Roger

**Company:** Shellax

**Position:** Distributor

**Country:** France

**Email:** felicie@shellac-altern.org



**Name:** Thomas Ordonneau

**Company:** Shellac

**Position:** Producer

**Country:** France

**Email:** toma@shellac-altern.org





**Name:** Esther Devos

**Company:** Wild Bunch

**Position:** Festivals & Market Manager

**Country:** France

**Email:** edevos@wildbunch.eu

**Company Profile:**

Wild Bunch is one of the world's leading players in the field of international sales, its position strengthened by both a wealth of experience recognized by foreign distributors world-wide, and a broad, artistically diverse selection of the best of director-led international cinema. Currently handling an international sales catalogue of around 450 titles, Wild Bunch has established a reputation for both professionalism and provocation with distributors world-wide. Characterized by its diverse editorial policy, the company offers a constantly renewed and always innovative slate of films from all over the world: director-driven, art-house, genre or commercial; features, documentaries, regularly honored at both European and international festivals. Wild Bunch is also renowned for discovering – and developing ongoing relationships with – new and innovative directorial talent, having to date handled more than fifty first or second-time features. Wild Bunch has facilitated the international distribution and success of numerous films and is wholly committed to providing the finest in international cinema to distributors and broadcasters throughout the world.



**Name:** Claus Josten

**Country:** Germany

**Email:** claus.josten@gmail.com

**Biography:**

After spending three years in Morocco, Claus Josten offers intercultural competence in his many years of experience in the TV, film and media sector from Cologne with «Casablanca Consulting Cologne». He has also worked on occasional TV documentaries, TV and radio broadcasts. As a curator, Claus Josten has also developed new approaches for «intercultural» events and other genre-spanning projects between culture and business.



**Name:** Karin Angela

**Company:** Film Prize of the Robert Bosch Stiftung

**Position:** Coordinator

**Country:** Germany

**Email:** schyle@filmprize.de

**Biography:**

she is a coordinator for Film Prize of the Robert Bosch Stiftung. In April 2012, she founded her own company, Schyle Filmwork, and since then has been offering international film culture management. The company organizes, administers and manages all the events of the Robert Bosch Stiftung's International Fund for International Cooperation Germany / Arabian World all year round and is responsible for the editorial support. She studied modern and contemporary art history at Christie's Education in London and then on cultural management at the bbw academy in Berlin. From 1998 to 2003 Schyle organized international cultural events, among them were the transmediale - media art festival, the ICMC and the Croatian Culture Week in Berlin / Germany. In 2004, she was the festival manager of six editions of the goEast festival of Central and Eastern European film organized by the German Filminstitut - DIF. Afterwards, she worked as a freelance cultural manager for film multiple festivals

**Company Profile:**

The Robert Bosch Stiftung annually issues three Film Prizes for international cooperation between young German and Arab filmmakers to realize a joint film project. The prizes, each worth up to 60,000 euros, are awarded by an international jury to projects in the categories short animated film, short fiction film and short or feature length documentaries.



**Name:** Rabih El-Khoury

**Company:** Robert Bosch Stiftung

**Position:** Curator

**Country:** Germany

**Email:** elkhoury@filmprize.de

**Biography:**

Rabih El-Khoury is a curator for Robert Bosch Stiftung. He holds a BA in Journalism and a Masters degree in Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship from Goldsmiths University in London. El Khoury has been working with the Metropolis Association, which manages Metropolis Art Cinema, the only art house cinema in Lebanon. He has also worked for the cultural association Beirut DC for the promotion of Arab Cinema as general coordinator for its Arab film festival The Beirut Cinema Days since 2006. He has organized over 20 Arab film weeks in the Arab World and Europe. El-Khoury has been the Programme Manager of Talents Beirut and is a member of the administrative board of the Metropolis Association. He holds the Head of Programming position at the Beirut Cinema Days and is a programmer for Alfilm, the Arab Film Festival in Berlin.

**Company Profile:**

The Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH is one of the major German foundations associated with a private company and has managed the philanthropic bequest of company founder Robert Bosch for over 50 years. Indeed it was his entrepreneurial vision, political farsightedness, moral fortitude and charitable initiatives that set the standards for the work of the Robert Bosch Stiftung.



**Name:** Christina Liapi  
**Company:** Heretic Outreach  
**Position:** Festival's Manager  
**Country:** Greece  
**Email:** outreach@heretic.gr



**Name:** Monica Bacardi  
**Email:** edvige.detommaso@iafilm.it

**Biography:**

Monika Gomez Del Campo Bacardi, Lady of Bayfield Hall, known as Monika Bacardi, was born in Italy. Her love for cinema led her to co-found the AMBI Group that she still runs today with her business partner, the Italian producer Andrea Iervolino. AMBI's mission is undertaking to provide financial backing for medium to high-budget international films featuring Hollywood big names

**Company Profile:**

AMBI Group is a consortium of vertically integrated film development, production, finance and distribution companies wholly owned and operated by Andrea Iervolino and Monika Gomez del Campo Bacardi, Lady of Bayfield Hall, better known as "Monika Bacardi." From offices in Toronto, Beverly Hills and Europe, AMBI is dedicated to making and delivering high-end, commercial movies for global audiences, with a mandate to serve as a top-tier supplier of mainstream projects for both the studios and major independent distributors worldwide. With 10 films in production this year alone and over 15 produced since last year, AMBI has quickly emerged as one of the industry's most prolific financing, production and sales companies with the capacity to develop, package, finance, produce and sell a broad array of films for worldwide distribution..



**Name:** Alice Arecco  
**Company:** Milano Film Festival  
**Position:** Senior Programmer  
**Country:** Italy  
**Email:** coordinamento@milanofilmnetwork.it

**Biography:**

Company Profile: Milan Film Festival Start date February 2002 An internationally renowned film festival That every year showcases the best works from young filmmakers from all over the world International Independent Film Festival from 1995 promotes talents in the field of Italian and international, with the rediscovery of the great authors of the story of the cinema. Milan Film Festival is a quality cultural proposal, a democratic festival open to all, a platform for information and insight into the present and an international square. It is the result of a one-year long international dialogue between directors, staff, students, production and distribution houses, cinema schools and the public.



**Name:** Emanuele Rauco  
**Company:** Venice Film Festival  
**Position:** Advisor for official selection  
**Country:** Italy  
**Email:** emanuelerauco@gmail.com

**Biography:**

Emanuele Rauco is the Advisor for official selection for the Venice Film Festival. He started to write about film in his high school magazine. After his degree in History of Cinema and Critic, he worked for multiple websites and magazines (L'opinione, Screenweek, FanPage, HuffPost, CineForum) and as a radio speaker. He is a film critic for magazines like Il mucchio selvaggio and La rivista del Cinematografo, one of the eldest movie magazines in Italy. He has worked with Catania Film Festival as co-artistic director and with Formia Film Festival. Rauco is currently a member of the experts commission that selects movies for Mostra Internazionale d'arte cinematografica di Venezia (Venice Film Festival).

**Company Profile:**

The Venice Film Festival or Venice International Film Festival (Italian: Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica della Biennale di Venezia, «International Exhibition of Cinematographic Art of the Venice Biennale»), founded in 1932, is the oldest film festival in the world and one of the «Big Three» film festivals alongside the Cannes Film Festival and Berlin International Film Festival.



**Name:** Alessandra Speciale

**Company:** Venice Film Festival

**Position:** Head of Final Cut and Consultant Africa and Arab countries Venice Film Festival

**Country:** Italy

**Email:** alessandra.speciale@labiennale.org

**Biography:**

Alessandra Speciale has been a consultant of the African and Arabic Countries at Venice Film Festival and the head of the project of Final cut in Venice, a workshop to support African and Arab films in post production. She is also the artistic director of the African, Asian and Latin America Film Festival of Milan, Italy. She has distributed in the Italian alternative theatrical circuits more than 200 films from the three continents with the Association COE. She has collaborated as programmer for other international film festivals as Locarno, San Sebastian, Kerala and Torino Film Festival. She is also creative documentary filmmakers, her films have been broadcast by television channels such as Tele+, Rai and Arte. Recently she has been elected President of Milano Film Network, an association that unites seven festival in Milan and promotes film distribution film industry events and workshops in Italy.

**Company Profile:**

Venice International Film Festival, founded in 1932, is the oldest film festival in the world The aim of the Festival is 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. Final cut in Venice is a project of the Venice Production Bridge (the new Venice Film Market).



**Name:** Muna Fityani

**Company:** Mad Solutions

**Position:** Producer

**Country:** Jordan

**Email:** moshira.bahar@mad-solutions.com



**Name:** Jad Abi-Khalil

**Company:** Beirut DC

**Position:** Beirut Cinema Platform Director

**Country:** Lebanon

**Email:** jad@beirutdc.org

**Biography:**

Jad Abi Khalil was born in Beirut Lebanon. He completed his cinema studies at IESAV – Saint Joseph University in 1998. He has directed several short films and feature documentaries. Since 2007, Abi Khalil has been producing feature documentaries, including The One Man Village by Simon El Habre (2008 Special Jury mention- Dubai International Film festival, 2009 best international feature- Hot Docs International Documentary Festival) and Diaries of a Flying Dog by Bassem Fayad (2015 Dubai International Film Festival, 2016 Carthage International Film Festival). Abi Khalil is a founding member of Beirut DC, the cultural association for Arab Cinema. He was the chairman of its board of directors from 2009 till 2013, head of its DOCmed training program 2011-2013- and head of its Beirut Cinema Platform (BCP) since 2015.

**Company Profile:**

Beirut DC was founded in Beirut, Lebanon in 1999 by a group of cinema professionals and art advocates. The organization began its projects towards the end of 1999. The aim of Beirut DC was to provide help and support to Arab independent filmmakers, in facing up and overcoming the constraints facing independently-minded Arab cinema. In due time, Beirut DC became more capable and efficient in its efforts to adjust to the difficulties and challenges facing Arab independent movie-makers. The organization was able to learn and profit from its prolonged experience, and to gain the knowledge necessary to define and pursue its ongoing projects..



**Name:** Zeina Sfeir

**Company:** Beirut DC Association

**Position:** Founder

**Country:** Lebanon

**Email:** zeinasfeir@gmail.com

**Biography:**

Zeina Sfeir is a Lebanese documentary filmmaker. She graduated from St-Joseph University - IESAV, with a degree in Audio-visual Studies in 1997. She has worked in the field of advertising, in organization of festivals, and has directed several music videos between 1996 and 2000. Sfeir worked for LBCI – TV station from 1998 to 2005 .She directed more than 12 documentaries and is now in the writing phase of her new feature documentary. She has been a member in the cultural association Beirut DC and has played the role of Artistic Director of Beirut DC’s Arab Film Festival “Beirut Cinema Days”. Sfeir has been Programmer and Arab Communication and Film Talent Manager at the Dubai International Film Festival since 2007. Sfeir is also a film distributor / publicist and co-founder of MC Distribution – Lebanon as well as founding member of the cultural association of Cinema Metropolis.

**Company Profile:**

Beirut DC was founded in Beirut, Lebanon in 1999 by a group of young film enthusiasts who believe that the image can be a tool for dialogue with the society and can create a positive change. Thus, the association launched different actions to defend and support Arab auteur cinema professionals. The aim of Beirut DC was to provide help and support to Arab independent filmmakers, in facing up and overcoming the constraints facing independently-minded Arab cinema. In due time, Beirut DC became more capable and efficient in its efforts to adjust to the difficulties and challenges facing Arab independent movie-makers. The organization was able to learn and profit from its prolonged experience, and to gain the knowledge necessary to define and pursue its ongoing projects. In a region where individuality is generally restricted, Beirut DC encourages its partners and collaborators to produce films that are relevant to their society, that seek to question pre-established forms and beliefs, and aim to induce change and new, personal approaches.





**Name:** Pascal Rahme  
**Company:** Empire  
**Position:** Sales Director  
**Country:** Lebanon  
**Email:** pascal@e4empire.com

**Biography:**

Pascal Rahme has been working with the Empire International for 22 years, distributing Sony Pictures & 20th Century Fox films across all Middle East alongside some independent films, distributes for Egypt Sony titles and independent films only. He is holding now the position of Head of Distribution department, located in Beirut, Dubai & Cairo.

**Company Profile:**

Empire International, licensee of Sony Pictures and other Independent films in Egypt.



**Name:** Sobhi Sannan  
**Company:** Falcon Films  
**Position:** CEO  
**Country:** Lebanon  
**Email:** Sobhi@falconfilms-lb.com

**Company Profile:**

Falcon Films is an entertainment Production and distribution company specialized in Theatrical, Digital and Television distributions in the Middle East and North Africa.



**Name:** Rami Sannan  
**Company:** Falcon Films  
**Position:** Managing Director  
**Country:** Lebanon  
**Email:** rami@falconfilms-lb.com

**Company Profile:**

Falcon films is one the leading distribution companies in the Middle East that was founded in 2000. It acquires more than 60 Hollywood independant movies every year to distribute them in its territory. It distributes also all kinds of Egyptian and Lebanese movies and series. Some of the great successes in the field of Arabic movies distribution were Ahwak in 2016 and Tosbah Ala Khair in 2017 both starring the Egyptian Megastar Tamer Hosni. In 2014, Falcon Films conquered the industry of film production in Egypt amd Lebanon. It produced 4 Lebanese movies (Welcome to Lebanon, Max & Antar, Ekil Sherib Neyim, and Bghamdet Ein starring the Lebanese star Ziad Bourji that led the Lebanese box office in 2017). It produced also in Egypt in Co-production with Egyptian partners 3 Egyptian movies (Paparazzi starring Ramy Ayach, Taht El Tarabeza starring Mohamad Saad, and Nom El Talat starring Hani Ramzi). In the meantime, Falcon Films is targeting a new market which is series production in Lebanon and Egypt.



**Name:** Hyam Saliby  
**Company:** Italia Film International - Walt Disney studios in the ME)  
**Position:** Head of Sales & Acquisitions for the ME  
**Country:** Lebanon  
**Email:** hyam.saliby@italiafilm.com.lb



**Name:** Badih Massaad

**Company:** MC Distribution

**Position:** Festivals coordinator / Releases

**Country:** Lebanon

**Email:** festivals@mcdistribution.me

**Biography:**

Badih Massaad has directed the award winning short film, *Badkon Shi...t?* (2005). He teaches Technology of cinema and editing at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts (Alba). He has been working as a director and first assistant director for many TVCs, video clips and short films since 2004. He participated in Berlinale Talent Campus (2006). In 2016, He acted as a production consultant for the Lebanese VOD Platform Cinemoz and as a festival coordinator for Maskoon Fantastic Film Festival of which its first edition took place in Beirut last September

**Company Profile:**

MC Distribution aims at supporting Lebanese and International independent Cinema in Lebanon and the Middle East. Working closely with the Metropolis Association, MC Distribution releases new Lebanese independent titles at the Metropolis Empire Sofil theaters as well as other theaters around Lebanon. MC Distribution also partners with international distributors to acquire and release foreign titles within the framework of its objective. In addition, MC Distribution promotes its Lebanese-produced films at international festivals and film markets and strives to promote Lebanese cinema around the world.



**Name:** Sara Hindi

**Company:** MC Distribution

**Country:** Lebanon

**Biography:**

Sarah is in charge of theatrical release and Sales & Acquisitions in MC Distribution. Previously, she worked in French film acquisition and international series acquisition in French TV channel Canal+ and was head of theatrical release in independent French Distribution Company Chrysalis Films. Sarah holds a bachelor degree in Business Administration from the American University of Beirut as well as a master degree in Marketing from SciencesPo Paris and a master degree in Audiovisual Law & Economics from La Sorbonne.

**Company Profile:**

MC Distribution is an independent film distribution based in Lebanon that aims to promote and distribute Arab and international independent cinema in the Middle East and North Africa.



**Name:** Hania Mroue

**Company:** Metroplois Cinema

**Position:** Director

**Country:** Lebanon

**Email:** hmroue@metropoliscinema.net

**Biography:**

Hania Mroué Is the founder and director of Metropolis Art Cinema, the only art-house movie theatre in Lebanon today, opened in 2006 and dedicated to auteur films from all genres and eras. In 2009 she started MC Distribution, a company dedicated to distributing and selling Arab and International auteur films in the MENA region. Mroue is also a founding member of the cinema association Beirut DC and was for ten years (20012010-) the managing director of its Arab Film Festival, *Ayam Beirut al Cinema'iya* (Cinema days of Beirut). She worked as Chief Programmer for the Doha Tribeca Film Festival where she was in charge of the festival's Arab Competition, in addition to DFI's year round initiatives. Mroue is a jury member of the Robert Bosch Stiftung's Arab Film Prize since 2013.

**Company Profile:**

Metropolis Cinema is the only Art House cinema in Beirut. Its year round program includes films of all genres, eras and nationalities. Beside its rich film program and several festivals and youth events, it organizes yearly workshops and training programs to support the local and regional film industry. It is associated to MC distribution, a company dedicated to auteur films from the region and beyond. Metropolis is a founding member of the NAAS network.



**Name:** Sacha Tohme

**Company:** Moving Turtle

**Position:** Managing Director

**Country:** Lebanon

**Email:** stohme@movingturtle.net

**Biography:**

Sacha Tohme founded Moving Turtle in 2012, a company that specializes in distributing high quality, award-winning arthouse films in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region. Under Tohme's guidance, Moving Turtle grew from a small local company to become one of MENA's most respected arthouse film distributors, with high caliber titles such as *Amour*, *Winter Sleep* and recently, *The Square*. As Moving Turtle's Managing Director, Tohme's principal activities are managing the company's operations, acquiring new titles and overseeing sales in over 20 countries in the MENA territory.

**Company Profile:**

Moving Turtle is a growing independent distribution company based in Beirut, Lebanon, serving the entire Middle East Region. Our team brings a wealth of film expertise to deliver quality entertainment. Specializing in sales and distribution of feature films for theatrical, home and airline exhibition, Moving Turtle focuses on distributing award-winning independent movies along all platforms in the Middle East and North Africa Territories.



**Name:** Roger Hani  
**Company:** Televue International  
**Position:** Managing Partner  
**Country:** Lebanon  
**Email:** rogerh@televue-int.tv

**Biography:**

Roger El Hani joined televue in 2013 as a partner. He has a Masters in Economics and has worked in different fields including oil and finance before finally working with televue.

**Company Profile:**

Televue International s.a.l, is a Beirut-based company specialized in the sales distribution of length motion pictures for theatrical, Video, Television and Cable, as well as Series, Mini-series, TV movies, Documentaries, and Animations. The company is dedicated to providing high quality products to all theatres and TV stations in the Middle East, and North Africa.



**Name:** Said Hamich  
**Position:** Producer  
**Country:** Morocco  
**Email:** said@barneyproduction.com



**Name:** Charlotte Henskens  
**Company:** Fortissimo Films  
**Position:** Director of Sales  
**Country:** Netherlands  
**Email:** charlotte@fortissimofilms.com

**Biography:**

For 25 years, Fortissimo Films has been one of the world's leading international film sales organisations, specialising in the production, presentation, promotion and distribution of award-winning and innovative feature films and documentaries by independent filmmakers from around the globe. Our commitment to original and groundbreaking films has seen us partner with a wide range of celebrated producers and directors including, Wong Kar Wai, Tian Zhuangzhuang, Peter Greenaway, Bela Tarr, Wang Xiaoshuai, Alex van Warmerdam and Martin Scorsese.

**Company Profile:**

For 25 years, Fortissimo Films has been one of the world's leading international film sales organisations, specialising in the production, presentation, promotion and distribution of award-winning and innovative feature films and documentaries by independent filmmakers from around the globe. Our commitment to original and groundbreaking films has seen us partner with a wide range of celebrated producers and directors including, Wong Kar Wai, Tian Zhuangzhuang, Peter Greenaway, Bela Tarr, Wang Xiaoshuai, Alex van Warmerdam and Martin Scorsese.



**Name:** Bero Beyer  
**Company:** International Film Festival Rotterdam  
**Position:** Director of the International Film Festival Rotterdam  
**Country:** Netherlands  
**Email:** b.beyer@iffr.com

**Biography:**

Bero Beyer is Director of the International Film Festival Rotterdam, he is currently a Film Consultant for the Dutch Film Fund, focusing on Arthouse films and International co-productions. His role includes development and production of feature films by established directors applying for selective funding from the Netherlands Film Fund's Screen NL scheme and Minority Co-production programs. Beyer is also an established independent film producer and through his company Augustus Film, he produced a number of award winning, acclaimed films. Most recently Beyer produced the Moroccan set feature Atlantic. It received its world premiere in Official Selection at the Toronto International Film Festival 2014 and was also part of the IFFR Live 2015. Amongst many others, Beyer produced Paradise Now in 2005, the first Palestinian film to be Oscar® nominated, and Rana's Wedding, which premiered in Semaine de la Critique, Cannes 2002.

**Company Profile:**

International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) offers a high quality line-up of carefully selected fiction and documentary feature films, short films and media art. The festival's focus is on recent work by talented new filmmakers. However, within the four sections the Festival presents, there is also room for retrospectives and themed programmes. IFFR actively supports new and adventurous filmmaking talent through its co-production market CineMart, its Hubert Bals Fund, Rotterdam Lab and other industry activities



**Name:** Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor  
**Position:** Producer  
**Country:** Nigeria  
**Email:** joy@joiproductions.co.uk  
**Biography:**

Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor is an Award-winning producer, Joy Gharoro-Akpojotor graduated from Queen Mary, University of London with a BA in Film Studies and subsequently completed an MA in Creative Writing in Films, Plays and TV from City University, London. With DreamCoat Productions she has established a strong dynamic voice as a writer and producer. Her work has achieved worldwide distribution through various prominent international festivals



**Name:** Sitora Alieva  
**Company:** Kinotavr Film Festival  
**Position:** Festival Programme Director  
**Country:** Russia  
**Email:** sitora@kinotavr.ru  
**Biography:**

Sitora Alieva is the Artistic director of the Open Russian Film Festival “Kinotavr”. Sitora, born in Dushanbe made her film debut as actress at the age of 7. Since then, she continued acting for around 9 years and played about ten roles in art and television films. In 1987, Sitora graduated from the scriptwriting and film history department of the Film Institute VGIK. In 1993, Sitora was the director of the IFF Sochi, the IFF “Faces of Love”, and the International Children’s Arts Festival “Kinotavrik”. Since 2005, she was the artistic director of the ORFF “Kinotavr”. Sitora served as a jury member of following international festivals: Venice, Berlinale, Karlovy Vary, Mar del Plata, Thessaloniki, Munich, Reykjavik and others.

**Company Profile:**  
“Kinotavr” is the largest national film festival. Every year in June, on the Black sea coast in Sochi, the top talents of Russian cinema come together: directors, producers, actors, script writers, directors of photography. They come to participate in the country’s main cinematic event. For twentythree years “Kinotavr” has uncovered new names and talented, real cinema.



**Name:** Monica Rorvik  
**Company:** Wesgro  
**Position:** Head of Film and Media Promotion  
**Country:** South Africa  
**Email:** monica@wesgro.co.za  
**Biography:**

Monica HEMMING-RORVIK promotes the exemplary locations, services and studios of the City of Cape Town and the Western Cape region to the globe on behalf of Wesgro which is the region’s Tourism, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency. She heads the film and media division assisting companies looking to produce in the region. Rorvik also helps South African companies grow to take their positions on the global stage. Previously she headed the industry and documentary programme at the Durban IFF. She also project reads for various African markets and funds.

**Company Profile:**  
We are the Official Tourism & Trade, Investment Promotion Agency for Cape Town and the Western Cape. Our divisions include Tourism, Trade, Investment Promotion, Research, Film & Media and the Convention Bureau. We are a region of unlimited potential. And this translates into unlimited opportunity. Whether you’re interested in unique travel experiences, investment, shooting a film or exporting to Africa and the rest of the world, Cape Town and the Western Cape has something for you. Let us help you uncover these opportunities.



**Name:** Bruce D Lee  
**Company:** Enter Mode Corp  
**Position:** President  
**Country:** South Korea  
**Email:** brucedlee@netsgo.com  
**Biography:**

Bruce D Lee is a major distributor producer who is the President of Entermode Corp, a Korean based company. Lee has acquired, produced and distributed over 150 films including Theeb, Love Is In The Air and Switch.

**Company Profile:**  
Film Acquisition & Distribution including gap financing. Local production including co-production. Acquired more than 200 feature films for the last 10 years or more and distributed about 150 films theatrically in Korea and some South East Asian countries. Produced 7 Korean movies and executive produced five other movies.



**Name:** Freddy Olsson

**Company:** Goteberg Film Festival

**Position:** Programmer, Producer, Distributor

**Country:** Sweden

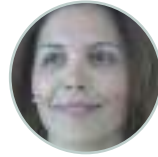
**Email:** [freddy.olsson@giff.se](mailto:freddy.olsson@giff.se)

**Biography:**

Freddy Olsson is a Programmer, Producer and Distributor who has been working for the Goteborg Film Festival for over 30 years. The Goteborg Film Festival is the most important event in both the audience, and the industry in Northern Europe. Olsson has been a Producer since 1983.

**Company Profile:**

öteborg Film Festival, presenting its 41st edition February 2018, is one of the largest audience festivals in the world, showing 450 films from 85 countries to an audience of 145 000. The festival hosts three major competitions - Dragon Award Best Nordic Film with a prize sum of €100 000, Dragon Award Best Nordic Documentary and The Ingmar Bergman International Debut Award. 1800 professionals attend the festival and Nordic Film Market, presenting upcoming films, TV drama and new talent. We also have our own vod platform Draken Film.



**Name:** Lamia Guiga

**Company:** JCC

**Country:** Tunisia

**Email:** [lamiaguiga.jcc@gmail.com](mailto:lamiaguiga.jcc@gmail.com)

**Biography:**

Lamia Belkaïed Guiga is the general delegate of Carthage film festival (JCC). She is a professor and head of research master at the school of cinema in Tunis - ESAC-Carthage University. Guiga has a Ph.D from Ponthéon-Assas and member of the research network HESCALE- Sorbonne Nouvelle -Paris III. She is the President of the Tunisian Association of University Film Promotion. Guiga is also a Critic in Agricultures and has been a member of several juries.

**Company Profile:**

Carthage Film Festival . JCC-Tunisia



**Name:** Fagr Kassim

**Country:** UAE

**Email:** [fagr.kassim@shams.ae](mailto:fagr.kassim@shams.ae)



**Name:** Paul Baboudjian

**Company:** Arab Film Institute

**Position:** Executive Director

**Country:** UAE

**Email:** [paul@arabfilm-institute.org](mailto:paul@arabfilm-institute.org)

**Biography:**

Paul Baboudjian started his career working both creatively and managerially in the media industry (advertising, television and films). He produced short films and documentary projects in various countries of the Mediterranean area, developing an international experience and reputation. He actively contributed to the setup of Screen Institute Beirut, a Lebanese NGO devoted to support the documentary film industry in the MENA region and is strongly committed to promote and develop an Arab screen culture that reflects the views, issues and interests of audiences and communities in the Arab world and to foster international collaboration and networks.

**Company Profile:**

The Arab Film Institute, is an Arab non-profit Cultural Association based in Dubai, U.A.E. it is the place where Arab Films' past, present and future is discussed, imagined, celebrated by those who make Arab Cinema. As an independent organization open to all professions and stakeholders of the film environment in the Arab World, the Arab Film Institute will be a unique meeting point between the art, the technique, the commerce and industry. A platform where standards are discussed and set, where films and their creators are celebrated, where training and nurturing of talent and know-how is dispensed and where advocacy for the profession becomes a must.



**Name:** Tarek Ghannam

**Company:** Empire International Gulf

**Position:** Managing Director

**Country:** UAE

**Email:** tarek@e4empire.com

**Biography:**

Tarek Ghannam is the Managing Director at Empire International, a leading movie distribution company founded in 1919 and based in Dubai. With more than 20 years experience in the Entertainment and media industry, Ghannam recognized the power of the digital world, starting what was then a first in the Middle East: A consumer centric digital branded show named "In the boardroom" which was distributed online and reached millions of Arabs. Ghannam has also led the team at Empire to increase the reach and influence of 20th Century Fox, Sony Pictures, Fox Star India and independent movies across the Arab world to Hollywood and Bollywood.

**Company Profile:**

Bringing you the best movies since 1919, Empire owns exclusive theatrical distribution rights for 20th Century Fox, Sony Pictures, Dreamworks Animation and Fox Star Hindi films in the Middle East. Founded at the height of the cinema boom in the Arab world, Empire International acts as the foreign arm of Les Fils de Georges Haddad & Co. Empire's Gulf offices are located in Dubai, under the same Empire International Gulf, and also operate through Allied Film Distributors (AFD) in Egypt. Empire International Gulf and AFD run their operations in cooperation with the Beirut head office, supplying films to exhibitors, marketing movies, organizing events and promotions to maximize exposure and elevate releases to blockbuster status.



**Name:** Jessica El-Khoury

**Company:** Film Clinic Indie Distribution

**Position:** Acquisition and Sales

**Country:** UAE

**Email:** jessica.khoury@fcidistribution.com



**Name:** Gianluca Chakra

**Company:** Front Row Filmed Entertainment

**Position:** Managing Partner

**Country:** UAE

**Email:** gianluca@frontrowent.biz

**Company Profile:**

Front Row Filmed Entertainment is a leading independent film distribution company based in Dubai (UAE) with branches in Kuwait through its affiliation with the Kuwait National Cinema Company (KNCC). It acquires and distributes between 90120- titles on a yearly basis boasting one of the largest film libraries in the region with over 1,100 titles which are distributed on an all-rights basis. Front Row is also the sole aggregator for prestigious digital platforms in the region including Netflix, iTunes and GooglePlay. Other than commercial titles, Front Row has become a synonym to thought provoking and cutting edge titles. With KNCC, it is the biggest Arabic distributor in the GCC.



**Name:** Mohmaed Usa El Sheikh

**Company:** MBC Brand Management

**Position:** President, Founding Board Member

**Country:** UAE

**Email:** mohamed.elsheikh@mbc.net

**Biography:**

Mohamed Usama Alsheikh is an Expert in the MENA OTT and VoD landscape and content licensing and Distribution with extensive knowledge of the region's traditional and digital content market. Mohamed heads the Content Digital unit in MBC Group, He manages the content strategy, licensing acquisitions and commissioning dealings for SHAHID and SHAHID PLUS VoD platforms. Mohamed has successfully launched and maintained SHAHID PLUS as the leading premium Arabic movies service in the region, with further premium content offering spanning across MBC original Arabic programming, Formats, Factual, Western, Bollywood, Korean and Turkish content. AISheikh holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration with focus on TV Broadcast Strategic management, and Alumni of the Entertainment Master Class by the Format Academy.

**Company Profile:**

MBC Group (Middle East Broadcasting Center) is the largest and leading private multimedia company in the Middle East North Africa region. For the past 26 years, MBC GROUP was able to enrich people's lives through information, interaction and entertainment. In 2002, nearly a decade after the launch of MBC1 in London, back in 1991, and as the 1st private free-to-air Arab satellite TV channel, MBC GROUP relocated its headquarters to Dubai Media City, United Arab Emirates, where it remains. Today, MBC GROUP includes 20 leading TV channels: MBC1 ,MBC2 and MBC MAX,MBC3 ,MBC4 , MBC ACTION , MBC VARIETY , AL HADATH , WANASAH , MBC DRAMA, MBC MASR,MBC MASR 2 , MBC+ DRAMA , MBC BOLLYWOOD and more others.



**Name:** Mohannad Al Bakri  
**Company:** NYU Abu Dhabi  
**Position:** Co-Founder / Director  
**Country:** UAE  
**Email:** mohannad.bakri@nyu.edu

**Biography:**

Works at the New York University Abu Dhabi as Director of External Relations and Partnerships through shared artistic journeys. During his position at the Royal Film Commission- Jordan (RFC), Al Bakri developed programs such as, the Film House; Rawi Screenwriters' Lab, in partnership with Sundance Institute; the Educational Feature Film Program in partnership with the (USC). He was the co-founder of Med Film Factory, and was an executive producer to five award winning Jordanian narrative films: Transit Cities, The Last Friday, A 7 Hour Difference, When Monaliza Smiled and Line of Sight, which were produced in between 2010-2012-. Al Bakri is the co-founding partner of the Creative Documentary Platform, a regional initiative with the mission to nurture regional creative documentary filmmakers

**Company Profile:**

Pioneering a new model of higher education for a global world, dedicated at once to excellence in teaching and research and to advancing cooperation and progress on humanity's shared challenges. Drawing on the strengths of the NYU global network, it offers an outstanding liberal arts and sciences education to undergraduate students from the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and around the world, with a distinctive focus on intercultural understanding and leadership. It supports innovative research and graduate education programs that push forward the frontiers of knowledge and respond in powerful and interdisciplinary ways to vital global and local challenges.



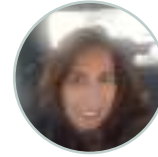
**Name:** Ali Al Jabri  
**Company:** twofour54  
**Position:** Director / Media Content  
**Country:** UAE  
**Email:** ali.aljabri@twofour54.com

**Biography:**

Ali Al-Jabri, Director of Media content at twofour54 Abu Dhabi, started his career in acting as a theatre actor in 1988. He shifted his acting career to film and is most known for his performance in the Emirati feature length film «The Circle» by Nawaf Al-Janahi. Al-Jabri has appeared in many short films, as well as features. Ali has directed four short films titled: «Smoke», «Solo», «Consultant», and «Calendar». All of which have been screened and competed at film festivals like the Dubai International Film Festival, Gulf Film Festival and Oran Film Festival in Algeria. Ali held the position of Secretary General at the Emirates Film Competition from 2001 to 2009 and in 2010 he was Managing Director of the Emirates Film Competition. In 2012 Ali Al Jabri was appointed Director of Abu Dhabi Film Festival and was also director of the film fund SANAD.

**Company Profile:**

Twofour54 Abu Dhabi is a media zone located at the heart of one of the fastest growing media markets in the world with attractive economic benefits for companies, such as an easy licensing and business set-up services, 100% company ownership in a stable environment. A place where some of the biggest names in the industry call home and the perfect location for a business. Since 2008 and I'm working with twofour54 and I'm so lucky to be involved in all media departments and events ( Abu Dhabi film Festival - training - projects and events).



**Name:** Ahlam Al Ajeil  
**Company:** twofour54  
**Position:** Project Operation Manager  
**Country:** UAE  
**Email:** ahlam.alajeil@twofour54.com

**Company Profile:**

Twofour54 Abu Dhabi is a media zone located at the heart of one of the fastest growing media markets in the world with attractive economic benefits for companies, such as an easy licensing and business set-up services, 100% company ownership in a stable environment. A place where some of the biggest names in the industry call home and the perfect location for a business. Since 2008 and I'm working with twofour54 and I'm so lucky to be involved in all media departments and events ( Abu Dhabi film Festival - training - projects and events).



**Name:** Toni El Massih  
**Company:** VOX Cinemas  
**Position:** Chief Content Officer  
**Country:** UAE  
**Email:** toni.massih@maf.co.ae





**Name:** Rebekkah Haysom

**Position:** Producer

**Country:** UK

**Email:** Rebekkahkarenhaysom@gmail.com

**Biography:**

Rebekkah Karen Haysom is an English filmmaker located in West Yorkshire. She has a bachelor's degree in Drama & Theatre Studies and recently received her master's degree in Filmmaking from Northern Film School. She has worked as an actress with the BBC, West Yorkshire Playhouse and the Leeds Light Night Festival. During her time at the Northern Film School she has produced three short films, Parasite, Impression and Sleeping with Wolves. Her passion is film and business.



**Name:** Elhum Shakerifar

**Company:** Hakawati

**Position:** Producer and Curator

**Country:** UK

**Email:** elhum@hakawati.co.uk

**Biography:**

Elhum Shakerifar is a BAFTA nominated producer and recent recipient of the BFI Vision Award, producing documentaries with partners including BFI, BBC, Sundance, BRITDOC and The New York Times through her company Hakawati. Recent productions include Even When I Fall (Sky Neal and Kate McLarnon, 2017), Almost Heaven (Carol Salter, 2017) and forthcoming ISLAND (Steven Eastwood, 2017) . In 2015, her production A Syrian Love Story (Sean McAllister, 2015) won a Cinema for Peace Justice Award, screened in UK and European parliaments and in over 70 countries, was named #3 Best Film of 2015 by the Guardian and was nominated for Film Campaign of the year at the Screen Awards 2016. Her work has been broadcast internationally and screened at festivals including Berlinale, IDFA and Dubai. Elhum is a programmer for London Film Festival on films from MENA and Iran and Associate Curator Film for Shubbak, festival of contemporary Arab culture. In 2017, she was nominated for the Arab British Centre's Award for Culture.

**Company Profile:**

Hakawati is a UK based company that produces, distributes and curates films that hold the art of storytelling at their core.



**Name:** Pilar Cartró

**Company:** Northern Film School

**Position:** Producer

**Country:** UK

**Email:** pilarcartro@gmail.com

**Biography:**

Pilar Cartró was born on October 12, 1970 in Madrid, Madrid, Spain as Pilar Castro Parrilla. She is an actress, known for Julieta (2016), Cuestión de sexo (2007) and Fat People (2009)..



**Name:** Khathleen Glynn

**Position:** Producer

**Country:** USA

**Email:** b.beyer@iffr.com

**Biography:**

Kathleen Glynn founded and served as the executive of Dog Eat Dog Films for over 25 years where she produced many of the most successful documentary films of all time , She is best known for her work on the Academy Award winning film, Bowling for Columbine (Producer), Fahrenheit 911/ (Producer - winner of the Cannes Palm d'Or), Sicko (Executive Producer, Academy Award nominated), TV Nation (Producer, winner of Primetime Emmy), and The Awful Truth (Producer, nominated for Primetime Emmy). She is also a Producer on the soon-to-be released feature documentary Soufra, and has numerous other narrative and short film projects in development. Born and raised in Flint, Michigan Kathleen continues to be a visionary leader in the national and international film community, as well as in her home State where she founded the Traverse City Film Festival and is Chairman of Michigan State University's film department.





**Name:** Maria Altamirano

**Position:** Producer

**Country:** USA

**Email:** maria.dp.altamirano@gmail.com

**Biography:**

Maria Altamirano is a New York- based producer, whose work has screened at festivals around the world. Prior to filmmaking, Maria was Market Research Manager at Paramount Pictures where she worked extensively in brand and development studies, production test screenings, ad testing and developing key marketing insights for the studio’s slate. Maria is a California native who also grew up in Lima, Peru. She is a UCLA graduate and is currently pursuing an MBA and MFA from New York University’s prestigious dual degree program and is in development for her first feature film.



**Name:** Kellen Quinn

**Company:** AEON FILM

**Position:** Producer

**Country:** USA

**Biography:**

Kellen Quinn studied Film and Russian & East European studies at Wesleyan University, Connecticut. He has worked at the Tribeca Film Festival as assistant to the artistic director and as an associate programmer. More recently, he spent three years as the deputy director of the Abu Dhabi Film Festival.



**Name:** Andrea Iervolino

**Company:** Ambi Media Group

**Position:** CEO and President

**Country:** USA

**Email:** edvige.detommaso@iafilm.it

**Biography:**

Andrea Iervolino, Awarded as Best Producer at 71st Venice Film Festival, together with Al Pacino and Barry Levinson. He was named filmmaker of the year for his role as producer of In Dubious Battle at Capri Hollywood Film Festival 2016. In 2015 he became “Ambassador of Italian Cinema in the world” and “Best Italian Businessman of the world”. He received many other awards during his successful career. Iervolino was named one of Variety’s 2015 Dealmakers. Andrea Iervolino, who has been a producer since the age of 16, produced, financed and distributed over 60 films. He is the Co-Founder of a number of different production companies, he is currently, one of the youngest and most highly regarded Italian entrepreneurs in the world of film-making. Iervolino and Monika Bacardi’s AMBI Group is currently on a strong upward roll, producing and putting together many of those films that will be screened in forthcoming movie and television seasons.

**Company Profile:**

AMBI Group is a vertically integrated global film production, finance, sales and distribution company launched by the young Italian businessman Andrea Iervolino and the entrepreneur Monika Bacardi. AMBI Media Group provides financial backing for medium to high-budget feature films oriented toward the international market. AMBI Distribution, based in Beverly Hills, is the distribution and international sales arm of AMBI Group. AIC Studios, based in Toronto, is an animation studios founded by AMBI Group, which combines the latest digital technologies with traditional animation expertise to deliver the highest quality standards in both 2D and 3D CGI feature films..



**Name:** Pascal Borno

**Company:** CONQUISTADOR ENTERTAINMENT

**Position:** Producer

**Country:** USA

**Email:** pascal@conquistador-ent.com



**Name:** GERALYN DREYFOUS

**Company:** Impact Partners

**Position:** Executive Producer, Co-Founder

**Country:** USA

**Email:** geraldyn@gamechanger-films.com

**Biography:**

Geralyn Dreyfous has a wide, distinguished background in the arts and participates on numerous boards and initiatives. She is the founder of the Utah Film Center and co-founder of Impact Partners Film Fund with Dan Cogan. In 2013, GERALYN co-founded Gamechanger Films, a film fund dedicated to women directors. Her independent producing credits include the Academy Award winning *Born Into Brothels*; Emmy nominated *The Day My God Died*; Academy Award nominated *The Square*, Academy Award nominated *The Invisible War* and multiple film festival winners. GERALYN was honored with the IDA's 2013 Amicus Award for her significant contribution to documentary filmmaking. *Variety* recognized GERALYN in their 2014 Women's Impact Report highlighting her work in the entertainment industry.

**Company Profile:**

Impact Partners is dedicated to funding independent documentary storytelling that entertains audiences, engages with pressing social issues, and propels the art of cinema forward.



**Name:** FUNA MADUKA

**Company:** Netflix

**Position:** Content Acquisition - Global Independent Feature Films and Documentaries

**Country:** USA

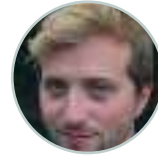
**Email:** fmaduka@netflix.com

**Biography:**

Ifunanya "Funa" Maduka works in Content Acquisition - Global Independent Feature Films and Documentaries at Netflix. She served as Dean of Students and Director of Leadership Development at the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in Johannesburg, South Africa. She also served on the Senior Management Team and working on various special projects related to the school's development and general foundation efforts. Funa had begun her career as a Wall Street financial analyst on the Goldman Sachs trading floor with the firm's International Sales Desk. Two years later, she accepted an offer to join the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative in the Caribbean. Maduka is an alumna of Cornell University and received her Masters in Business Administration from Harvard Business School in 2012.

**Company Profile:**

Netflix is the world's leading internet entertainment service with 104 million members in over 190 countries enjoying more than 125 million hours of TV shows and movies 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.



**Name:** HARRY VAUGHN

**Company:** Sundance Film Festival

**Position:** Programmer, Documentary Film

**Country:** USA

**Email:** harry\_vaughn@sundance.org

**Biography:**

Harry Vaughn has been programming for the Sundance Film Festival for over four years. A programmer specializing in the festival's documentary programs, he has helped select the US and World Competition titles as well as the Documentary Premieres section. Vaughn interned for the International arm of the Sundance Institute's Feature Film Program from 2011-2012 and became a screener for the Festival in 2012. He has programmed for several other major US festivals and holds an MA in Arts Journalism from USC.

**Company Profile:**

Sundance Institute is a nonprofit organization that discovers and supports independent film and theatre artist from the U.S. and around the world, and introduces audiences to their new work..



**Name:** HILDA ANNE HUBBELL

**Company:** Tangerine Entertainment

**Position:** Producer

**Country:** USA

**Email:** hub@tang-ent.com

**Biography:**

Anne Hubbell is a respected film industry veteran with 20 years of extensive corporate, not-for-profit and production experience. As VP of Motion Picture at Kodak, she negotiates contracts and consults on studio and independent movies, episodic content, commercials and music videos, and is a liaison to the film community at large. She co-founded Tangerine Entertainment, the first production company and community builder focused on media by women directors. She began her career in not for profit programming and management as Managing Director of The Theater Offensive in Boston and Executive Director of IMAGE Film & Video Center in Atlanta, and consulted for dozens of domestic and international film festivals and events. She currently serves on the boards of NY Women in Film & Television, the NY Production Alliance and Rooftop Films, and is a member of the Producer's Guild of America.

**Company Profile:**

Tangerine Entertainment is a film production company focusing on commercially viable, critically acclaimed stories for all audiences, with an emphasis on female filmmakers and strong roles for women. Tangerine has a clear and specific agenda aimed at increasing the presence of smart, complex women both behind and in front of the camera. The mission to work with female directors in all genres has built a distinct brand without limiting subject matter. Tangerine is an inclusive, innovative model for a profitable, community-based entertainment company



**Name:** Malek Akkad

**Company:** Trancas International Films

**Position:** President / Producer

**Country:** USA

**Email:** malek@trancasfilms.com



**Name:** Shayna Weingast

**Company:** Tribeca Film Festival

**Position:** Associate Programmer

**Country:** USA

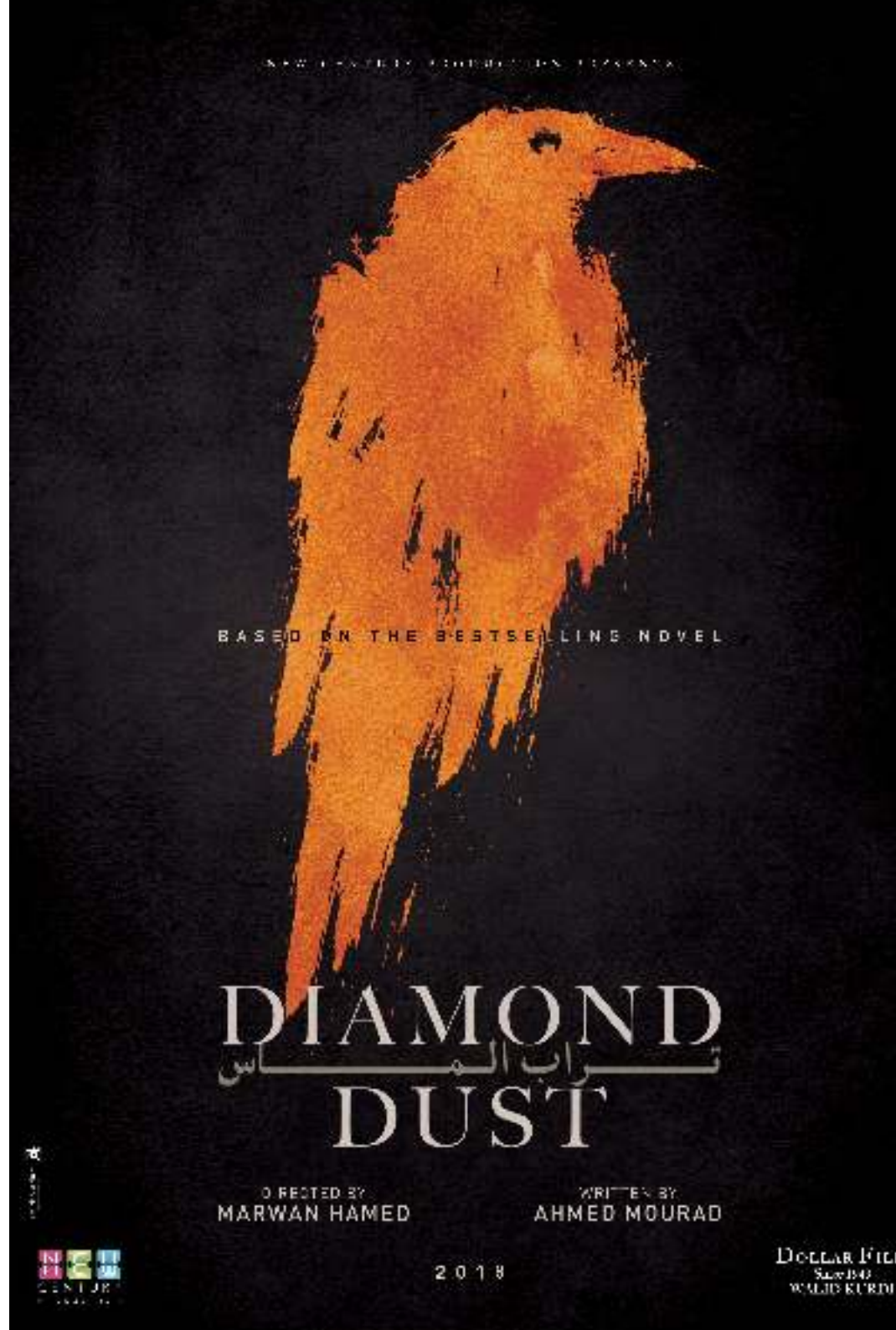
**Email:** shaynaweingast@gmail.com

**Biography:**

Shayna Weingast is an Associate Programmer for the Tribeca Film Festival. She assists with the selection of our Feature Film Program, including U.S and International feature narratives and documentaries.

**Company Profile:**

The Tribeca Film Festival was founded in 2002 by Jane Rosenthal, Robert De Niro and Craig Hatkoff, in response to the September 11th attacks and the consequent loss of cultural vitality in Lower Manhattan. The Festival's program line-up includes distinguished independent and studio narrative and documentary films, in both feature length and short form. In response to the shifting media landscape, Tribeca's diverse program now highlights the best in storytelling in all forms: including television, cutting-edge Virtual Reality programming, and web-based series. The Festival also features panel discussions with personalities in the entertainment world, including often-elusive celebrities from the worlds of art, film, and music. The festival now draws an estimated three million attendees.



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# REFUGEE

## VOICES

## IN FILM

The UN Refugee Agency in collaboration with El Gouna Film Festival invites you to the **CineGouna Platform Lounge, TU Berlin Festival Centre**

for screenings of UNHCR short films and music videos and discussions on how to further raise awareness on refugee issues through film.

UNHCR Egypt is presenting **“Dangerous Crossings”** and **“Law Kan” (What If)**, featuring African artists including Egyptian star **Hany Adel**, and directed by renowned filmmaker **Amr Salama**.



Join us also at the panel discussion  
**“Refugee Crisis: Social Impact through Film”**  
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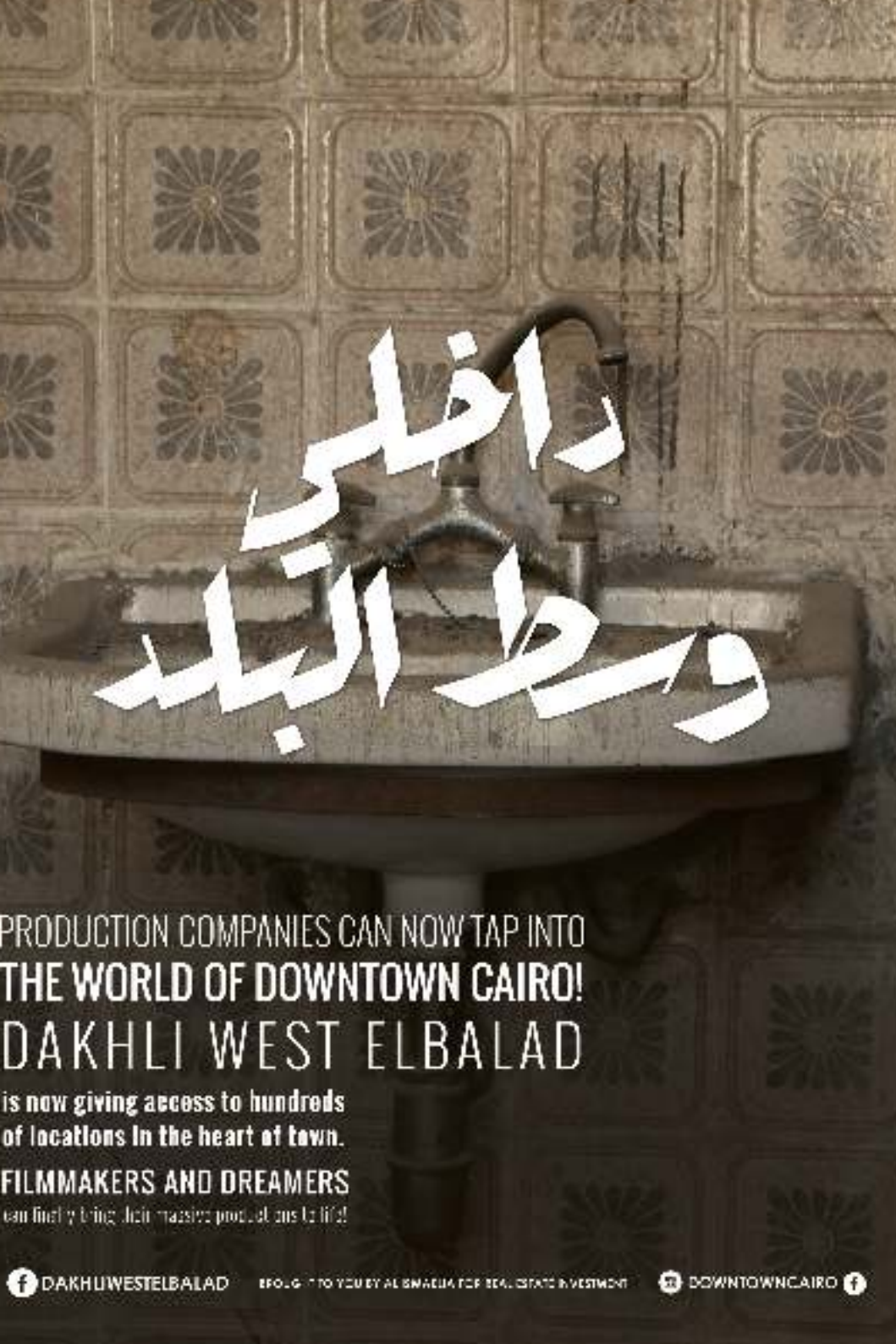


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22<sup>ND</sup> | SEPTEMBER  
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