

ADFF NAMES MEMBERS OF 2013 JURIES

TWO-TIME ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE JACKIE WEAVER LEADS NARRATIVE JURY INAUGURAL JUDGING OF CHILD PROTECTION AWARD

Abu Dhabi, UAE – October 23, 2013: The identities of the illustrious members from the world of cinema who have been selected to judge the films in competition at the seventh Abu Dhabi Film Festival, have been revealed today.

The NARRATIVE COMPETITION jury President is Australian actress **Jacki Weaver**, best known for her Academy Award-nominated performance in David Michôd's *Animal Kingdom* (2010). She also received an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress in David O. Russell's *The Silver Linings Playbook*. Joining her on the jury are Black Pearl Career Achievement winner, **Hiam Abbass**, chief executive of Film London and the British Film Commission, **Adrian Wootton**, Tunisian producer **Dora Bouchoucha** and **Sandra den Hamer**, current CEO of EYE Film Institute Netherlands.

The NEW HORIZONS COMPETITION jury is lead by **Yeşim Ustaoglu**, director of the 2012 Black Pearl for Best Film winner, *Araf*. She made feature film debut with *The Trace* (1994). and received international recognition with *Journey to the Sun* (1999) winning honours at Cannes, San Sebastian, Venice, Berlin and Toronto and sweeping the awards at the Istanbul Film festival. Ustaoglu is assisted by **Irene Bignardi**, co-founder of daily newspaper La Repubblica and director of the Locarno Film Festival from 2000–05, **Nour-Eddine Lakhmari**, a renowned filmmaker from Morocco, **Valery Todorovsky**, whose musical *Hipsters* (2008) won the Black Pearl Award for Best Narrative Film in 2009, and internationally known Lebanese director **Michel Kammoun**.

President of the DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION is the co-director and artistic director of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), **Cameron Bailey**. For more than 20 years, he has held positions as a programmer, a journalist and a writer and has curated film programmes for Cinemathèque Ontario, the National Gallery of Canada, the National Film Board of Canada and the Sydney International Film Festival. He is joined on the documentary jury by Dutch screenwriter **Leonard Retel Helmrich**,



director of multi-award winning SANAD film *A World Not Ours* (2012) **Mahdi Fleifel**, one of South Africa's most respected arts and film writers, **Peter Machen** and Algerian film critic, journalist and filmmaker **Nabil Hadji**.

The inaugural CHILD PROTECTION AWARD will be judged by famous Egyptian actor and producer **Khaled Abol Naga**, supported by Jurors **Afaf Al Marri**, Chairman of the Department of Social Services and member of Executive Council of Sharjah; **Lt. Col. Faisal Al Shamari**, Director of the UAE Ministry of the Interior Child Protection Centre, Award-winning Emirati film director **Juma Al Sahli**, (*The Goat's Head*, *Sara's Secrets*) and **Mona Al Bahar**, member of the Federal National Council and the UAE National Higher Committee on child protection.

The SHORT FILM COMPETITION will be judged by President **Mohamad Malas**, a pioneer in Syrian auteur cinema whose latest film *Ladder to Damascus* premiered at Toronto, Egyptian writer director **Hala Khalil** (*Best of Times*, 2004), groundbreaking Danish director and playwright **Jenle Hallund**, who was a consultant for *Melancholia* and *Nymphomaniac* by Lars von Trier, prize-winning Abu Dhabi director **Khalid Al Mahmood** (*Sabeel*, 2010) and **Matthieu Darras**, French film critic and founder of NISI MASA, the European Network of Young Cinema.

Veteran Algerian director and screenwriter **Ahmed Rachedi** is President of the EMIRATES FILM COMPETITION jury. He is supported by celebrated Iraqi director and writer **Oday Rasheed**, Chair for the prestigious International Prize for Arab Fiction and the founder and chairman of the Cultural Circle in Kuwait **Taleb Al-Refai**, **Hafiz Ali Abdulla** Arts program manager at Cultural Development Centre at Qatar Foundation and acclaimed filmmaker in his own right, and **Fadel Al Muhairi**, filmmaker from the UAE who won the competition for Emirati filmmakers at Abu Dhabi's Middle East International Film Festival (2007) for his first feature film *A Corsair's Tale*.

FIPRESCI, the International Federation of Film Critics, has sent a jury which will focus on Arab Films from the Narrative Feature, New Horizons and Documentary Feature Competition sections. The FIPRESCI jury is lead by **Wilfried Reichart** (Germany) and includes **Janusz Wróblewski** (Poland), **Madhu Eravankara** (India), **Mostafa Messnaoui** (Morocco) and **Vicky Habib** (Lebanon). NETPAC, the Network for the

Promotion of Asia Cinema, is the leading platform for the discovery and promotion of Asian cinema. The NETPAC Jury will select an Asian film from the from the Narrative, New Horizons and Documentary Feature competitions as the feature winner of the NETPAC Award. The jurors are: **Gulbara Tolomushova** (Kyrgyzstan), **Deborah Young** (USA) and **Ziad Khatlan** (Iraq / U.K).

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To contact the Press Office, email press@adff.ae
Pictures and Footage can be downloaded from our FTP server.
<https://abudhabifilmfestival.exavault.com>
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About The Abu Dhabi Film Festival

The 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 work of Arab filmmakers is presented in competition with that of the international film industry's most acclaimed talent.

About twofour54

twofour54, the commercial arm of the Media Zone Authority-Abu Dhabi, is one of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region's leading media and entertainment hubs. As part of its mission, twofour54 is driving the development of the creative industries in the region, supporting talent and content development initiatives, creativity and young entrepreneurs.

Its initiatives are contributing to the growth and diversity of the Abu Dhabi economy and its campus is home to over 200 local, regional and international companies, including Ubisoft, Cartoon Network, Sky News Arabia, CNN, Flash Entertainment, Sport 360, Reed Exhibitions, Charisma, Tahadi and Jawaker.

twofour54 provides a range of services including: training across all media sectors; business development and funding support to UAE nationals and other Arabs with great ideas; a creativity lab that allows members to get involved in creative projects; and it facilitates world-class content through its production and post-production facilities. These services are supported by tawasol, facilitating easy business set-up and providing ongoing support services.

twofour54 powers the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, Abu Dhabi Media Summit and TROPFEST Arabia each year to drive the development of a vibrant film and entertainment industry.