

## SEVENTH ABU DHABI FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED

### Hiam Abbass to receive Black Pearl Career Achievement Award

**Abu Dhabi, UAE – October 1, 2013:** The [full line-up](#) of films screening at the seventh Abu Dhabi Film Festival was announced today at a press conference at Emirates Palace, the premier venue for the capital's annual celebration of film. No less than 94 feature length films and 72 short films from 51 countries will be shown at the Festival.

The Festival will open with a Gala screening of LIFE OF CRIME (USA) directed by Daniel Schechter, who called the film his “dream project”. Based on a novel by Elmore Leonard, who also wrote the source material for JACKIE BROWN (1997) and 3:10 TO YUMA (2007), the film follows the misfortunes of two small-time criminals who hit it off in prison and decide to join forces for a big score on the outside.

Ali Al Jabri, Director of the Abu Dhabi Film Festival, returning in his second year at the helm says: “I hope Abu Dhabi is as excited by this year's Festival line-up as I am. We have secured films that are delighting audiences and making waves around the world. It is a heady and stimulating mix of the best of international and Arab cinema, with something for young and old. There's entertainment for the family, as well as more challenging films for cinema buffs and arm-chair critics. Once again we will be joined by a host of Emirati and international guests, who will bring all the glamour of the silver screen to our city. It's only three weeks away, so start planning your visit now.”

A remarkable actress will be honoured with a Black Pearl Career Achievement Award this year: Hiam Abbass is a renowned Palestinian actress who has recently turned her hand to directing. She has enjoyed considerable international success as an actor, appearing in Thomas McCarthy's highly acclaimed film THE VISITOR (2007) and Steven Spielberg's MUNICH (2005) and has won numerous acting awards including a European Film Award nomination. As well as honouring her with the award, ADFF will feature the world premiere of her most recent film, PEACE AFTER MARRIAGE by Ghazi Albuliwi.

This year, the Festival will introduce a new award category recognising films which deal with the subject of child protection, thanks to the support of the Ministry of Interior's Child Protection Centre which works to ensure safety and security of children. Best Film and Best Screenplay awards will be presented in recognition of the cinema sector's efforts and contributions in the areas of child protection and children's rights. The awards acknowledge the influential role of the film industry in raising awareness of these issues.

The Abu Dhabi Film Festival opens on October 24 and ends on November 2, 2013.

- End -

To contact the Press Office, email [press@adff.ae](mailto: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 TROFPEST Arabia each year to drive the development of a vibrant film and entertainment industry.