



Delegates Guide

3-8 March, 2017

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مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام

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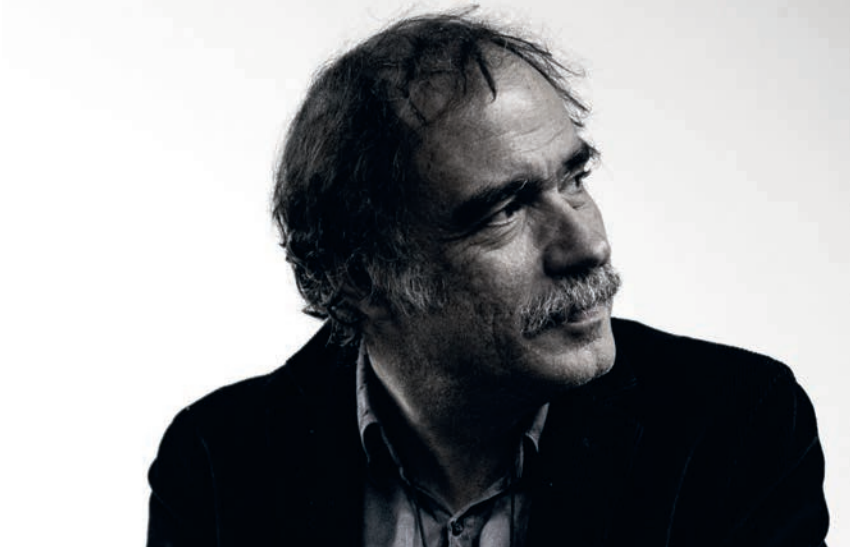


Jana Wehbe
Qumra Industry
Senior Coordinator

Qumra Masters



Paulo Branco



Honoured by the European Parliament as one of the 'Greatest European Producers,' Paulo Branco is one of the most important figures of independent production in the world. He has had the largest number of films selected for the Festival de Cannes - 60 films in total, of which 36 were in competition for the Palme d'Or. He is recognised for providing numerous aspiring filmmakers with the opportunity to make their first films; many of them have gone on to become major names in international

cinema. Branco has produced more than 300 films, and has worked with some of the world's most renowned filmmakers, among them Chantal Akerman, Olivier Assayas, David Cronenberg, Manoel de Oliveira, Cedric Kahn, Werner Schroeter, Alain Tanner and Wim Wenders.

Bruno Dumont



Hovering on the border between realistic drama and the avant-garde, the films of Bruno Dumont have defined a new narrative idiom in world cinema. Known for writing complete novels that form the basis of his films, Dumont is deeply influenced by the fine arts that are reflected in the visual richness of his cinema. Deeply influenced by Greek and German philosophy, his films are festival favourites.

Born in 1958 in France, Dumont taught philosophy before his debut in cinema, when he wrote and directed 'The Life of Jesus' in 1997. Among other honours, the film won the FIPRESCI Prize at the Chicago International Film Festival and a Caméra d'Or Special Mention at the Festival de Cannes, and was named Best New International Feature at the Edinburgh International Film Festival.

Dumont's second film, 'Humanité (1999) won the Grands Prix for both Best Actor (Emmanuel Schotté) and Best Actress (Séverine Caneele) at the Festival de Cannes, while 'Flanders' (2006) clinched the Grand Prix of the Jury at Cannes. In addition to several shorts, Dumont has directed nine feature-length films, the most recent being 'Slack Bay' (2016), starring Juliette Binoche. He served as the President of the Caméra d'Or jury at Cannes in 2008.

Asghar Farhadi



Asghar Farhadi made his first short film at age 13 in a youth cinema club. In 2002, he wrote and directed his first feature film, 'Dancing in the Dust' (2003), which won the Best Actor Award at the 25th Moscow International Film Festival and was named Best Film by the Russian Society of Film Critics', and also won Best Screenplay and Best Director prizes at the 48th Asia-Pacific Film Festival.

A year later, Farhadi made 'Beautiful City'. Following 'Fireworks Wednesday' (2006), he made 'About Elly' (2009), which had simultaneous world premieres at the Berlin International Film Festival and the Fajr Film Festival. It went on to win the Silver Bear for Best Director in Berlin and the Crystal Simorgh for Best Directing in Fajr.

Farhadi's next film, 'A Separation' (2011) took the Golden Bear for Best Film and two Silver Bears for its performers when

it was screened at the Berlin International Film Festival. It went on to win more than 70 awards, among them the César for Best Foreign Film and both the Golden Globe and Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film.

In the same year, he was named one of 'Time' magazine's 100 most influential people in the world, and began work on the screenplay for 'The Past' (2013), which won the Best Actress Award at the Festival de Cannes and was nominated for Golden Globe and César Awards.

His most recent film, 'The Salesman' (2016), was selected for the Official Competition of the Festival de Cannes.

Lucrecia Martel



Lucrecia Martel studied at the National Experimentation Filmmaking School in Buenos Aires in her native Argentina, making a number of short films between 1988 and 1994. Her award-winning short film 'Dead King' was part of the omnibus film 'Brief Tales I', a collection of shorts by new Argentinian filmmakers.

Her debut feature film, 'La Ciénaga' (2001) was internationally hailed as the arrival of an exciting new voice in world cinema. It won the Alfred Bauer Prize at the Berlin International Film Festival, where it had its world premiere; several awards, including Best Director, at the Havana Film Festival; and the Best First Film award from the Argentine Film Critics Association. It went on to be voted the greatest Latin American film of the decade in a poll of New York film critics, festival programmers and industry professionals, and is seen as an important development in the New Argentine Cinema.

'The Holy Girl' (2004), continued the critical acclaim won by 'La Ciénaga', was selected for competition at the Festival de Cannes, and appeared in numerous festivals around the world. 'The Headless Woman' (2008), premiered in competition at Cannes and won several awards, including Best Director Awards from ACE, the Argentine Academy of Cinematography Arts and Sciences and the Argentine Film Critics Association.

All her films have been well-received at international film festivals, including the Sundance Film Festival, the Toronto International Film Festival and the International Film Festival Rotterdam, among many others. Retrospectives of her work have been screened at prestigious institutions including Harvard University, the UC Berkeley Art Museum and the Tate Museum in London. She has been a juror at festivals in Berlin, Cannes, Rotterdam, Sundance and Venice, among many others.

Rithy Panh



Rithy Panh is a Cambodian-French filmmaker, writer and producer. Born in Cambodia, he studied filmmaking at the Institut des Hautes Études Cinématographiques in France. His work as a filmmaker focuses primarily on the contemporary fallout resulting from the genocide committed by the Khmer Rouge regime in his homeland. Rooted in his first-hand experience of living in a remote labour camp, where he witnessed untold hardships and suffered irreparable losses, Panh's works have a rare and striking authority.

He has directed numerous internationally acclaimed films, including 'The Rice People', which was selected for the Official Competition of the Festival de Cannes in 1994; 'The Land of Wandering Souls' (2000), which won several awards, including the Robert and Frances Flaherty Award at the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival; the influential 'S21: The

Khmer Rouge Death Machine' (2004), which took numerous awards around the world, among them the Albert Londres Award; 'Paper Cannot Wrap Embers' (2007), 'The Sea Wall' (2008) and 'Duch, Master of the Forges of Hell' (2012).

In 2013, Panh directed 'The Missing Picture', which was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film and won the Grand Prix in the Un Certain Regard section at the Festival de

Cannes. His most recent directorial effort, 'Exile', once again considers the grave crimes and abuse of the Khmer Rouge regime. It won wide critical and public acclaim at Cannes in 2016.

Panh is dedicated to helping rebuild the Cambodian film industry. In 2006, with fellow Cambodian film director Ieu Pannakar, he opened the Bophana Audiovisual Resources Centre in Phnom Penh to collect audiovisual testimonies of the Cambodian people and make this heritage accessible to all. He is also a principal founder of the Cambodian Film Commission, an industry development organisation that includes the CFC Film Lab, a professional film training programme for Cambodians.

Master Class Moderators

Violeta Bava



Violeta Bava was born in Buenos Aires. In 2002, she received a double degree in the Theory, Aesthetics and History of Cinema and Drama from Buenos Aires University. She is the founder of Ruda Cine, a film production company based in Argentina. Bava is the programmer of the Buenos Aires International Film Festival and for 12 years was the co-director of BAL, a leading co-production market for Latin American films. Since 2012, she has been the Latin American delegate for the Venice International Film Festival. She sits on the TorinoFilmLab Advisory Board and is an industry and programming consultant for the Doha Film Institute.

Richard Peña



Richard Peña was the Program Director of the Film Society of Lincoln Center and the Director of the New York Film Festival from 1988 until 2012. At the Film Society, Peña organised retrospectives of many film artists, among them Michelangelo Antonioni, Sacha Guitry, Abbas Kiarostami, King Hu, Robert Aldrich, Roberto Gavaldon, Ritwik Ghatak, Kira Muratova, Fei Mu, Jean Eustache, Youssef Chahine, Yasujiro Ozu, Carlos Saura and Amitabh Bachchan, as well as major film series devoted to African, Arab, Argentine, Chinese, Cuban, Hungarian, Korean, Polish, Swedish, Taiwanese and Turkish. Together with Unifrance, in 1995 he created Rendez-Vous with French Cinema, the leading American showcase for new French cinema. He is Professor of Film Studies at Columbia University, where he specialises in film theory and international cinema, and in 2015/16, he is a Visiting Professor in Film Studies at Harvard University.

Qumra Project Delegates



Agnus Dei

See catalogue p. 80

Karim Sayad

Director



Karim Sayad was born in Lausanne in 1984 to an Algerian father and a Swiss mother. After obtaining an MA in International Relations from the

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva, he decided to become a documentary filmmaker. 'Babor Casanova' (2015), his first film, was selected for numerous international film festivals, including the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, and won awards from Doclisboa and the Festival dei Popoli in Florence.

Joëlle Bertossa

Producer



Joëlle Bertossa graduated from the Brussels film school INSAS in 1999 and worked on several films as a first assistant director before being hired

by Nicolas Wadimoff at Akka Films in 2003, where she produced films including his 'Aisheen, Still Alive in Gaza' (2010). In 2012, Bertossa founded Geneva-based Close Up Films. Since then, she has produced several documentaries, among them João Pedro Plácido's 'Volta à terra' (2015), which premiered at Visions du Réel and was presented in the Acid programme at the Festival de Cannes. Her feature-length narratives as producer include Philippe Garrel's 'In the Shadow of Women' (2015), which opened the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes; and Paule Muret's 'For This Is My Body' (2015), starring Carl Barât and Fanny Ardant.

Close Up Films

Close Up Films is an independent production company based in Geneva. Not limited by genre, Close Up undertakes a wide range of fiction and documentary projects. Aspiring to reach a wide audience with projects that are demanding in both form and content, Close Up produces films from both young talents and established auteurs. Our films strive to question society and expand viewpoints on cinema and the world, and we choose to work on projects with international appeal, collaborating regularly with foreign partners.

Angels, Spiders and Other Miserable Creatures

See catalogue p. 100

Fahad Al-Kuwari

Director / Screenwriter



Born in Qatar in 1990, **Fahad Ahmed J. Al-Kuwari** is an independent writer-filmmaker. He was raised in the suburbs of Doha,

which influences the setting of most of his works. Al-Kuwari comes from an arts and design background, and never studied film in an academic context. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar. He was introduced to filmmaking through working in production design, which is apparent in the aesthetic of his work. Al-Kuwari has worked on several short films, including Ali Al Anssari's 'Qarar' (2014) and Sarah Al-Derham's 'Ghazil' (2012). He wrote Al Anssari's 'I' (2013), and wrote and directed 'Ruqya' (2011). His first participation in a major feature-length film was on the set of Mira Nair's 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist' (2012).

Awakenings

See catalogue p. 102

Fahad Al-Obaidly

Director / Screenwriter



Fahad Al Obaidly

is a Qatari director, writer and fashion consultant who works for Qatar Museums. In 2016, he received the Hussein

Sharif Black Elephant Award from the Sudan Independent Cinema Festival for his documentary 'Inside Out'. The same documentary was part of the Short Film Corner at the Festival de Cannes, and was screened by the Doha Film Institute, the Cameron Film Festival, the Voronezh Film Festival, and the Innsbruck International Film Festival. Al Obaidly is currently working on a number of projects, including two short films to be released in 2017 as well as his second fashion film and a narrative work.

Salwa Alkhalifa

Producer



Salwa Al Khalifa

is a Sudanese filmmaker. She studied Mass Communication at Qatar University, and obtained a diploma in

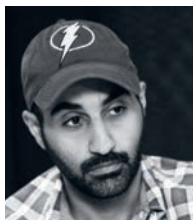
Documentary Filmmaking. She has directed a few short films, and has worked as an assistant director and script supervisor in a number of independent short films in Qatar.

Azooz, the Bully Slayer

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Mohammed Al Hamadi

Director / Screenwriter / Producer



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

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

Mohammad Al Mulla

Co-Director



Mohammed Jassim Almulla is a Director at Jeem TV and has been working in the entertainment business for over a decade. He started

his career as a sound engineer with Al Jazeera Sports and worked his way to be the Head of Sound at Jeem TV, then was sent to the New York Film Academy in New York City to train as a film director. Also a musician, Almulla has played the oud for over 20 years and has received training from the Music Creativity Center in Qatar. He worked on creating the score of Amal Al-Muftah's short film 'Smicha', and his music has been featured in several films, corporate videos and other projects, including 'Amreeka Laa!' by Hind Al-Ansari, and the 'Sadow', a documentary produced by Qatar Museums.

Innovation Films

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

Beauty and the Dogs

See catalogue p. 92

Kaouther Ben Hania

Director / Screenwriter



Tunisian director Kaouther **Ben Hania** studied cinema in Tunisia and in Paris at La Fémis and the Sorbonne. She has directed several

short films, including 'Wooden Hand' (2013), which had a lengthy and successful run on the international festival circuit. Her documentary film 'Imams Go to School' had its premiere at the International Documentary Festival Amsterdam in 2010 and was selected for numerous prestigious film festivals. 'Challat of Tunis', her first feature film, opened the ACID section of the Festival de Cannes in 2014. Her most recent film, 'Zaineb Hates the Snow', shot over years in Canada and Tunisia, premiered in the Official Selection of the Festival del Film Locarno in 2016, won a Golden Tanit at the Carthage Film Festival, and was named Best Documentary at Cinémed.

Habib Attia

Producer



Tunis-born film and television producer **Habib Attia** is currently the managing director of Cinétéléfilms, one of the leading production

companies in Tunisia and the MENA region. Since 1983, the company has produced some of the biggest blockbusters in Tunisian and Arab cinema, including 'Man of Ashes', 'The Silences of the Palace' and 'Halfaouine'. Attia focuses on projects dealing with contemporary socio-cultural issues.

Cinétéléfilms

Since 1983, **Cinétéléfilms** has been one of the leading production companies in Tunisia and the Arab world. Its latest films have premiered at festivals in Cannes, Locarno, Toronto and Venice, and have been distributed in several countries. Habib Attia has been the managing director of the company since 2007. Working in a context of international coproduction, Attia develops new fiction and documentary projects dealing primarily with contemporary socio-cultural issues.

Beauty and the Dogs continued

Nadim Cheikhrouha

Producer



**Nadim
Cheikhrouha**

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

2002, he joined Mandarin Films, where he held the position of CEO for four years before joining Screen Runner. He is also the head of NYCC, specialising in advising producers and audiovisual distributors. He has produced several feature films.

Burn the Bird

See catalogue p. 104

Zahed Bata

Director / Screenwriter



Zahed Bata is a Doha-based filmmaker and a graduate of Northwestern University in Qatar. He has worked on a variety of projects

including documentaries, narrative and experimental films, and advertisements. His experience as a director of photography on numerous short films compelled him to focus on the visual side of storytelling. He has previously worked with Aljazeera Channel and recently joined AJ+. He is currently working on his short film, 'Burn the Bird'.

Clouds

See catalogue p. 106

Muzna Almusafir

Director / Screenwriter



Muzna Almusafir

was born in Muscat. Her admiration for images began at an early age through her father, a painter and photographer. She graduated

from Kuwait University majoring in Mass Communication with a minor in Political Science, and studied Swedish Cinema and Television Culture at Stockholm University. Her first short film, 'Niqab', won the student competition short at the Gulf Film Festival in 2010. 'Cholo' (2013) won the Best Script prize at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, had its premiere at the Dubai International Film Festival, and was screened at several festivals and institutes. 'PASHK' and 'The Goats of Dana', two creative documentaries that Almusafir collaborated on, were screened in the DOX Film festival in Copenhagen and KIFAK in Tunisia, and at the Women Deliver World Conference. In 2016, Almusafir participated with her project 'Clouds' at the Robert Bosch Foundation in the Amman Project Market.

The DNA of Love

See catalogue p. 42

Hafiz Ali Ali

Director



Hafiz Ali Ali is an established Qatari film director with extensive experience in the arts. He began his creative endeavours in television and

theatre while still in school. He graduated from the California Institute of the Arts in 1999 with a BFA in Theatre Design and Technology, and from Chapman University in 2005 with an MFA in Film Directing. He obtained his Executive MBA from HEC Paris in 2014. Between 2000 and 2009, he directed several fiction and documentary films for Qatar TV and Al Jazeera Children's Channel. His films, which have been selected for many international festivals and have won several awards, include 'Cab Driver' (2004), 'The Oryx Return' (2007) and 'Scents and Shadows' (2010). Hafiz directed his first feature-length film, 'Gharangao', in 2008 and with the support from the Doha Film Institute, is currently developing two feature-length projects: the animated 'The Search for the Star Pearl' and narrative 'The DNA of Love'.

Dream Away

See catalogue p. 82

Marouan Omara

Director



Marouan Omara is a documentary filmmaker from Egypt. He studied Applied Arts at Helwan University, and filmmaking at the Academy of

Cinema, Arts and Technology in Egypt. His works seek to express a dreamlike notion by exploring the overlap of fiction and reality. He currently teaches film and video at the German University in Cairo and is an adjunct professor in film production at the American University in Cairo.

Johanna Domke

Director



Johanna Domke is a visual artist and filmmaker from Germany. She studied Fine Arts at the Royal Danish Art Academy and the Malmö Art

Academy, and attended the Postgraduate Programme in Film at the Media Art Academy in Cologne. She produces work that lies in the space where art and cinema meet, with a combined structural and socio-political approach. Her work has received considerable attention at exhibitions and film festivals around the world.

Monokel

Monokel was founded in 2015 as a unique enterprise for producing feature films, video games and transmedia projects. We strive to create extraordinary narratives across different forms of media. We focus on international co-productions and on first films by German filmmakers, as well as games. Our target is to tell stories that fuse relevance and depth with commercial success. Among Monokel's current projects are the short film 'The Parrot' and the feature-length documentary 'Dream Away', which received international recognition at the Hot Docs Forum Pitch and the Berlinale Talents Doc Station Award. Monokel's current transmedia projects include Milo Rau's 'The Congo Tribunal' and Marc Wiese's 'Slaves', two feature-length documentaries.

Roman Roitman

Producer



Roman Roitman is

a film producer. In 2010 he graduated from Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow with a diploma in

Journalism. Since 2002, he has been involved in several theatre and film productions in the roles of director, author, dramaturge and assistant director. Roitman participated in the Producers Workshop at the Festival de Cannes and was selected for Simon Perry's International Producing programme at ifs/Cologne. In 2015, he co-founded Monokel, a production company supported by Mediengründerzentrum NRW. The same year, he won the Film Prize of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, was selected by the Film- und Medienstiftung NRW for the Rotterdam Lab at CineMart, and participated in EURODOC@NRW, EAVE@Cologne and ACE@Cologne.

Hitch 60 (working title) See catalogue p. 44

Sara Al Obaidly

Director / Screenwriter



Sara Al Obaidly started her career as a portrait and landscape photographer. Her work has been exhibited in the National Portrait

Gallery, London, and was selected by 'TIME' magazine's Lightbox in the best portraits of 2014. Storytelling and poetic imagery are at the heart of Al Obaidly's work. She prefers to shoot in real locations using natural light. Her background in photography has given her a clear understanding of people, as well as human interaction and emotion. Based on the story of her 17-year-old British mother, who had a dream of reaching the Middle East, 'Hitch 60' (working title) will be her first full-length feature film as a director.

Ania Wójtowicz

Producer



Ania Wójtowicz is a creative producer and artist based in Qatar. Her Polish-American sense of identity and contemporary nomadic lifestyle

heavily inform her perspective; her projects emphasise cultural hybridity and explore the intersections of film with other creative fields such as architecture, fashion and fine art. Recently, her video and sound installation 'Fully Furnished' was exhibited as part of the 2016 Oslo Architecture Triennale. Prior to that, she began her career in film studies, then shifted to filmmaking and working as a directorial assistant. She was then an assistant director and producer on large-scale international productions for clients including World Cup 2022, Coca-Cola, Dubai Tourism, Qatar Museums, the Qatar Foundation, Commercial Bank and Vodafone. In 2015, she returned to her creative roots, and now supports Qatar's filmmaking community through the Doha Film Institute's Film Training and Development programmes, where she has played a key role in the production of more than 20 short films.

A House in Jerusalem

See catalogue p. 46

Muayad Alayan

Director / Screenwriter / Producer



Muayad Alayan

is a film director, cinematographer and producer based in Palestine. His directorial debut 'Love, Theft and Other

Entanglements' (2015), which he also produced, had its premiere in the Panorama section of the Berlin International Film Festival. It was nominated for the First Feature Award and has since been distributed in over 20 territories. His first short film premiered at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival in 2009 and went on to screen at more than 60 festivals. He also co-directed and produced the documentary 'Sacred Stones', which won the Al-Jazeera Channel Award in 2012.

PalCine Productions

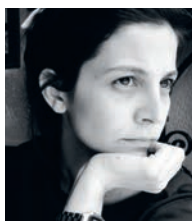
Co-founded by Muayad Alayan and Rami Alayan, **PalCine Productions** is a film production company based in Bethlehem, Palestine. PalCine started out as a collective of Palestinian filmmakers and artists coming together to produce their own audio-visual collaborations and productions. It soon expanded to offer experience and skills to other local and international productions, non-profit organisations, communities and institutions seeking to produce audiovisual projects in Palestine. PalCine's projects range from documentaries and narrative films to commercials and music and educational videos, and several of its films have won international awards.

Hunting Season

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Natalia Garagiola

Director / Screenwriter

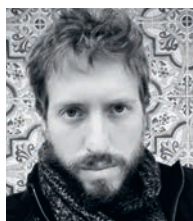


Born in Buenos Aires, **Natalia Garagiola** graduated from the Universidad del Cine, where she later taught. In 2004 she obtained an MA

in Screenwriting from FIA-UIMP in Spain. She also took part in the Experimental Film Lab at the Universidad Di Tella in Buenos Aires. Her videos 'Track' (2007) and 'Square' (2008) were selected for Videoformes Video Art & Digital Cultures. She has written and directed three short films: 'Rincón de López' (2011), released at BAFFICI; 'Mares and Parakeets' (2012), which premiered in the Cannes Critics' Week, and 'Sundays', which premiered in the 2014 Cannes Director's Fortnight. 'Hunting Season' is her first feature-length film.

Santiago Gallelli

Producer



Santiago Gallelli was born in Argentina in 1986, and graduated as a filmmaker from the Universidad del Cine in Buenos Aires. In 2010, he

created Rei Cine as a creative platform for groundbreaking filmmakers that is focused on international co-productions. Since then, he has produced 10 feature films along with the works of acclaimed directors and artists including Lucrecia Martel, Gael García Bernal and Adrián Villar Rojas. He is a member of EAVE and sits on the executive board of CAIC, Argentina's chamber of audiovisual industry. His most recent films as a producer include Martel's 'Zama' (2017), Natalia Garagiola's 'Hunting Season' (2017), Adrián Villar Rojas's 'The Theatre of Disappearance' (2017) and Marcela Said's 'The Dogs' (2017).

Rei Cine

Rei Cine was created to provide a creative platform for groundbreaking filmmakers in Buenos Aires. Completed films as main producer include Benjamin Naishtat's 'History of Fear' (2014), Jazmin López's 'Leones' (2012), Adrián Villar Rojas's 'What Fire Brought to Me' (2013) and Gonzalo Tobal's 'Villegas' (2012); all of these were successfully distributed worldwide and selected for major festivals in Berlin, Cannes, Venice, Rotterdam and Locarno, among many others. In 2013, we launched Rei Distribucion, a distribution label based in Argentina. Specialising in tailor-made releases of Latin American films, we handle titles like Dominga Sotomayor's 'Thursday Till Sunday' (2012), Carlos Reygadas's 'Post Tenebras Lux' (2012), and Ana Guevara and Leticia Jorge's 'So Much Water' (2013).

iPhone Memory

See catalogue p. 48

Mahdi Ali Ali

Director / Screenwriter



Mahdi Ali Ali is a Qatari filmmaker who is charged with the training and education of filmmakers. Since joining the Doha Film Institute,

he has successfully worked to provide filmmakers in Qatar with comprehensive learning initiatives led by the industry's major players. He is the executive producer and supervisor for more than 30 short films that have been produced by the Institute. He holds an MFA from EICAR, the International Film School of Paris, and has made short films including 'Champs Elysées, I Love You' (2009) and 'The Gulf Habibi' (2011), as well as others for Al Jazeera Documentary Channel and Al Jazeera Children's Channel.

The Journey

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Mohamed Jabarah Al-Daradji
Director / Screenwriter / Producer



Mohamed Jabarah Al-Daradji studied in Iraq and the Netherlands before completing his Masters degree in Cinematography and Directing at the

Northern Film School in Leeds. In 2003, he returned to Iraq to make his first feature film, 'Ahlaam', which screened at more than 125 international film festivals and received more than 30 awards. His multi-award-winning 'Son of Babylon' (2010) screened at Sundance and the Berlin International Film Festival, where it won the Amnesty Film Award and the Peace Prize. 'In My Mother's Arms' (2010) premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and won the Asia Pacific Screen Academy Award for Best Documentary. 'In the Sands of Babylon' (2013) screened at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, where it won the award for Best Arab Film.

Isabelle Stead
Screenwriter / Producer



Following five years of working in Los Angeles in both independent and studio contexts, **Isabelle Stead** returned to the UK and produced

'Son of Babylon' (2010), which screened at Sundance and the Berlin International Film Festival, where it received the Amnesty Film Award and the Peace Prize. In 2011, Stead produced 'In My Mother's Arms', which had its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival and received the Asia Pacific Screen Academy Award for Best Documentary in 2011. In 2013, she produced 'In the Sands of Babylon', which won the award for Best Arab Film at its premiere in the Abu Dhabi Film Festival.

Iraq Al-Rafidain

After the international success of films including Mohamed Al Daradji's 'Ahlaam' (2004), 'Son of Babylon' (2010) and 'In My Mother's Arms' (2010), production company Iraq Al-Rafidain established the Iraqi Independent Film Centre (IIFC) in 2010, with the intention of encouraging and supporting a new generation of filmmakers, while actively pursuing the re-establishment and development of the Iraqi film industry. The IIFC has produced 12 short films by young filmmakers, which have screened at the Toronto and Berlin International Film Festivals, among numerous other prestigious festivals. The Centre is busy producing two further feature-length films in 2017.

Babak Jalali
Director / Screenwriter



Babak Jalali was born in Iran in 1978, and moved to London at a young age. His graduation film, 'Heydar: An Afghan in Tehran' (2005),

was nominated for the BAFTA for Best Short Film. In 2009, he made his debut feature-length film, 'Frontier Blues', with the support of the Festival de Cannes Cinéfondation Residency. It had its premiere in the Official Competition at the Festival del Film Locarno, and won the FIPRESCI Prize for Best Film at the San Francisco International Film Festival. His second feature, 'Radio Dreams' (2016), won the Hivos Tiger Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

Ginevra Elkan
Producer



Ginevra Elkan studied Visual Communications at the American University of Paris and Filmmaking at the London Film School. She was

Assistant Director on Bernardo Bertolucci's 'L'assedio' (1998) and a video assistant on Anthony Minghella's 'The Talented Mr. Ripley' (1999). She is the president of the Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, which was founded in Torino in 2002 through a donation of the collection of her grandparents, Gianni and Marella Agnelli. In 2009, she co-produced Babak Jalali's 'Frontier Blues', and in 2010, she founded the production company Asmara Films. Elkan is a founding partner of Good Films, an Italian film distribution company that has been active since 2011.

Asmara Films

Established in 2010 by Ginevra Elkan, **Asmara Films** is a production company whose main goal is to foster the projects of young auteurs coming from all around the world. Our prerogative is to work hand-in-hand with filmmakers and artists, connecting cinema with the arts and all domains of contemporary culture. Among Asmara's productions are Leonardo Brzezicki's 'Noche', which was selected for the International Film Festival Rotterdam in 2013, Noaz Deshe's 'White Shadow', which took the Lion of the Future award at the Venice Film Festival in 2013, and Lamberto Sanfelice's 'Chlorine', which played at the Sundance Film Festival in 2015.

Madmen's Fort

See catalogue p. 72

Narimane Mari

Director / Screenwriter



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

content for print and television media. She has contributed to developing art galleries and initiated a collection of photography books. In 2001, she produced her first film, 'L' Arpenteur', which won the Jean Vigo Award. In 2010, she founded Allers Retours Films in Algeria. In 2013, she directed her first feature-length film, 'Bloody Beans', an internationally multi-award-winning work. The following year, she produced Hassen Ferhani's 'Roundabout in My Head', which won five Grand Prix, and in 2016 she produced Djamel Kerkar's documentary 'Atlal', which took first prize at FIDMarseille.

Fenia Cossovitsa

Producer



Fenia Cossovitsa is an acclaimed film producer with many years of experience in development, shooting and post-production, with a background of more

than 30 Greek and international feature films and documentaries in her resumé. She has worked with such internationally acclaimed filmmakers as Peter Bogdanovich and Jonathan Nossiter. Her productions have won awards including Best Film of the Year ('J.A.C.E'), Best Documentary ('I Put a Spell on You') and the Audience Award ('Guardians of Time'), the FIPRESCI Prize at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival ('Blind Sun'), Best Screenplay in the Un Certain Regard section of the Festival de Cannes ('Voir du pays') and audience awards at Thessaloniki ('I Still Hide to Smoke' and 'The Other Me').

Olivier Boischot
Associate Producer



Olivier Boischot began his professional career in the sound production for theatre, and worked for 10 years with Daniel Mesguich.

In 1984, he co-founded Carolus, a post-production company. He created Banc Public in 1992, and surrounded himself with different teams to design, build, produce and post-produce films. He is a co-founder of Central Electrique.

**Centrale
Electrique**

Centrale Electrique is committed to producing creative cinematic works about society. Its editorial line is based on projects by directors and artists who take part in their contemporary history by means of cinema and visual arts.

The Maiden's Pond

See catalogue p. 50

Bassem Breche

Director / Screenwriter



Bassem Breche is an Emmy Award-winning scriptwriter. He began his career as an actor in Lebanon and the UK, appearing in John Furse's

'Blind Flight' (2003) and Antonia Bird's 'The Hamburg Cell' (2004). His first short film, 'Both' (2007), was selected for the Critics' Week at the Festival de Cannes. From 2009 through 2011, Breche worked on the Emmy Award-winning web-drama 'Shankaboot' as Lead Writer and Online Content Producer. He also worked as a scriptwriter on the award-winning web series 'Fasateen'. In 2013, Breche won the Robert Bosch Foundation Prize at the Berlin International Film Festival for his short film 'Free Range' (2014). He is the director of the screenwriters' collective Scenario Beirut.

Jana Wehbe

Producer



Jana Wehbe studied Filmmaking at IESAV in Beirut, and Modern Oriental Singing at the Lebanese National High Music Conservatory. She

became known to renowned directors and production companies in Lebanon and the region for her work in the production of narrative and documentary films, television commercials and music videos. Her filmography as a producer includes '2 1/2', 'This Little Father Obsession' 'Revoltango' and 'Talej'. In 2011, she joined the team at the Doha Film Institute to work on their annual film events. Wehbe is currently producing several film projects.

The Attic

The Attic is a growing boutique film production house with an innovatory sparkle that intends to bring to light films by emerging talented directors. Based in Beirut, The Attic was founded in 2009. It aims to participate vigorously in the present and future of cinema in the Middle East by focusing on fine and exceptional content without compromise. The Attic produced Elie Kamal's short films '2 1/2' (2010), which was screened at numerous film festivals and received a FIPRESCI Prize at the Dubai International Film Festival in 2010, 'Talej' (2012) and 'Revoltango' (2014), along with a series of corporate projects. Currently, The Attic is producing several other promising projects.

The Man Behind the Microphone

see catalogue p. 84

Claire Belhassine

Director



Claire Belhassine

holds a BA in Drama and Film Arts from London University and a Master's degree in Filmmaking from the London

Film School. She worked extensively in the British media as a writer and stylist for Conde Nast publications, 'Dazed and Confused' magazine and 'Entertainment News'. After completing her studies, she worked as a producer-director in the corporate world, with clients including Sony, MTV and Deutsche Bank. She was selected as part of the new writers development team on Channel 4's popular teen series 'Hollyoaks', and also worked as a script reader for Channel 4. 'The Man Behind the Microphone' is her first feature as a director.

Mike Lerner

Producer



Director and producer **Mike Lerner** has been making films since 1988, among them the Academy Award-nominated 'Hell and Back

Again'. He produced or executive-produced 'Afghan Star', 'Smash & Grab - The Story of the Pink Panthers', 'The Square', 'The Do Gooders' and 'A Whole Lott More', and directed 'Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer'. He has won a number of industry awards and accolades, including an Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary Feature 2012; six Sundance Awards; an Emmy Award; two Grierson Awards; the Prix Italia; two Royal Television Society Award nominations; two IDA Award nominations; a Cinema Eye Award; an Independent Spirit Award nomination; and a Gotham Independent Film Award nomination.

La Prod

Roast Beef Productions began in 2005 and has had an incredible impact in just a few years, most recently with 'The Square' and 'Pussy Riot - A Punk Prayer'. Five Roast Beef films have been presented at Sundance, and have won six awards there, two Grierson Awards and the Prix Italia, along with two Oscar nominations. We understand how to make documentaries compelling, gripping and funny. We are not afraid of "big" subjects, but our films humanise and popularise them. Neither are we afraid of original approaches to filmmaking, working with animation, hybrid doc drama forms and new technologies. As a result our films have met with success, and we have burst onto the global documentary scene, attracting funding from co-producers and getting sales and distribution deals worldwide.

Memory Hotel

See catalogue p. 74

Philippe Bober

Producer



Philippe Bober, founder of Coproduction Office, has a reputation for discovering and nurturing new talent. He was involved in

the early films of Lars von Trier, Lou Ye, Carlos Reygadas and Kornél Mundruczo. Bober currently works with Roy Andersson, and has worked with Michelangelo Frammartino, Jessica Hausner, Mundruczo, Ruben Östlund and Ulrich Seidl since their feature-length film debuts.

Coproduction Office

Founded in 1987 by French producer Philippe Bober, **Coproduction Office** produces and sells bold and award-winning films by directors with strong personal vision, maintaining long-lasting working relationships with groundbreaking European directors Roy Andersson, Thomas Clay, Michelangelo Frammartino, Jessica Hausner, Ruben Östlund and Ulrich Seidl. Coproduction Office's international sales company is one of Europe's best sales entities, differentiating itself through both its outstanding catalogue of carefully chosen gems and the broad exploitation of its films. In the field of film production, Coproduction Office is home to three companies – Essential (Berlin), Parisienne (Paris) and Coproduction Office (Copenhagen) – with which Philippe Bober has worked as a producer on 30 films. Sixteen of these have been selected for competition at the Festival de Cannes, the Venice Film Festival and the Berlin International Film Festival, and seven appeared in the Un Certain Regard section at Cannes.

My Friend Gadhgadhi

See catalogue p. 64

Rafik Omrani

Director / Producer



Rafik Omrani is a director and film editor who resides in Tunisia. He began his career with marketing and communication oriented scholarship,

then accumulated experience in fiction, documentary and short animation filmmaking in parallel with his work as financial director. In 2011, he decided to devote himself entirely to cinema. 'Fallega 2011' (2011), his first medium-length documentary film, was shown at numerous international festivals, demonstrations and art institutions around the world, and won five awards including the First Work Award from the the Tetouan International Mediterranean Film Festival and the Osman Sanban Award from the Festival of African Cinema in Marseille. 'White Doves', his first feature-length documentary, was produced in 2016. Omrani has produced a number of documentaries for television and for the benefit of many Tunisian and international organisations. In 2012, he was elected a member of the executive board of the Association of Tunisian Filmmakers.

Majez Films

Majez Films is a Tunisian film production company that produces and supports films that are actively engaged in society. Majez passionately supports creative projects with original aesthetics and innovative form.

The Other Wife

See catalogue p. 52

Meriem Mesraoua

Director / Screenwriter



Meriem Mesraoua

was born in Doha and raised in France. She earned a BSc with Honours in Media Industries and Technologies from Northwestern

University in Qatar. Mesraoua explored various facets of the film industry through internships with Miramax and NYWIFT, among others, and as a production trainee on Michael Winterbottom's award-winning film 'Trishna' in 2011. She received a Qatari Film Fund grant from the Doha Film Institute in 2015 for her short film 'Our Time Is Running Out,' with which she participated in the first edition of Qumra. Mesraoua is now developing her first feature-length project, 'The Other Wife,' which she developed during the 2016 Hezayah Screenwriting Lab in partnership with TorinoFilmLab.

Francois d'Artemare

Producer



François d'Artemare

established the Portuguese film company Filmes do Tejo in 1996. Its current library of more than 70

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

Les Films de l'Après-Midi

Les Films de l'Après-Midi has produced feature-length films from countries all over the world, including Bosnia and Herzegovina (Aida Begić's 'Children of Sarajevo', 'Djeca', and 'Snow'); Ethiopia (Hiwot Admasu's short film 'New Eyes'); Hungary (Balint Kenyeres's 'Hier'); Iran (Keywan Karimi's 'Drum'); Portugal (João Canijo's 'Fatima'; Marco Martins's 'São Jorge'; three films by Manoel de Oliveira; João Salaviza's 'Montanha'; and João Viana's 'Our Madness'); and Romania (Radu Muntean's 'One Floor Below'). The company is strongly committed to supporting young filmmakers, among them Admasu, Karimi, Kenyeres, Meriem Mesraoua, Jérôme Plon, Salaviza, Colombe Schneck, and Myriam Verreault. We also develop projects by established directors like Begić, Canijo, Pelin Esmer and Muntean.

Reem Planted a Flower

See catalogue p. 108

Rawda Al-Thani

Director / Screenwriter



Rawda Al-Thani

likes to spend her time exploring places in Qatar where the nation's past and present landscapes have merged to form its

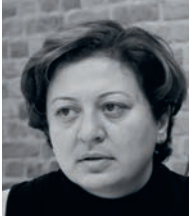
current state. Through these explorations she finds inspiration for her short films and art projects. She studied Communications at Northwestern University in Qatar, where she focused on Experimental Filmmaking, Art Directing and Middle Eastern Studies. Her first short film was shot in Doha's abandoned Gulf Cinema and portrays the search for an answer to the explorer's questions of identity through her journey into that forgotten space.

Republic of Silence

See catalogue p. 66

Diana El Jeiroudi

Director



Diana El Jeiroudi

is a Syrian director and producer who has resided in Berlin since 2013. In 2002, she co-founded Proaction Film, the first independent

production company in Syria after the Damascus Spring. Her filmography includes 'The Pot' (2005), which was selected for the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival, and 'Dolls, A Woman from Damascus' (2007) and 'Morning Fears, Night Chants' (2012), both of which screened at the International Documentary Festival Amsterdam. In 2008, she co-founded the DOX BOX Film Festival, followed by the DOX BOX Association in Berlin.

Orwa Nyrabia

Producer



Berlin-based Syrian producer **Orwa Nyrabia** studied acting in Damascus, and has worked as a journalist and actor. He played the main role in

Yousry Nasrallah's 'La Porte du soleil' (2004), which was selected for the Festival de Cannes before moving into documentary filmmaking. He co-founded Proaction Film in Damascus in 2002, and produced the films of Diana El Jeiroudi; together, they produced Wiam Bedirxan and Ossama Mohammed's 'Silvered Water, Syria Self-Portrait' (2014), which was selected for Cannes, and Talal Derki's 'Return to Homs' (2013).

No Nation Films

No Nation Films is a film production company that specialises in creative documentary films for the international market, founded in Berlin in 2014 by Orwa Nyrabia and Diana El Jeiroudi, continuing the work of Damascus-based Proaction Film, which they launched in 2002. Over the years, the company has co-produced films with partners from Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany and Yemen. Its award-winning documentaries have address a variety of topics, including women's rights, cultural identity, radicalisation and life in the midst of war. No Nation Films productions have been released theatrically in France, Italy, Austria, Japan, Portugal, Spain and the UK, and have been selected for more than 150 film festivals around the world, including Busan, Cannes, IDFA, Locarno, London, New York, Sundance and TIFF, among others. Its films have been broadcast worldwide on numerous television networks, as well as on premium VOD platforms. No Nation Films productions have won a considerable number of awards, including a Grierson Award and a Sundance Grand Jury Prize.

The Return

See catalogue p. 54

Meyar Al-Roumi

Director / Screenwriter



Born in Damascus in 1973, **Meyar Al-Roumi** worked as a photographer before studying cinema in Paris at the Université Paris VIII and La

Fémis, from which he graduated in 2001. He worked as a director of photography on several documentary and fiction films in France and in Syria including Omar Amiralay's 'Flood in Baath Country' (2003) and Mohammad Al-Roumi's 'Blue-Grey' (2004), and directed several documentaries, including 'A Silent Cinema' (2001) and 'Waiting for the Day' (2003). Al-Roumi has also directed short fiction films, including 'The Voyage of Rabeya' (2005) and 'Journey' (2011). He completed his first feature-length fiction film, 'Round Trip', in 2012.

Xavier Rocher

Producer



Before creating La Fabrica Nocturna, Xavier Rocher was CFO of the production company Les Films du Poisson in Paris, and

worked on award-winning films including Mathieu Amalric's 'On Tour' and Julie Bertuccelli's 'The Tree'. He graduated from the EMLYON Business School in Lyon, and studied Producing at La Fémis and the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. Over the last few years, he has produced more than 10 short and feature-length films, including Fernando Perez's 'Tata Cedron' (2012) and Matthieu Taponier's 'Rites' (2012), and released films including Shahrbanoo Sadat's 'Wolf and Sheep' (2016), which won the Art Cinema Award in the Director's Fortnight at the Festival de Cannes, and Francisco Hervé's 'The Lost City' (2016), which premiered at Visions du Réel. Currently, he is developing feature films including Nicolás Lasnibat's 'Roberto Bolaño or The Invented Biography', Marcelo Martinessi's 'The Heiresses' and Meyar Al-Roumi's 'The Return'.

La Fabrica Nocturna Production

La Fabrica Nocturna Productions was created by producers Marina Perales Marhuenda and Xavier Rocher in 2010. The company aims to produce feature films and documentaries that are a high-quality, innovative proposal for cinema, and that open up frontiers for creation from all around the world.

Al Sahra

See catalogue p. 86

Ghiath Al Haddad

Director

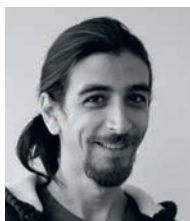


Ghiath Al Haddad was born in Syria in 1989 and graduated from the faculty of Fine Art at the University of Damascus in 2013. A videographer and

sound recordist with directing and producing experience in Syria and Lebanon, Al Haddad has worked with local and international NGOs, teaching visual communication and art therapy to refugee children in Lebanon. He has also been involved with numerous non-profit organisations, such as Humans of Syria, with graphic design work and short films that have been featured on websites and in exhibition spaces around the world.

Saeed Al Batal

Director



Saeed Al Batal was born in Tartous, Syria, in 1988, and is a citizen journalist, photographer and filmmaker. He is a founder of Humans of Syria, the online

gallery Sam Lenses, and many other projects. He has worked as a reporter for several radio stations, including NPR and Denmark Radio.

Rania Stephan**Producer****Rania Stephan**

was born in Beirut and graduated in Cinema Studies from Latrobe University in Melbourne and the Université Paris 8.

She has worked as a production and first assistant with renowned filmmakers, and as a cameraperson and editor with researchers and documentarists, on numerous films. Anchored in the turbulent reality of her home country, her documentaries give a personal perspective to political events. Her most recent work investigates forgotten images and sounds that haunt the present. By juxtaposing them with new ones, she explores a diversity of meanings, triggering renewed narratives and emotions. 'The Three Disappearances of Soad Hosni', her first feature film, won the Artist's Prize at the 10th Sharjah Biennale, the Renaud Victor Prize at FIDMarseille and the Best Filmmaker Award at the Doha Tribeca Film Festival in 2011.

Selective Mutism

See catalogue p. 110

Khalifa AlMarri

Director / Screenwriter



Khalifa AlMarri

was born in Qatar in 1992. An artist who has made several contributions to the fine art community in Qatar, he is the director of 'Man

of the House', which won a Made in Qatar Award at Ajyal in 2015 and was invited to the third GCC Film Festival in Abu Dhabi. AlMarri studied Mass Communications at Qatar University and holds a diploma in Directing and Filmmaking from the New York Film Academy. He made 'Fragile' as part of a joint Doha Film Institute - La Fémis summer course in Paris in 2016. He is currently in development with the short film 'Selective Mutism'.

Sh'hab

See catalogue p. 112

Amal Al-Muftah

Director / Screenwriter



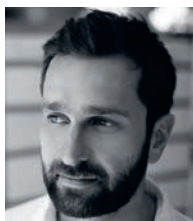
Amal Al-Muftah

was born in Doha in 1994. She started making films in high school, including 'AlKora' (2013) and the award-winning 'Alhamali'

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

Amer Jamhour

Director / Screenwriter



Amer Jamhour

was born and raised in Amman, where he obtained a BA in Business and Marketing from the University of Jordan before moving to

London to pursue a career in the creative industries. He dabbled in advertising and motion graphics for 10 years and took several short courses in filmmaking, until he graduated from the National Film and Television School with a post-graduate diploma in Script Development. Since then, Jamhour has developed scripts with writers and producers from the Middle East on a freelance basis, and recently directed his first short film, 'Dunia'. Now based in Madrid, Jamhour is currently working on his next short and feature-length projects.

Solo

See catalogue p. 56

Mehdi Hmili

Director / Screenwriter



Mehdi Hmili was born in Tunis and graduated from the Paris Film School. While in France, he directed his trilogy in black-and-white about love and exile:

'X-Moment' (2009), 'Li-La' (2011) and 'The Night of Badr' (2012). His first feature-length film, 'Thala mon amour' (2015), a drama that takes place in the city of Thala during the Tunisian Revolution, was part of the official selection of the Carthage, Rome and Torino Film Festivals. Hmili is also a popular poet in Tunisia, known for his poems against the regime of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. A former football player, Hmili recounts his own story in 'Solo', his second feature-length film currently in development.

Moufida Fedhila

Producer



Moufida Fedhila is a producer, director and visual artist. Her work has been shown in numerous solo and collective exhibitions around the world. Her

works are part of several private and public collections. Combining her strengths in artistic direction and producing, she co-founded Yol Film House with several independent filmmakers and has produced and co-produced several documentary and narrative films with partners in Canada, France, Qatar and Tunisia. She has sat on the juries of film festivals in Europe and in the Maghreb, among them the Francophone Trophies for Cinema. Currently, Fedhila is developing Mehdi Hmili's second full-length film, 'Solo', a family drama that will be shot in Tunisia. She lives and works between Paris and Tunis.

Yol Film House

Yol Film House is a Tunisian film production company that develops, produces and co-produces short and feature-length films. Our vision is to tell original and moving stories that provide a refreshing challenge for an international audience. The company plays an active role in supporting emerging Tunisian and international talents, and the projects we develop have strong potential for international co-production and distribution.

Stronger than a Bullet

See catalogue p. 88

Maryam Ebrahimi

Director



Maryam Ebrahimi was born in Iran. She studied at the Art University of Tehran and continued her education at university in

Stockholm. 'No Burqas Behind Bars' (2012) was her first documentary as a co-director. It shows how laws surrounding moral crimes are used to control women in post-Taliban Afghanistan. The film was shot over a lengthy period of time inside a women's prison. It was named Best Documentary at the International Emmy Awards in 2014.

Nima Sarvestani

Producer



Nima Sarvestani began his career as a journalist in Iran and has concentrated on documentary filmmaking since moving to Sweden

in 1984. He founded the independent Swedish film production company NimaFilm in 1987. Focused on social and political issues, Sarvestani is inspired by those who fight passionately for their cause. 'No Burqas Behind Bars', his fourth film as a producer, was named Best Documentary at the International Emmy Awards in 2014.

NimaFilm

Over the past 26 years, **NimaFilm** has produced a variety of documentary films in which unique global issues are explored through personal life stories. The company has produced several documentaries on subjects surrounding the Middle East, about people in harsh environments fighting for their rights. By making films that comment on our society and our times, NimaFilm seeks to give those who rarely have the chance to be heard the opportunity to tell their stories. The major themes of NimaFilm's productions concern human rights, and many of the films have generated debate and won awards worldwide. 'No Burqas Behind Bars' won the Prix Europa for Best European Documentary and an International Emmy Award in 2014.

They

See catalogue p. 76

Anahita Ghazvinizadeh

Director / Screenwriter



Anahita Ghazvinizadeh received her BFA in Film from the Tehran University of Art and her MFA in Studio Arts from the School of the Art

Institute of Chicago. Among other awards, she has won the Cinéfondation First Prize at the Festival de Cannes and the Silver Hugo from the Chicago International Film Festival. She was selected as one of the 25 New Faces of Independent Filmmaking by 'Filmmaker' magazine in 2013. She was a writing fellow at the Sundance Screenwriters' Lab in 2013, and is also the co-writer of the acclaimed feature film 'Mourning' (2011). In 2016, she made the short film 'What Remains' as part of a collective international project called Break the Silence, which aims to increase public knowledge and engagement against the abuse and exploitation of children. Currently, Ghazvinizadeh is working on her first feature-length film, 'They'. As part of her Cinéfondation award, the film is guaranteed to have its premiere at the Festival de Cannes.

Zoe Sua Cho

Producer



Currently based in Chicago, **Zoe Sua Cho** is a Korean-born, New Zealand-bred filmmaker and co-founder of Mass Ornament Films. Committed

to collaborations projects that challenge traditional boundaries of cinema and modes of production, she has produced a number of films, including 'The Recorder Exam', which was named Best Film at the Woodstock Film Festival; 'Needle', winner of the Cinéfondation First Prize at the Festival de Cannes in 2013; and 'Wolkaan', which premiered at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival. Recently, Cho edited, co-produced and shot Laura Stewart's feature-length documentary 'Drifting Towards the Crescent' (2017), which premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam. She is currently producing Anahita Ghazvinizadeh's 'They'. Cho received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2014, is a recipient of the New Zealand Film Commission's Professional Development Award, and was selected as a 2016 Film Independent Project Involve Producing Fellow.

Mass Ornament

Mass Ornament is a transnational film collaborative based in Chicago. Born out of collaborations by filmmakers Zoe Sua Cho, Yoni Goldstein and Anahita Ghazvinizadeh, the company is committed to developing and producing art-house cinema, documentaries, and moving-image works by emerging international filmmakers.

Ya Hoota

See catalogue p. 116

Latifa Al Darwish

Director / Screenwriter



Latifa Al Darwish

is an award-winning independent filmmaker and television producer, who uses animation and documentary formats to tell

unheard local stories. She graduated from Northwestern University in Qatar with a BSc in Communication, and studied Culture and the Creative Industries at King's College London. Her films include 'Bader' (co-director, 2012), which was selected for the Doha Tribeca Film Festival and the Abu Dhabi Film Festival and 'Temsah' (2013), which also appeared at Abu Dhabi. She has also created animations for the @Wransade safe driving campaign and for @3yooznews with the team from Qartoon.

Abdulaziz Yousif Ahmed

Director



Abdulaziz Yusef

is a cartoonist whose experience includes working on daily newspapers as well as television. His work has taken the form of

sketches, illustration, fine art, animation, moving pictures, product design and graphic design. Creating cartoons is part of his daily life as a 2-D illustrator at Al Jazeera Children's Channel and Al Raya newspaper.

You Will Die at Twenty

See catalogue p. 58

Amjad Abu Alala

Director



Amjad Abu Alala is a Sudanese filmmaker who was born and raised in the UAE. He studied media at United Arab Emirates University. As a

producer and director, Abu Alala has made numerous short films that have been shown at film festivals, including 'Tina' (2009), 'Coffee and Orange' (2004), and 'Feathers of the Birds' (2005), which is considered to mark the return of cinema in Sudan. His 'Studio' (2012) was supervised during a workshop conducted by Abbas Kiarostami. In 2013, Abu Alala won the Best Arabic Theatre Script Award from the Arab Authority for 'Apple Pies'. Currently, Abu Alala is Head of the Programming Committee of the Sudan Independent Film Festival.

Hossam Elouan

Producer



In 2008, Hossam Elouan received his MA in Cinema Studies from San Francisco State University. He received a post-graduate diploma

in International Co-production from EAVE in 2011, and trained in post-production at the EP2C Workshop in 2012. Elouan founded Transit Films in 2013 to produce Arab films that represent new Arab realities, and promote Arab presence in international film culture. His interests include issues of representation and misconceptions of otherness in global societies.

Transit Films

Transit Films is an independent, Cairo-based production company established by producer Hossam Elouan. The company specialises in producing Egyptian and Arab art-house films that have the potential to break into the international film market. Transit Films focuses on fresh talents who can become a source of innovation for both Egyptian and Arab cinema. Among the company's recent productions are Sherif Elbendary's 'Ali, the Goat and Ibrahim', which was selected for the 2016 Dubai International Film Festival, and Hala Elkoussy's 'Cactus Flower', which appeared in the Bright Future Competition at the 2017 Rotterdam International Film Festival.

Zanka Contact

See catalogue p. 60

Ismaël El Iraki

Director / Screenwriter



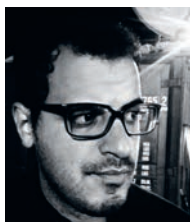
Ismaël El Iraki

was born in Morocco in 1983 and emigrated to France in 2001. After studying Philosophy and Cinema at the Sorbonne,

he joined the Directing Department of La Fémis in 2004. All of his short films concern Morocco and are linked to the Nayda artistic movement in Casablanca. El Iraki's two latest shorts were both noted successes: 'Carcasse' (2007) won the Short Film Corner Prize at the Festival de Cannes, and 'H'rash' (2009) won a Special Mention at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival. Today, El Iraki is developing two feature-length films, including 'Zanka Contact'.

Saïd Hamich

Producer



Saïd Hamich

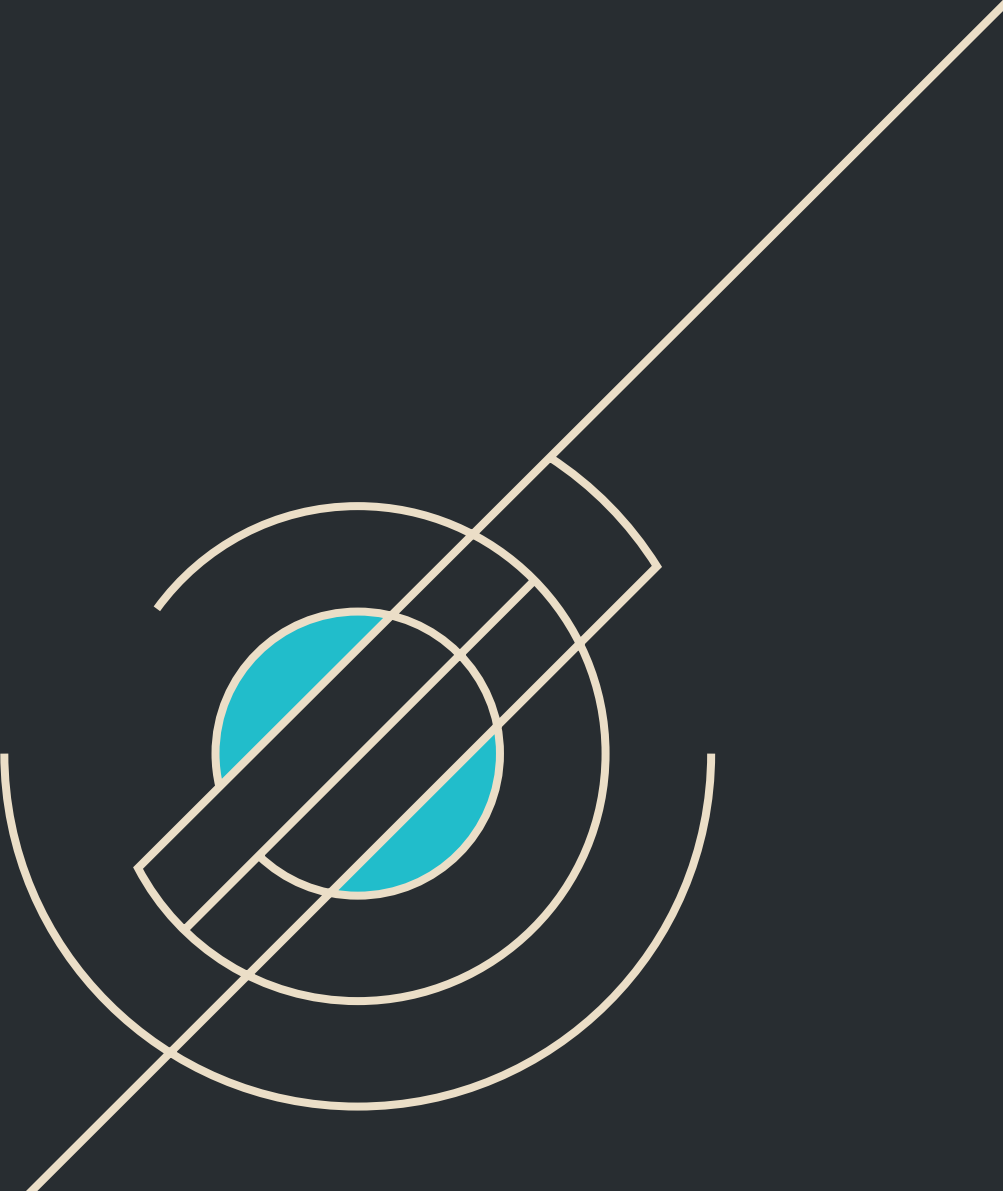
was born in 1986 in Fez, Morocco. After growing up in France, he graduated from the production department of

La Fémis in Paris. In 2010, he founded the Barney Production society, which is aimed at producing demanding and popular art-house films by French and international directors. In 2012, he won the Film Producer grant from the Lagardère Foundation. He has produced 14 short films and was line producer on Boris Lojkine's 'Hope' and Clément Cogitore's 'Whakan Front'. He produced Nabil Ayouch's 'Much Loved', Faouzi Bensaïdi's 'Volubilis' and Walid Mattar's 'Northern Wind', and is currently working on several short and feature-length films.

Barney Production

Barney Production is an independent company created in 2010 by Saïd Hamich. In 2012, the company received the Jean-Luc Lagardère Foundation Grant for Film Producers. With the ambition of developing auteur cinema, Barney Production has already produced 14 short films, and also co-produced Nabil Ayouch's 'Much Loved' (2014), Faouzi Bensaïdi's 'Volubilis' (coming 2017) and Walid Mattar's 'Northern Wind' (coming 2017). The company is currently working on four short films and developing several feature-length films.

Industry Delegates



Jad Abi Khalil - Lebanon

Beirut DC | Co-Founder



Jad Abi-Khalil was born in Lebanon and completed his cinema studies at the Université Saint-Joseph in 1998. He has directed numerous short films and feature-length documentaries, and began producing feature documentaries in 2007. Abi-Khalil is a founding member of Beirut

DC, the cultural association for Arabic cinema, and chaired its board of directors from 2009 to 2013. He was Head of the DOCmed programme from 2011 to 2013, and since 2015 has been Head of the Beirut Cinema Platform.

Beirut DC is a Lebanese cultural association, created in 1999 by a group of filmmakers and arts advocates. The association's main activities are producing independent documentaries; organising capacity-building workshops with young Arab filmmakers; and staging the biennial Beirut Cinema Days film festival as well as several Arab film weeks in Europe and in the Arab world. Beirut DC's latest productions include 'Seeing the Self' (2015), 20 short videos by Syrian and Lebanese youngsters; and Bassem Fayyad's 'Diaries of a Flying Dog' (2014), Zeina Sfeir's 'All About My Father' (2010) and Simon Al Habre's 'The One-Man Village' (2008), three feature-length documentaries. In 2015, the association held the Beirut Cinema Platform, three days of meetings, training and pitching for 15 Arab producers and 25 industry experts.

Mark Adams - UK

Edinburgh International Film Festival | Artistic Director



Mark Adams is Artistic Director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival. Most recently he was Chief Film Critic for the respected film-trade paper 'Screen International' and was also a film critic for 'The Sunday Mirror' in the UK. He attends most of the key international film festivals around the world, and as a film journalist and reviewer for more than 25 years he has written for 'Variety', 'The Hollywood Reporter' and 'Moving

Pictures International', as well as many national newspapers in the UK. He has also worked extensively in the film industry: he was Head of Programming at the National Film Theatre in London for six years; was Director of Cinema at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London; and has programmed for film festivals around the world, as well as acting as a consultant for various organisations.

Established in 1947, the Edinburgh International Film Festival is world-renowned for discovering and promoting the very best in international cinema - and for heralding and debating changes in global filmmaking. Intimate in scale, ambitious in scope, and fuelled by pure passion for cinema in all its manifestations, the Festival seeks to spotlight the most exciting and innovative new film talent in a setting steeped in history.

Moeed Ahmad - Qatar

Al Jazeera Media Network | New Media Department Manager



Moeed Ahmad heads the Innovation & Incubation Group of the Digital Division at Al Jazeera. He joined Al Jazeera in 2005; today his group is responsible for utilising new technologies and innovation in media to broaden Al Jazeera's audience base, distribution and engagement. In 2014, he led the network's initiative AJ+ in San Francisco, an entirely new experience targeted at engaging the millennial audience, and the new brand very quickly grew to become the most engaged brand

on Facebook globally in 2015, and picked up two Webby awards in 2016. His team focuses on the network's long-term digital strategy through experimentation around research projects and incubating new ideas. He has been a proponent of open source and Creative Commons, empowering communities through collaboration and sharing. His background is in Computer Science, which he studied at the University of Toronto.

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Kamal Aljafari - Palestine

Filmmaker



Kamal Aljafari's filmography includes 'Recollection' (2015), 'Port of Memory' (2009) and 'The Roof' (2006). He was a featured artist at the 2009 Robert Flaherty Film Seminar in New York, and in 2009/10 was the Benjamin White Whitney Fellow at Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute and Film Study Center. In 2010, he taught film at The New School in New York City, and from 2011 to 2013

he was a senior lecturer and head of the directing programme for the German Film and Television Academy, Berlin. He is the recipient of numerous film prizes and art grants. In 2013, Aljafari received the art medal of the state of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil. Retrospectives of his work were presented at the Lussas Film Festival in France and at the Cinéma-thèque québécoise in Canada in 2016.

Bobby Allen - UK

MUBI | VP Content



Bobby Allen is the VP of Content for MUBI, the curated online cinema site hosting cult, classic and award-winning films. He is responsible for the global content, programming and editorial strategy and management of the global content team. He recently launched MUBI's theatrical

distribution business in the USA and UK, and is responsible for MUBI's move into film production. Bobby was previously VP Acquisitions at Celluloid Dreams, Head of Production at MTV Films Europe and Head of Acquisitions at Film Four Limited.

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

Jassim Al Ansari - Qatar

Medinah Production Company | CEO



Jassim Al Ansari is Chief Executive Officer of Medinah Production Company, which is currently producing the upcoming show 'Medinäh'.

When destiny forces a rocket launch to go horribly wrong, a group of strangers are propelled to discover and survive with what fate has chosen to give them. 'Medinäh' is an adventurous original Qatari show produced by Katara studios and Medinah Production Company. Our aim is to broadcast and to stimulate to a broader international audience. Moreover, an important goal is to put Qatar on the map and to show our culture, society and diverse organisations to the people of the world through ground-breaking storytelling.

Zeynep Atakan - Turkey

Zeyno Film | Producer



Zeynep Atakan was born in 1966 in Istanbul. After graduating from the Film and TV department at Marmara University, Atakan worked as an assistant director and producer in the television advertisement industry. In 1999, Atakan transitioned to the film industry and began producing international film projects. In 2007, she founded Zeyno

Film. In 2010, she won the European Film Academy's Prix Eurimages European Co-Production Award, and founded Yapımlab. She has been the director of Antalya Film Forum, a co-production and project development market, since 2014 and she is the art director of Sabancı Foundation Short Film Platform, which was established in 2016.w

Zeyno Film was founded in 2007 by Zeynep Atakan. Having incorporated Atakan's previous productions, Zeyno Film aims to produce and market films of international standards in Turkey and worldwide. The company has produced Nuri Bilge Ceylan's 'Climates', 'Three Monkeys', 'Once Upon a Time in Anatolia' and 'Winter Sleep', as well as undertaking international sales for these productions. Zeyno Film is producing Ceylan's 'The Wild Pear Tree', which is currently in production. In 2010, the company launched the production laboratory Yapımlab, as a platform for providing education and consultancy to young film practitioners who aim to become professionals.

Selim El Azar - UAE

Gulf Film LLC | CEO



After more than two decades of experience in cinematic entertainment, Selim El Azar joined Gulf Film and within a year led the team to astounding growth in market share and revenues. His leadership has guided the business to nurture longstanding relationships with cinematic industry partners. He has channelled his expertise and knowledge

to ensure Gulf Film is at the forefront of acquiring the rights for regional English- and Arabic-language content, including multi-million dollar Hollywood blockbusters. In addition, El Azar has campaigned for meaningful, added value focused partnerships, most notably a six-year partnership for premium film content on OSN.

Established in 1989 and acquired by Qatar Media Services in 2012, Gulf Film is a film distribution company for major studios and independent films in the Gulf region and the Middle East. Gulf Film distributes and exhibits more than 150 titles annually -- one of every two films distributed in the region -- cementing its position as the market leader in the Middle East.

Paul Baboudjian - Lebanon / UAE

Arab Film Institute | Executive Director / Producer



Paul Baboudjian began his career as a creative and manager in the media industry. He produced short films and documentary projects in various Mediterranean countries, developing his experience and an international reputation. He produced Bahij Hoheij's 'Chatti Ya Dini' (2010), which won the Black Pearl Award for Best Narrative Film from the Arab World at the

Abu Dhabi Film Festival. He also supported two of the Arab world's most successful documentaries: Mahmoud Kaabour's 'Grandma, A Thousand Times' and Mahdi Fleifel's 'A World Not Ours' (both 2010). Baboudjian also produced Ali F. Mostafa's second feature-length film, 'From A to B' (2014), the first Arab film to open the Abu Dhabi Film Festival.

The Arab Film Institute is an Arab non-profit cultural association based in Dubai. It is the place where Arab films' past, present and future are discussed, imagined and celebrated by those who make Arab cinema.

Ahmed Ibrahim Al Baker - Qatar

Medinah Production Company | Producer / Showrunner



While working as a technician for Qatar Petroleum, Ahmad Ibrahim Al Baker was dreaming up stories on his daily commute. He really wanted to be a filmmaker and so he became the first Qatari filmmaker who created his feature film from scratch without any training. His first project is a science-fiction mystery that he wrote, produced and directed called 'The

Package: Volume 1.' After that, he went straight to creating Qatar's first zombie movie. He is a partners at Innovation Production. "We all have a story to tell" is his favourite quote. In 2011, he became involved as an executive producer in a US indie horror film, his first step outside the Qatari film industry.

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Zsuzsi Bánkuti - Germany

The Match Factory | Head of Acquisitions



After 12 years working in distribution and cinema exhibition in Hungary, Zsuzsi Bánkuti became Head of Acquisitions at The Match Factory in 2012.

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

Joslyn Barnes - USA

Louverture Films | Producer



Among the films Joslyn Barnes has been involved with producing since co-founding Louverture Films are the documentaries 'Trouble the Water'; 'The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975'; 'The House I Live in'; 'Concerning Violence'; 'Shadow World'; and the forthcoming 'Strong Island', by Yance Ford; 'Idiom' by RaMell Ross; 'Angels Are Made of

Light' by James Longley; and 'Aquarela' by Victor Kossakovsky; as well as the narrative features 'Bamako'; 'The Time That Remains'; 'Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives'; 'The Narrow Frame of Midnight'; 'Cemetery of Splendour'; 'White Sun'; and the forthcoming 'Zama' by Lucrecia Martel.

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

Violeta Bava - Argentina

Ruda Cine | Producer || Buenos Aires International Film Festival | Programmer



Violeta Bava was born in Buenos Aires. In 2002, she received a double degree in the Theory, Aesthetics and History of Cinema and Drama from Buenos Aires University. She is also the founder of Ruda Cine, a film production company based in Argentina. Bava is the programmer of the Buenos Aires International Film Festival

and for 12 years was the co-director of BAL, a leading co-production market for Latin American films. Since 2012, she has been the Latin American delegate for the Venice International Film Festival. She sits on the TorinoFilmLab Advisory Board and is an industry and programming consultant for the Doha Film Institute.

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

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

Mohammed Belhaj - Qatar

Al Jazeera Media Network | Executive Producer



Mohammed Belhaj is an Executive Producer and Commissioning Editor at Al Jazeera Documentary Channel (AJD). He represents the channel on the Network Programming Committee, which finances the projects of interest to all the network's channels. An award-winning documentary

writer-director, Belhaj has made numerous documentaries all over the world. He has worked on many subjects and in various environments. He oversees the documentary courses at the Al Jazeera Training Centre, as well as workshops in several Arab countries.

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Imed Ben Labidi - Qatar

Doha Institute for Graduate Studies | Assistant Professor



Before joining the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Dr. Imed Ben Labidi worked at the University of Minnesota. He published several studies on the US media's representation of Arabs and Islam in the United States. One of his most recent articles, which explained the participation of European and American

citizens in global violence, is titled 'ISIS's Euro-American Fighters: Western Failures and the Narratives of Denial'. His recent film critique, "Monsieur Lazhar: The Ideal Immigrant in the Neoliberal Québécois Imagination", discussed the flawed representation of Arab immigrants in Western discourse.

The department of Media and Cultural Studies at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies teaches media by using cross-disciplinary approaches that bring together different modes of research from the humanities and studies all aspects of media as instruments of cultural mediation. The department has different foci, particularly topics related to Arab media and cultural identity in Qatar and the wider Middle East.

Hayet Benkara - Canada

Prodigy 360 | Consultant || TIFF Talent Lab | Programmer



No stranger to the film festival circuit and international markets, French-born, Toronto-based Hayet Benkara has many years of international experience. Benkara spent six years as Manager of the Sales Office, the unofficial market of the Toronto International Film Festival. Many other prestigious festivals and programmes, including Cannes, Berlin, Rotterdam, Locarno, Dubai, Abu Dhabi,

Istanbul, Dresden, Doha Film Institute and the Binger Film Lab, have benefited from her extensive network and expertise of the global marketplace. In 2013, she launched TIFF Studio, the first year-round professional training programme for mid-career producers and filmmakers. She is also the programmer of the TIFF Talent Lab and the TIFF Residency.

Recently launched by Hayet Benkara, Prodigy 360 helps filmmakers and producers with implementing strategies for development, co-production, marketing and film festivals.

Held annually during the Toronto International Film Festival, TIFF Talent Lab is an artistic development programme for aspiring Canadian and international filmmakers. The extremely competitive programme provides 20 young directors and screenwriters with an intensive learning experience that seeks to further develop their creativity, artistic process and voice. With guidance from some of the best-known and most-esteemed experts in independent cinema from around the world, TIFF Talent Lab is designed to launch the careers of the next generation of filmmakers.

Paolo Bertolin - Italy

Venice Film Festival | Correspondant



Paolo Bertolin is a festival programmer, film critic and producer. He joined the Venice International Film Festival as a member of the selection committee in 2008. Since 2010, he has worked as regional correspondent, covering several territories in the Asia-Pacific region. He has collaborated with the Beijing, Hanoi and Mumbai International Film

Festivals, the Doha Film Institute, the Udine Far East Film Festival, Nyon Visions du Réel, the International Film Festival Rotterdam, the Cannes Critics' Week and the International Film Festival Bratislava. Bertolin has producer credits on Phan Đăng Di's 'Big Father, Small Father and Other Stories' (2015) and Lav Diaz's 'A Lullaby for the Sorrowful Mystery' (2016).

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

Danielle Beverly - Qatar

Northwestern University in Qatar | Assistant Professor-in-Residence



Danielle Beverly's most recent documentary, 'Old South', was broadcast on PBS/World Channel via the America ReFramed series in February 2016 for Black History Month, and re-broadcast in July, 2016. Beverly was Field Producer for the longitudinal 9/11 documentary

'Rebirth' over its 10 years of production. An Assistant Professor at Northwestern University in Qatar, where she teaches Documentary, Beverly is currently in post-production on 'Dusty Groove: The Sound of Transition', about a Chicago used vinyl record buyer.

Petunia Productions directs and produces documentaries. Director-producer Danielle Beverly often works as a one-person crew, recording audio and picture alone in the field. Her most recent feature documentary, 'Old South' (2015), enjoyed more than 50 festival and university screenings, and was broadcast nationally in the United States in February, 2016, on World Channel/PBS. It is distributed by Women Make Movies. The company's other credits include 'Learning to Swallow', which was broadcast on the World Channel in March, 2015, and the Peabody Award-winning 'Rebirth' (Field Producer), which was selected for the Sundance Film Festival in 2011 and broadcast by Showtime. Petunia is currently in production with 'Dusty Groove: The Sound of Transition'.

Bero Beyer - The Netherlands

International Film Festival Rotterdam | Festival Director



Before being appointed in 2015 as the new director of the International Film Festival Rotterdam, Bero Beyer was a film consultant for the Dutch Film Fund, focusing on art-house films and international co-productions. Beyer is also an independent film producer of award-winning, acclaimed films such as 'Atlantic' (2014), 'Paradise Now' (2005)

and 'Rana's Wedding' (2002). From 2010 to 2012, Beyer was a member of the Film Commission of the Cultural Council, the Dutch government's external advisory body on cultural affairs. He has been a member of the European Film Academy since 2005, and is a graduate of the Art Academy Rotterdam.

The International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) is one of the biggest cultural events in the Netherlands and one of the largest audience-oriented film festivals in the world. With the latest feature films, documentaries, short films, exhibitions, performances and talk shows, Rotterdam is an exciting capital of film. Around 200 feature films and 250 shorts from at least 60 countries from around the world are shown. Besides a large film programme, IFFR features live performances, debates and question-and-answer sessions with filmmakers and actors.

Yaser Bishr - Qatar

Al Jazeera Media Network | Executive Director of Digital



Dr. Yaser Bishr is the Executive Director of the Digital Division at Al Jazeera Media Network, and was formerly Executive Director of Strategy and Development. Bishr is leading the network's transformation from regional broadcaster to global digital media

player. Prior to Al Jazeera, he was Chief Strategist and Business Development Director at Lockheed Martin, based in the Washington, D.C. area, with remit to lead the transformation of its intelligence and cyber-business from government-focused to commercial.

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Rémi Bonhomme - France

Semaine de la Critique | Programme Manager



Rémi Bonhomme was appointed Programme Manager of the Critics' Week at the Festival de Cannes in 2009. In 2014, in collaboration with the TorinoFilmLab, he created Next Step, a new programme to support directors transiting from short to feature-length filmmaking. Bonhomme sits on the board of the Metropolis Art

Cinema in Beirut, and is a partner in the company MC Distribution (Lebanon). He was associate producer on the Lebanese feature film 'Every Day Is a Holiday' by Dima El-Horr, which had its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2009.

A sidebar section of the Festival de Cannes, the Critics' Week has steadfastly remained true to its tradition of discovering emerging talents. Since it was conceived by the French Union of Film Critics in 1962, the objective of the programme been to showcase short films as well as first and second feature films by directors from all over the world. A reflection of a mix of demand and curiosity, the Critics' Week intends to explore the new creations through a selective programme of 10 short and 10 feature films.

Vincenzo Bugno - Germany

Berlin International Film Festival | Project Manager, World Cinema Fund



Vincenzo Bugno graduated with a degree in Cinema and the History of the Arts. As a journalist, film critic and author-director, he has contributed to newspapers and magazines including 'Corriere della Sera', and television channels like ARTE. He has worked as an advisor, curator and programmer for numerous international

film festivals, among them the Festival del Film Locarno. He is a founder, project manager and juror of the World Cinema Fund, and the advisor for the Maghreb for the Berlin International Film Festival. He is also a member of the Berlinale Competition Selection Committee

The aim of the Berlinale World Cinema Fund (WCF) is to assist with the creation of narrative and documentary films with strong cultural identity and innovative artistic concepts in regions that lack a constructive film industry. The WCF also supports the distribution of this type of cinema in Germany. In 2015, the WCF launched the WCF Europe programme, with the goal of further improving co-operation between European producers and producers-directors from WCF regions, as well as among distributors from those regions and other regions, including Europe.

Rémi Burah - France

ARTE France Cinema | Senior Executive VP



After working as a banker in the audiovisual sector in London and Paris, Rémi Burah joined Haut et Court as a partner, where he worked for eight years as CEO and Managing Director of the communication agency. He joined ARTE France Cinéma, the film branch of the

European television channel, in 2001, where he is currently Senior Executive Vice President. Since 2004, he has also been CEO of ARTE/Cofinova, a finance company he initiated through the SOFICA French tax system.

Since its founding, Arte France Cinéma has been involved in more than 600 films and has worked with more than 300 different directors who represent more than 50 nationalities. The subsidiary policy focuses on talent renewal, efforts to boost European and world cinema, and steps to revitalise French cinema.

Teresa Cavina - Italy

Film Curator and Industry Consultant



Teresa Cavina is an Italian festival programmer, script analyst and co-production expert. She was a programmer at the Venice International Film Festival from 1989 to 1997, then co-directed the Festival del Film Locarno from 2001 through 2005. In 2006, she launched the Rome Film Festival, where she was Artistic Director until 2008. There, she founded the New Cinema Network, an international co-production platform featuring training and support for second-time filmmakers. From 2009 to

2012, Cavina was the artistic director of the Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels (FIPA), and programming director of the Abu Dhabi Film Festival from 2009 to 2014, where she co-created SANAD, a fund to provide support to Arab filmmakers. Currently, she focuses on working closely with filmmakers, producers, script labs and funding bodies, including Premiosolinas (Italy), AFAC (Lebanon) and HAF (Hong Kong). Cavina is also on the reading team for Eurimages.

Gianluca Chakra - UAE

Front Row Filmed Entertainment | Managing Director



After working for film festivals and distribution companies based in the Middle East, Gianluca Chakra founded Front Row Filmed Entertainment, the youngest and fastest-growing distribution company in the Middle East. He has

solidified exclusive distribution deals with prolific companies including Hammer Films, Exclusive Film Distribution, HanWay Films, Protagonist Pictures, Studio Ghibli and Studio Canal, among many others.

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

Carlo Chatrian - Switzerland

Festival del Film Locarno | Artistic Director



Carlo Chatrian has worked as a film critic for several magazines, and has published numerous essays and monographs on filmmakers. He is Deputy Director of the Alba Film Festival, and has been a member of the selection committee for the Festival dei Popoli in Florence and the Visions du Réel International Film

Festival in Nyon, France. Chatrian began working with the Festival del Film Locarno in 2002, and from 2006 to 2009 was a member of the selection committee. Since 2010, he has been a consultant to the Swiss Cinematheque in Lausanne, and since 2011 has been Director of the Film Commission Vallée d'Aoste Foundation.

The Festival del Film Locarno aims to promote personal filmmaking of artistic merit; to provide a showcase for major new films of the year from around the world; and to take stock, in its competitive sections, of the new perspectives of filmmaking expression, concentrating especially on such new film directors and industries as command international attention.

Frédéric Corvez - France

Urban Group | CEO



Frédéric Corvez began his career at Equinoxe (Sony Pictures International and Canal+), where he was in charge of international development. As a member of the reading group at Studio Canal, he contributed to the creation of Kanpai Distribution. He later joined MK2 and

then Celluloid Dreams, where he directed and developed the television department. In 2004, he founded the world sales company Urban Distribution International, then in 2011 the French distribution company Urban Distribution and the production company Urban Factory.

Urban Group presents international art-house films by promising young filmmakers and renowned directors whose films distinguish themselves through innovation and originality. Based in Paris and Los Angeles, the group engages in world sales, distribution and production.

Jamel Dallali - Qatar

Al Jazeera Media Network | Manager of Production, Al Jazeera Documentary Channel



Jamel Dallali is the production department manager at Al Jazeera Documentary Channel. A film director, he obtained his Master of Documentary Practice from Brunel University London. His documentary films include 'Love and Death', 'The Assassination of Farhat

Hached', 'Displaced in the Diaspora - Palestinians in Iraq', 'Mohammed Moncef Bay: The End of the Throne', 'Salah Ben Youssef, a Crime of State' and 'Sparks from the Suburbs'. His films have won awards in Bahrain, Iraq, Morocco and Tunisia.

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Matthieu Darras - Italy

TorinoFilmLab | Artistic Director



Matthieu Darras is Artistic Director for the TorinoFilmLab, and collaborates with various film talents initiatives such as the Venice Biennale College and When East Meets West's First Cut Lab. As a festival programmer, Darras worked for the Critics' Week at the Festival de Cannes, and as

artistic director of the Alba and Bratislava film festivals. He is currently the delegate in charge of Eastern Europe at the San Sebastián Film Festival. He founded and directs NISI MASA, the European Network of Young Cinema.

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

Emma Davie - UK

Edinburgh College of Art | Programme Director Film and TV



Emma recently co-directed the award-winning feature documentary called 'I Am Breathing, and is currently co-directing a feature-length documentary with Peter Mettler called 'Becoming Animal'. Davie was educated at Oxford University before studying theatre in Paris, after which she ran her own company for many

years before moving into filmmaking. Currently, she runs the post-graduate film department at Edinburgh University, and often teaches internationally. She has programmed documentaries for the Edinburgh Film Festival, was on the board of EDN for four years, and has taught at the European Film College in Denmark.

The Edinburgh College of Art Postgraduate in Documentary Film is a practical course, which unites the questioning practice of an art school with the rigour of academia and the demands of the industry. It is part of Screen Academy Scotland and also linked to Scottish Documentary Institute. Students benefit from master classes from visiting directors, producers and editors, and work as a community, supporting each other in finding their unique cinematic language. Their films regularly show internationally at the International Documentary Festival Amsterdam, Visions du Réel and Sundance, among others, and have won BAFTAs, Grierson Awards and Academy Award nominations.

Sergi Doladé - Spain

Medimed | Director



Sergi Doladé has been Director of the MEDIMED Docs Market since 2000. A lecturer at Universitat Ramon Llull, where he teaches in the Master's

Degree programme in cinema and television, he is also General Manager of the Association of Independent Mediterranean Producers (APIMED).

MEDIMED is a Euro-Mediterranean documentary market and pitching forum that takes place in Sitges, Spain.

Ellis Driessen - The Netherlands

Netherlands Film Fund | Policy Officer, International Affairs |



Ellis Driessen currently holds the position of Policy Officer for International Affairs of the Netherlands Film Fund, supporting the Fund's international strategy, developing and strengthening Dutch cinema and culture at home and abroad. Driessen has been active in various fields of the international and national film industry, working mainly through the privately owned, Amsterdam-based

company Proctor Film & TV. Her activities included acquisition consultancy to sales agent Fortissimo Film and advisory functions to various institutes, co-production markets and festivals, among them Sarajevo's CineLink, EAVE, the Holland Film Meeting, the Berlinale's Talent Project Market, TorinoFilmLab, the Doha Film Institute and Dubai Film Connection.

The Netherlands Film Fund is the national agency responsible for supporting film production and film-related activities in the Netherlands. Its focus is to develop and strengthen Dutch cinema and film culture, both domestically and internationally. The Film Fund offers various selective support schemes on production and distribution for minority Dutch co-productions. It also runs the Film Production Incentive, offering a 30 per cent cash rebate on production costs spent in the Netherlands, and oversees the activities of the Netherlands Film Commission.

Nelleke Driessen - The Netherlands

Consultant / Industry Expert



Nelleke Driessen started her career in the film industry in 1986 with Film International, the distribution arm of the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR), and later for other distribution companies such as Hungry Eye Pictures and Cinemien/Homescreen. She also

worked for IFFR for several years. In 2004, she joined Fortissimo Films, first as co-managing director and from 2006 as managing director. Driessen was a board member of Europa International, a European association for sales agents, founded in 2011.

Catherine Dussart - France

CDP | Producer



Since 1994, Catherine Dussart has produced and co-produced feature-length narrative and documentary films through her company CDP.

CDP is currently developing Aditya Vikram Sengupta's 'Souvenir et ma mère', Abinash Bikram Shah's 'La saison des Libellules'. In production are Marysia Nikitiuk's 'Quand les arbres tombent' and Peter Greenaway's 'À pied jusqu'à Paris', and the company is in post-production with FJ Ossang's '9 doigts'. Previously, Min Bahadur Bahm's 'The Black Hen' (2015) won the Federa Prize for Best Film at the Venice Film Festival; Gurvinder Singh's 'Chauthi Koot' screened in the Un Certain Regard section at the 2015 Festival de Cannes and Rithy Panh's 'The Missing Picture' (2013) took the Un Certain Regard award at Cannes and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

Diana Elbaum - Belgium

Entre Chien et Loup | Producer



Diana Elbaum has produced a wide range of award-winning films since becoming a producer in 1989, initially in advertising and then in motion pictures. Her films span all genres and cultures and have received critical acclaim on all continents. She is known for masterfully bringing together international talent and financing. Diana is deeply committed to growing Europe's film industry and, to this effect, devotes time via EAVE training young film producers and in 2016 set up

The Boost Camp, a training programme dedicated to women directors. In 2009, she received a Eurimages Award for producers who play an active role in European co-productions. She founded her production company, Entre Chien et Loup, in 1989. Her work and curiosity have taken her around the world several times, enabling her to work with cutting-edge writers, directors and talent from all continents.

Entre Chien et Loup has produced more than 100 films, including: 'Thomas in Love', 'The Rashevski Tango', 'La Raison du plus faible', 'Daratt', 'Irina Palm', 'Les Barons', 'Rapt', 'Winds of Sand, Women of Rock', 'Quartier lointain', 'A Screaming Man', 'La Cinquième Saison', 'The Congress', 'Bethlehem', 'La Marche', 'Faut pas lui dire', among others.

Paul Gilbert Federbush - USA

Sundance Institute | International Director, Feature Film Program



Paul Federbush is the International Director, Feature Film Program, at the Sundance Institute. Federbush has 20 years experience in the development, production, acquisition, marketing and distribution of feature films. Prior to his time at Sundance, Federbush was the Senior Vice-President of Production and

Acquisitions at Warner Independent Pictures, where he acquired titles such as 'Slumdog Millionaire' and 'Paradise Now'. Previously, he was Vice-President of Acquisitions & Co-productions at New Line Cinema and foreign sales entity Pandora.

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

Keiko Funato - France

Alpha Violet | CEO, Sales & Acquisitions



Keiko Funato began her career at the independent distribution company Uplink in Tokyo in the 1990s, specialising in edgy art-house films from around the world. She then moved to France, where she acquired global experience in world sales working at Celluloid Dreams. After that, she worked with Uni Japan on a project developing international

co-productions for Japanese producers, collaborating with several international initiatives, among them the Producers' Network, CineMart and EAVE. She then joined Urban Distribution International, where she worked in Legal and Sales. In 2011, together with her business partner Virginie Devesa, she founded Paris-based world sales company Alpha Violet.

Based in Paris, Alpha Violet is an independent world sales company founded by Virginie Devesa and Keiko Funato in 2011. We wish to offer transparency to our filmmakers and producers as we move together towards their international careers. We adapt our sales strategies according to the specificities of the films to meet the expectations of the production companies we work with. We seek out those independent, author-driven films from that we instinctively love.

Georges Goldenstern - France

Cinéfondation | Director



Over 15 years as General Director of ARTE France Cinéma, Georges Goldenstern has co-produced more than 250 films from Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. Since 2002, he has been

Executive Director of the Cinéfondation at the Festival de Cannes, which supports new generations of filmmakers from all over the world.

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

Gabor Greiner - Germany

Films Boutique | Sales Agent



After studying Cultural Management in Vienna, Birmingham and Chicago, Gabor Greiner worked as a journalist and film critic at Austria's largest web-based cultural magazine, 'cycamp'. In 2003, he moved to Brussels to take charge of the distribution support department of the media programme at the European

Commission's Film Fund. In 2009, Greiner became an acquisitions executive at international sales company The Match Factory. In 2010, he moved to Berlin to take over acquisitions of the Golden Lion-winning French-German sales company Films Boutique.

Films Boutique is an independent Berlin-based international sales company that specialises in distributing innovative feature films by filmmakers from all over the world. Only 10 to 15 new titles are added to the company's line-up each year as it is going back to basics: treating films as works of art and concentrating on a limited number of high-profile titles. Films Boutique is proud to serve its producers and distributors, who trust the company in building up long lasting relationships and a repute of new and confirmed talents.

Nicole Guillemet - USA

OffCenter Films | Director



Nicole Guillemet has worked in key positions in the film industry for 30 years. For over 15 years, she served as Vice-President of the Sundance Institute and Co-Director of the Sundance Film Festival. In 2000, she launched the Documentary Film Program and its "House of Docs". From 2003 to 2007, she served as the director of the Miami Film Festival. In the last nine years Guillemet has worked

as an executive consultant for various international festivals and has assisted many documentary filmmakers during their creative process and in the various production phases of their films, as well as in their distribution strategies. She is an Executive Producer of 'The Dhamma Brothers' (2008), 'Circus Without Borders', and the Academy Award-nominated 'The Square' (2013) by Jehane Noujaim.

OffCenter Films acts as an executive consultant for various international festivals, offering programming and production expertise. The company has supported many documentary filmmakers during their creative process and in the various production phases of their films, as well as in their distribution strategies. The company holds executive producer credits on 'The Dhamma Brothers', 'Circus Without Borders', and the Academy Award-nominated 'The Square'.

Tala Hadid - Morocco

Kairos Films | Director



Tala Hadid made her first film about Pier Paolo Pasolini. Her work has screened at festivals around the world, including the Berlin International Film Festival and the Venice Film Festival and, among other venues, at the Museum of Modern Art and the Lincoln Center in New York City, the Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis, the Cinémathèque Française in Paris and the

Photographer's Gallery in London. Her films have received numerous awards, among them an Academy Award. In 2015, Hadid's 'House in the Fields' was selected to screen as a work-in-progress at the Venice Film Festival, where it was awarded two prizes. It premiered in 2016 at the Berlinale, where it was nominated for the Glashutte documentary award.

Founded by Tala Hadid, Kairos Films is dedicated to developing, producing and marketing original, artistically rigorous, innovative and socially conscious films in Morocco and internationally. The company's first film, Hadid's 'House in the Fields', was awarded various post-production prizes at the Final Cut in Venice workshop at the 2015 Venice Biennale. Kairos is currently developing its first feature-length narrative film, which it hopes to launch in 2017. Besides its own productions, Kairos will also develop a whole range of high-quality film, visual art and theatre productions in Morocco in collaboration with film professionals and a wide range of cultural producers.

Maïke Mia Hoehne - Germany

Berlin International Film Festival | Curator, Berlinale Shorts |



Maïke Mia Höhne has curated Berlinale Shorts since the summer of 2007. She was born in Hanover in 1971 and studied Visual Communication in Hamburg and Cuba. She completed post-graduate studies in Hamburg with a focus on film. Since 2001, she has worked as a freelance writer, curator, producer, photographer

and director in various contexts. For many years, she has been active as a lecturer and moderator at film events. Her films are distributed by Arsenal Experimental and KurzFilmAgentur. Her first feature film, '3/4', premiered at Filmfest Hamburg in 2014.

The Berlin International Film Festival is a great cultural event and one of the most important dates for the international film industry. Films of every genre, length and format find their place in the various sections. Around 30 short films are selected for the Berlinale Shorts competition each year. The International Short Film Jury awards the Golden Bear for Best Short Film, the Silver Bear Jury Prize (Short Film), the Audi Short Film Award, and appoints the Berlin Short Film Nominee for the European Film Awards.

Alexis Hofmann - France

BAC Films | Head of Acquisitions



A graduate of Modern Literature and Comparative Literature, Alexis Hofmann joined La Fémis in 2003. He subsequently held various positions in the programming and marketing departments of such companies as Haut et Court and Memento Films, then joined BAC Films in 2006. After having been a

programmer, then head of marketing within the company, he has been in charge of acquisitions since 2013. In addition, Hofmann has worked at the CNC, where he was in charge for the calculation of the Canal+ support for distribution.

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

Bilal Hoosein - Qatar

Al Jazeera Media Network | Executive Producer of Acquisitions



Bilal Hoosein began his career in television just over a decade ago. He began working as a professional news cameraman and video-editor covering the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Based in South Africa he travelled extensively on the African continent working as a freelance producer and reporter. In 2005

he started his own television production company with a focus on documentary production, sales and acquisitions for the international broadcast market. He joined the Al Jazeera English Channel in 2010 and is currently working as Head of Acquisitions and Executive Producer for Reversioning.

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

Grainne Humphreys - Ireland

Dublin International Film Festival | Festival Director



Grainne has worked in film programming for over 25 years. She joined the Irish Film Institute as Education Officer and expanded her role to include programming seasons on Andy Warhol, Agnès Varda and Harold Pinter, and became Assistant Director in 2001, going on to program both the Stranger than

Fiction Documentary Festival and the Dublin French Film Festival. She has served as a jury member at a number of international film festivals and is a board member of the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris. She has been Festival Director at the Dublin International Film Festival since 2007.

An acclaimed and popular showcase of world cinema, the Dublin International Film Festival is dedicated to presenting and supporting the very best in Irish and international film. Held annually in the spring since 2003, the 11-day event showcases more than 100 feature films alongside public interviews, industry workshops and master classes. A popular Audience Award runs along with a Short Film Competition, Irish Talent Spotlights and popular Festival Awards. In 2016, the festival welcomed numerous guests, including Claudia Cardinale, Richard Gere, David Hare, Angela Lansbury, Rebecca Miller and Ben Wheatley.

Bassam Al Ibrahim - Qatar

Innovation Films | Producer



Bassam Al-Ibrahim joined the Innovation Family in 2012. Originally brought on to lead a feature film, Al-Ibrahim was recognised by the board to have great potential, and they unanimously appointed him CEO. He has been the driving force behind the strategy and face change of the organisation. He spearheaded the organisational structure,

creating a corporate department to ensure the company's corporate content growth, as well as divisions for training and equipment rentals. Al-Ibrahim has produced several films with Innovation and plans to work extensively with the team to release several feature films in the future.

Innovation Films is a multimedia company specialising in film and television production that prides itself on creating and nurturing local talent - both on and off the camera - by placing interns on set to shadow industry professionals. We also conduct scriptwriting, producing and directing classes, and weekly acting workshops. To ensure these talents get a real feel for filmmaking, Innovation places them on set for commercials and short and feature-length films.

Khalid Al Jaber - Qatar

Innovation Films | Founder / Executive Producer



In 2010 Khalid Al Jaber created Innovation Films, a subsidiary of the Innovation Group. His aim was to develop cinema and filmmaking in the region with the help of his filmmaker partners. Al Jaber produced his first feature-length

film 'Lockdown: Red Moon Escape' in 2012, and is set to produce a number of short films and features as part of the company's long-term plan to create more homegrown content.

Innovation Films is a multimedia company specialising in film and television production that prides itself on creating and nurturing local talent - both on and off the camera - by placing interns on set to shadow industry professionals. We also conduct scriptwriting, producing and directing classes, and weekly acting workshops. To ensure these talents get a real feel for filmmaking, Innovation places them on set for commercials and short and feature-length films.

Annemarie Jacir - Jordan

Philistine Films | Director / Writer / Producer



Annemarie Jacir has written, directed and produced 14 films, two of which premiered at the Festival de Cannes, one at the Venice Film Festival and one at the Berlin International Film Festival. 'Like Twenty Impossibles' was the first Arab short film to screen in the Official Selection at Cannes, and it continued to break ground when it became a finalist for

the Academy Awards. Jacir's first feature, 'Salt of this Sea' (2008), premiered at Cannes, was Palestine's 2008 Oscar Entry, won the FIPRESCI Prize, and was named Best Film in Milan and Traverse City. 'When I Saw You' was named Best Asian Film at Berlin, and Best Film at Abu Dhabi, Olympia, Amiens and Phoenix.

Philistine Films is an independent production and services company founded in 1997 with offices in both Jordan and Palestine. The company was created to support new voices and to offer a platform for the emerging independent Arab film scene. Philistine focuses on the production and co-production of narrative and documentary films, and on finding unconventional stories and fresh narratives. We also offer production services. We hope to challenge the creative, financial and practical obstacles that confront filmmakers working outside the mainstream. The company's titles include 'When I Saw You', 'Salt of this Sea', 'Haneen', 'In Overtime', 'Horizon', '3000 Nights', 'The Rendezvous' and 'Like Twenty Impossibles'.

Youn Ji - Austria

Autlook Filmsales GmbH | Festival Sales



Youn Ji has been Head of Festival Sales at Autlook Filmsales since 2009. Her work includes consultancy on marketing and festival strategies, sales and acquisition, as well as attending festivals and markets. She has served as a juror at international

festivals including the East Doc Platform in Prague, the East Silver Market in Jihlava and Docville in Leuven. Ji has also worked in production for Ruth Beckermann Filmproduktion.

Autlook Filmsales is a worldwide sales agent for powerful and acclaimed feature documentaries, auteur-driven, cinematic and or issue driven with strong international appeal. Each year, we select approximately 15 television documentaries and up to 10 theatrical documentaries with global theatrical/DVD/VoD potential. Autlook's recent line-up includes Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy and Andy Schocken's 'Song of Lahore', Magnus and Fredrik Gertten's 'Becoming Zlatan', Michael Madsen's 'The Visit - An Alien Encounter', Fredrik Gertten's 'Bikes vs Cars', Sam Cullman and Jennifer Grausman's 'Art and Craft' and Alexander Nanau's 'Toto and his Sisters'.

Hana Kazim - UAE

Image Nation Abu Dhabi | Development Co-ordinator



Hana Kazim is part of the development team at Image Nation Abu Dhabi, and was involved in their recent productions 'On Borrowed Time' and 'Rashid & Rajab'. She

received her MFA in Film Producing from the American Film Institute Conservatory in Los Angeles.

Image Nation Abu Dhabi is one of the leading media and entertainment companies in the Arabic-speaking world, producing local and international films, documentaries and television content, and became a pan-Arabic broadcaster with the 2015 launch of Quest Arabiya. The company's slate includes Emirati produced feature films ('From A to B'; 'Zinzana;'), cause-driven documentaries ('He Named Me Malala'; 'Every Last Child'), insightful television shows ('Beyond Borders'; 'Hayati Walaskariya') and award-winning international co-productions ('The Help'; 'Flight'; '99 Homes'). Through its content, Image Nation is creating opportunities for regional talent to tell their stories and work on projects that provide them the tools to establish and sustain an industry.

Mouhamad Keblawi - Sweden

Malmö Arab Film Festival | Festival Manager



Mouhamad Keblawi is the founder, manager and artistic director of the Malmö Arab Film Festival. Keblawi has an extensive background in television

production and has worked as a project manager, director and producer for numerous films and television series.

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

Antoine Khalife - Egypt

Arab Media Distribution | Special Advisor / Producer



Antoine Khalife has been involved in numerous film projects, bringing together Arab filmmakers with Arab and European companies. In 2009, he joined the Cairo-based broadcasting corporation ART as Special Advisor and Producer. With ART, he has been involved as an associate producer in many films, including Nadine

Labaki's 'Where Do We Go Now?' (2011), Hany Abu-Assad's 'Omar' (2013), Chawki El Mejri's 'The Kingdom of Ants' (2012), Vatche Boulghourjian's 'Tramontane' (2014) and Sophie Boutros's 'Solitaire'. Khalife also works with the Dubai International Film Festival, where he is the director of the Arab Programme.

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

Alice Kharoubi - France

**Cannes Court Métrage | Head of Department || Cinéma Tous Écrans |
Shorts Programmer**



After studying Communications in France and the United States, Alice Kharoubi began to collaborate with the Festival de Cannes, working for the Marché du Film. She is now Head of Cannes Court Métrage, an entity dedicated to short films developed by the Festival de Cannes.

She was the short film programmer for the Abu Dhabi Film Festival from its first edition, and is programmer for Festival Tous Écrans in Geneva. Kharoubi sits on several short film selection committees and has participated as a juror at festivals worldwide.

Cannes Court Métrage, an entity developed by the Festival de Cannes, is dedicated to short films. It unites the Official Competition and the Short Film Corner, a meeting place for filmmakers that takes place during the Festival. Presented each October, the Abu Dhabi Film Festival is committed to curating exceptional programmes to engage and educate the local community, inspire filmmakers, and nurture the growth of the regional film industry.

Dima Al Khatib - Qatar

Al Jazeera Media Network | Managing Director, AJ+



Dima Khatib joined Al Jazeera in 1997 as a trainee broadcast journalist in Doha's newsroom. She quickly became a news producer, known for managing the coverage of the Iraq War. She set up bureaux in China and Venezuela. Khatib has reported from more than 30 countries, interviewing presidents and

people from all walks of life. Since 2011, she has been among the most powerful Arabs on social media. She speaks eight languages and has one published book: 'Love Refugee'. In 2015, she became the first female managing director at Al Jazeera Media Network.

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

Kim Young-woo - South Korea

Busan International Film Festival | Programmer



Kim Young-woo studied Visual Arts and Television at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and has worked in programming for several film festivals

in South Korea. Since 2014, Young has worked for the Busan International Film Festival, where he is in charge of Asian cinema.

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

John Kochman - USA

Cohen Media Group | Senior Vice President



Well-known in film industry circles in Europe and the United States for over 30 years, John Kochman previously served in senior executive positions at MK2 and StudioCanal in France, and as Executive Director of Unifrance USA,

the headquarters for the promotion of French cinema in the United States. Kochman and his extensive contacts in the international film sector are at the centre of Cohen Media's busy film rights acquisition and co-production ventures.

Formed in 2008 by Charles S. Cohen, an executive producer of 'Frozen River', which was nominated for two Academy Awards, the Cohen Media Group (CMG) is a theatrical film production company that has been steadily developing into a dynamic, positive force within the film industry. The company's intention is to produce and distribute select films throughout North America each year, allowing the CMG team to devote their best efforts toward realising each unique film's full potential. With its strong dedication to quality films and a highly motivated and talented support team of professionals, CMG looks forward to a long future as part of the film industry's distinguished horizon.

Titus Kreyenberg - Germany

unafilm | CEO / Producer



Titus Kreyenberg was an executive producer for film and television for many years before he founded his own production company, unafilm, which has become one of Germany's most prolific partners for international co-production. He is also partner in the French

production company Surprise Alley, which co-produced 'Requiem for Mrs J', which had its premiere in the Panorama section of this year's Berlin International Film Festival. Apart from producing, Kreyenberg works as a tutor for EAVE and the Biennale Cinema College.

Based in Cologne and Berlin, unafilm produces national and international, feature-length fiction and documentary feature films that are both straightforward and artistically challenging. The company's films compete in A-list festivals around the world, including the Berlin International Film Festival, the Festival de Cannes, the Toronto International Film Festival, the Festival del Film Locarno, the International Documentary Festival Amsterdam, the San Sebastián Film Festival and DOKLeipzig, among others. In 2013, 'Heli' won the award for Best Director in the Official Competition at Cannes, and in 2014, 'Bridges of Sarajevo' was selected for the Official Selection as well.

Meshal Al Kubaisi - Qatar

Al Jazeera Documentary Film Festival | Senior Officer



Meshal Al Kubaisi is General Manager of Golden Screen Production.

Pierre-Alexandre Labelle - USA

Under The Milky Way | Co-Founder



Pierre-Alexandre Labelle obtained a Bachelor of Commerce degree from McGill University in Montreal, then moved to France to work as a derivatives trader for Cargill from 2001 to 2004. In 2005, he launched one of the first independent VOD platforms in France. In 2007, he created an online market for European

rights-holders and VOD platforms, which was acquired by the Independent Pan-European Digital Association in 2009. He then co-founded Under The Milky Way, one of the leading international digital film distributors, where he is primarily responsible for international business development.

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

Fiona Lawson Baker - Qatar

Al Jazeera Media Network | Executive Producer



Fiona Lawson Baker is the Executive Producer of the 'Witness' programme, the flagship observational documentary strand on Al Jazeera English. Fiona has more than 15 years' experience in global factual television in the UK, Australia and Asia. She began her broadcast career at BBC London. As an Australian Film

Television and Radio School graduate, she worked for SBS television in production, commissioning and acquisitions. Since 2008, she has worked in Singapore and Malaysia, overseeing productions for Al Jazeera English, ZDF and the Discovery, History and Crime & Investigation Channels.

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

Christophe Leparc - France

Directors' Fortnight | Managing Director || Cinemed | Director |



Christophe Leparc has been Managing Director of the Directors' Fortnight at the Festival de Cannes since 2007. He has worked in the film industry since 1990, specialising in the organisation of film festivals. In 1994, he began to work for the Mediterranean Film Festival

of Montpellier as a prospector and a member of the selection committee, where he focused on retrospectives, and is currently Director of Cinemed. From 2000 to 2008, Leparc he was Programme Manager for the Cannes Critics' Week.

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

Ibrahim Letaief - Tunisia

Les Films Long et Court | CEO



Producer, director and screenwriter Ibrahim Letaief was born in Kairouan, Tunisia. After studying Communication Sciences at the Université Paris 1, he moved into filmmaking. He began his production career in 1994, before founding the production company Long and Court in 1997. Letaief is part of a new generation of directors who are working to give Tunisian cinema a new image at

the national, regional and international levels. He has produced or co-produced several commercials and short films, including 'Un rire de trop' (2000), a documentary about Nagib Mahfouz, 'Raconte moi l'année 2000', 'Visa' (2004) and 'I Have My Eye on You' (2006). He made his first feature-length film as a director, 'Cinecitta', in 2008.

Les Films Long et Court is a production company based in Tunis.

Marie-Pierre Macia - France

MPM Film | Founder / Producer



After earning a degree in Classics and Literature, Marie-Pierre Macia began her career at the Cinémathèque Française in Paris. From 1999 to 2002, she headed the Directors' Fortnight of the Festival de Cannes, where she championed the first features by now well-recognised filmmakers including Sofia Coppola,

Carlos Reygadas, Stephen Daldry and Palme d'Or winner Cristian Mungiu, among others. In 2007 she founded MPM Film, which has produced Béla Tarr's 'The Turin Horse' (2011), Panos Koutras's 'Xenia' (2014), and recent films by Paz Encina ('Memory Exercises', 2016) and Lucrecia Martel ('Zama', 2017).

Aside from its productions, MPM Film runs a department dedicated to international sales. The company's catalogue includes Jasmila Zbanić's 'For Those Who Can Tell No Tales' (2013), Mahdi Fleifel's 'A World Not Ours' (2013), Jem Cohen's 'Museum Hours' (2012). More recent titles include Mahmoud Sabbagh's 'Barakah Meets Barakah' (2016), Elise Girard's 'Strange Birds' and Neil Beloufa's 'Occidental' (both 2017). MPM Film is currently working on upcoming productions by Karim Ainouz, Sergio Caballero, Panos H. Koutras and Nina Menkes.

Funa Maduka - USA

Netflix | Content Acquisition



Funa Maduka is a global content acquisitions executive for film at Netflix Inc., focusing primarily on content from Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Prior to her post at Netflix, she worked at Participant Media, supervising campaigns around original content for Pivot. She has

held leadership and strategic positions at McKinsey & Company, the Oprah Winfrey Foundation, the Clinton Foundation and Goldman Sachs. She holds a BA in History from Cornell University and a Masters in Business Administration from the Harvard Business School.

Netflix is the world's leading Internet television network, with more than 75 million members in more than 190 countries enjoying 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.

Thomas Mai - Australia

SmartFilmIncome | Founder



Thomas Mai has been in the film industry for more than 20 years and is currently on track to become a Doctor in Creative Industries at the University of Queensland. He has produced eight feature-length films and started and runs Lars von Trier's sales company, selling hundreds of films

that have won Academy Awards and prizes at film festivals in Cannes, Berlin and Sundance, among others. Recently, Mai has become a crowd-funding pioneer, having run more than 22 campaigns and raising almost \$1-million for first-time filmmakers.

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

Jovan Marjanović - Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo Film Festival | Head of Industry



Jovan Marjanović has been involved in the Sarajevo Film Festival since 1999, first as a technician and programme coordinator and later as Manager of CineLink. He is now on the festival's Executive Board as Head of Industry. Marjanović has produced a number of award-winning documentaries, shorts and feature films, and consults for several international film institutions. He was on the Board

of Management of the Bosnian National Film Fund from 2011 and headed it from 2014 to 2016. He has served as the National Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Eurimages since 2006. He holds an MSc from the Cass Business School in London, and teaches Film Business at the Academy of Performing Arts in Sarajevo.

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

Verona Meier - Germany

Razor Film Production GmbH | Associate Producer



Verona Meier studied film production at the University of Television and Film in Munich, and participated in Tisch School's Graduate Interactive Media and Film Program in New York City. She joined

Razor Film in Berlin more than a decade ago, and has been involved in all the company's productions since then. Meier is also a producer of EAVE.

Razor Film was founded in 2002 by Gerhard Meixner and Roman Paul, and produces national and international feature films ranging from art-house to crossover. Razor's productions have premiered and won prizes at major festivals worldwide, have won two Golden Globes and one Emmy, and were twice nominated for Academy Awards. The company's award-winning productions include 'Paradise Now' (2005), 'Waltz with Bashir' (2008), Miranda July's 'The Future' (2011) and 'Wadjda' (2012), the first feature-length film shot entirely in Saudi Arabia.

Pierre Menahem - France

Still Moving | Producer / Head of Sales



A Paris-based film executive with 20 years of experience in the film industry, Pierre Menahem worked at Celluloid Dreams as Director of Sales and Acquisitions for eight years. In 2004, he founded Scalpel Films, co-producing and selling four to five films a year. During this period he served as a jury member at several festivals and participated as an expert

in many workshops about international sales and co-production. In 2011, he created a sales division within the production company MPM Films. In 2016, he co-founded Still Moving with Juliette Lepoutre, a new Paris-based company dedicated to international co-productions and the sale of art-house films.

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

Michel Merkt - Monaco

KNM | Producer



Michel Merkt is an entertainment entrepreneur and creative producer based in Monaco. Born in Geneva in 1972, Merkt has always been passionate about the entertainment business. After obtaining a bachelor's degree in Marketing, he began to work as a journalist for Canal+. He produced his first project in 2008, a

short film directed by Wim Wenders. He is also a consultant for numerous festivals, companies, private investors, foundations and philanthropic organisations. Merkt was honoured with the medal of Chevalier of the National Order of Cultural Merit by the Prince of Monaco.

KNM focuses on international feature films with independent production companies and co-productions for cinema with the aim of reaching a global audience. KNM is devoted to producing powerful artistic international cinema in collaboration with world-renowned auteurs and emerging directors.

Rima El Mismar - Lebanon

AFAC - Arab Fund for Arts and Culture | Executive Director |



The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC) is an independent regional initiative that offers financial and professional support to emerging and established artists and cultural institutions from the Arab region. Founded in 2007, AFAC is active in 18 Arab countries and supports projects in the performing arts, the visual arts, cinema and music, as well as providing special programmes in creative

writing, documentary filmmaking and documentary photography. AFAC runs two funds in support of filmmaking: General Grants for Cinema, which accommodates all types and lengths of film projects; and the AFAC Documentary Program (ADP), for creative Arab documentaries that tackle social realities and social justice in the Arab region.

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Fiorella Moretti - France

Luxbox | CEO - Sales & Acquisitions



Born in Lima, Fiorella Moretti lives and works in Paris. She studied Communication and Media in Guadalajara. In 2016 she created Luxbox, an international sales and co-production company, in partnership with Hédi Zardi. Prior to Luxbox, for 10 years she held several roles in Mantarraya, one of the leading independent production companies in Latin America. She

started as Co-ordinator of Production, collaborating with filmmakers including Amat Escalante and Carlos Reygadas. In partnership with Mantarraya and Reygadas, in 2006 she created and directs ND Mantarraya, now the most important art-house distribution company in Mexico, and, in 2012, NDM, the international sales branch of the company.

Luxbox is a Paris-based company dedicated to international sales and co-production of selected projects. Based on a solid film catalogue and a passionate pool of international cinema directors, among them Lisandro Alonso, Jonas Carpignano, Bruno Dumont, Amat Escalante, Ole Giæver and Carlos Reygadas, the company began 2016 by winning the Best First Feature Film and Silver Bear for Best Actor Awards at the European Film Market for Mohammed Ben Attia's 'Hedi'. At the 2016 Festival de Cannes 2016, Luxbox presented Boo Junfeng's 'Apprentice' in the Un Certain Regard section, and Oliver Laxe's 'Mimosas', which won the Grand Prize in the Critics' Week. At the 2016 Festival del Film Locarno, two Luxbox titles were in competition: 'Marija', the first feature-length film by Michael Koch, and 'By the Time It Gets Dark', the new film by Anocha Suwichakornpong. In 2017, Luxbox presents the musical 'Jeannette' by Bruno Dumont, 'Frost' by Sharunas Bartas, and 'Barrage' by Laura Schroeder.

Jonathan Morris - UK

Editor



Jonathan Morris first worked as a child actor, appearing in the original stage production of 'Oliver' in London's West End. Soon after, he sang with Judy Garland in her final film. Deciding against the uncertainties of life as an actor, he took a job in 1966 as a trainee second assistant film editor at Elstree Studios, then worked on television series, including 'The Saint' and 'The Champions', and several feature-length films, including the cult classic 'Witchfinder General'. In 1972, he took a position at ATV and in 1976 was promoted to Editor. There, he edited many documentaries and dramas, and worked with well-known directors including Adrian Cowell, Ken Loach, David Monro and Antony Thomas, and went to the United States to cut an Emmy Award-winning episode of 'Vietnam - An

American History'. In 1982, Morris formed a post-production company in London and edited numerous award-winning films. In 1992, he was nominated for a BAFTA for the documentary 'Hellfighters of Kuwait'. He maintained a lengthy professional relationship with Loach, cutting many films for him, and has worked on 12 films selected for the Official Competition at the Festival de Cannes, two of which took the Palme d'Or, as well as three films in competition at the Venice Film Festival and the Berlinale. Recently, Morris edited the award-winning docudrama series 'The Great War - The People's Story' for ITV. He has given editing seminars in Denmark, France and the United States, and has mentored students at the National Film School in Beaconsfield, England.

Hania Mroué - Lebanon

Metropolis Cinema / MC Distribution | Director



Hania Mroué is Founder and Director of Metropolis Art Cinema, the first art-house cinema in Lebanon, which opened in 2006 and aims to support regional and international productions by presenting audiences with alternative cinema, including recent independent titles, cult films, creative documentaries

and experimental video. In 2009, Mroué launched MC Distribution, a distribution company specialising in independent Arab titles, and she is also a founding member of Beirut DC, and was Managing Director of Cinema Days of Beirut from 2001 to 2010.

Metropolis Cinema is an art-house cinema that opened in Beirut in 2006. Its two-screen theatre is dedicated to auteur films from all over the world, including classics of all eras and genres, and recent independent Arab productions. It is also a hub for the more than 20,000 children who attend its year-round screenings and activities. MC Distribution handles the distribution activities of Metropolis. Its catalogue includes around 50 Arab films and internationally acclaimed titles such as 'Mommy', 'A Separation', 'As I Open My Eyes', 'Mustang' and 'Tramontane'.

Jan Naszewski - Poland

New Europe Film Sales | CEO



Jan Naszewski is a sales agent and festival organiser, and the owner of the Warsaw-based boutique world sales company New Europe Film Sales. Among the company's titles are the Icelandic film 'Rams', eight films that were shortlisted for the Academy Awards, and short films by Ruben Östlund. Naszewski also collaborates with the T-Mobile New

Horizons International Film Festival, and is an expert for the European Film Academy and other international bodies. He is a graduate and guest lecturer of EAVE and co-producer of the Dominga Sotomayor and Kasia Klimkiewicz's short film 'La Isla', which won the Canon Tiger Award at the International Film festival Rotterdam in 2014.

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

Giona Antonio Nazzaro - Italy

Venice International Critics' Week | General Delegate



Giona A. Nazzaro is General Delegate of the Venice International Film Critics' Week. A film critic and author, he has worked with festivals including the Festival del Film Locarno, the Rome

International Film Festival, the Festival dei Popoli and Torino Cinema Giovani. He is the author of many books and hundreds of essays.

The Venice International Film Critics' Week takes place during the Venice Film Festival and is the longest running sidebar of the festival, with 31 editions to date. The Venice International Film Critics' Week's main goal is the discovery of challenging first films and new directors. Directors Olivier Assayas, Harmony Korine, Mike Leigh, Pedro Costa and Kevin Reynolds, among many others, have been discovered at the Critics' Week.

Irit Neidhardt - Germany

mec film | Founder



Irit Neidhardt runs mec film, a distribution and co-production company for films from the Middle East and North Africa. She is the author of various articles on subjects related to cinema and the Middle East, focusing on issues of co-operation and financing. She is member of the board of the German edition of the

Global Media Journal and of the German quarterly 'inamo'. She is member of the German Documentary Association (AG DOK), the German Association of Art House Theatres (AG Kino-Gilde) and the German Middle East Studies Association for Contemporary Research and Documentation (DAVO).

mec film is a distribution and co-production exclusively for films from the Middle East. mec stands for Middle Eastern Cinemas. We represent short, medium- and feature-length documentary and fiction films that offer a different perspective on the region, always from an inside perspective.

Savina Neirotti - Italy

TorinoFilmLab | Director / Biennale College - Cinema | Head of Studies



Savina Neirotti graduated in Philosophy and completed the first year of a Master's degree in Aesthetics at the University of Pennsylvania. On her return to Italy, she became Head of the Press and Communication Office of the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI. She founded Scuola Holden in

Torino, together with Alessandro Baricco, where she was Director of the Master in Narration Techniques. She has ideated and directed Script&Pitch Workshops since 2005, and has been Director of TorinoFilmLab since 2008. She is now the Head of Biennale College - Cinema.

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

The Biennale College - Cinema is a community of filmmakers who are selected from around the world to work alongside a team of international experts and tutors to explore the aesthetics of micro-budget filmmaking and the new integrated models of production that engage with an audience from the outset.

Bryce Norbitz - USA

Tribeca Film Institute | Manager, Artist Programs



Bryce Norbitz is the Manager of Artist Programs at the Tribeca Film Institute, where she supports filmmakers through grant programmes, workshops, screenings and events. Bryce manages funding and artist support for several programmes, including Tribeca All Access, the Gucci Tribeca Documentary Fund, the IWC Filmmaker Fund and the TFI Sloan

Filmmaker Fund, along with the TFI/A&E StoryLab and Camden/TFI Filmmaker Retreat. Bryce is the Executive Producer for the prolific Brooklyn-based production company UglyRhino. She has worked at Chicago Shakespeare, The Second City, The Public Theater and Nederlander Worldwide Entertainment, and is a graduate of Northwestern University.

The Tribeca Film Institute champions storytellers to be catalysts for change in their communities and around the world. Each year, we identify a diverse group of exceptional filmmakers and media artists, then empower them with funding and resources to fully realise their stories and connect with audiences. Our education programmes empower students through hands-on training and exposure to socially relevant films, offering young people the media skills necessary to be creative and productive global citizens. Funds include Tribeca All Access, the Gucci Tribeca Documentary Fund, the IWC Filmmaker Fund and the TFI Sloan Filmmaker Fund, among others.

Susan Pak - Qatar

Northwestern University in Qatar | Assistant Professor in Residence



Susan H. Pak is a Chicago Dramatists resident playwright and assistant professor in residence at Northwestern University in Qatar. She received an MFA in Writing for the Screen and Stage

from Northwestern University; she received both a BA in English and a JD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Northwestern University in Qatar is a world-class school teaching and conducting research in the media field.

Tobias Pausinger - Germany

Industry Advisor and Consultant



Tobias Pausinger was trained in international film production and financing in Ludwigsburg, Los Angeles and Rome, and obtained his MBA from the Technical University of Munich. From 2003 to 2009, he was responsible for the acquisition of various multi-award-winning films for international sales at Bavaria Film International and The Match Factory, where he also co-produced Yesim Ustaoglu's San Sebastián Film Festival Golden Shell-winning feature-length film 'Pandora's Box'. Pausinger advises various film festivals and industry initiatives on content and strategic matters, among them CineMart at the International Film

Festival Rotterdam, Istanbul's Meetings on the Bridge and Sarajevo's Cinelink, and serves as a member of the selection committees of various markets and training schemes. He also works as script and development consultant and advises film professionals and visual artists on development, financing and distribution. Further, he lectures at various training initiatives throughout Europe. In 2011 he co-founded the Art:Film initiative, a platform held during CineMart to enhance and nurture highly artistic cinema and visual arts. Pausinger is also a voting member of the European Film Academy.

Anick Poirier - Canada

Seville International | SVP, International Sales



Anick Poirier and her team at Seville International, Entertainment One's boutique film-sales outfit, represent a portfolio of award-winning independent films from around the world, including Xavier Dolan's 'Juste la fin du monde', which won the Grand Prix at the Festival de Cannes, and 'Mommy', which took the Cannes Jury Prize; the critically acclaimed 'The Babadook'; and Academy Award-

nominated director Hany Abu Assad's 'The Idol'. Poirier joined the company in 2008, when eOne acquired Les Films Séville, where she had served as Vice President of International Sales since 2002. Previously, Poirier held senior sales roles at Cinar Corporation and Buena Vista Home Entertainment Canada, a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company.

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

Jonathan Powell - Qatar

Al Jazeera Media Network | Manager of Sadeem



Jonathan Powell is responsible for launching Al Jazeera's latest digital property, Sadeem. He has been at Al Jazeera Media Network for 13 years, during which time he has worked on numerous media launches, including Al Jazeera America and Al Jazeera Documentary Channel. In addition, he has contributed to Al Jazeera's

strategic transformation initiative and the establishment of Al Jazeera's digital division. Previous to Al Jazeera, Powell worked in Canada's film and television industry, focused on financing productions. Jonathan has a Master's degree from Northwestern University and an MBA from the University of Toronto.

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

Mirsad Purivatra - Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sarajevo Film Festival | Festival Director



Mirsad Purivatra is Director and Co-Founder of the Sarajevo Film Festival, one of the most influential film festivals in Europe. Beginning in 2003, Purivatra initiated and developed the CineLink Co-Production Market, with the aim of aiding the development of regional cinema, discovering new talent, and launching new projects on the wider European market. CineLink is recognised as the most potent catalyst for regional film

production today. In 2007, the festival expanded to include an educational platform in form of the Sarajevo Talent Campus. Purivatra was producer of Danis Tanović's 'Cirkus Columbia', and co-producer of Nuri Bilge Ceylan's 'Once Upon a Time in Anatolia'. Purivatra's recent productions include Cristi Puiu's new film, 'Sierra Nevada'. He is a Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Obala Art Centar was founded in 1984 with the purpose of developing and promoting cultural, artistic and educational activities. In 1995, Obala initiated the Sarajevo Film Festival with the aim of helping to reconstruct civil society and retain the cosmopolitan spirit of the city. Today, the Sarajevo Film Festival is the leading film festival in the region, recognised by both film professionals and the wider audience. Obala Art Centar also runs a major art-house cinema, a film distribution arm with a special focus on audience education and development through the Operation Kino programme, and activities within its cinema and the Sarajevo Film Festival.

Marten Rabarts - The Netherlands

EYE Film Institute | Head, EYE International



Marten Rabarts translated a background and education in Theatre and Dance into the independent film industry in New York City, Los Angeles and London in the mid 1980s. He moved to the The Netherlands in the 1990s, where he headed the Binger Filmlab as Artistic Director for 12 years. In 2012, he moved to

Mumbai, having been appointed Head of Development & Training of the National Film Development Corporation of India. He returned to Amsterdam in 2015 to take up the position of Head of EYE international for the promotion of Dutch cinema in world markets.

EYE is the museum for film and the moving image in the Netherlands. EYE combines a world-renowned film collection with expertise in restoration, educational programmes, exhibitions, international promotion and marketing. EYE International is the department responsible for the international promotion of Dutch cinema.

Tim Redford - France

Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival | Co-ordinator, International Competition



Tim Redford is a graduated of Arts Management. He was born in the UK but has lived in France for most of his life, where, from 1998, he gained experience working on the production of the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival. He then spent some years in the UK, where he worked as project manager for Signals Media Arts. He then

moved to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, where he became the director of the Curtocircuito International Short Film Festival. Today, he is part of the permanent staff of the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, where he works as International Co-ordinator and is a member of the International Selection Committee.

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

Jean-Pierre Rehm - France

FIDMarseille | General Director



After teaching history and the history and theory of art and film at various art schools, Jean-Pierre Rehm began working for the French Ministry of Culture and curating exhibitions. He regularly writes for exhibition catalogues and artist and filmmaker monographs, including those

of Roe Rosen, Tsai Ming-liang, Mark Lewis, William Eggleston, Jimmie Durham, Peter Friedl, Jacques Rozier, Isidore Isou. He also writes art and cinema reviews for 'Cahiers du Cinéma', 'Cinéma' and 'Trafic', among others. Since 2001, he has been Director of FIDMarseille.

FIDMarseille is an international competitive film festival. Rooted in documentary practice, also includes features, shorts and is mainly open to contemporary cinema. Eight years ago, the festival took the decisive step of welcoming fiction films alongside documentaries in its official selection. In 2016, FIDMarseille presented about 150 films, most of which were making their world or international premieres. FIDLab is the FIDMarseille international co-production platform for projects at every stage of production, at which 10 projects are selected for two days of presentations, workshops, one-on-one meetings and discussion panels.

Mike Reiss - USA

Reiss Entertainment | President



Mike Reiss has won four Emmys and a Peabody Award during his 26 years of writing for 'The Simpsons'. He ran the show in Season 4, which 'Entertainment Weekly' named "the greatest season of the greatest show in history." Reiss co-created the animated series 'The

Critic' and created Showtime's hit cartoon 'Queer Duck', which was named one of the 100 Greatest Cartoons of All Time by the BBC. Reiss is also an award-winning playwright, children's book author and mystery writer.

Reiss Entertainment covers Mike Reiss's writing and producing in a variety of media, including television ('The Simpsons'), film ('Ice Age', 'Despicable Me'), his 18 children's books, including the best-selling 'How Murray Saved Christmas', and theatre ('Comedy Is Hard', 'I Hate Musicals: The Musical'). The company also handles Reiss's work as a public speaker. Reiss has delivered 400 speeches in 20 countries.

Denise Reiss - USA

Reiss Entertainment | Vice President



Denise Reiss is the Vice President of Reiss Entertainment. She handles the bookkeeping and complex travel arrangements for the company, which she set up. Reiss is a former executive of

Hearst Entertainment, where she worked in TV movie development. She has also developed film projects for Tom Arnold. She is a graduate of Harvard University.

Reiss Entertainment covers Mike Reiss's writing and producing in a variety of media, including television ('The Simpsons'), film ('Ice Age', 'Despicable Me'), his 18 children's books, including the best-selling 'How Murray Saved Christmas', and theatre ('Comedy Is Hard', 'I Hate Musicals: The Musical'). The company also handles Reiss's work as a public speaker. Reiss has delivered 400 speeches in 20 countries.

Oliver Roskill - UK

Wigwam Films | Producer



Oliver Roskill has an extensive background in production and has worked making feature-length films and commercials. He began his career at Centrifugal Films in New York City, before moving into the production of promos

and TV spots for companies such as Pulse and RSA. He moved to the Middle East, where he has worked as a producer and executive producer at Filmworks. Roskill is a co-founder of Wigwam Films and a BAFTA-nominated producer.

Set up in 2012, Wigwam Films is a BAFTA-nominated UK production company, driven to create outstanding content for film, television and emerging formats. With experience in financing, production and development, we seek to produce original and entertaining content for a global market. We work with the finest home-grown and international talent.

Ben Ross - UAE

Image Nation Abu Dhabi | Head of Narrative Film and Television



Ben Ross's career began with Academy Award-winning producer Scott Rudin ('No Country for Old Men'), when he worked on such films as 'Clueless' and 'Sabrina'. Ross then spent several years working for Brillstein-Grey Entertainment, the management and production company co-founded by current Paramount Pictures Chairman Brad Grey, where he specialised in management, working

closely with clients including Brad Pitt and Courteney Cox. After spending several years writing, directing and producing films on his own, among them 'The Young Kieslowski', winner of the 2014 Los Angeles Film Festival Audience Award, Ross now serves as Head of Narrative Film and Television for Image Nation Abu Dhabi.

Image Nation Abu Dhabi is one of the leading media and entertainment companies in the Arabic-speaking world, producing local and international films, documentaries and television content, and became a pan-Arabic broadcaster with the 2015 launch of Quest Arabiya.

Ghassan Salhab - Lebanon

Filmmaker



Lebanese filmmaker Ghassan Salhab collaborates on a variety of screenplays and teaches film in Lebanon. He has directed six feature-length films: 'Beyrouth fantôme', 'Terra Incognita', 'The Last Man', '1958', 'The Mountain' and 'The Valley'; and numerous video works, including 'Baalbeck' (co-directed with

Akram Zaatar and Mohamad Soueid; 'Nobody's Rose'; 'My Dead Body My Living Body'; 'Lost Narcissus'; '(Posthumous)'; 'Il massacro degli innocenti'; 'Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere'; and 'Son image' In 2016, Salhab was a DAAD guest resident. In 2010, La Rochelle International Film Festival and JCC held a tribute to his work.

Karin Angela Schyle | Germany

Robert Bosch Stiftung | Film Prize Co-ordinator



Karin Schyle studied the History of Contemporary Art, followed by studies in Cultural Management. For over 20 years, she has been working for cultural or film-related initiatives, institutions or festivals, as festival or project manager, in the programming department, or as a co-ordinator. She has also sat on several

festival juries and selection committees. Since 2012, she has been responsible for co-ordinating all events related to the Film Prize of the Robert Bosch Stiftung for International Cooperation, as well as its organisation, administration and editorial supervision.

Each year, the Robert Bosch Stiftung issues three Film Prizes for international co-operation among young German and Arab filmmakers to realise a joint film project, in the categories of short animation, short fiction film, and short or feature-length documentary. Young filmmakers in the fields of directing, production, camerawork and screenwriting are given an opportunity to explore the methods and creative styles of their partner country in several international workshops.

Georges Schoucair - Lebanon

About Productions | Producer



A Lebanese producer and the CEO of About Productions, Georges Schoucair has developed and produced critically acclaimed films and has contributed to the establishment of an attractive and globally acknowledged environment for film investments in Lebanon and to the development of Lebanese cinema. In parallel with About Productions,

Georges founded MC Distribution, a distribution company that releases Arab and international films in the Middle East, and has since 2008 been the acting vice-president of Metropolis, an art-house cinema venture in Beirut. His most recent endeavour is Schortcut Films, whose objective is to identify and invest in high-quality international independent films

About Productions produces feature films and documentaries with a distinctly Arab voice, expressing the identity of the region. Its main objective is to help structure the Lebanese and Arab cinema craft into a solid industry. About Productions has a strong partnership with MC Distribution, a distribution company dedicated to promoting films from the Middle East along with priority access to the Metropolis Cinema, the sole art-house film theatre in Lebanon. The company's latest release is Vatche Boulghourjian's 'Tramontane'.

Klaudia Smieja - Poland

Madants | Producer



Klaudia Smieja is an award-winning producer whose films have premiered at the Festival de Cannes, Sundance, and the Berlin International Film Festival. Smieja concentrates on international co-productions such as the French-Polish historical drama 'The Innocents' by Anne Fontaine and the Icelandic comedy

hit 'Rams', which took first prize in the Un Certain Regard section at Cannes in 2015. Her current slate of projects include Agnieszka Holland's 'Gareth Jones', Claire Denis's 'High Life', Babis Makridis's 'Pity' and Hagar Ben-Asher's 'The War has Ended'.

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

Nader Sobhan - UAE

iflix | Head of Middle East and North Africa



Nader Sobhan joins iflix as Head of Middle East and North Africa. He previously founded Iktomi, a digital and design firm which has operations in Dubai, Barcelona and Bangkok. He previously led the strategic planning of the digital directorate at MBC, the leading free-to-air

broadcaster of the Arab world. With his extensive experience in digital products and broadcast entertainment in the Middle East and North Africa, Sobhan will be the driving force behind the company's expansion into the region.

Iflix is a subscription Video-on-Demand platform for western and Asian drama based in Kuala Lumpur, with partnerships with more than 150 studios and content distributors globally, including Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Disney, Warner Bros., Paramount, NBC Universal, Fox, CBS, BBC, Sony Pictures and Media Prima.

Alessandra Speciale - Italy

Venice Film Festival | Head of Final Cut in Venice



Since 2013, Alessandra Speciale has been Correspondent for Africa and the Arab Countries at the Venice Film Festival and Head of Final Cut in Venice, a workshop to support African and Arab films in post-production. Since 1991, she has been the co-director of the African, Asian and Latin America Film Festival of Milan. With the Association COE,

Speciale has distributed more than 200 films from three continents in the Italian alternative theatrical circuit. She has also collaborated with other international film festivals, among them the Festival del Film Locarno, the San Sebastián Film Festival, and the International Film Festival of Kerala.

Final Cut in Venice is one of the projects proposed by Venice Production Bridge. The 5th edition will take place from 3rd to 6th September 2017. The work-in-progress workshop will present a six quality rough cuts (only feature films) coming from all African countries, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria and will give them the opportunity of finding the post-production financing to complete the post production.

Konstantina Stavrianou - Greece

Graal | Managing Director



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

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

Graal S.A. is a production and post-production facility in Greece. The company, currently in its 17th year of operation, is clearly focused on cinema. In 2003, Graal entered international co-production for the first time and has continued with a wide selection of projects. It has a significant international track record, with its films selected for Cannes, Venice, Berlin and other international festivals. Graal has co-produced 47 films to date and has a portfolio of approximately 370 titles. Since 2010, it has been the main sponsor of the Agora Film Market section of the Thessaloniki International Film Festival, offering a complete image post-production award.

Heidi Tao Yang - Canada

Hot Docs | Industry Funds Manager



Heidi Tao Yang currently manages the Hot Docs Film Funds, where she oversees the Hot Docs portfolio of documentary film funds for Canadian and international documentary films. In this role, she works with filmmakers from around the world on their projects and oversees Hot Docs' investment in their work and professional development. Yang has a background

in producing and developing fiction and non-fiction for film and television. She has programmed and produced conferences with marquee speakers, such as the Toronto Screenwriting Conference, as well as programmed with WIFT-T. She is an alumna of the Producer's Lab at the Canadian Film Centre.

The Hot Docs Canadian International Film Festival is North America's largest documentary festival, and offers an outstanding selection of more than 200 films from Canada and around the world to audiences of more than 200,000. Hot Docs also has a documentary market, with programmes including the Hot Docs Forum, a dynamic pitching event that stimulates international co-production financing; Deal Maker and Distribution Rendezvous, pre-arranged one-on-one pitch meeting programmes for projects at various stages of production. Additionally, Hot Docs' portfolio of production funds is now at a value of \$8 million, and has supported 187 documentary projects to date with cash grants and professional development opportunities.

Nadia Tebib - Qatar

Al Jazeera Network | Senior Producer



Independent filmmaker Nadia Tebib has been a Senior Acquisition Producer at Al Jazeera Arabic Channel since 1998, where she is responsible for pre-production, production and post-production, and providing leadership and support to her team. She is in charge of content

validation of documentaries within the editorial line of Al Jazeera, and attends international markets to view and acquire new programming. Tebib also assists in the development of new network strategies.

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

Intishal Al Timimi - Egypt

El Gouna Film Festival | Festival Director



Intishal Al Timimi is currently Festival Director of the El Gouna Film Festival. Previously, he was Head of SANAD, and has part of the committee responsible for selecting suitable projects for funding since establishment in 2010. He was

Director of Arabic Programming at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival for four years after starting as a programmer there in 2008. From 2001 to 2009, Al Timimi was the Artistic Director of the Arab Film Festival in Rotterdam.

The first edition of the El Gouna Film Festival will take place in El Gouna, Egypt, in September, 2017. Announcements about festival details are forthcoming.

Sacha Tohme - Lebanon

Moving Turtle | Managing Director



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

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. We pride ourselves in formulating enriched relationships with foreign directors, producers, and fellow distributors. We commit to bring quality cinema of differing genres to a range of audiences throughout the region by dedicating equal time, energy, and attention to all our titles. Specialising in distribution along all platforms of high-end, award-winning, art-house movies in the Middle East and North Africa, our aim is to develop a still emergent quality cinema market. Titles include '45 Years', 'Taxi', 'Winter Sleep' and 'Amour', among many others.

Nadine Toukan - Qatar / Jordan

Doha Film Institute | Producer



Nadine Toukan is an independent film producer based in Doha and Amman. She produces and executive produces award-winning, commercially released cinematic

features from Jordan. At the Doha Film Institute, Nadine runs the productions of the Qatari Film Fund, a programme for emerging Qatari filmmakers.

Doha Film Institute is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organisation. It supports the growth of the local film community through cultivating film appreciation, enhancing industry knowledge and contributing to the development of sustainable creative industries in Qatar. The Institute's platforms include funding and production of local, regional and international films; skills-sharing and mentorship programmes; film screenings; the Ajyal Youth Film Festival; and Qumra. With culture, community, learning and entertainment at its foundation, the Institute is committed to supporting Qatar's 2030 vision for the development of a knowledge-based economy.

Kristina Trapp - Luxembourg

EAVE | CEO



Kristina Trapp has worked in the international film industry since 1999, including at the German regional film fund MFG, ARTE, the Film Commission Strasbourg and with the European training programme L'Atelier Ludwigsburg / Paris. She joined EAVE in 2004 and was appointed CEO in 2009. Trapp has worked closely with several European festivals

and production companies over the course of her career. She was part of the documentary commission of the French regional fund Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, is a member of the European Film Academy, and a regular jury member of the When East Meets West co-production market of the Trieste Film Festival.

EAVE is a professional training, project development and networking organisation for producers. At the heart of our programmes is the EAVE Producers Workshop which has created a unique co-producing network in Europe. The EAVE Marketing Workshop, EAVE+ and our international schemes complete our core programmes. EAVE also offers various tailor-made EAVE on DEMAND workshops all over the globe.

Frans Van Gestel - The Netherlands

Topkapi Films | Producer



Frans Van Gestel has been a film producer since 1996 and has received an impressive list of awards, including the Golden Calf for Best Feature Film for 'Love Is All', 'Black Book', 'Joy' and 'Black Butterflies'. Over the last 20 years, he has produced more than 90 feature films, drama series, short films and international co-

productions. He established Motel Films in 1996, headed IDTV Film from 2008 and co-founded Topkapi in November 2011. In addition, Van Gestel sits on the board of the International Film Festival Rotterdam, the board of advisors of EYE Film Institute Netherlands, and teaches at the EAVE marketing workshop.

Topkapi Films is an Amsterdam-based company run by producers Frans van Gestel, Arnold Heslenfeld and Laurette Schillings. Topkapi Films develops, produces and co-produces feature films and television drama for the Dutch and international markets, and strives to build long-term relationships with writers and directors. With a focus on new ways of storytelling, Topkapi recently started to collaborate with the documentary company Moondocs. Recent films are 'Layla M.', which was selected for the Toronto International Film Festival in 2016, 'A Noble Intention', 'Out of Love', which played at the International Film Festival Rotterdam in 2016, and the co-productions 'Belgica' by Felix van Groenigen, which appeared at the Sundance Film Festival in 2016, and Thomas Vinterberg's 'The Commune', a Berlinale selection in 2016.

Floor van Spaendonck - The Netherlands

Cinekid | Festival Director



An expert in digital culture and a specialist in cultural policy, Floor van Spaendonck has been Managing Director of Cinekid since February, 2017. Previously, she was involved at Het Nieuwe Instituut – the Dutch institute for creative industries

– as Head of Policy and International Affairs for digital culture, design and architecture. Until 2012, van Spaendonck was Managing Director of Virtueel Platform, the Dutch Expertise Centre for Media Arts and Digital Culture.

Cinekid is the Dutch Children's Festival for Film, Television and New Media. The 10-day event covers all aspects of the media industry for young audiences, and offers workshops and master classes as well as high-quality media. Every year, more than 50,000 children are given the opportunity to visit more than 500 media productions selected by the festival, including narrative and documentary films, short films, animated works, television productions, cross-media productions, interactive installations and workshops.

Charlotte Vincent - France

Aurora Films | Producer



A graduate of HEC Paris, Charlotte Vincent founded Aurora Films in 2002. She has produced more than 30 short films along with acclaimed features that have been selected for numerous international film. In 2016, she produced Davy Chou's

'Diamond Island', which was selected for the Critic's Week at the Festival de Cannes, where it won the SACD Award. The same year, Wissam Charaf's 'Heaven Sent' was selected for the ACID programme at Cannes.

Based in Paris, Aurora Films invests heavily in developing new talent and promoting debuting directors, and has several projects currently in financing or production stages. Over the past few years, Aurora Films, has specialised in French and international co-productions. Recent films produced include Davy Chou's 'Diamond Island', which was awarded the Prix SACD 2016 at the Director's Week at the 2016 Festival de Cannes, Wissam Charaf's 'Heaven Sent', which was selected for the ACID programme at Cannes in 2016, and Evangelia Kranioti's 'Exotica, Erotica, Etc.', which had its premiere in the Forum section of the Berlin International Film Festival in 2015.

Josephine Vinet - France

Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image Animée - CNC | ACM Distribution & Co-production Officer



After obtaining a Master's degree in European Affairs, Josephine Vinet has been working at the CNC for a year and a half. Her main tasks are working on and

developing the ACM Distribution Fund, the French-Italian development fund, negotiating co-production agreements and organising co-production workshops.

The Centre National du Cinéma et de l'image animée is a public administration. Its main missions as a regulatory body are to support for the film, broadcast, video, multimedia and technical industries; promote film and television for distribution to all audiences; and preserve and develop film heritage.

Marietta von Hausswolff von Baumgarten – Sweden

Script Consultant



Since 20017, Swedish screenwriter Marietta von Hausswolff von Baumgarten she has been connected as a script consultant with TorinoFilmLab, Binger Film Lab and the Venice Biennale College Cinema, on films such as ‘the Babadook’, ‘Djeca, Children of Sarajevo’, ‘Hi-So’, ‘Los Hongos’, ‘Les Quattro Volte’, ‘Beyond / Svinälängorna’, ‘H’, ‘The Fits’ and ‘Mediterranea’, among others.

Other related programmes are Feature Expanded, Bridging the Dragon, TIFF STUDIO Toronto, Boost Rotterdam, the Rutger Hauer Masterclasses, Generation Campus Moscow, Script Lab Russia, the Balkan Film Fund Athens, Talent Campus, the Irish Film Board and Filmpool Nord, and she consults privately, alone and together with Kamoli Films.

Hossam Wahbeh – Qatar

Al Jazeera Media Network | Head of Training Programs Section



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

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

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Dominique Welinski - France

DW | CEO



In 2012, after more than 20 years in distribution, Dominique Welinski founded DW, a production company. In 2013, she set up the concept of the Factory to pair up young and promising filmmakers to co-direct short films at the Taipei Factory, followed by the Nordic, Chile and South

Africa Factories. The Lebanon Factory will open the Directors' Fortnight at the Festival de Cannes in 2017. Welinski also works as a consultant for strategy and development, and is producing films from Iran, Burma, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Kenya.

Andy Whittaker - UK

Dogwoof | CEO



Andy Whittaker founded Dogwoof in 2004. He is listed in 'The Guardian's Top 100 Power List of People in Film. A specialist in film and digital media, Andy

seeks partners to build relationships in the MENA region and the UK for film distribution and production.

Based in London, Dogwoof is the leading UK theatrical film distributor for documentary and social-issues feature films. Films include 'Restrepo', 'Son of Babylon', 'Black Gold', 'A Small Act', 'Food Inc.' and 'Even the Rain'. In 2016, the company set up a production fund.

Florine Wiebenga - The Netherlands

EYE Film Institute Netherlands | Head of Education



Florine Wiebenga trained in Media Studies and Pedagogy in Utrecht, Stockholm and Amsterdam. Since 2005, she has participated in a number of national and international projects focused on film and media literacy. Currently, Wiebenga

is Head of Education at the EYE Film Museum and a partner in the European project ABCinema. Her expertise is in the areas of film literacy, peer education, innovative learning strategies and formal and informal learning.

EYE is the film museum of the Netherlands. It combines a world-renowned film collection with expertise in restoration, educational programmes, exhibitions, international promotion and marketing. EYE stimulates film culture in the Netherlands and organises numerous events, including retrospectives and programmes that feature various aspects of the history of cinema as well as contemporary cinematographic developments. EYE offers education in the museum as well as programmes and teaching materials for primary, secondary and continuing education countrywide. EYE encourages the exchange of expertise through publications, training courses and seminars, and by advising the film industry about the possibilities of film education.

Robb Wood - Qatar

Northwestern University in Qatar | Director of Strategic Partnerships



Robb Wood builds partnerships between Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) and leading private and public institutions, including large-scale research collaborations and strategy workshop programmes with industry executives. In his time at NU-Q, he has managed and co-authored some of the

school's flagship research projects: Media Use in the Middle East, a multi-national survey of media consumption in the region; and Media Industries in the Middle East, an examination of the state of the major media sectors in the region. He also heads programming for NU-Q's Qatar Media Industries Forum.

Northwestern University in Qatar is a world-class school teaching and conducting research in the media field.

Faisal Fahad Zainal - Qatar

Medinah Production Company | Producer



Faisal Fahad Zainal is Producer and Head of Marketing at Medinah Production Company.

When destiny forces a rocket launch to go horribly wrong, a group of strangers are propelled to discover and survive with what fate has chosen to give them. 'Medinah' is an adventurous original Qatari show produced by Katara studios and Medinah Production Company. Our aim is to broadcast and to stimulate to a broader international audience. Moreover, an important goal is to put Qatar on the map and to show our culture, society and wide diverse organisations to the people of the world through ground-breaking storytelling.

Raul Niño Zambrano - The Netherlands

International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam | Senior Programmer



Raul Niño Zambrano has worked since 2008 for the Program Department of the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam. His expertise relates in particular to Latin American

documentaries and shorts, and he has been invited to many festivals and events as a juror or tutor. He is also the curator of IDFA's Student Documentary Competition.

The International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA) is an annual leading documentary event that brings the documentary community together. It offers filmmakers a platform to launch their documentaries in various festival programmes and has two markets: the Forum, for co-financing/production; and Docs for Sale, a sales market. Young talent is placed at the front at IDFAcademy. IDFA is well-attended by both a large audience (250,000 tickets sold) and 3,000 international documentary professionals. IDFA created the IDFA Bertha Fund to support filmmaking in developing countries. Stimulating international collaborations and creating visibility for films and their makers are key for IDFA.

Oliver Zeller - Germany

Medienboard Berlin Brandenburg | Funding Advisor



Born 1972, Oliver Zeller studied Law and Media Consulting. He has worked for several film production companies and German film funds. At Medienboard

Berlin-Brandenburg, he focuses on serial drama and international co-productions. He is a graduate of the EAVE European Producers' Workshop and teaches cinema.

The Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg is a key institution for film and media professionals in Germany. Based in the capital region, the fund is open to outstanding national projects and it also has a strong focus on international co-productions, ranging from high quality art-house films to blockbusters and serial drama. We provide funding for almost all genres and formats, including feature-length and short films, animation, documentary, drama series, art-house and mainstream.

Areeb Zuaiter - Jordan

Royal Film Commission - Jordan | Regional Training Manager



Areeb Zuaiter is a visual storyteller currently fulfilling her passion by supporting regional filmmakers through her position at the Royal Film Commission - Jordan. She holds an MA in Film and Video from the American University. During her enrollment, she worked with the Associated Press, and was then given a fellowship at the Smithsonian National

Museum of American History, where she produced the Museum's key visual projects. Her thesis was nominated for the Sony Outstanding Award. She obtained on BA in Interior Architecture and another in Communication Arts, and her graduation short film won the Jury Prize at the 10th European Film Festival.

The Royal Film Commission - Jordan (RFC) was established in 2003 with a mandate to develop and promote an internationally competitive Jordanian audio-visual industry and build Jordan's creative economy. The RFC offers capacity-building programmes and provides comprehensive production support services to local, regional and international productions. The RFC is a financially and administratively autonomous Jordanian government body led by a board of Commissioners chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Ali bin Al-Hussein. The RFC believes that filmmaking is a form of creative expression that transcends borders, promoting cross-cultural understanding through the sharing of stories, thoughts and ideas.