

Abu Dhabi, UAE - FOR RELEASE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2010

Free Film Workshops at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival Offer a Glimpse into the Future of Filmmaking

Today (Oct 20), the Abu Dhabi Film Festival presents a day of exciting interactive film activities with the New York Film Academy Abu Dhabi. The support and development of the local film community is at the heart of the Festival's mission and this special event provides a unique opportunity for the public to interact with young filmmakers, meet industry experts and witness a live film shoot. The day concludes with a retrospective of the best films produced by the students at the New York Film Academy Abu Dhabi since its launch in 2008, giving the audience an insight into the future of local filmmaking. **New York Film Academy Events** takes place in the *Festival Tent* at 2:00 p.m.

Today, the Festival is also proud to host four world premieres - a unique set of brand new films, which span much of the wide range of contemporary filmmaking. Tigmanshu Dhulia's hotly anticipated new film *Paan Singh Tomar* is presented as a **Gala Screening** tonight, which will be attended by the director along with two of the film's stars, Mahie Gill and Irrfan Khan. Based on the real life story of the legendary Indian runner-turned-rebel of the same name, the film succeeds in combining Bollywood action with the unlikely story of an athlete, rebel and outlaw that is so astonishing it must be true. This Gala Screening takes place at the Emirates Palace, 9:45 p.m.

The world premiere of *Here Comes the Rain*, screened as part of this year's **Narrative Competition**, also takes place today and will be attended by lead actor Hassan Mrad. The second feature film by Bahij Hojeij tells the story of three women, whose loved ones disappeared in Lebanon's devastating civil war nearly 20 years ago. Inspired by real life, the film, supported by SANAD, ADFF's development and post-production fund, carefully calibrates the dramatic potency of the subject matter to offer a nuanced reflection of loss, mourning and the unsettling effects of normalcy on those who return home after years in captivity. Screening at 9:30 p.m., Marina Mall 5.

Carlos, Olivier Assayas' cinematic rendering of the life of the notorious terrorist, assassin and mercenary nicknamed "Carlos the Jackal", is also part of the Narrative Competition. The film portrays a contradictory man of criminal genius and numerous obsessions, who became world famous as a perpetrator of ruthless commando operations. Assayas succeeds in delivering a riveting version of a story that, until now, has been limited to flat and mercenary portrayals. This screening takes place at 6:00 p.m. at the Emirates Palace.

Today's line-up of films from the **Documentary Competition** also features a world premiere: *A Man's Story* by Varon Bonicos, who followed the celebrity fashion designer Ozwald Boateng for the past twelve years. Chronicling Boateng's path to becoming one of the most glamorous tailors on London's iconic Savile Row, the film is as unique and compelling as its subject. *A Man's Story* is shown at Abu Dhabi Theater, 6:30 p.m.

We Were Communists by Lebanese documentary filmmaker Maher Abu Samra is also part of the Documentary Competition this year. The film revolves around a band of brothers, former comrades-in-arms affiliated to the Lebanese Communist Party, who gather at the filmmaker's house to map out the new lines of tension and potential conflict that characterize today's Beirut. Artistically and politically audacious, the film travels the chimera of Lebanon's post-war landscape. *We Were Communists* was co-funded by the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, where it was shown as a work-in-progress last year, before it was screened at the Venice Film Festival last month. Screening tonight at Marina Mall 2, 10:00 p.m.

Living Skin, the debut feature of the young Egyptian director Fawzi Saleh, also celebrates its world premiere at the Festival today. The film will be screened in the presence of the film's producer, the Egyptian film star Mahmoud Hemada. An unflinching investigation into the dire living conditions of children working in Cairo's tanneries, this powerful, socially engaged film is part of the **New Horizons / Afaq Jadida Competition** and screens at Marina Mall 1, 4:45 p.m.

Today's films from the New Horizons / Afaq Jadida Competition also include two Middle East Premieres. Iranian director Zamani Esmati's *Orion* is a gripping psychological drama and a defiant plea against state-enforced moral codes. The film was entirely self-financed, shot on location without permits and edited in consultation with the acclaimed writer and director

Jafar Panahi, whose short film *The Accordion* was shown at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival's Opening Night this year. *Orion* is screened at Marina Mall 1, 7:15 p.m.

El Ambulante tells the story of Daniel Burmeister, who wanders on his own through the small towns and villages of his homeland Argentina, with nothing but a broken down car, a video camera and a light. The film, directed by the Argentinean filmmakers Lucas Marcheggiano, Eduardo de la Serna and Adriana Yurcovich, proves that cinematic art can be found in the humblest of places. Showing at Abu Dhabi Theater, 10:00 p.m.

"What in the World Are We Doing to Our World?", the Festival's special program of environmental films, features the Middle East premiere of Lorenz Knauer's latest documentary, *Jane's Journey*, about the world-famous primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall. Fusing archive footage with impressions from Goodall's recent voyage across several continents, the film shines a light on her intense and exciting past, delivering an intimate portrayal of the woman whose scientific breakthroughs are considered to be among the most important of the past century. Screening at Marina Mall 4, 7:00 p.m.

Today's screening schedule also includes the next round of short films from this year's **Emirates Competition** and **Short Film Competition**, with three unique programs being shown at Marina Mall. *Emirates Competition 5 - Student Shorts Documentary* is shown at Marina Mall 1, 1:00 p.m. *Shorts Competition 3* screens at 4:00 p.m., followed by *Student Shorts Competition 2* is screened at Marina Mall 8, 6:45 p.m. Today's line-up of short films concludes with *Shorts Competition 4*, taking place at 10:00 p.m., both at Marina Mall 4.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

As the only Festival in the region where works by Arab filmmakers are represented equally in competition with those by major talents of world cinema, the Festival offers Abu Dhabi's diverse and enthusiastic audiences a means of engaging with their own and others' cultures through the art of cinema. At the same time, a strong focus on the bold new voices of Arab cinema connects with Abu Dhabi's role as a burgeoning cultural capital in the region and marks the Festival as a place for the world to discover and gauge the pulse of recent Arab film.

ABU DHABI FILM
مهرجان FESTIVAL
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The Abu Dhabi Film Festival Press Office is at your disposal for any questions and further information. Email press@adff.ae or call +971 2 690 8339 / +971 2 690 8340 to find out more.

General press materials including pictures, biographies and press kits are available on:

<http://www.abudhabifilmfestival.ae/en/press/press-center/>

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The latest pictures taken at the 2010 edition of the Abu Film Festival can be downloaded from our FTP server.

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