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Interview with Ali Al Jabri, Director of the Abu Dhabi Film Festival

What are some of the highlights of this year's programme and what can the audience expect from the 7th edition of the Festival?

In programming our festival we have always strived to bring to Abu Dhabi the best of Arab and international cinema. It creates a unique blend of titles, with some of the most celebrated films that screen in major festivals in the first half of the year, together with brand new films that have just had their world premiere at festivals like Toronto and Venice.

For instance, this year we are glad to include in our programme some of the award-winning films from the Berlinale: AN EPISODE IN THE LIFE OF AN IRON Picker by Denis Tanovich, CHILD’S POSE by Pozitia Copilului and HARMONY LESSONS by Emir Baigazin. From Cannes we are screening TOUCH OF SIN by Jia Zhang-ke, LIKE FATHER LIKE SON by Irokazu Kore-eda and THE MISSING PICTURE by Rithy Panh.

We selected a number of films that have since debuted at Venice or Toronto, including HOLY GRA by Gianfranco Rosi, which is the first documentary to be awarded a Golden Lion in Venice. It’s a very interesting mix of films that range from the delightful family-film AMAZONIA, which was the closing film of Venice, to more auteur films such as IDA by Pavel Pawlikowski, NIGHT MOVES by Kelly Reichardt or MY NAME IS HMMM... by Agnès Troublé.

Arab films have been receiving accolades at major festivals this year and we’re proud to bring them to Abu Dhabi. Some of the titles screening in Abu Dhabi following international acclaim include GIRAFFADA by Rani Massalha, BASTARDO by Nejib Belkhadi, and RAGS AND TATTERS by Ahmed Abdallah.

ADFF is known for showcasing quality Arabic films, how is this year’s programme?

Our vision for the festival has always been to showcase Arab cinema alongside established international films and I am very happy to say, in our 7th year, we are carrying on this tradition. ADFF was the first festival in the MENA region to have Arab films competing side-by-side with international ones and we’re proud to maintain that principle. There is one exception: our Emirates Film Competition is devoted to the short filmmakers of the Gulf, and it provides emerging talents with an international platform.

All in all, we have 13 Arab feature films competing in the different sections of the programme and, although attracting world premieres is not our main goal, we are happy to say that seven of them will be world premieres. There are also seven Arabic short films which will have their world premiere in Abu Dhabi. Additionally we have another 5 non Arabic films which will celebrate their world premiere at the Festival and begin their international journey in Abu Dhabi.

What are the SANAD funded films in this year’s programme?

We feel that the festival is the perfect platform for the international launch of SANAD funded films, for instance three of the SANAD-funded films that premiered at ADFF in 2012 went on
to be screened in Berlin and many other festivals: A WORLD NOT OURS by Mahdi Faifal, COMING FORTH BY DAY by Hala Lotfy and WHEN I SAW YOU by Anne Marie Jacir. MY SWEET PEPPER LAND by Hiner Saleem, which was one of the first films to receive SANAD support this year was selected in Un Certain Regard at Cannes.

The 2013 festival will present the world premieres of the most recent newest SANAD projects. Hicham Ayouch’s FEVERS will premiere in the Narrative Competition alongside IN THE SANDS OF BABYLON by Mohamed Jabarah Al-Daradji. EL GORT by Hamza Ouni and WHISPERS OF THE CITIES by Kasim Abid will both be featured in the Documentary Competition. In the New Horizons Competition there is VILLA 69 directed by Ayten Amin. I am sure that like their predecessors these films will go on to gain international recognition.

In addition to the SANAD selection, we will also have the World Premieres of CAIRO DRIVE by Sherief Elkatsha and HANGING DATES UNDER ALEPPO’S CITADEL by Mohammad Soueid.

**Last year, the Arabic documentaries were very well received, do you see the same happening this year?**

There has been an important change in production of low budget films in this direction in the last 4 years. Like last year, with A WORLD NOT OURS and 4 other documentaries in competition, we are again seeing very strong documentaries from the Middle East. This year we have 4 documentaries from 4 different countries on 4 different subjects.

I believe this is largely due to the work SANAD, Afaq, Injaz and the Doha Film Institute are doing around the funding and development of filmmaking. Projects have had a workable industry budget and a long, carefully planned preparation period which has allowed this new cinema language to evolve in the region. It also allows the films to compete internationally.

**In detail, how did you experience the selection process? How did you decide with your team about the entries for this year’s edition?**

This is not an easy question to answer; there are many elements that are instrumental for the decision. For example the quality of the film: good production values, good acting and a good story are very important, but these factors are not enough. They should blend together and transform a work into something special, an adventure that’s worth following. A film should take its audience to new places, be it a touching trip into human feelings or an engrossing adventure into deep space. Regardless of genre and style, the film has to establish a dialogue with the viewer.

We travel the world all year, we “cast our nets”, explore, and try to find the most outstanding films made – and then we bring them to Abu Dhabi. We want to open doors and windows so people here can see what is going on in other parts of the world – and how these stories are transformed into cinematic language. We also want to present a variety of cultures and visions: that’s a very important factor that contributes to the overall shape of the program.
Are there any special guests already confirmed?

A remarkable woman will be honoured with a Black Pearl Career Achievement Award this year: Hiam Abbass.

Hiam Abbass is a renowned Palestinian actress who has recently turned her hand to directing. She has enjoyed considerable international success as an actor and has won numerous acting awards. She appeared in Thomas McCarthy’s highly acclaimed film THE VISITOR (2007) and Steven Spielberg’s MUNICH (2005). She also directed two short films before making her feature debut as a director with INHERITANCE in 2012, which screened at the Venice Film Festival. As well as honoring her with the award, we will screen the world premiere of her most recent film, PEACE AFTER MARRIAGE by Ghazi Albuliwi.

Last year, you took the reins of the ADFF with great success. How were the preparations different from your first edition?

Unlike last year, when I took over ADFF, I had a full year cycle to prepare this edition of the Festival. But a Festival Director isn’t alone in organizing an event like this. From the beginning I was able to build strong relationships with my team, the permanent staff as well as the many colleagues that join the team as the Festival approaches. I also had the time to review the various mechanics that are necessary to build a Festival. Getting an event of this size together involves a very fine-tuned interaction of many players, and I am especially happy to be able to count on a team that is in full control of all processes.

Biographical Sketch
Ali Al-Jabri

Ali Al-Jabri was born in 1974 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. He is a professional theatre and film actor. He started his career in acting as a theatre actor in 1988, and has worked with many established and respectful directors such as Jawad Al-Asadi, Ouni Karroumi, and Naji Al-Hai.

In 2001, he moved his acting career to film and has since appeared in many short films, as well as features. His first feature film was called "Dream" by Hani Al Shaibani in 2005. However, he is most known for his performance in the Emirati feature length film 'The Circle' by Nawaf Al-Janahi. The film was highly praised by both the audience and film critics, and was described as "a major turning point in Emirati and Gulf cinema". More recently, in 2011, he acted again in Nawaf Al Janahi’s upcoming feature film "Sea Shadow". Ali’s credits also include many TV series.

However, Ali doesn’t just act, he also directed four short films titled: "Smoke", "Solo", "Consultant", and "Calendar". All of which have been screened and competed at film festivals like the Dubai International Film Festival, Gulf Film Festival and Oran Film Festival in Algeria. He has also attended numerous other film festivals like the Cannes Film Festival, Kazan Film Festival, Festival des 3 Continentes in Nantes, and the Festival d’Avignon of theatre. More recently, he was part of the Jury panel for the EMMYS Semi Final Round of judging (Drama Category) in Abu Dhabi.
Ali held the position of Secretary General at the Emirates Film Competition from 2001 to 2009. In 2010 and 2011 he was Managing Director of the Emirates Film Competition under the Abu Dhabi Film Festival umbrella. In 2012 Ali Al Jabri was appointed Director of ADFF.
Narrative Feature Competition

Exciting vision and original storytelling in work from international filmmakers.

The Awards

Films in this section compete for Awards in these categories:

- Black Pearl Award for Best Narrative Film ($100,000), shared equally between the director and the production company
- Special Jury Award ($50,000)
- Best Film from the Arab World ($50,000), shared equally between the director and the production company
- Best Director from the Arab World ($25,000)
- Best Actor (Specially Engraved Jaeger-LeCoultre Reverso Watch)
- Best Actress (Specially Engraved Jaeger-LeCoultre Reverso Watch)

The Films

**BARBER’S TALES** (Mga kuwentong barbero) directed by Jun Robles Lana
Philippines - 120 min.
With: Eugene Domingo, Eddie Garcia, Iza Calzado, Gladys Reyes, Shamaine Buencamino
Middle East Premiere

**ENEMY** directed by Denis Villeneuve
Canada, Spain - 90 min.
With: Jake Gyllenhaal, Mélanie Laurent, Isabella Rosselini, Sarah Gadon
Middle East Premiere

**AN EPISODE IN THE LIFE OF AN IRON PICKER** (Epizoda u zivotu beraca zeljeza)
directed by Danis Tanović
Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Slovenia, Italy - 74 min.
With: Senada Alimanović, Nazif Mujić
Middle East Premiere

**FEVERS** (Fièvres) directed by Hicham Ayouch
Morocco, France, UAE - 90 min.
With: Slimane Dazi, Didier Michon, Lounes Tazairt, Farida Amrouche
World Premiere – SANAD Grantee - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

**FOR THOSE WHO CAN TELL NO TALES** (Za one koji ne mogu da govore)
directed by Jasmila Žbanić
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Qatar - 75 min.
With: Kym Vercoe, Boris Isakovic, Simon McBurney, Branko Cvejic
Middle East Premiere

**IDA** directed by Pawel Pawlikowski
Poland, Denmark - 80 min.
With: Agata Trzebuchowska, Agata Kulesza, Dawid Ogrodnik, Joanna Kulig
Middle East Premiere
IN THE SANDS OF BABYLON (Taht remal Babyl) directed by Mohamed Jabarah Al-Daradji
Iraq, UK, Netherlands, UAE - 92 min.
With: Samer Qahtan, Ameer Al Daradji, Hassan Bkheet, Hayder Jumaa
World Premiere – SANAD Grantee

JEALOUSY (La Jalousie) directed by Philippe Garrel
France - 76 min.
With: Louis Garrel, Anna Mouglalis, Rebecca Convenant, Olga Milshtein, Esther Garrrel
Middle East Premiere

MY SWEET PEPPER LAND directed by Hiner Saleem
Iraq, France, Germany, UAE - 95 min.
With: Golshifteh Farahani, Korkmaz Arslan, Suat Usta, Mir Murad Bedirxan, Feyyaz Doman
Middle East Premiere – SANAD Grantee

NIGHT MOVES directed by Kelly Reichardt
USA - 112 min.
With: Jesse Eisenberg, Dakota Fanning, Peter Sarsgaard
Middle East Premiere

PHILOMENA directed by Stephen Frears
UK, USA, France - 97 min.
With: Michelle Fairly, Judi Dench, Steve Coogan
Middle East Premiere

RAGS AND TATTERS (Farsh wa ghata) directed by Ahmad Abdallah
Egypt - 87 min.
With: Asser Yassin, Amr Abed, Yara Gubran, Mohamed Mamdouh, Atef Yousef
Middle East Premiere

SIDDHARTH directed by Richie Mehta
India, Canada - 96 min.
With: Rajesh Tailang, Tannishtha Chatterjee, Anurag Arora, Geeta Agrawal Sharma
Middle East Premiere- also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

THE RECONSTRUCTION (La reconstrucción) directed by Juan Esteban Taratuto
Argentina - 93 min.
With: Diego Peretti, Claudia Fontan, Alfredo Casero
Middle East Premiere

THE ROOFTOPS (Es-stouh) directed by Merzak Allouache
Algeria, France, Qatar - 91 min.
With: Adila Bendimerad, Nassima Belmihoub, Ahcene Benzerari, Aïssa Chouat, Mourad Khen
Middle East Premiere

A TOUCH OF SIN (Tian zhu ding) directed by Jia Zhangke
China, Japan - 129 min.
With: Zhao Tao, Jiang Wu, Wang Baoqiang, Luo Lanshan
Middle East Premiere

– End of Narrative Feature Competition –
New Horizons (Afaq Jadida) Competition

Fresh styles and challenging ideas in narrative work by first and second-time directors from around the world.

The Awards

Films in this section compete for Awards in these categories:

- Black Pearl Award for Best New Horizons Film ($100,000), shared equally between the director and the production company
- Special Jury Award ($50,000)
- Best Film from the Arab World ($50,000), shared equally between the director and the production company
- Best Director from the Arab World ($25,000)
- Best Actor
- Best Actress

The Films

**BASTARDO** directed by Nejib Belkadhi
Tunisia, France, Qatar - 106 min.
With: Abdel Moneem Chouayat, Chedly Arfaoui, Lobna Noomana, Lobna Noomene
Middle East Premiere – also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

**BEFORE SNOWFALL** (Før snøen faller) directed by Hisham Zaman
Iraq, Norway, Germany - 105 min.
With: Taher Abdullah Taher, Suzan Ilir, Bahar Ozen
Middle East Premiere - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

**BELLE** directed by Amma Asante
UK - 104 min.
With: Gugu Mbatha Raw, Tom Wilkinson, Sarah Gadon, Sam Reid, Emily Watson
Middle East Premiere

**BLIND DATES** (Brma paemnebi) directed by Levan Koguashvili
Georgia - 97 min.
With: Andro Sakhvarelidze, Ia Sukhitashvili, Archil Kikodze
Middle East Premiere

**CANOPY** directed by Aaron Wilson
Australia - 84 min.
With: Khan Chittenden, Mo Tzu-Yi, Yoshi Yamamoto, Robert Menzies, Edwina Wren
Middle East Premiere

**THE DOUBLE** directed by Richard Ayoade
UK - 93 min.
With: Jesse Eisenberg, Mia Wasikowska, Wallace Shawn, Noah Taylor
Middle East Premiere
GIRAFFADA directed by Rani Massalha
Palestine, France, Germany, Italy - 81 min.
With: Saleh Bakri, Laure de Clermont, Ahmed Bayatra, Roschdy Zem, Mohammed Bakri
Middle East Premiere - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

LOVE ME (Elsk meg) directed by Hanne Myren
Norway – 75 min.
With: Hanne Myren
World Premiere

MY NAME IS HMMP... (Je m'appelle Hmmm...) directed by Agnès Troublé
France - 121 min.
With: Lou-Léïia Demerliac, Douglas Gordon, Sylvie Testud, Jacques Bonnaffé
Middle East Premiere - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

POTOSÍ directed by Alfredo Castruita
Mexico - 120 min.
With: Arcelia Ramírez, Aldo Verastegui, Don Margarito Sánchez
International Premiere

QISSA directed by Anup Singh
India, Germany, Netherlands, France - 109 min.
With: Irrfan Khan, Tisca Chopra, Tillotama Shome, Rasika Dugal
Middle East Premiere

SALVO directed by Fabio Grassadonia, Antonio Piazza
Italy - 103 min.
With: Saleh Bakri, Sara Serraiocco, Luigi Lo Cascio, Mario Pupella
Middle East Premiere

SHORT TERM 12 directed by Destin Daniel Cretton
USA - 96 min.
With: Brie Larson, John Gallagher Jr, Kaitlyn Dever, Rami Malek
Middle East Premiere - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

STILL LIFE directed by Uberto Pasolini
Italy, United Kingdom - 87 min.
With: Eddie Marsan, Joanne Froggatt

VILLA 69 directed by Ayten Amin
Egypt, UAE - 108 min.
With: Khaled Abou Naga
World Premiere – SANAD Grantee

– End of New Horizons (Afaq Jadida) Competition –
Documentary Feature Competition

Non-fiction films which explore remarkable stories and issues in the world around us.

The Awards

Films in this section compete for Awards in these categories:

- Black Pearl Award in memory of Jake Ebert for Best Documentary Film ($80,000), shared equally between the director and the production company
- Special Jury Award ($40,000)
- Best Film from the Arab World ($50,000), shared equally between the director and the production company
- Best Producer from the Arab World ($25,000)

The Films

**BLACKFISH** directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite  
USA - 83 min.  
Also featured in OUR WORLD Competition

**CAIRO DRIVE** directed by Sherief Elkatsha  
Egypt - 77 min.  
World Premiere

**DOCTOR FABRE WILL CURE YOU** directed by Pierre Coulibeuf  
Belgium, France - 61 min.  
International Premiere

**EL GORT** (Jamal al-barrouta) directed by Hamza Ouni  
Tunisia, UAE - 86 min.  
World Premiere - SANAD Grantee

**HANGING DATES UNDER ALEPPO’S CITADEL**  
(The Boy from Aleppo / Balahon taalaka tahta qalaat Halab) directed by Mohammad Soueid  
Lebanon, UAE - 71 min.  
World Premiere

**HOLY GRA** directed by Gianfranco Rosi  
Italy - 93 min.  
Middle East Premiere

**INREALLIFE** directed by Beeban Kidron  
UK - 86 min.  
Middle East Premiere - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

**THE KILL TEAM** directed by Dan Krauss  
USA - 79 min.  
International Premiere
MY STOLEN REVOLUTION (Min stulna revolution) directed by Nahid Persson Sarvestani
Sweden - 75 min.
Middle East Premiere

SCHOOL OF BABEL (La Cour de Babel) directed by Julie Bertuccelli
France - 90 min.
World Premiere - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

THESE BIRDS WALK directed by Omar Mullick, Bassem Tariq
Pakistan, USA - 72 min.
Middle East Premiere - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

WALLS (Muri) directed by Francesco Conversano, Nene Grignaffini
Italy - 85 min.
International Premiere

WHISPERS OF THE CITIES (Hams al-mudan) directed by Kasim Abid
Iraq, UAE - 62 min.
World Premiere - SANAD Grantee

WHO IS DAYANI CRISTAL? directed by Marc Silver
UK, Mexico - 80 min.
Middle East Premiere

– End of Documentary Feature Competition –
Child Protection Award

Thanks to the magic of film we can live different lives and have different experiences that take us far away in space and time. Since its early days cinema has always cared about children. Who did not shed a tear watching THE KID by Charlie Chaplin? Filmmakers are concerned about all kinds of children: children with loving parents, children lonely and abused, children obliged to find their own way to adulthood and happiness. These stories make us care more and better understand those young human beings in whose hands will rest the future of the world.

ADFF is delighted to have in its program a very important new award: The Child Protection Award created in partnership with the Child Protection Centre (Ministry of Interior) with the aim of calling attention to those films that raise awareness about the situation of abused or neglected children or promote prevention measures in this regard.

The MOI Child Protection Centre works to ensure the safety and security of children through effective communication with all stakeholders, developing meaningful internal and external partnerships and ensuring implementation and regulation of child protection legislation, policies and best international practices which make the UAE child protection center a model of excellence.

The Awards

- Child Protection Award for Best Film (US$70,000)
- Child Protection Award for Best Script (US$30,000)

Feature Films

**BASTARDO** directed by Nejib Belkadhi
Tunisia, France, Qatar - 106 min.
With: Abdel Moneem Chouayat, Chedly Arfaoui, Lobna Noomana, Lobna Noomene
Middle East Premiere – also featured in NEW HORIZONS COMPETITION

**BEFORE SNOWFALL** (Før snøen faller) directed by Hisham Zaman
Iraq, Norway, Germany - 105 min.
With: Taher Abdullah Taher, Suzan Ilir, Bahar Ozen
Middle East Premiere - also featured in NEW HORIZONS COMPETITION

**FANDRY** directed by Nagraj Manjule
India - 103 min.
With: Kishor Kadam, Chhaya Kadam, Somnath Avghade, Suraj Pawar
Middle East Premiere - also featured in SHOWCASE
FEVERS (Fièvres) directed by Hicham Ayouch
Morocco, France, UAE - 90 min.
With: Slimane Dazi, Didier Michon, Lounes Tazairt, Farida Amrouche
World Premiere - SANAD Grantee - also featured in NARRATIVE COMPETITION

GIRAFFADA directed by Rani Massalha
Palestine, France, Germany, Italy - 81 min.
With: Saleh Bakri, Laure de Clermont, Ahmed Bayatra, Roschdy Zem, Mohammed Bakri
Middle East Premiere - also featured in NEW HORIZONS COMPETITION

HARMONY LESSONS (Uroki garmonii) directed by Emir Baigazin
Kazakhstan, France, Germany - 115 min.
With: Timur Aidarbekov, Asian Anarbayev, Mukhtar Andassov
Middle East Premiere
Feature Narrative- also featured in SHOWCASE

HIDE YOUR SMILING FACES directed by Daniel Patrick Carbone
USA - 81 min.
With: Ryan Jones, Nathan Varnson, Colm O'Leary, Christina Starbuck
Middle East Premiere
Feature Narrative - also featured in SHOWCASE

INREALLIFE directed by Beeban Kidron
UK - 86 min.
Middle East Premiere - also featured in DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON (Soshite chichi ni naru) directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda
Japan - 120 min.
With: Fukuyama Masaharu, Ono Machiko, Maki Yoko, Lily Franky
Middle East Premiere
Feature Narrative - also featured in SHOWCASE

MY NAME IS HMMM... (Je m'appelle Hmmmm...) directed by Agnès Troublé
France - 121 min.
With: Lou-Lélia Demerliac, Douglas Gordon, Sylvie Testud, Jacques Bonnaffé
Middle East Premiere
Feature Narrative - also featured in SHOWCASE

SCHOOL OF BABEL (La Cour de Babel) directed by Julie Bertuccelli
France - 90 min.
World Premiere - also featured in DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

SHORT TERM 12 directed by Destin Daniel Cretton
USA - 96 min.
With: Brie Larson, John Gallagher Jr, Kaitlyn Dever, Rami Malek
Middle East Premiere - also featured in NEW HORIZONS COMPETITION

SIDDHARTH directed by Richie Mehta
India, Canada - 96 min.
With: Rajesh Tailang, Tannishtha Chatterjee, Anurag Arora, Geeta Agrawal Sharma
Middle East Premiere- also featured in NARRATIVE COMPETITION

THESE BIRDS WALK directed by Omar Mullick, Bassem Tariq
Pakistan, USA - 72 min.
Middle East Premiere - also featured in DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION
Short Films
all featured also in SHORT FILM COMPETITION

**AGRI AND THE MOUNTAIN** directed by Hasan Serin
Turkey - 13 min.
Middle East Premiere

**THE QUEEN** directed by Manuel Abramovich
Argentina - 18 min.
World Premiere

**ZAKARIA** directed by Leyla Bouzid
France, Tunisia - 27 min.
International Premiere

**WHALE VALLEY** directed by Gudmundur Arnar Gudmundsson
Denmark - 15 min.
Middle East Premiere

**THE CONTAGIOUS APPARITIONS OF DAMBAREY DENDRITE**
directed by Bibhusan Basnet, Pooja Gurung
Nepal - 18 min.
International Premiere
Our World Competition

Films that raise awareness of environmental and related social issues.

The Award

The award goes to the film in the Our World Competition that shows the best potential to broaden public awareness of environmental and related social issues. MASDAR is the official Partner of the Our World Competition.

The Films

**AATSINKI: THE STORY OF ARCTIC COWBOYS** directed by Jessica Oreck
USA, Finland - 85 min.
With: Aarne Aatsinki, Lasse Aatsinki, Raisa Korpela
Middle East Premiere
Feature Documentary - also featured in SHOWCASE

**AMAZONIA** directed by Thierry Ragobert
Brazil, France - 83 min.
Middle East Premiere
Feature Documentary - also featured in SHOWCASE

**BLACKFISH** directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite
USA - 83 min.
Feature Documentary - also featured in DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

**EMPTYING THE SKIES** directed by Douglas Kass
USA - 75 min.
Middle East Premiere
Feature Documentary – also featured in SHOWCASE

**FATAL ASSISTANCE** (Assistance mortelle) directed by Raoul Peck
France, Haiti, USA, Belgium - 100 min.
Feature Documentary - also featured in SHOWCASE

**HARLOCK: SPACE PIRATE** directed by Shinji Aramaki
Japan - 115 min.
With: Maaya Sakamoto, Yû Aoi, Shun Oguri, Haruma Miura, Miyuki Sawashiro
Middle East Premiere
Feature Animation - also featured in SHOWCASE

**HOLY FIELD HOLY WAR** directed by Lech Kowalski
France, Poland - 105 min.
Middle East Premiere
Feature Documentary - also featured in SHOWCASE

**PANDORA’S PROMISE** directed by Robert Stone
USA - 87 min.
Middle East Premiere
Feature Documentary - also featured in SHOWCASE

- End of Our World Competition -
Showcase

A panorama of recent outstanding films from around the world.

Films in this section are eligible for the Festival’s Audience Award ($40,000), to be shared between the producer ($20,000) and the world sales agent or local distributor ($20,000). Both feature-length narratives and documentaries are eligible for this award.

The Films

**AATSINKI: THE STORY OF ARCTIC COWBOYS** directed by Jessica Oreck
USA, Finland - 85 min.
With: Aarne Aatsinki, Lasse Aatsinki, Raisa Korpela
Middle East Premiere
Feature Documentary - also featured in OUR WORLD Competition

**AMAZONIA** directed by Thierry Ragobert
Brazil, France - 83 min.
Middle East Premiere
Feature Documentary - also featured in the OUR WORLD Competition

**THE BROKEN CIRCLE BREAKDOWN** directed by Felix van Groeningen
Belgium - 110 min.
With: Veerle Baetens, Johan Heldenbergh, Nell Cattrysse, Geert Van Rampelberg
Middle East Premiere
Feature Narrative

**CAMILLE CLAUDEL 1915** directed by Bruno Dumont
France - 95 min.
With: Juliette Binoche, Jean-Luc Vincent, Emmanuelle Kauffman, Marion Keller
Middle East Premiere
Feature Narrative

**CHILD’S POSE** (Pozitia copilului) directed by Calin Peter Netzer
Romania - 112 min.
With: Luminita Gheorghiu, Bogdan Dumitrache, Florin Zamfirescu, Natasa Raab
Middle East Premiere
Feature Narrative

**DJINN** directed by Tobe Hooper
UAE - 86 min.
With: Aiysha Hart, Khalid Laith, Paul Luebke
World Premiere
Feature Narrative

**EMPTYING THE SKIES** directed by Douglas Kass
USA - 75 min.
Middle East Premiere
Feature Documentary – also featured in OUR WORLD competition
**ENOUGH SAID** directed by Nicole Holofcener
USA - 93 min.
With: Julia Louis-Dreyfus, James Gandolfini, Catherine Keener, Toni Collette
Middle East Premiere
Feature Narrative

**FANDRY** directed by Nagraj Manjule
India - 103 min.
With: Kishor Kadam, Chhaya Kadam, Somnath Avghade, Suraj Pawar
Middle East Premiere
Feature Narrative - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

**FATAL ASSISTANCE** (Assistance mortelle) directed by Raoul Peck
France, Haiti, USA, Belgium - 100 min.
Feature Documentary - also featured in OUR WORLD Competition

**THE GEOGRAPHER DRANK HIS GLOBE AWAY** (Geograf globus propil)
directed by Alexander Veledinsky
Russia - 120 min.
With: Konstantin Khabensky, Elena Liadova, Alexander Robak
Middle East Premiere
Feature Narrative

**HARLOCK: SPACE PIRATE** directed by Shinji Aramaki
Japan - 115 min.
With: Maaya Sakamoto, Yû Aoi, Shun Oguri, Haruma Miura, Miyuki Sawashiro
Middle East Premiere
Feature Animation - also featured in OUR WORLD competition

**HARMONY LESSONS** (Uroki garmonii) directed by Emir Baigazin
Kazakhstan, France, Germany - 115 min.
With: Timur Aidarbekov, Aslan Anarbayev, Mukhtar Andassov
Middle East Premiere
Feature Narrative - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

**HIDE YOUR SMILING FACES** directed by Daniel Patrick Carbone
USA - 81 min.
With: Ryan Jones, Nathan Varnson, Colm O'Leary, Christina Starbuck
Middle East Premiere
Feature Narrative - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

**HOLY FIELD HOLY WAR** directed by Lech Kowalski
France, Poland - 105 min.
Middle East Premiere
Feature Documentary - also featured in OUR WORLD Competition

**THE JEWELLERY BOX** (Goynar baksho) directed by Aparna Sen
India - 139 min.
With: Moushumi Chatterjee, Konkona Sensharma, Saswata Chatterjee
International Premiere
Feature Narrative
**LIFE OF CRIME** directed by Daniel Schechter  
USA – 94 min.  
With: Jennifer Aniston, Mos Def, Tim Robbins  
Middle East Premiere  
Feature Narrative – OPENING FILM

**LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON** (Soshite chichi ni naru) directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda  
Japan - 120 min.  
With: Fukuyama Masaharu, Ono Machiko, Maki Yoko, Lily Franky  
Middle East Premiere  
Feature Narrative- also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

**MADEMOISELLE C** directed by Fabien Constant  
France - 93 min.  
With: Carine Roitfeld, Tom Ford, Donatella Versace, Karl Lagerfeld  
Middle East Premiere  
Feature Documentary

**THE MISSING PICTURE** (L' image manquante) directed by Rithy Panh  
Cambodia, France - 88 min.  
Middle East Premiere  
Feature Documentary

**ONLY LOVERS LEFT ALIVE** directed by Jim Jarmusch  
USA, UK - 123 min.  
With: Tom Hiddleston, Tilda Swinton, Mia Wasikowska, John Hurt, Anton Yelchin.  
Middle East Premiere  
Feature Narrative

**PANDORA'S PROMISE** directed by Robert Stone  
USA - 87 min.  
Middle East Premiere  
Feature Documentary - also featured in OUR WORLD Competition

**PATEMA INVERTED** (Sakasama no Patema) directed by Yasuhiro Yoshiura  
Japan - 99 min.  
With: Nobuhiko Okamoto, Shinya Fukumatsu, Shintaro Oohata  
Middle East Premiere  
Feature Animation

**PEACE AFTER MARRIAGE** directed by Ghazi Albuliwi  
USA - 86 min.  
With: Hiam Abbass, Assaf Cohen, Omer Barnea  
World Premiere  
Feature Narrative

**QUAY D’ORSAY** directed by Bertrand Tavernier  
France – 113 min.  
With: Thierry Lhermitte, Raphael Personnaz, Niels Arestrup, Bruno Raffaelli  
Middle East Premiere  
Feature Narrative
**RUN FOR YOUR LIFE** (Zinda bhaag) directed by Meenu Gaur, Farjad Nabi  
Pakistan - 115 min.  
With: Naseeruddin Shah, Amna Ilyas, Khurram Patras, Zohib & Salman Ahmad Khan  
Middle East Premiere  
Feature Narrative

**TURNING TIDE** directed by Christophe Offensen  
France - 109 min.  
With: Guillaume Canet, François Cluzet, Karine Vanasse  
International Premiere  
Feature Narrative

– End of Showcase –
Special Programmes

Black Pearl Career Achievement Awards

The festival is delighted to recognize also this year an outstanding personality with the Black Pearl Career Achievement Award. The recipient has made admirable contributions to Cinema as an artist, actress and professional:

Hiam Abbass

This multitalented Palestinian actress has been enchanting audiences for more than 20 years. Her versatility is legendary and her talent has been recognized internationally as she has been cast in films by such prominent directors as Steven Spielberg, Julian Schnabel and Jim Jarmusch.

Hiam Abbass was born and raised in a village in northern Galilee. After studying photography in Haifa, Hiam Abbass moved to France in the late 1980s and embarked on a career as a movie actress. She earned fame in the role of a mother who takes up belly dancing in SATIN ROUGE (Red Satin) by Tunisian director Raja Amari. She has worked with top Middle-Eastern filmmakers such as Yousry Nasrallah and Rashid Masharawi, but has also been in demand from French directors (Patrice Chéreau, Jean Becker and Nicolas Saada), and the Americans, Jim Jarmusch (THE LIMITS OF CONTROL), Thomas McCarthy (THE VISITOR) and Julian Schnabel (MIRAL, LE SCAPHANDRE ET LE PAPILLON). She was an adviser to Stephen Spielberg during the filming of MUNICH.

Hiam Abbass had made two short movies, LE PAIN (Bread), in which she acts, and LA DANSE ÉTERNELLE, which she co-wrote. She recently presented her first full-length movie, INHERITANCE, at Venice Days. We'll see Hiam Abbass on screen again soon in the latest movie by Radu Mihaileanu, LA SOURCE DES FEMMES (The Source), in competition at the last Cannes Film Festival.

Festivalgoers will have the opportunity to attend a tribute to one of the great artists of the Arab screen, and to enjoy her comedic talents in the hilarious PEACE AFTER MARRIAGE.

PEACE AFTER MARRIAGE directed by Ghazi Albuliwi
USA - 86 min.
With: Hiam Abbass, Assaf Cohen, Omer Barnea
World Premiere
Celebrating Indian Cinema

One of the world’s most prolific and beloved cinemas commemorates its centenary this year. To join the celebration we have chosen a handful of the country’s most admired films by some of its treasured filmmakers. All of the films are milestones in more ways than one. All have made important contributions to the creation of new film sensibilities and cinematic language even as they reflect socioeconomic, political and cultural realities. But above all, they are intense cinematic experiences marked by artistic daring trying to make sense of the difficult birth of the Indian nation and its aftermath: the trauma of partition alongside the euphoria of independence, the unrealised dreams of an equal society and the ongoing loss of idealism and corruption of values presented in stories that are bound to stimulate.

**ETERNAL THIRST** (Pyaasa) directed by Guru Dutt
India 1957 - 153 min.
In Hindi

**THE GOLDEN THREAD** (Subarnarekha) directed by Ritwik Ghatak
India 1965 - 143 min.
In Bengali

**IN TWO MINDS** (Duvidha) directed by Mani Kaul
India 1973 - 82 min.
In Hindi

**SCORCHING WINDS** (Garm Hawa) directed by M S Sathyu
India 1974 - 146 mins.
In Urdu

**THE CATASTROPHE** (Halodhia Choraye Baodhan Khai) directed by Jahnu Barua
India 1987 - 120 mins
In Assamese

Indian films in other programmes:

In Narrative Competition:
**SIDDHARTH** directed by Richie Mehta. India, Canada – 96 min.

In New Horizons Competition:
**QISSA** directed by Anup Singh. India, Germany, Netherlands, France - 109 min.

In Showcase
**FANDRY** directed by Nagraj Manjule. India - 103 min.

**THE JEWELLERY BOX** (Goynar baksho) directed by Aparna Sen. India - 139 min.
Debut Films by Arab Filmmakers

ADFF provides a platform for Arab filmmakers by offering them an opportunity to show their work and by organizing special programmes related to Arabic cinema. It is our goal to help filmmakers overcome the difficulties they face in reaching wider audiences. For the third year in a row the Festival has expanded its spotlight on Arabic cinema. After the program Naguib Mahfouz: Man of Cinema in 2011 and the celebration of 50 years of Algerian cinema in 2012, we continue this year with the first films of Arab filmmakers whose cinematic debuts not only gave us a glimpse into their future careers, but have since become milestones in the history of Arab cinema.

**DATE WINE** directed by Radhwan El Kashef
Egypt, Switzerland 1999 – 100 min.

**DREAMS OF THE CITY** directed by Mohamad Malas
Syria 1983 – 120 min.

**LE GRAND VOYAGE** directed by Ismael Ferroukhi
Morocco, France 2004 – 108 min.

**HALFAQUINE: BOY OF THE TERRACES** directed by Férid Boughedir
Tunisia 1990 – 98 min.

**OMAR GATLATO** directed by Merzak Allouache
Algeria 1977 – 90 min.

**SILENCES OF THE PALACE** directed by Moufida Tlatli
Tunisia, France 1994 – 127 min.

**UNDEREXPOSURE** directed by Oday Rasheed
Iraq, Germany 2005 – 74 min.

**THE VAGABONDS** directed Daoud Abdel Sayed
Egypt 1985 – 120 min.

**WEST BEIRUT** directed by Ziad Doueiri
Lebanon, France, Norway 1998– 105 min.
Pieces of Time: Classic Odysseys
The Art of Preserving and Restoring Cinema

Abu Dhabi will enjoy a rare opportunity to see newly preserved and redressed cinematic masterpieces in full big-screen glory – a chance for audiences of all ages to discover or re-discover great and timeless films. Younger audiences and families will see for themselves how the great storytellers can bridge time and speak to our hearts and minds.

Claudia Cardinale, Audrey Hepburn, Catherine Deneuve and Grace Kelly are just some of the names featured in our annual invitation for you to rediscover in pristine digitally restored prints. These new prints shine in the best possible quality – sometimes even better than they were in their own time.

ADFF brings you the greatest Western ever made: ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST, directed by Sergio Leone, along with DIAL M FOR MURDER, Alfred Hitchcock’s masterpiece thriller, or one of the greatest adventure films ever made, THE THIEF OF BAGHDAD directed by Ludwig Berger, Michael Powell and Tim Whelan. The Restored Classics showcases the art and beauty of preserving and restoring classic films in our digital age.

**BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY’S** directed by Blake Edwards
USA 1961 - 115 min.
With: Audrey Hepburn, George Peppard, Patricia Neal, Mickey Rooney

**DIAL M FOR MURDER** directed by Alfred Hitchcock
USA 1954 - 105 min.
With: Grace Kelly, Ray Milland, Robert Cummings

**ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST** (C’era una volta il West) directed by Sergio Leone
Italy, USA 1968 - 165 min.
With: Henry Fonda, Claudia Cardinale, Charles Bronson

**THE RED SHOES** directed by Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger
United Kingdom 1948 - 133 min.
With: Anton Walbrook, Marius Goring, Moira Shearer, Robert Helpmann, Léonide Massine

**THE THIEF OF BAGDAD** directed by Ludwig Berger, Michael Powell, Tim Whelan
United Kingdom 1940 - 106 min.
With: Conrad Veidt, Sabu, June Duprez

**THE UMBRELLAS OF CHERBOURG** (Les parapluies de Cherbourg) directed by Jacques Demy
France 1964 - 92 min.
With: Catherine Deneuve, Nino Castelnuovo, Marc Michel

– End of Special Programmes –
Emirates Film Competition

Short films from the UAE and the GCC countries, featuring work from established directors and talented new discoveries.

The Emirates Film Competition (EFC) launched in 2001 as one of the first film competitions in the United Arab Emirates. Beginning with the aim of supporting film production in the Gulf region, the EFC quickly became the foremost platform for local and regional filmmakers to showcase and share their work and experiences. Each year, the EFC has also offered workshops, screened international shorts and published books on important topics in filmmaking as well as profiles of prominent international filmmakers. From the outset, the event's competition and prizes have been at the heart of building the UAE's film culture and film industry.

Biographical Sketch
Saleh Karama Al Ameri

Saleh Karama Al Ameri is a film director, script writer and playwright. Born in Abu Dhabi, he holds a BA degree in media, and studied and practiced journalism in the UK. He has written and directed several movies, including WHAT'S LEFT, which won the award at the EFC in 2003. He was also awarded the Best Short Film prize at the Casablanca International Festival in 2007 and was a Jury member of the EFC in 2007.

Saleh Karama Al Ameri was part of the judging panel in the script writing competition organised on the sidelines of UAE Film Competition in 2010. He wrote the drama movie SOUL CART directed by British director Conrad Clark which was filmed in China and won the Golden Shell award at the San Sebastian International Film Festival. Al Ameri also participated at the Tehran International Festival with THE MIRROR, which he directed, and he also wrote and directed HENNA, a film which won the Middle East International Film Festival award in 2008 in Abu Dhabi.

Considered one of the leading dramatists, Saleh Karama Al Ameri won the best playwright award at the Arab Theater Festival in Cairo in 2007 for his play TRY AGAIN. In addition to this he has also won the UAE's national script writing competition (organized by the Department of Culture and Information) in Sharjah and his works have been highly admired by Arab directors and presented in Arab and European theatres alike.
The Awards

Short Narrative Competition
- 1st Prize (30,000 AED)
- 2nd Prize (25,000 AED)
- Special Jury Award (25,000 AED)
- Best Emirati Film (25,000 AED)
- Best Script (10,000 AED)
- Best Cinematography (10,000 AED)

Short Documentary Competition:
- 1st Prize (30,000 AED)
- 2nd Prize (25,000 AED)
- Special Jury Award (25,000 AED)

Student Short Narrative Competition:
- 1st Prize (20,000 AED)
- 2nd Prize (15,000 AED)
- 3rd Prize (10,000 AED)

Student Short Documentary Competition:
- 1st Prize (20,000 AED)
- 2nd Prize (15,000 AED)
- 3rd Prize (10,000 AED)

The Films

SHORT NARRATIVE COMPETITION

BIDOUN directed by Mohammed Al Ibrahim
Qatar - 20 min.

CROSSING directed by Maitham Al Musawi
Oman - 7 min.

DADDY ABC directed by Hamad Alawar
UAE - 6 min.

ICE directed by Omar Ibrahim
UAE - 20 min.
World Premiere

HAPPY BIRTHDAY YOUNIS directed by Mohammed Al Otaiba
UAE - 15 min.
World Premiere

KARWAH directed by Bader Al Homoud
Saudi Arabia - 28 min.
World Premiere

KETCHUP directed by Hassan Al Jabri
UAE - 5 min.
World Premiere

MADRASA directed by David Moore, Mohammed Saeed Bin Ishaq
UAE - 15 min.
World Premiere
**MR. IDEAS** directed by Belal Antepli  
UAE - 10 min.  
World Premiere

**MUTINY** directed by Ibrahim Al Marzouqi  
UAE - 10 min.

**MY PINK ROOM** directed by Vachan Sharma  
Kuwait - 4 min.  
Middle East Premiere

**ROOSTER'S PHILOSOPHY** directed by Yaser Al Neyadi  
UAE - 20 min.  
World Premiere

**SAFI** directed by Ahmed Zain  
UAE - 8 min.

**SARAB** directed by Maryam Foruhi  
UAE - 12 min.

**STREETCAR** directed by Hala Matar  
Bahrain, USA - 5 min.  
World Premiere

**WITH TIME** directed by Malak Quota  
UAE - 15 min.  
World Premiere

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**STUDENT SHORT NARRATIVE COMPETITION**

**DAUGHTER OF LIFE** directed by Mona Chehade  
UAE - 4 min.  
World Premiere

**FRESHMAN** directed by Deena Stevens  
UAE - 10 min.  
World Premiere

**GRIEF** directed by Omnia El Afifi  
UAE - 8 min.  
World Premiere

**GUILT** directed by Abdulrahman Al Madani  
UAE - 5 min.

**HESSA** directed by Rashed Alnuaimi  
UAE - 5 min.  
World Premiere

**I DON'T UNDERSTAND** directed by Noura Al-Zarouni  
UAE - 4 min.  
World Premiere
**LOVE IMPAIRED** directed by Deena Stevens  
UAE - 8 min.  
World Premiere

**MIRROR** directed by Ameera Madhi  
UAE - 4 min.  
Middle East Premiere

**THORNS OF GREY** directed by Abeke Mamuromu F  
UAE - 18 min.  
World Premiere

**TO A SAFE PLACE** directed by Khamis Al Shehhi  
UAE - 5 min.  
World Premiere

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**SHORT DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION**

**THE ANATOMY OF HOPE** directed by Sofia de Fay  
UAE - 27 min.  
World Premiere

**BADER** directed by Latifa Al-Darwish, Sara Alsaadl, Maaria Assami  
Qatar – 10 min.

**FEEDING FIVE-HUNDRED** directed by Rafed Al-Harthi, Ray Haddad  
UAE - 22 min.

**LITTLE PEOPLE** directed by Daniel Malak  
UAE - 9 min.  
World Premiere

**TEMSA7** directed by Latifa Al-Darwish, Rouda Al Meghaiseeb  
Qatar - 12 min.  
World Premiere

**CAMEL THERAPY** directed by Fahd Faisal Al Kandari  
Kuwait - 23 min.  
World Premiere

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**STUDENT SHORT DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION**

**AGAINST THE WIND** directed by Aisha Abdullah  
UAE - 10 min.

**BEEWUN** directed by Deena Stevens, Ibrahim Mohammed  
UAE - 4 min.  
World Premiere

**THE CARDBOARD ROOF** directed by Fatema Sultan, Huda Al Majidi, Bashayer Al Mahmood  
UAE - 17 min.  
World Premiere
COLLECTING MY PASSION directed by Mariam Khanji, Meera Al Mutawa
UAE - 11 min.

OOPS directed by Reem Al Meqbali
UAE - 7 min.
World Premiere

Silent Art directed by Hana Mire
UAE - 18 min.
World Premiere

SOMETHING ABOUT MAIDS directed by Salama Mubarak, Sara Al-Hammadi
UAE - 6 min.
World Premiere

OUT OF COMPETITION

ACCIDENT directed by Yasser Al Qurmozi
Bahrain - 10 min.

LOST directed by Mohammed Hajjar
United Arab Emirates - 9 min.

MARIONETTE directed by Sophia Jawad
UAE - 4 min.
World Premiere

MEN SUBDUE directed by Saed Almas
UAE – 8 min.

THE MERCHANT directed by Hamza Sami
UAE – 4 min.
World Premiere

PAPERS directed by Abdullaziz Al Battashi
Oman – 4 min.
World Premiere

PRESENT directed by Sadiq Bahbahani
Kuwait - 8 min.

ROYAL SACRIFICE directed by Rashed Al Nuaimi
UAE – 5 min.
World Premiere

THE TAXI DRIVER directed by Shaddad Musalmy
Oman - 16 min.

– End of Emirates Film Competition –
Short Film Competition

An international selection of narrative and documentary short films.

From its first edition, the Abu Dhabi Film Festival aimed to be an important platform for emerging and established short filmmakers. ADFF offers them a unique chance to screen their work in a middle eastern meeting place with a truly international exposure.

In its 7th edition, the Film Festival presents some of the best short films made both regionally and internationally. 20 films are set to compete in this year's International Short Film Competition. This year we have the pleasure to welcome in Abu Dhabi filmmakers from Argentina, Turkey, Croatia, Nepal, Russia, Tunisia, Algeria and Palestine among many others.

Alice Kharoubi, Programmer, Short Film Competition

After studying communication in France and USA, Alice started to collaborate with the organisation of the Festival de Cannes, working for the Marché du Film. She is now Head of Cannes Court Métrage, a new entity dedicated to Short Films developed by the Festival de Cannes. Alice has been the short film programmer for the Abu Dhabi Film Festival since its creation and is also programmer for the Festival Tous Ecrans in Geneva, Switzerland. She is also part of several short film selection committees and has participated as a jury member in festivals all over the world.

The Awards

Films in this section compete for Black Pearl Awards in these categories:

- Best Narrative ($25,000)
- Best Documentary ($20,000)
- Best Animation ($20,000)
- Best Film from the Arab World ($20,000)
- Best Producer ($10,000)
- Best Producer from the Arab World ($10,000)

The Films

**AGRI AND THE MOUNTAIN** directed by Hasan Serin  
Turkey - 13 min.  
Middle East Premiere - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

**ALLEZ HOP!** directed by Juliette Baily  
France - 7min.  
Middle East Premiere
THE BIG BOY directed by Kyu-Tae Lee
South Korea - 6 min.
Middle East Premiere

THE CONTAGIOUS APPARITIONS OF DAMBAREY DENDRITE
directed by Bibhusan Basnet, Pooja Gurung
Nepal - 18 min.
International Premiere - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

THE DAYS BEFORE directed by Karim Moussaoui
Algeria - 35 min.
Middle East Premiere

FEEDING FIVE-HUNDRED directed by Rafed Al-Harti, Ray Haddad
UAE - 22 min.

GLORIA VICTORIA directed by Theodore Ushev
Canada - 7 min.
Middle East Premiere

LE JOUR A VAINCU LA NUIT directed by Jean-Gabriel Périot
France - 28 min.
Middle East Premiere

MONT BLANC directed by Gilles Coulier
Belgium - 14 min.
Middle East Premiere

PRECIPICE directed by Nadia Touijer
Tunisia - 19 min.
International Premiere

PRETTYBOY directed by Sasa Ban
Croatia - 15 min.
Middle East Premiere

THE QUEEN directed by Manuel Abramovich
Argentina - 18 min.
World Premiere - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

REALITY 2.0 directed by Victor Orozco Ramirez
Germany, Mexico - 11 min.
Middle East Premiere

REVOLUTIONARY MEMORIES OF BAHMAN WHO LOVED LEILA
directed by Farahnaz Sharifi
Iran - 15 min.
Middle East Premiere

STREETCAR directed by Hala Matar
Bahrain, USA - 8 min
World Premiere
THOUGH I KNOW THE RIVER IS DRY directed by Omar Robert Hamilton
Palestine, Egypt, Qatar - 19 min.
Middle East Premiere

WIPEOUT directed by Amine Berrada
France, Morocco - 7 min.
International Premiere

WHALE VALLEY directed by Gudmundur Arnar Gudmundsson
Denmark - 15 min.
Middle East Premiere - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

THE WOUND directed by Anna Budanova
Russia - 9 min.
Middle East Premiere

ZAKARIA directed by Leyla Bouzid
France, Tunisia - 27 min.
International Premiere - also featured in CHILD PROTECTION Competition

Short film programme for Kids
"LOL with Classics: From Chaplin and Keaton to Pierre Etaix"

THE CURE directed by Charlie Chaplin
USA 1917 - 12 min.

FEELING GOOD directed by Pierre Etaix
France 1971 - 12 min.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY directed by Pierre Etaix, Jean-Claude Carrière
France 1962 - 12 min

ONE WEEK directed by Buster Keaton
USA 1920 - 22 min.

RUPTURE directed by Pierre Etaix
France 1961 - 11 min.

– End of Short Film Competition –
# Facts and Figures ADFF 2013

**Feature Films**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Selected Feature Films (all sections)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narrative Features (all sections)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Documentary Features (all sections)</td>
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<td>Narrative Features in Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Documentary Features in Competition</td>
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</table>

Premieres: 11 World Premieres, 6 International Premieres

Countries represented: 41
Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Haiti, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, UK, USA

**Short Films**

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<td>Selected Short Films</td>
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<tr>
<td>Premiere Short Film Competition</td>
<td>2 World Premieres, 4 International Premieres, 14 Middle East Premieres</td>
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</table>

Countries represented: 22
Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Belgium, China, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Qatar, France, Germany, Iran, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Palestine, Russia, South Korea, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE, USA

**Emirates Film Competition**

<table>
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<td>Selected EFC Films</td>
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<td>Premieres</td>
<td>39 World Premieres</td>
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<td>Films Produced in the UAE</td>
<td>36</td>
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</table>
Arab Cinema at ADFF

The Abu Dhabi Film Festival once again proves in its seventh edition that the Festival is one of the best places to watch the newest and best in Arab cinema, both those made in the region and those with Arabic origins. The Festival has always succeeded, especially in the last 5 years, in attracting the most important Arabic produced films.

What we are presenting this year is again the result of many years of hard work and lengthy reflection. The Abu Dhabi Film Festival is now reknowned for its selection of Arabic films.

Arab Films in Narrative Feature Competition

FEVERS (Fièvres) directed by Hicham Ayouch. Morocco, France - 90 min.
IN THE SANDS OF BABYLON (Taht remal Babyl) directed by Mohamed Jabarah Al-Daradji. Iraq, Netherlands, United Kingdom - 90 min.
MY SWEET PEPPER LAND directed by Hiner Saleem. Iraq, France, Germany, United Arab Emirates - 95 min.
RAGS AND TATTERS (Farsh wa ghata) directed by Ahmad Abdallah. Egypt - 87 min.
THE ROOFTOPS (Es-stouh/Les Terrasses) directed by Merzak Allouache. Algeria, France, Qatar - 91 min.

Arab Films in the New Horizons Competition:

BASTARDO directed by Nejib Belkadhi. Tunisia, France - 106 min.
BEFORE SNOWFALL (Før snøen faller) directed by Hisham Zaman. Iraq, Germany, Norway - 105 min.
GIRAFFADA directed by Rani Massalha. Palestine, France, Germany, Italy - 81 min.
VILLA 69 directed by Ayten Amin. Egypt - 108 min.

Arab Films in the Documentary Feature Competition:

HANGING DATES UNDER ALEPPO’S CITADEL (The Boy from Aleppo / Balahon taalaka tahta qalaat Halab) directed by Mohammad Soueid. Lebanon, UAE - 71 min.
CAIRO DRIVE directed by Sherief Elkatsha. Egypt - 77 min.
EL GORT (Jamal al-barrouta) directed by Hamza Ouni. Tunisia - 86 min.
WHISPERS OF THE CITIES (Hams al-mudan) directed by Kasim Abid. Iraq - 62 min.

Arab Films in the Showcase Section:

DJINN directed by Tobe Hooper. UAE – 86 min.
Arab Films in the Short Film Competition:

**THE DAYS BEFORE** directed by Karim Moussaoui. Algeria - 35 min.

**FEEDING FIVE-HUNDRED** directed by Rafed Al-Harti, Ray Haddad. UAE - 22 min.

**PRECIPICE** directed by Nadia Touijer. Tunisia - 19 min.

**STREETCAR** directed by Hala Matar. Bahrain, USA - 8 min

**THOUGH I KNOW THE RIVER IS DRY** directed by Omar Robert Hamilton.
Palestine, Egypt, Qatar - 19 min.

**WIPEOUT** directed by Amine Berrada. France, Morocco - 7 min.

**ZAKARIA** directed by Leyla Bouzid. France, Tunisia - 27 min.

Arab Films in Special Programmes:

- 9 Films in the special programme **DEBUT FILMS BY ARAB FILMMAKERS**
  (see page 27 for details)
World Premieres at ADFF 2013 (Feature Films)

Narrative Feature Competition

IN THE SANDS OF BABYLON directed by Mohamed Jabarah Al-Daradji. Iraq, NL, UK - 90 min.
FEVERS (Fièvres) directed by Hicham Ayouch. Morocco, France - 90 min.

New Horizons Competition

LOVE ME (Elsk meg) directed by Hanne Myren. Norway - 75 min.
VILLA 69 directed by Ayten Amin. Egypt - 108 min.

Documentary Feature Competition

CAIRO DRIVE directed by Sherief Elkatsha. Egypt - 77 min.
EL GORT (Jamal al-barrouta) directed by Hamza Ouni. Tunisia - 86 min.
HANGING DATES UNDER ALEPPO’S CITADEL (The Boy from Aleppo / Balahon taalaka tahta qalaat Halab) directed by Mohammad Soueid. Lebanon, UAE - 71 min.
SCHOOL OF BABEL (La Cour de Babel) directed by Julie Bertuccelli. France - 90 min.

Showcase

DJINN directed by Tobe Hooper. UAE 2013 – 86 min.
PEACE AFTER MARRIAGE directed by Ghazi Albuliwi. USA - 86 min.

International Premieres at ADFF 2013 (Feature Films)

New Horizons Competition

POTOSÍ directed by Alfredo Casrurita. Mexico – 120 min.

Documentary Feature Competition

DOCTOR FABRE WILL CURE YOU directed by Pierre Coulibeuf, Belgium. France - 61 min.
THE KILL TEAM directed by Dan Krauss. USA - 79 min.
WALLS (Muri) directed by Francesco Conversano, Nene Grignaffini. Italy - 85 min.

SHOWCASE

THE JEWELLERY BOX (Goynar baksho) directed by Aparna Sen. India – 139 min.
TURNING TIDE directed by Christophe Offensen. France - 109 min.
Dear Journalists,

Welcome to the Abu Dhabi Film Festival 2013. The Press Office is at your disposal to help you make deadlines and get the most out of your Festival coverage. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the wide range of services and features available to accredited press this year, listed below in alphabetical order.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The Festival Press Team

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**Index of Press Events and Services**

**Awards Ceremonies**
SHORTS: Wednesday, October 30, 9:00 p.m., Emirates Palace (Black Pearl Awards Ceremony for Emirates Film Competition and Short Film Competition)
FEATURES: Thursday, October 31, 8:00 p.m., Emirates Palace (Black Pearl Awards Ceremony for Feature Competitions)
BY INVITATION ONLY, regular press badges do not provide access.

**Badges**
Can be picked up in person from the press accreditation desk at Emirates Palace, Ballroom I, Press Centre:
October 21 – 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m
October 24 – 31, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Daily Footage & Photos**
Daily photos & video footage taken by ADFF camera teams will be available to download from our FTP server:
Daily images and footage:
https://abudhabifilmfestival.exavault.com
Username: adffpress
Password: Pr3ssadff
*Please note that the username and password are case sensitive and cannot be pasted into the login fields.

For any additional support on this, please contact our Video & Photos Coordinator, Saif Awadh, sawad@adff.ae
Interview Opportunities & Quotes
Interviews can be arranged via the Press Office. Please send your interview requests to interviews@adff.ae. IMPORTANT: Interview requests must include cell phone numbers.

Please note that interviews cannot be guaranteed.
A list of all talent in attendance per film will be available.

Film Materials (Trailers, Press Kits, Clips and Stills Images)
All available trailers, clips and stills images can be downloaded from our FTP server:

https://abudhabifilmfestival.exavault.com
Username: adffpress
Password: Pr3ssadff
*Please note that the username and password are case sensitive and cannot be pasted into the login fields.

To request a list of available materials, please contact our Press Materials & Film Talent Coordinator, Saif Awadh, sawad@adff.ae

Press Downloads Website
For news, press releases, general ADFF images please visit www.abudhabifilmfestival.ae. In the press centre you can download high res logos and portraits of Festival representatives:
Password: pressadff2013

Locations
The Abu Dhabi Film Festival 2013 takes place at these locations:
• Emirates Palace
• VOX Cinemas, Marina Mall

Photocalls
MARINA MALL:
10 minutes prior to screenings at the ADFF area in front of the Vox Cinemas.

EMIRATES PALACE:
20 minutes prior to screenings.

Panels, Workshops and Masterclasses
All panels take place in the Emirates Palace Ballroom. For up-to-date details about all of them, please refer to the Festival schedule on www.adff.ae.

TV Crews & Photographers must arrive 15 minutes before the event and be given access for the first five minutes only.
Press Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Royce</td>
<td>Press Office Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wroyce@adff.ae">wroyce@adff.ae</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunnar Gilgen</td>
<td>Press Office Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ggilgen@adff.ae">ggilgen@adff.ae</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haneen Sasa</td>
<td>Arabic Press Office Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:haneens@adff.ae">haneens@adff.ae</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara El Shawarbi</td>
<td>Press Guest Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sara@adff.ae">sara@adff.ae</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saif Awadh</td>
<td>Press Materials Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sawad@adff.ae">sawad@adff.ae</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abuzzar Z Ikkery</td>
<td>Red Carpet Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:z@adff.ae">z@adff.ae</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zeina Toutounji</td>
<td>Senior Publicist</td>
<td><a href="mailto:zeina@adff.ae">zeina@adff.ae</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Press Centre

Press Centre is the main point of contact for journalists covering the Festival. This year, the Festival Press Centre and Press Office is located in Ballroom 1 at Emirates Palace.

Free wireless internet for accredited journalists is available.

Press Conferences

Are held at the Emirates Palace Ballroom 3 during the Festival. For details, please check our daily press programmes, which will be distributed by email and hard copy at the press centre during the Festival.

Question & Answer Sessions with Filmmakers

Please note that Q&As with filmmakers often take place in cinemas immediately after the screenings, providing a great opportunity to meet filmmakers, get quotes and take pictures.

Red Carpet

Photographers or media technicians must make reservations by contacting presscarpet@adff.ae. Access is not guaranteed.

For the **Opening Ceremony** on October 24, press must take their places between 5:30pm and 6 p.m.

Reservation deadline is October 24, 11:00am.

For the **Black Pearl Awards Ceremony for Feature Competitions** on October 31, places must be taken between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Reservation deadline is October 31, 11am.

Screening Tickets for Press Badge-Holders

As an accredited member of the press you are entitled to one ticket per screening, which can be obtained at the Festival Box Offices (Emirates Palace, VOX Marina Mall) one day in advance of the screening. Make sure to get tickets for every film you want to see, press accreditation alone does not provide access. Tickets are limited, please hand in your request at the Box Office in a timely manner.

As an accredited photographer or TV technician, your badge DOES NOT include access to any screenings.
Shuttles
ADFF runs free shuttles services throughout the Festival (October 25-31). The shuttles stop at each of the two theatre locations, as well as the main Festival Hotels. Please refer to the ‘How to Festival’ section on www.adff.ae for details.

Tip Sheets and Face Books
Available for Opening Night and Awards Ceremonies, as well as Gala Events. Simply send an email to our Photo & TV Coordinator, Saif Awadh (sawad@adff.ae).

Viewing Library
Only badge holders with VL status have access to the Viewing Library. You can request permission by filling in an application form at the Press Centre.
Opening times of the Viewing Library:
Oct 24, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Oct 25-31, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Nov 1, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Reservations can be made via email to Waleed Sheikh (wsheikh@adff.ae) or in person at the library.

Writing Rooms
The writing room is located in the Press Centre at the Island Lounge, Emirates Palace.
Please note that the number of computers is limited. Connection cables and WiFi connections are available free of charge.

WRITING ROOM OPENING TIMES: Oct 24-31, 10:00 a.m. to 10 p.m.

All timings are subject to change – please refer to the daily press schedule distributed at the festival and by e-mail for all accredited press
How to Buy Tickets and Festival Passes for General Audiences

Online at adff.ae
Tickets and Festival Passes are available online starting October 8.

Festival Passes
Our Festival Pass allows you the opportunity to book tickets online in advance and is an ideal way to get as much out of the Festival as possible.

Festival Pass: AED 400
• Purchase and redeem online or in person
• See as many films as you like, it's good for all regular screenings (does not include Opening Night, Closing Night or the Awards Ceremony).
• One ticket per screening
• No concurrent screenings

Single Tickets
Can be purchased in person and online.

Single Screenings: AED 30
Students: AED 20 (available only at the Box Office)

Screening Vouchers
Can be purchased only in person at Festival Box Offices beginning October 14.

Six-Voucher Package: AED 150; 12-Voucher Package: AED 240
• Available only at the Box Office
• Must be purchased in person
• Good for all regular screenings
• Share with family and friends

Festival Catalogue
Can be purchased at Festival Box Offices for AED 30.

Master classes, panel discussions and workshops are free.

FESTIVAL BOX OFFICES & HOURS
Marina Mall Box Office is open:
October 14–24: 12:00 noon–10:00 pm
October 25 –November 2: 12:00 noon until 30 minutes after the start time of the last scheduled screening.

Emirates Palace Box Office is open:
October 24–31: 10:00 am until 30 minutes after the start time of the last scheduled screening.
Dress code for movie screenings in Emirates Palace is smart casual (no shorts, flip-flops or sleeveless vests). Contact 02 690 9000 for more details.

**Sold-Out Screenings & Standby Tickets**
When a screening sells out, there may still be an opportunity to purchase tickets. Additional tickets may become available online at adff.ae at 12:01 am on the morning of the screening.

Fifteen minutes prior to each screening, tickets may become available on a first-come, first-served basis to those waiting in the standby queue at the box office.

**Children**
Infants do not require a ticket if they do not occupy a seat. Children aged 2–5 years old are admitted free, provided you obtain a ticket at the box office in advance of the screening. Normal ticketing policies apply to children six years and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Refer to our Content Guidelines on page 11 to assist in the selection of your films.

**TICKETING POLICIES**
- Tickets are required for all screenings by all patrons.
- Passes may be redeemed online or at any Festival Box Office. Tickets must be collected at the Box Office before all screenings.
- Admission and seating is guaranteed only until 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the program. Late admission is at the discretion of the theatre manager.
- There are no reserved seats for any screening.
- No refunds, exchanges or reprinted tickets will be issued under any circumstances.
- Tickets may not be resold.
- All screenings are subject to change without notice. Changes are publicised at adff.ae.
- By using your ticket, you agree that you may be recorded, photographed and/or filmed for no fee.
- Unauthorized recording or photography of ADFF programmes is against the law. Violators may be subject to prosecution.
- ADFF will not be liable for any loss, injury or damage to the ticketholder whatsoever or howsoever caused.

**FOR BOX OFFICE INQUIRIES ONLY**
Send your questions about buying tickets and theatre policies to: customerservice@adff.ae. You may also call 056 6898668 for assistance. Information lines are open October 14–November 2, 10:00 am–9:00 pm.