

**Press Release**

## **Abu Dhabi Film Festival to Kick Off Tomorrow**

- **Gala Opening Night with World Premiere of FROM A TO B**
- **Moviemakers from Across the World and Talents from Arab Cinema on the Red Carpet, Along with Key Players of UAE's Flourishing Film Industry**
- **Eighth Edition of ADFF Celebrates World Cinema and its Makers**

**Abu Dhabi, UAE** – October 25, 2014: Abu Dhabi Film Festival (ADFF 2014), powered by twofour54, today announced the guests attending the Festival, as well as the moviemakers and celebrities who will attend the Opening Night Gala. The event tomorrow night marks both the official launch of the ADFF's 10-day programme as well as the highly anticipated screening of one of the most awaited UAE productions, FROM A TO B, directed by Ali Mostafa.

Ali Al Jabri, director of Abu Dhabi Film Festival said: "The Festival's Opening Ceremony marks the beginning of a 10-day celebration of world cinema. At this year's ADFF, we pay tribute to all those artists who have spent their professional career to refine and enrich the language of cinema and offered us enduring celluloid creations."

"These moviemakers, as we define them, offer us armchair journeys around the world. The Festival creates the unique opportunity for everyone to meet some of our most outstanding contemporary moviemakers at eye level."

The stars to walk the Opening Ceremony red carpet this year include the ADFF Career Achievement Award Winner, the French-Algerian director Rachid Bouchareb.

To celebrate the World Premiere of FROM A TO B, director Ali Mostafa will lead his cast and crew in the red carpet walk. The team will include the actors Fahad Abutrairi, Shadi Alfons, Fadi Rifaai, Abdul Mohsen El Nemer, Khaled Abol Naga and Samer Al Masri, joined by the film producers Mohamed Hefzy and Paul Baboudjian.

Many stars from the Arab World will attend the Opening Ceremony and honour the Festival and its moviemakers. To be spotted on the red carpet are Tunisian singer and actor Latifah, Egyptian actresses and actors Hassan Youssef, Samir Sabry, Nabila Obaid and Poussi; Syrian actors Soulafa Memar and Kosai Khouly, as well as Lebanese singer and actor Walid Tawfik.

They will be joined by talents from the GCC region, including Kuwaiti actors Abdulhussain Abdulredha, Mohammed Al-Mansour and Dawood Hussain, Omani celebrity Ibrahim Al Zadjali, Saudi actor Ibrahim Al Harbi, Emirati actor Huda Al Khatib as well as Bahraini actors Zahra Arafat and Ali al Ghurair.

Also to be spotted on the red carpet are British actress-director Carmen Chaplin and actor Shaan Shahid from Pakistan.

Moviemakers presenting their films in various competition categories and special programmes of the Festival will attend the Opening Ceremony. Among them are participants from the Narrative Feature Competition such as famed Mauritanian director Abderrahmane Sissako (TIMBUKTU) and the delegation of the film THE VALLEY, including director Ghassan Salhab, as well as actresses Carole Abboud and Yumna Marwan. The director of the movie MEMORIES ON STONE, Shawkat Amin Koriki, will arrive together with his producer Mehmet Aktas. For the film TALES, director Rakhshan Bani Etemad and producer Jahangir Kosari will be present.

Among those presenting films in the New Horizons Competition and adorning the red carpet are Jordanian director Naji Abu Nowar (THEEB), who will receive the Variety Arab Filmmaker of the Year Award later during the Festival, the team of Indian production LABOUR OF LOVE - director Adityavikram Sengupta and producers Jonaki Bhattacharya and Vikram Mohinta, as well as director Raad Mushatat and actor Mahmoud Abu Al Abbass of Iraqi film THE SILENCE OF THE SHEPHERD.

Documentary filmmakers attending the red carpet are Hungarian director Marcell Gerő (CAIN'S CHILDREN), Palestinian director Amer Shomali (THE WANTED 18), Emirati director Nujoom Al Ghanem (SOUNDS OF THE SEA), director of Iraqi short film THE WAR Mohamed Al Daradji as well as Bader Ben Hirsi, director of Yemeni film A NEW DAY IN OLD SANA'A, slated to be screened in ADFFF's Special Programme 'The Arab Diaspora'.

The presidents of ADFFF's three Competition sections, Irrfan Khan, Catherine Dussart and Christiane Voros, will lead their fellow jury members on the red carpet. Emirates Film Competition contenders and jurors will also embellish the red carpet.

Among key industry representatives attending from the region are Elias Antypas, Hikmat Antypas Jr., Walid Al Wadi, Nashwa Al Ruwaini, Abdulhamid Juma, Masoud Amralla Al Ali, Jamal Al Sharif, Khalil Benkirane, Hani Farsi, Mario Haddad and Nawaf Al-Janahi.

ADFF today also announced the names of those movie-makers travelling to ADFFF later on during the Festival. Among the guests attending are Academy Award

winner Susanne Bier from Denmark (A SECOND CHANCE), Saudi producer Mohammad Al Turki (99 HOMES), the crew of the documentary NEXT GOAL WINS, producer Kristian Brodie and goal-keeper Nikie Salapu, French director Laurent Cantet (RETURN TO ITHACA), Italian director Saverio Costanzo and actress Alba Rohrwacher (HUNGRY HEARTS), Syrian director Talal Derki (RETURN TO HOMS), producer-director duo Guillaume de Seille and George Ovashvili (CORN ISLAND), Egyptian director Ibrahim El Batout with producer and actor Amr Waked (EL OTT), as well as Mexican director Nicholas Echevarria together with the subject of his documentary, the Mexican artist Santos de la Torre (ECHO OF THE MOUNTAIN).

Also confirmed to attend the Festival are Nadir Moknéche (DÉLICE PALOMA), Russian actor Alexey Serebryakov (LEVIATHAN), Swiss-Iraqi director Samir (IRAQI ODYSSEY), as well as American director Peter Sattler (CAMP X-RAY), Dutch-Algerian director Karim Traïdia (THE POLISH BRIDE), the iconic Japanese director Shin'ya Tsukamoto (NOBI: FIRES ON THE PLAIN) and French director Cyprien Vial (YOUNG TIGER).

The full list of talents attending the Festival can be found [here](#).

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For images please click [here](#)

Pictures and Footage can be downloaded in the press centre on the website.

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#### About Abu Dhabi Film Festival

Abu Dhabi Film Festival (ADFF), powered by twofour54, is presented each October to help create a vibrant film culture throughout the region. With a focus on Arab cinema and the wealth of emerging and established film talent from around the world, ADFF has become one of the most anticipated cultural events in Abu Dhabi, helping to enhance the emirate as a hub of creativity.

Abu Dhabi Film Festival is committed to curating exceptional programs and engaging and educating the local community with their own and other cultures through the art of cinema. The films of Arab film directors are presented in competition with those of the most respected film-makers from all over the world.

#### About twofour54

twofour54, the commercial arm of the Media Zone Authority-Abu Dhabi, is a leading media and entertainment hub in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, aiming to nurture the development of creative industries in the region through supporting talent, content development, and young entrepreneurs.

As part of its mission to help Arabs realise their ambitions across diverse media platforms, twofour54 provides financial support, a creativity lab that engages members in creative projects, as well as training and networking opportunities through tadreeb, and world-class production facilities through intaj. All of these services are supported by its end-to-end business services provider, tawasol.