

NOV 25-30,
2024

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL &
CONTEMPORARY ARTS



The 1ST Edition
**FAYOUM INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL**





drosos (...)



DIGITISED



ORGANIC EGYPT اورجانيك مصر



Remal el Rayan GLAMP



Good Homies™ Studio



The International Film Festival for Environment, Climate, and Modern Arts in Faiyum, organized by the Masar Foundation for Culture and Arts in collaboration with the University of Faiyum, under the auspices of the Faiyum Governorate and the Egyptian Ministry of Culture.

Taking place from November 25 to 30,2024.

Fayoum International Festival for Environmental Films and Contemporary Arts

Article 1: The Fayoum International Festival for Environmental Films and Contemporary Arts is an annual festival organized by the Masar Foundation for Culture and Arts, taking place from November 25 to November 30, 2024.

Article 2: The festival aims to focus on environmental issues from an ecological perspective, as well as climate preservation. It also emphasizes contemporary arts, including video art, installations, virtual reality, and other forms of contemporary visual arts.

Article 3: The films for the competition at the Fayoum Festival for Environmental Films and Contemporary Arts are selected by a committee composed of critics, filmmakers, and intellectuals.

Article 4: The festival consists of the following sections:

Section One: International Competition for Feature, Documentary, and Animated Films:

Conditions:

- Films must be at least 60 minutes in length.
- Participating films must not have been commercially exhibited in Egypt or participated in any Egyptian festival.
- Films must be produced in the current year or the previous year.
- Films must be subtitled in English.
- It is permissible for more than one film to be submitted from the same country.

Awards: The jury will grant the following awards:

- Best Film Award: A statue of Fayoum Faces and a certificate, awarded to the producer.

- Special Jury Award: A statue of Fayoum Faces and a certificate.
 - Best Screenplay Award: A statue of Fayoum Faces and a certificate.
 - Best Director Award: A statue of Fayoum Faces and a certificate.
 - Best Actress Award: A statue of Fayoum Faces and a certificate.
 - Best Actor Award: A statue of Fayoum Faces and a certificate.
- International Competition for Short Narrative, Documentary, and Animated Films

Conditions:

- Films must not exceed 30 minutes in length.
- Participating films must not have been shown at an Egyptian festival.
- Films must be produced in the current year or the previous year.
- Films must be subtitled in English.

Awards:

- Best Short Narrative Film Award.
- Best Short Documentary Film Award.
- Special Jury Award (One for narrative films and one for short documentaries).

Section Two: Panorama (Out of Competition): The Panorama section features films of various types, with no restrictions on the year of production.

Section Three: Qaroun Platform for Production and Education: A platform for training, education, and the production of short projects.

Section Four: Fayoum Faces for Contemporary Arts: A platform dedicated to contemporary visual arts.

Section Five: Howara for Environment and Climate: A platform hosting seminars and meetings primarily focused on environmental and climate issues, both in Egypt and globally. It will include activists in environmental conservation and those concerned with climate change and related topics.

Article 5: The festival management will select the juries for the competitions from well-known cinematic personalities, both Arab and international. No jury member should have any affiliation with any of the competing films.

Article 6: Egyptian films are allowed to participate even if they have previously been shown in cinemas.

Article 7: Other entities may offer their own special awards in coordination with the festival.

Article 8: Conditions for Participation in Festival Sections:

- Films must be produced in the current year or the previous year, must not have been shown in Egypt, and must include English subtitles.
- Film participation is by direct invitation from the festival management.

Films can be submitted to the festival by filling out the specific submission form available at:

<https://www.fieff.com> or by sending the link directly to [email address].
Office@fieff.com

- Films and promotional materials should be submitted via the festival's website or the designated link for film submissions.
- Promotional materials must include:
 - A film synopsis in English.
 - Information about the film's director and key participating artists.
 - The film's press or promotional kit.
 - Promotional materials in written form or images, and the film's dialogue in English.
- The submission must include a note indicating the film's title and director's name in English with the phrase "For cultural purposes only and not for commercial use."
- File sizes should not exceed 10 MB, and images should be submitted in JPG, PDF, or PNG formats.

Article 9: Each film will be screened twice during the festival and may be shown at other venues

for cultural purposes with the approval of the film's designated representative.

Article 10: A film cannot be withdrawn after it has been selected for screening and upon approval by the responsible party.

Article 11: The festival management is responsible for securing the screening copies while they are under its care.

Article 12: Participants in the festival must accept the materials and regulations issued in both English and Arabic, as well as Egyptian laws. In case of any discrepancies between the two versions, the Arabic version shall prevail.

Article 13: The selection or rejection of submitted films is at the sole discretion of the festival's

artistic committees, and there is no justification required for these decisions.

Article 14: The festival is not obligated to return any materials submitted by applicants.

Article 15: The festival is not required to send awards to winners who are absent from the festival.



A new event is added to the series of festivals sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, carrying within it a bright window overlooking the arts of the environment and sustainable development. It is the "Fayoum Festival for Environmental Films and Contemporary Arts," which serves as an exceptional platform that combines artistic creativity with environmental awareness, embodying an honorable model of what culture can achieve when it intersects with vital issues that transcend borders and impact the future of our planet.

In our current era, environmental issues have become an integral part of our priorities, as humanity faces unprecedented challenges that demand our collective efforts to preserve a planet we have no other. In this context, art emerges as an effective tool in shaping societal awareness, inspiring new generations, and motivating everyone to adopt responsible practices that enhance environmental sustainability. It also plays a vital role in raising alarms about climate changes that threaten our existence and endanger our rich heritage, both tangible and intangible.

The Fayoum Festival for Environmental Films and Contemporary Arts represents a valuable opportunity to showcase innovative artistic works that shed light on the most pressing environmental issues and highlight art as an effective tool for positive change. The choice of Fayoum Governorate, with its stunning nature, unique cultural diversity, and distinctive natural reserves, embodies the true spirit of this festival, where heritage meets modernity in a complete creative scene.

In this context, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those involved in this festival—creators, organizers, participants, and partners—and commend their sincere efforts in creating a space that integrates art and the environment and highlights the importance of culture in achieving sustainability.

I hope this festival will be crowned with success and prosperity, providing participants and the audience with an inspiring and rich experience. I aspire for this event to become a shining beacon radiating creativity and awareness.

Prof. Dr. Ahmed Fouad Hano
Minister of Culture



The Faiyum Governorate is honored to organize and sponsor the first edition of the Faiyum International Film Festival for Environmental Films and Contemporary Arts. This initiative comes at a time when the world's attention is focused on the importance of protecting the environment and climate, and preventing the causes of pollution that lead to numerous global damages, including the problem of global warming, among others.

Faiyum Governorate—an invaluable piece of Egypt—boasts a unique nature and is considered a natural reserve, blessed with natural treasures, abundant lakes, deserts, vast green spaces, and ideal biodiversity. Therefore, choosing Fayoum as the venue for this specialized festival is an ideal choice.

The Faiyum Governorate, along with all its institutions and agencies, strives to support this festival due to its strong objectives that align with the goals the Egyptian state seeks to achieve, including the shift towards clean energy and environmental protection.

Faiyum has always been a source of arts and continues to enrich all streams of creativity with talented individuals from its community in various fields, including cinema, music, visual arts, and more.

As we witness, from November 25 to 30, the largest artistic gathering on Fayoum's soil, where cultures and arts converge in the land of civilization, we hope that this edition of the festival will be distinctive and have a positive impact that befits the launch of a festival that represents Fayoum, its people, and its rich heritage.

Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ansari
Governor of Faiyum



The birth of the Faiyoum International Environmental Film Festival comes at a critical time, as the world faces increasing environmental challenges that require all of us to work together for a cleaner life and a better future. This festival serves as a platform to celebrate creativity and the humanities from around the globe, where filmmakers and creators gather to showcase their works that reflect environmental issues and highlight the beauty of nature. We believe in the power of art to bring about positive change, and through this global event, we aim to raise awareness and promote dialogue on urgent environmental issues.

Thanks to the Minister of Culture, Dr. Ahmed Hano, and to the Governor of Faiyoum, Dr. Ahmed Al-Ansari, along with everyone who contributed with love, conviction, and dedication to bring the Faiyoum International Festival of Environmental Films and Contemporary Arts to life.

Thanks to the festival team, who have been working for over two years on all the details to ensure a successful first edition:

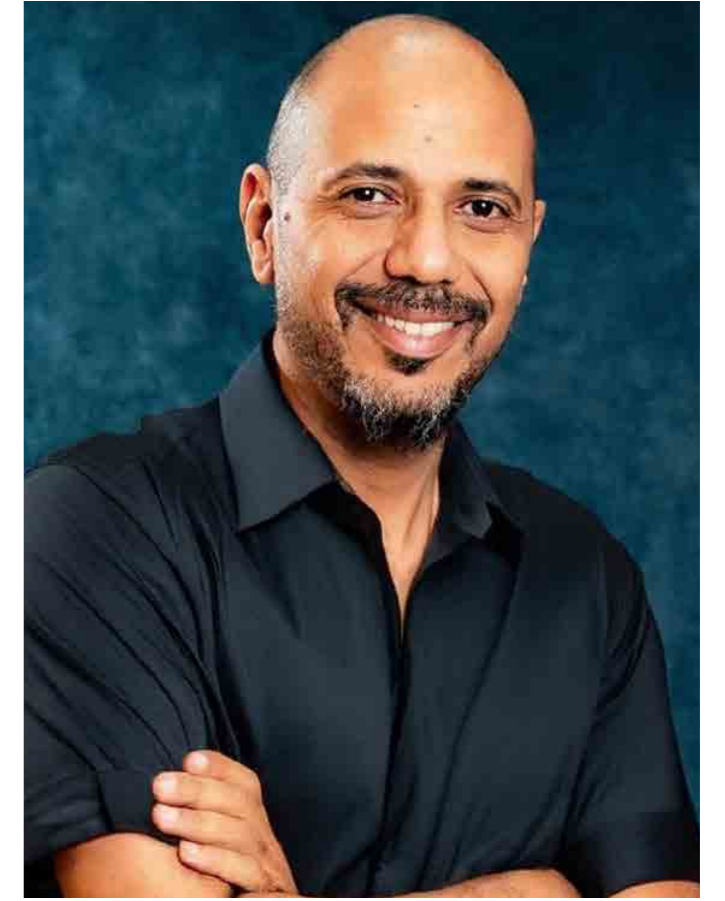
- Director Said Abdel-Khalek
- Dr. Samir Shaheen
- Mr. Essam Zakaria
- Ms. Nahed Salah
- Artist Ahmed Magdy
- Ms. Nermine Amer

And a heartfelt thanks to the supporting and sponsoring entities. I hope that the films, events, and various activities of the festival will inspire us to become ambassadors for change in our communities.

In the end, let us work together to protect our planet and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

Thank you all, and I wish you an enjoyable and inspiring festival.

Director Hany Lashin
The festival President



A new dream in the journey of filmmaking in Egypt, which I and the festival team embarked on three years ago. This dream was born, and we have worked tirelessly with all we have in terms of time and effort to reach this new event. Many shared this dream with us, while others abandoned it, and our journey continued until it almost reached completion. I can only invite all lovers of cinema, and Egypt, especially Al-Fayoum, to join us in order to keep this important event alive every year. I extend my greetings to the supportive and official entities, partners, and supporters, and a special salute to the governorate of Al-Fayoum, led by Dr. Ahmed Al-Ansari, who embraced the idea from day one and gave the green light to proceed. I also thank everyone who took it upon themselves to ensure the success of the first edition of the Al-Fayoum Film Festival, which focuses on films that address the problems of our planet and contemporary human issues.

Director Said Abdel-Khalek
The festival Director



Why Al-Fayoum...? Is it because of this open "location" that has hosted dozens of Egyptian films, such as: (The Land, The Forbidden, The Call of the Curlew, The Postman, Tamar Hindi, This is Love, Beach of Love, With Memories, and others), or is it because it is described by geographers as "Little Egypt," summarizing the essence of a country that history has bestowed with treasures reflected in magnificent artistic works, where agricultural, desert, coastal, and archaeological environments blend together...? Following this question is another: Does the country that gave birth to Youssef Wahbi, Maryam and Youssef Fakh El-Din, Naglaa Fathy, Ali Badr Khan, Mohamed Gomaa and Sheikh Zakaria Ahmed not deserve a festival that connects with its unique nature and culture?

The number of film festivals in Egypt is increasing in line with the desire to bring cinema to a diverse and varied audience. This is an important and necessary motivation, but it represents a significant challenge. Reaching people is a responsibility that any cultural, artistic, or cinematic event must recognize.

Indeed, the task is not easy and requires practical plans that contribute to the process of cinematic education, starting from workshops on filmmaking to future contributions in establishing equipped cinema halls, or at the very least encouraging their existence. These are essential issues for the Al-Fayoum Festival, which serves as an annual gathering to watch films and engage with them critically and popularly. This is what we have been committed to since our first edition, which hosted over 150 feature and short films from various countries, selected for its long and short competitions, in addition to a special competition for student films, through which we achieve our goal of opening up to films from different production nationalities.

The challenges are many, especially in this difficult moment that our Arab world is experiencing, whether in Palestine, Lebanon, or Sudan, and the ongoing attempts to eradicate the Palestinian people, land, history, heritage, architecture, and attire. In contrast, Palestine continuously manages to revive some spirit within us. Therefore, our festival offers its full support to Palestine, its people, and its art, declaring that "from the river

Ms. Nahed Salah
The Artistic Director of The Festival

The Supreme Committee for the Festival

- Producer and writer ***Medhat El Adl***
- Critic ***Kamal Ramzi***
- Dr. ***Onsi Abu Saif***
- Dr. ***Ghada Jobara***
- Artist ***Salwa Mohamed Ali***
- Writer ***Magdy Saber***
- Artist ***Ahmed Magdy***
- Prof. Dr. ***Mervat Abu Ouf***
- Artist ***Tariq Al-Komi***
- Dr. ***Kholoud Al-Rashidi***
- Artist: ***Ali Kamalo***

The honorees



Actress / Elham Shahin

Elham Shahin is an Egyptian actress and producer. She obtained her bachelor's degree from the acting department at the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts in 1982. She began her artistic career in theater and then ventured into acting, becoming one of its most prominent stars. Her extensive career includes around 190 artistic works across theater, cinema, radio, and television.

Some of her most famous television works include "Layali El Helmeya," "Nisf Rabi' Al-Akhar," "Al-Barari wal Hamoul," "Al-Hawi," and "Samhooni Ma Kanesh Qasdi," among others. She has had several successful collaborations with superstar Adel Imam in films such as "Omhat Fi Al-Manfaa," "Ramadan Fawq Al-Barakat," and "Al-Helfout." She has also worked with star Mahmoud Abdel Aziz in films like "Al-Gentle" and "Souq Al-Mut'a."

Elham has received numerous awards for her roles in films such as "Ya Donia Ya Gharami" and "Al-Gentle." In addition to her acting career, she has produced films like "Khaltat Fawziya" and "Yawm Lil-Sitat," positioning her as a continuation of the pioneering women in cinema who built the industry on their shoulders.



Film Producer / Dora Bouchoucha

Dora Bouchoucha has been a film producer since 1994. She has produced and co-produced several Award-winning documentaries, short and feature films.

She founded the Carthage Film Festival Projects' workshop in 1992 and Takmil in 2014. She also founded the SUD ECRITURE workshops in 1997, which she has been running since. Dora Bouchoucha is actively involved in training and promotion for southern cinema.

In 2010, she was appointed head of Fonds Sud and in 2012, she was appointed President of the CNC "Aide Aux Cinémas du Monde".

She was head of Carthage Film Festival in 2008, 2010 and 2014.

She was member of the Berlinale jury for feature films in 2017 and of the debut feature films at the Venice Mostra in 2020.

She received a career achievement award at Gouna Film Festival and Luxor African film festival in Egypt, Salé festival in Morocco and at Med Film Festival in Rome in 2018.

She was the director of Manarat, Mediterranean festival in Tunisia in 2018, 2019 and 2021.

She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

In June 2021, she was named Vice President of the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris.



Actress / Pihla Viitala

Pihla Viitala, born in 1982, is an internationally acclaimed actress and director. She has acted in more than 50 films and tv-series in eleven different countries. She speaks fluent Finnish, English and French. The European film academy awarded her with the Shooting star award in Berlinale 2010. She has also been nominated for the best lead actress award in the main Finnish Film awards Jussi-gala in 2019 and she won a golden Venla at the Finnish Television awards in 2019 for her leading role in the series Deadwind (Netflix). In 2011, she made a debut as a director with her first fiction short film 'Elma and Liisa'. Viitala is working on her first fiction feature film produced by Komeetta Film Production Company in Finland and distributed by SF Studios. Carmen is her first documentary film. In her art she finds it important to illuminate the stories of unheard women and give voices to people who are often overridden.



Actor / Hamza El Eily

Hamza Al-Eili is an Egyptian actor who graduated from the Faculty of Law. He began his acting journey in 2001, participating in numerous plays at the Cultural Palace of Minya until he joined the Creative Arts Center from 2006 to 2010. His cinematic debut was in the film **X Large**, directed by Sherif Arafa, followed by a role in the television series **Ahl Cairo**, after which he continued to take on various dramatic roles.

He won the Best Rising Actor award at the National Theater Festival for his performance in the play **Shadow of the Donkey** in 2010. In 2015, the Catholic Festival honored him for his selection of dramatic works. He also received the Dubai Drama Award in 2014 and 2023, as well as the Best Actor award at the Drama Festival for his secret role in the series **Message of the Imam**.

Hamza has received numerous awards and honors at various festivals and has participated in many jury panels in cinema and theater.



Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ansari ***Governor of Faiyum***

Dr. Ahmed graduated from medical school in 2001. He obtained a Master's degree in Business Administration and Health Systems Management in the United States in 2007. In 2010, he was tasked with developing specialized medical councils and became the Deputy Head of the Ambulance Authority, where the authority achieved second place in the Arab Health Award. He was appointed as the Head of the Ambulance Authority in September 2013. Before becoming the Governor of Sohag in August 2018, he led a project to eliminate waiting lists for critical patients, achieving significant progress. In November 2019, he was transferred to serve as the Governor of Faiyum, a position he holds to this day.

Feature Film Competition

FAIY OUM I N T E R N A T I O N A L F I L M F E S T I V A L

1st
EDITION

Feature Film Competition Jury

Dora Bouchoucha

Dora Bouchoucha has been a film producer since 1994. She has produced and co-produced several Award-winning documentaries, short and feature films.

She founded the Carthage Film Festival Projects' workshop in 1992 and Takmil in 2014. She also founded the SUD ECRITURE workshops in 1997, which she has been running since. Dora Bouchoucha is actively involved in training and promotion for southern cinema.

In 2010, she was appointed head of Fonds Sud and in 2012, she was appointed President of the CNC "Aide Aux Cinémas du Monde".

She was head of Carthage Film Festival in 2008, 2010 and 2014.

She was member of the Berlinale jury for feature films in 2017 and of the debut feature films at the Venice Mostra in 2020.

She received a career achievement award at Gouna Film Festival and Luxor African film festival in Egypt, Salé festival in Morocco and at Med Film Festival in Rome in 2018.

She was the director of Manarat, Mediterranean festival in Tunisia in 2018, 2019 and 2021.

She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

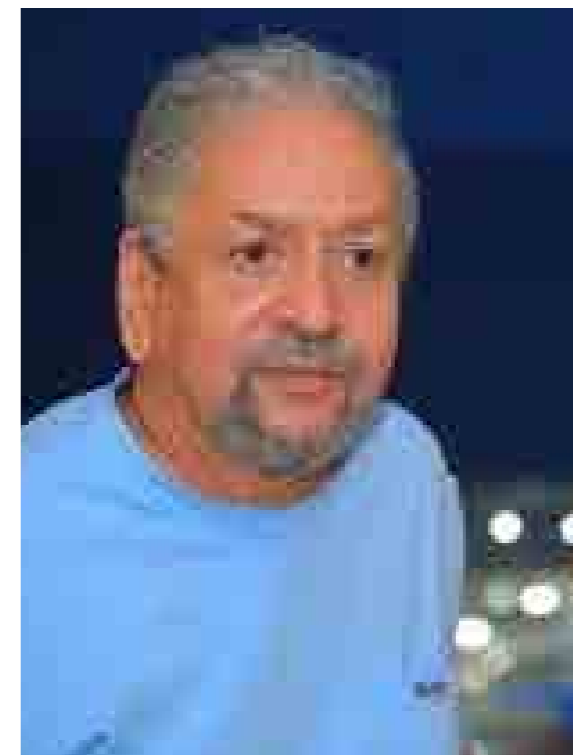
In June 2021, she was named Vice President of the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris.



Feature Film Competition Jury

Omer Abdelaziz

An Egyptian director, he is one of the most prominent names in Egyptian cinema. He graduated from the Higher Institute of Cinema, Department of Direction, in 1976 with a very good grade.



He comes from a distinguished artistic family. He began his professional career as an assistant director to his brother, director Mohamed Abdel Aziz, in films such as "Aalam Ayal Ayal" (1976) and "Some Go to the Marriage Officer Twice" (1978).

He directed his first film, "Dawa Khassa Jidan," in 1982. Since 2002, he has shifted to television directing with the series "Bain Shatein wa Maih." However, this did not prevent him from continuing his work in cinema until 2005 with the film "Farhan Mulazim Adam."

His artistic career comprises over 50 works. Among his notable films are: "The Apartment is the Wife's Right," "The Crazy," "O Lord, a Boy," and "You Bring It Like This, It Comes to Her Like This."

He has been the president of the General Union of Artistic Unions (cinema, acting, and music) since 2019.

Feature Film Competition Jury

Layali Badr

She is a writer and supervisor involved in the development of various television and film projects in the Arab world. She has worked as a writer and supervisor on series such as "Wasmiay" and "Tibtab Al Janna," as well as managing projects like "Al Zahiria." With extensive experience in content management, she served as Creative Director at Rotana Studios and the Arab Radio and Television Network. She founded the "Art Teenz" channel, successfully introducing interactive programs for youth. She has received multiple awards, including recognitions at international film festivals.



Dalia Mostafa

Dalia Mostafa is an Egyptian actress who began her artistic career as a commercial model. She studied acting at the Higher Institute of Dramatic Arts and started her journey with small roles in television dramas. She gradually progressed to film roles, connecting with audiences through her performances in films such as *Shorts and a T-Shirt*, *Keep Your Mind Clear*, and *The President's Cook*, among others.



She has approximately 86 artistic works, including films, television series, radio dramas, and theater productions. Some of her notable works include *Al-l'syan*, *Awlad Al-Akaber*, *Tajer Al-Sa'ada*, *Al-Kebrit Al-Ahmar*, *Hawadit Al-Champs-Ellysées*, and *Alaqa Mashrou'a*.

Khalid Rabi Al-Sayed

A Saudi film critic, he has made significant contributions to the field of film criticism and analysis in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He has published six critical film books, the latest of which is "Independent Cinema."

One of his most notable works is "Filmography of Saudi Films," which is a comprehensive record that includes hundreds of narrative and documentary films, with several parts published.

He works as a consultant at the Ministry of Culture - Saudi Film Authority.



DÉSERTS

Director: Faouzi Bensaïdi



125 min
France, Morocco,
Belgium, Germany
2023

SYNOPSIS: Both gawky associates, Mehdi and Hamid, who work for a collection agency in Casablanca, roam remote villages in the great South of Morocco to get money from overextended people.

Screenplay
Faouzi Bensaïdi

Cinematography
Florian Berutti

Editors
Faouzi Bensaïdi
Veronique Lange

Producer
Saïd Hamich Benlarbi
Production
Barney Production

Cast
Fehd Benchemsi
Abdelhadi Taleb
Rabii Benjhaile
Hadda/Hajar Graigaa

After three short films that won awards at Cannes and in Venice, Faouzi Bensaïdi directed his first feature film, MILLE MOIS, in 2003, which won two awards in Un Certain Regard in Cannes.

In 2006, WWW: WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD was presented at Venice Days. In 2013, he directed DEATH FOR SALE, winning the Berlin CICA award. His latest feature film, VOLUBILIS, released in 2018, was selected at Venice Days. He is also an actor for many authors, such as Jacques Audiard, Nabil Ayouch, Bertrand Bonello, André Techiné, and Nadir Moknèche.



Karon Alahwaz

Director: Habib Bavi Sajed



56 min
Iran
2023

SYNOPSIS: Shatt Karun is the largest and longest beach in the Ahwaz province in southwestern Iran. Residents of the Ahwaz province near Shatt Karun, of Arab origin. Karun to the Arabs of Ahwaz is similar to the Euphrates to the people of Iraq, and Tigris to the people of Egypt.

Screenplay
Habib Bavi Sajed

Cinematography
hamze hatami

Producer
Fatemeh Chandarian Pour
mohammdsongori

Editors
sajad mola
asmaeel por naseri

Production
amene Chandarian Pour

Narrator
habib bavi sajed

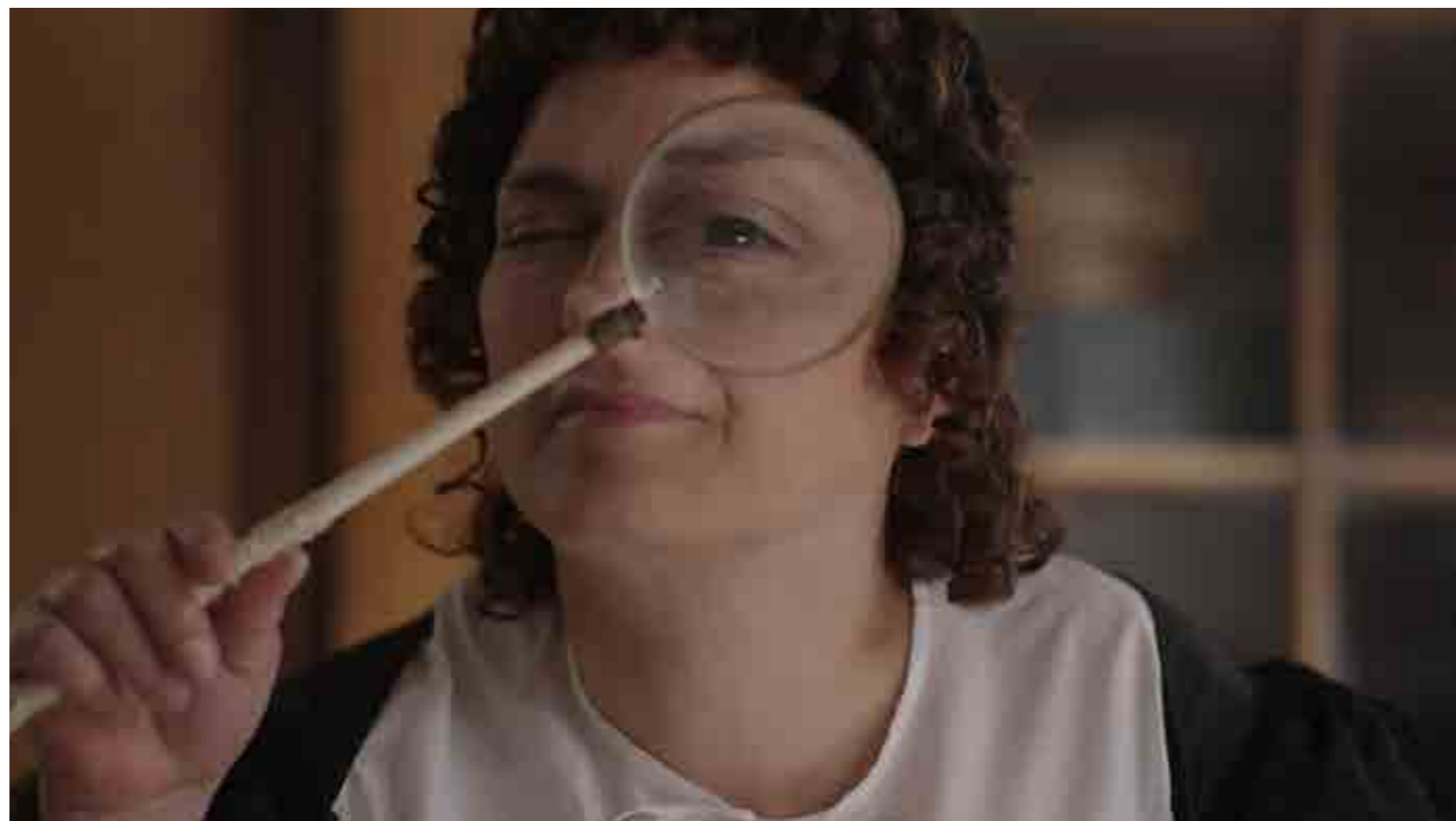
After three short films that won awards at Cannes and in Venice, Faouzi Bensaïdi directed his first feature film, MILLE MOIS, in 2003, which won two awards in Un Certain Regard in Cannes.

In 2006, WWW: WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD was presented at Venice Days. In 2013, he directed DEATH FOR SALE, winning the Berlin CICA award. His latest feature film, VOLUBILIS, released in 2018, was selected at Venice Days. He is also an actor for many authors, such as Jacques Audiard, Nabil Ayouch, Bertrand Bonello, André Techiné, and Nadir Moknèche.



Metamorphosis

Director: Pim Zwier



96 min
Netherland
2023

SYNOPSIS: Shatt Karun is the largest and longest beach in the Ahwaz province in southwestern Iran. Residents of the Ahwaz province near Shatt Karun, of Arab origin. Karun to the Arabs of Ahwaz is similar to the Euphrates to the people of Iraq, and Tigris to the people of Egypt.

Screenplay
PIM ZWIER

Producer
Pasover Carolin Borgdorff

Production
Moondocs Production

Cinematography
Aage Hollander

Editors
Pim Zwier

Pim Zwier is an independent film maker/ media artist/ photographer who studied at the PietZwart Institute in Rotterdam between 2001 en 2003. His work consists of photography, documentaries and video-installations, and is often inspired by, or based upon, archive material.



M.I.A.O

Director: Louiza Allia BELAMRI



82 min
France
2023

SYNOPSIS: MIAO is a documentary film around a collective of three committed Algerian underground street-artists, Mouad, Lyes and Merinne. In this film, beyond the collective, the three artists deliver themselves alone, facing the camera.

Screenplay
Louisa Allia BELAMRI

Cinematography
Borhane CHERBAL

Producer
El Heithem AMEUR
Madoui Wissam
Production
tprd.FILMS

Editors
Bdredine HARZLI

Allia Louiza Belamri, born in 1984 in Bejaia and based in Algiers, is a freelance audiovisual professional and visual artist. Her works span documentaries and short films tackling societal issues, with selections at international festivals. Notable works include "Yes for Lipstick" (2017), "Sorry Mom" (2019), and "MIAO" (2021). She is currently developing her first fiction feature film.



ROSE WATER

Director: Mahmood Yahya Al-Shaikh



82 min
Bahrain
2023

SYNOPSIS: Maryam spent 40 years of her life raising her children and taking care of the family. After the death of her husband, Sheikh Jaafar, her ex-boyfriend proposes to her, and she decides to agree.

Screenplay
Mahmood Yahya Al-Shaikh
Mohammad Ateeq

Producer
Hassan Al-Shaikh
Mahmood Al-Shaikh

Production
Frame Box Center Productions

Cinematography
Mohammad Ateeq

Editors
Mohammed Ahmed
Mahmood Ateeq

Mahmood Yahya Al-Shaikh, a Bahraini filmmaker with a Bachelor's in Multimedia from the University of Bahrain, directed the OSN drama Warm Feeling (2022) and award-winning shorts like Rainbow, which earned accolades at numerous festivals, including Abu Dhabi, Meknes, and Dhaka. His work has been recognized for its direction, screenplay, and innovation, receiving multiple jury and festival awards.



THE NIGHT VISITORS

Director: Michael Gitlin



72 minutes
USA
2023

SYNOPSIS: The Night Visitors is a movie about moths. In large and small fragments, looking both inward and out, through a critical lens that is by turns social and personal, the film closely examines these underknown creatures. While The Night Visitors is interested in moths as organisms, with fascinating life histories, staggering biodiversity, and a functional importance as indicators of climate change and habitat degradation, its engagement with them is not primarily entomological. Instead, the film looks at moths as aesthetic beings and as carriers of meaning, aiming for a deep encounter with the beauty and incommensurability of the profoundly other.

Screenplay
Michael Gitlin

Cinematography
Michael Gitlin

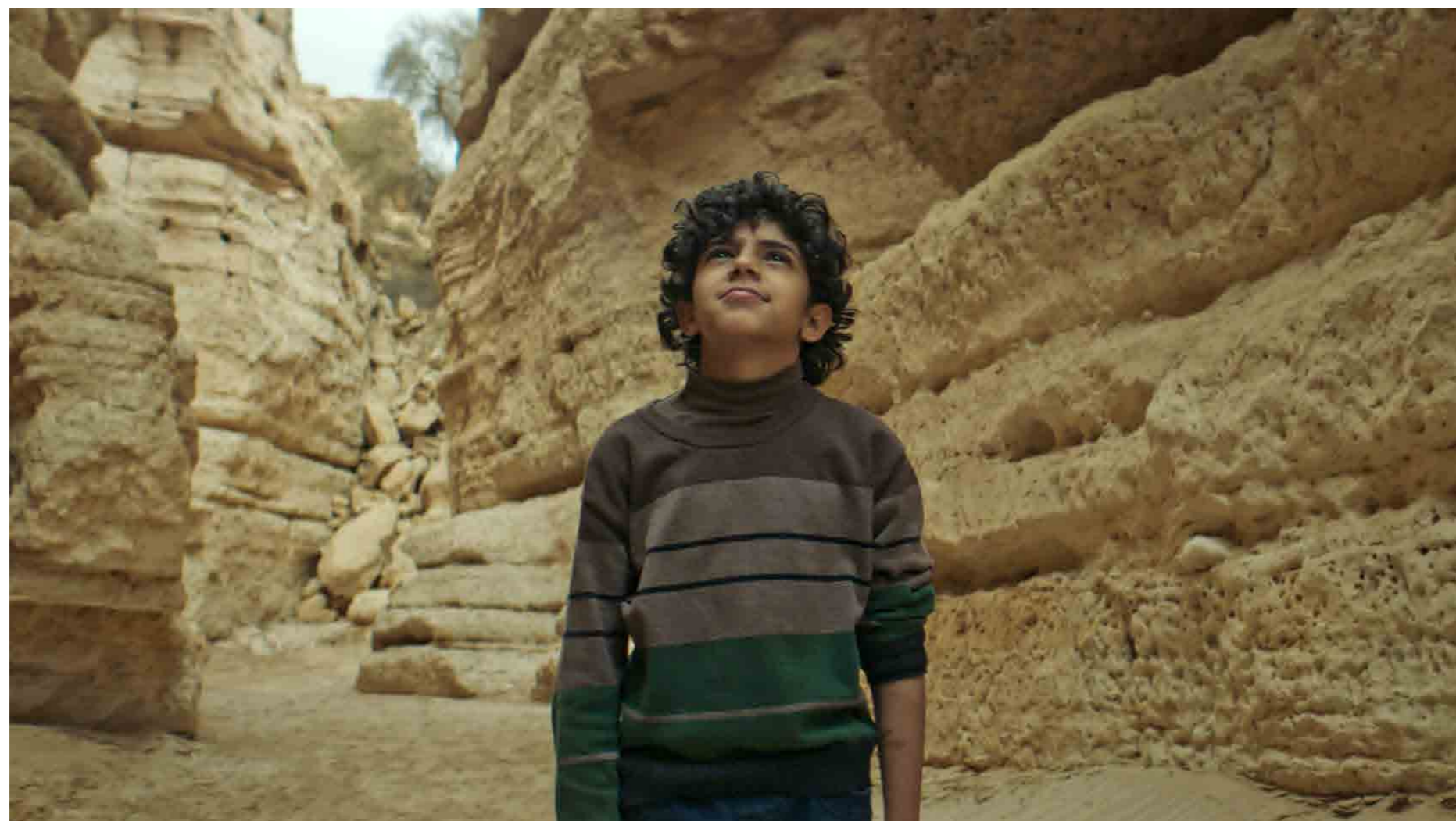
Producer
Michael Gitlin

Editors
Michael Gitlin

Michael Gitlin, an experimental filmmaker and Hunter College professor, explores conceptual systems in his work. His films, including *The Night Visitors* (2023) and *That Which Is Possible*, have screened at prestigious venues like MoMA, TIFF, and the Whitney Biennial. A Guggenheim Fellow (2006), his work is in MoMA's collection and supported by MacDowell, Jerome Foundation, and NYSCA.



Valley Road



150 minutes
Saudi Arabia
2023

SYNOPSIS: Ali, a boy with a disability, embarks on a journey with his father to meet a folk healer, discovering resilience and determination along the way. Meanwhile, cyclone survivors face loss, including a villager salvaging memories, a grieving mother finding solace in nature, and a devotee urging acceptance as fragmented narratives intertwine.

Screenplay
Khaled Fahd

Cinematography
Carter Cage

Producer
Rakan Anneghinshi
Maged Z. Samman

Editors
Ashraf El Kholy

Khaled Fahd is a Saudi writer and film director. He began his career in Canada with the mini-series Haneen 2012. He won many awards for screenwriting and filmmaking, including the American Film Award for the Little Bird script, the Dutch Golden Eagle for the script of the investor film, and the Saudi Film Festival award for the Little Bird film. Khalid participated in local and international film festivals after his first short film The Investor 2017, he worked as a creative director with media institutions and companies and participated in writing feature films.



WHISPERS OF A STORM

Director: Amartya Bhattacharyya



74 minutes
India
2024

SYNOPSIS: 'Whispers of a Storm' is set in the cyclone-devastated coastal villages of Odisha, often known as the land of cyclones. A photographer, in greed of success, captures the devastation of the coastal villages after cyclone 'Fani' (in 2019), which happens to be one of South Asia's strongest cyclones ever.

Screenplay
Amartya Bhattacharyya

Cinematography
Amartya Bhattacharyya

Producer
Swastik Choudhury

Editors
Amartya Bhattacharyya

Cast
Dipanwit Dashmohapatra
Priyanka Ghosh Roy
Radha Krushna

Amartya Bhattacharyya is a writer and independent filmmaker from India. He is a National Award winner, a State Awardee, and has bagged over twenty international awards as a director, writer, cinematographer and editor. Amartya's films have been screened at over 150 international film festivals around the world including the prestigious Moscow International Film Festival, Oakland, IFFI Goa, IFFK (Kerala), KIFF, Jogja-NETPAC (Indonesia), etc. Some of his notable films are Adieu GODARD, Runanubandha - The HE without HIM, Khyanikaa - The Lost Idea, Capital I, Benaras - The unexplored attachments.



Short Film Competition Jury

Ahmed Shawky

He is an Egyptian film critic, programmer, and elected president of the international film critics federation (FIPRESCI). Publishing weekly articles about cinema and entertainment industry. He has also published eight books Egyptian cinema.

Shawky is also the president of Egyptian film critics association (EFCA). He is the head of CineGouna Funding, the industry program of El Gouna Film Festival.

He worked as an artistic director/ programmer for many film festivals including Cairo, Malmo, Aswan, Tripoli, Mumbai, among others. He acted as jury in various festivals such as Locarno, Shanghai, Eurasia, Transylvania, Macao, Luxembourg, Oran, and Taipei. Shawky was the president of the Cannes film festival 2022 FIPRESCI Jury.



Nawaf Al Janahi

Nawaf Al Janahi is an actor and a film director who was born in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on 7 February 1977 to an Egyptian mother and an Emirati father. He started acting at 7, and at the age of 19

moved to California in the US to study the arts of cinema.

Al Janahi's first feature length film "The Circle" was described by film critics as "a major turning point in Emirati and Gulf cinema". His second feature film "Sea Shadow" was released in

cinemas across the Arabian Gulf in 2011 reaching in the 1st week the 2nd place in the top 5 movies in the UAE, the biggest cinema market in the Arab world at the time, and later went on a global tour to 27 countries, which is the most remarkable tour for an Emirati feature film to date.



Zine Elaabnidine Charafddine

Charafddine Zine El Abidine, a journalist and film producer, has presented and prepared several programs for Moroccan television. He worked as production director and director of international relations at the National Broadcasting and Television Company in Morocco.

He has produced several documentary films:

Massira, directed by Asmae El Moudir

Women of the Sahara, directed by Rachid Zaki

The Little Prince... Wisdom of the Sands, directed by Mariam Ait Belhoussine

In the Footsteps of San Mao, directed by Abdelouahed Majahd

Moul Lma, directed by Fouad Souiba

Feature films:

The Slave, directed by Abdelilah El Jaouhari

Love in Dakhla, directed by Khalid Ibrahim

He holds a bachelor's degree in economics and management from Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakech, a master's degree in economics from Mohammed V University, a diploma in journalism from Cairo University, and a postgraduate diploma in communication from Paris 2 University.



20th

Director: Abdelfattah Farag



20 min
Egypt
2024

SYNOPSIS: The Egyptian drama has always presented several films and series with fictional events taking place in the popular areas. The documentary film “Al-Eshreen” tells the most important events that Egypt has witnessed in five years (2018-2023), through the eyes of a resident of Bulaq El Dakrour neighborhood, in Giza, Egypt.

Screenplay
Abdelfattah Farag

Cinematography
Abdelfattah Farag

Producer
Abdelfattah Farag

Editor
Mohamed Emam

Abdelfattah Farag, journalist and documentary filmmaker, graduated from Al-Azhar University's Journalism and Media Department in 2007. He won three awards, including the "Young Journalist Award" from BBC Arabic in 2014 for Saber Ala El-Gholb, the "Best Screenplay" award at Saqiyat Al-Sawi Festival in 2017 for Al-Nawama, and the EU Migration Issues Award in 2018 for The Journey of Labyrinth and Thirst. His film Shaima was showcased at major festivals. He is a member of the Egyptian Journalists Syndicate and a video journalism trainer.



99 Seconds

Director: Khaled Abdallah



5 min
Egypt
2023

SYNOPSIS: How much time is left until the city disappears?
In our minds this question is always related to climate change, but there is another disappearance that we have missed.
The disappearance of open spaces, natural life, the identity of the city.
Many fast disappearances that make us ask another question:
How much is left of the city?

Cinematography
Abdelfattah Farag

Editor
Abdelfattah Farag

Khaled Abdallah Visual artist, film maker, film editor, photographer and video artist based in Alexandria, Egypt. He studies Set Design at the High Theatrical Arts Institute in Alexandria. (99 Seconds) is his first short film, and he participated in several short films as an editor.



Antidote

Director: Hassan Saeed



21 min
Saudi Arabia
2023

SYNOPSIS: The young boy Ali seeks the folk singer to record him with his father's tape recorder. When the singer loses his voice after laryngeal surgery. Ali meets the singer with the last recording of his voice.

Screenplay
Ali Saeed

Cinematography
Christoph Schumann

Cast
Abdul Nasser Al-Zayer
Abdullah Al-Jaffal
Majed Al-Sihati
Rawda Badr Al-Nabi
Ali Al-Sayegh

Editors
Hassan Saeed
Ahmed Al-Jaroudi

Hassan Saeed is a producer and director who studied film production in Toronto and Ontario. Since graduating in 2013, Hassan has worked on numerous projects, short films, documentaries and TV series. Hassan's previous works have been diverse and officially nominated for awards, starting at prestigious festivals around the world, including the Dubai International Film Festival, the Saudi Film Festival, the Beirut International Film Festival, the Red Sea International Film Festival, and others.



Antisocial

Director: Tobias Rothacker



2 min
German
2024

SYNOPSIS: The film "Antisocial" tells the story of an archetypal Western hero who is drawn into an absurd chase against supposed enemies, reflecting societal norms and prejudices. The film employs stop-motion technique to bring the characters and their world to life, with over 6,000 frames shot. It also features a musical depth that deliberately avoids traditional clichés, making "Antisocial" a personal expression of important social issues.

Screenplay
Tobias Rothacker

Tobias Rothacker is a self-taught stop-motion animator, director, and model maker for film and display based in Gera, Thuringia, Germany. In addition to his deep engagement with stop-motion animation, he has participated in workshops led by Jürgen Kling (Weirdoughmationfilms), a recognized expert in the field.

Through his own studio, Re-Anima-Tro, Tobias has completed several stop-motion projects. His music-animated film Consume Pedagogic, an independently produced work, was released in 2016 and comprises over 3,000 individual frames. Tobias is also a musician in the band Pedagogic Torment, whose music video Consume Pedagogic accompanied an album with a critical focus on societal issues. Through the band, he actively engages with topics related to education and society, fostering creative projects in this context.



Ayada

Director: Houcine Thabti



6 min
Tunisia
2024

SYNOPSIS: A struggling old Tunisian woman working a special handicraft.

Producer
Anis Al-Tunisi

Editor
Anis Al-Tunisi

Houcine Thabti a Tunisian photographer and film director resident in Oman, interested in people struggles and nature.



Bakhaf Ealyk

Director: Eslam Hiddaya



5 min
Egypt
2024

SYNOPSIS: "Bakhaf Ealyk" is an experimental film that tells the story of a woman living a routine life, carrying out her daily tasks in a traditional manner. One day, she is surprised by the appearance of a gift bag in her living room, which stirs feelings of anxiety. Through this simple narrative, the director opens a window into the life of a modest housewife, shedding light on the environmental and social changes that impact this social class.

Screenplay
Islam Hedayah

Production
Banlastic Egypt

Cinematography
Islam Hedayah
Editor
Islam Hedayah
Narrator
Hanan Khalil

Eslam Bahaa Mahmoud Hiddaya is an Egyptian filmmaker and architect. He studied filmmaking independently through workshops and cultural centers like the Jesuit Cultural Center and Goethe Institute in Alexandria. Eslam has worked as a video editor and director of photography on independent film projects and has directed commercials and documented artistic events. His work has been recognized in several film festivals



Clics

Director: Said ennidam



9 min
Morocco
2023

SYNOPSIS: In the age of social media, communication and creativity are absent. How dose Doha, the film's protagonist, deal with this paradox?

Screenplay
Said Ennidam

Producer
Said Ennidam

Cinematography

Nabil jaouhar

Editor

Said ennidam

Cast

Doha Meklaa

Director of the National Amateur Film Festival in Settat, Kingdom of Morocco
President of the Seventh Art Association in Settat, Kingdom of Morocco
Screenwriter and director of short films, most notably
Gates of Paradise - 3000 metres of obstacles - Click
Director of video films with the Dutch organisation One minute movie
Professor of Philosophy and PhD research student at Hassan II University,
Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Mohammedia
Winner of a number of awards at national and international festivals



Four Rural Women

Director: Tarek El-Zarqani



9 min
Morocco
2023

SYNOPSIS: Four rural women from the village of Tamiya in Fayoum decided to support their families through work. Their circumstances vary; one has a sick husband, while another's husband is a simple laborer. They gather produce from their village, including vegetables, fruits, dairy products, and poultry, and travel every Thursday to a market in Cairo. Their neighbor, Abu Abdel Karim, helps transport their goods in his car. Upon arrival, each woman sets up her stall, hoping to sell everything to support her family. At the end of the day, they share dinner and prepare to sleep next to their goods before returning to their village the next day. The text highlights the significant role of women in supporting families.

Screenplay
Said Ennidam

Cinematography
Mostafa Nabil

Producer
Ekramy Abd El Atty
Ahmed Refaie

Editor
Ingy Fathy

Tarek El-Zarqani is a graduate of the Cinema Institute, class of 1981, specializing in directing. He has extensive experience in directing documentary films, having produced dozens of films both in Egypt and internationally. He has received several local and international awards in recognition of his creativity. Some of his notable works include "The United Nations Annual Report," "Agfund for Supporting UN Organizations," "The Campaign," "Bleeding," "Loaf of Bread and Freedom," "65 Meters," "Children of Sparrows," and "Four Women."



From and to nature, we return

Director: Bishoy Adel



2 min
Egypt
2024

SYNOPSIS: In a mesmerizing visual journey, it explores the deep connection between humanity and Mother Earth, calling us to reconnect with nature and live in harmony with its cosmic rhythms.

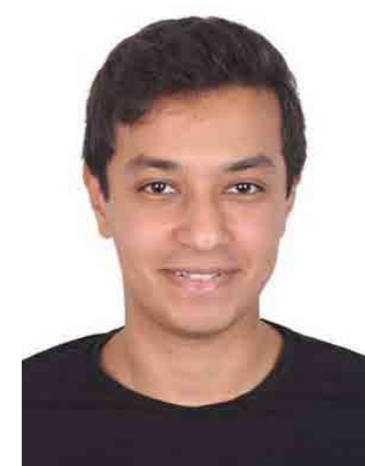
Screenplay
Bishoy Adel

Producer
Bishoy Adel

Cinematography
Bishoy Adel

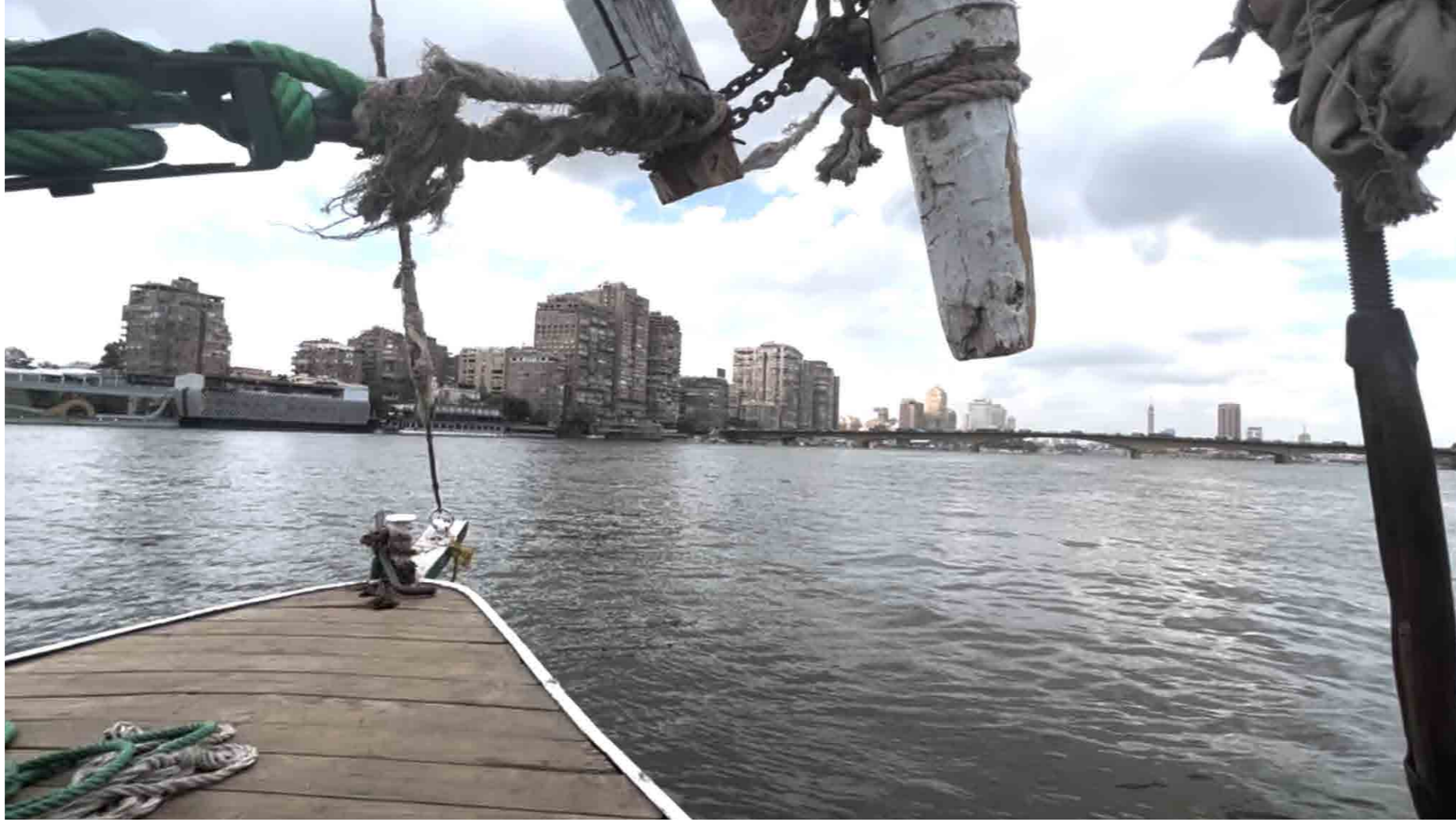
Editor
Karen Ehab
Cast
Maryem El-Oranni

Bishoy Adel, a 21-year-old filmmaker and musician, expresses his passion through innovative projects across genres. He creates resonant stories that inspire change and connect people, reflecting his unique perspective on life and beliefs.



I See I Hear I Film

Director: Paula Edward



3 min
Egypt
2024

SYNOPSIS: The Nile is not just a river—it's a witness to Egypt's history, art, and memories. Through the filmmaker's personal lens, we explore the deep connection between the Nile and Cairo's people, where every crossing holds a memory, a promise, or a story. From childhood journeys to timeless Egyptian films and poetry, the Nile becomes a living thread that ties together the past and present, reflecting a bond that flows as endlessly as the river itself.

Screenplay
Paula Edward

Cinematography
Paula Edward
Editor
Paula Edward

Paula Edward is an Egyptian filmmaker, born in Cairo in 1991. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Directing from the Higher Institute of Cinema in 2019. His graduation Project , "Somebody" from the Cinema Institute, was screened in several festivals, most notably at the Carthage Film Festival in the Emerging Cinema Competition for Students in 2019. It won the Best Short Film Award at the "Egypt Dot Bokra" Festival in the Student Competition, the Best Egyptian Short Film Award at the Alexandria Mediterranean Film Festival, and received the Jury Prize at the Casablanca Student Film Festival in Morocco.



Innocence

Director: Walid Ahmed Al-Darwish



7 min
Syria
2023

SYNOPSIS: The film addresses the negative impacts of child labor and raises the idea of their innocence, as they live instinctively regardless of their material and social status. It presents an important issue concerning the deprivation of children from living their natural lives due to their work. The child "Wazen" in the film is an example of this situation; he works as a shoeshiner and has known nothing of his childhood except for dreams.

Screenplay
Shady Salamy Rezk

Cinematography
Ammar Khadour

Producer
Weal Younis

Editor
Wael Taha

Cast
Hamoud Abu Hasson
Mohamed Omar Torokhoun
Retaj Sawan

A filmmaker since 2007, I have directed numerous narrative and documentary films. I have worked in various sectors in Syria and Arab countries and have received several Arab and international awards in the field of filmmaking. I am a certified trainer at the International ELS University in documentary filmmaking. I have served as the head of the jury at the Eastern International Festival in the Sultanate of Oman and as a jury member at the Fajr International Film Festival. Additionally, I am the head of the jury at the Beirut International Film Festival.



Manity

Director: Hussen Ibraheem



15 min
Lebanon
2023

SYNOPSIS: On a sunny day, Firas – an 11-year-old boy – accompanies his father Tayseer and his father's friend Rayan on a bird-hunting jaunt in the Lebanese mountainside. What is supposed to be a calm hunting trip turns into an unforgettable experience.

Screenplay
Hussen Ibraheem

Producer
Tania El Khoury
Production Company
Les Films de l'Altaï

Cinematography
Julien Saez

Editors
Kamal El-Mallakh
Hussen Ibraheem

Cast

Jade Breidi
Hadi Jibbawi
Charbel Kamel

After graduating with a BA in architecture, Hussen Ibraheem decided to follow his passion for cinema.

He studied at the Red Sea Institute for Cinematic Arts – a branch of the University of Southern California in Jordan – and graduated with a master's. His work deals with questions of life and death, strained human relationships, and absurd bureaucratic practices.

Ibraheem is currently working on his first feature TIDE.



Mishna's Life

Director: Saad Tuhayti



11 mins
Saudi Arabia
2023

SYNOPSIS:

Dialogue
Rania Khader

Cinematography
Saad Tuhayti

Producer
Ayman Khalid

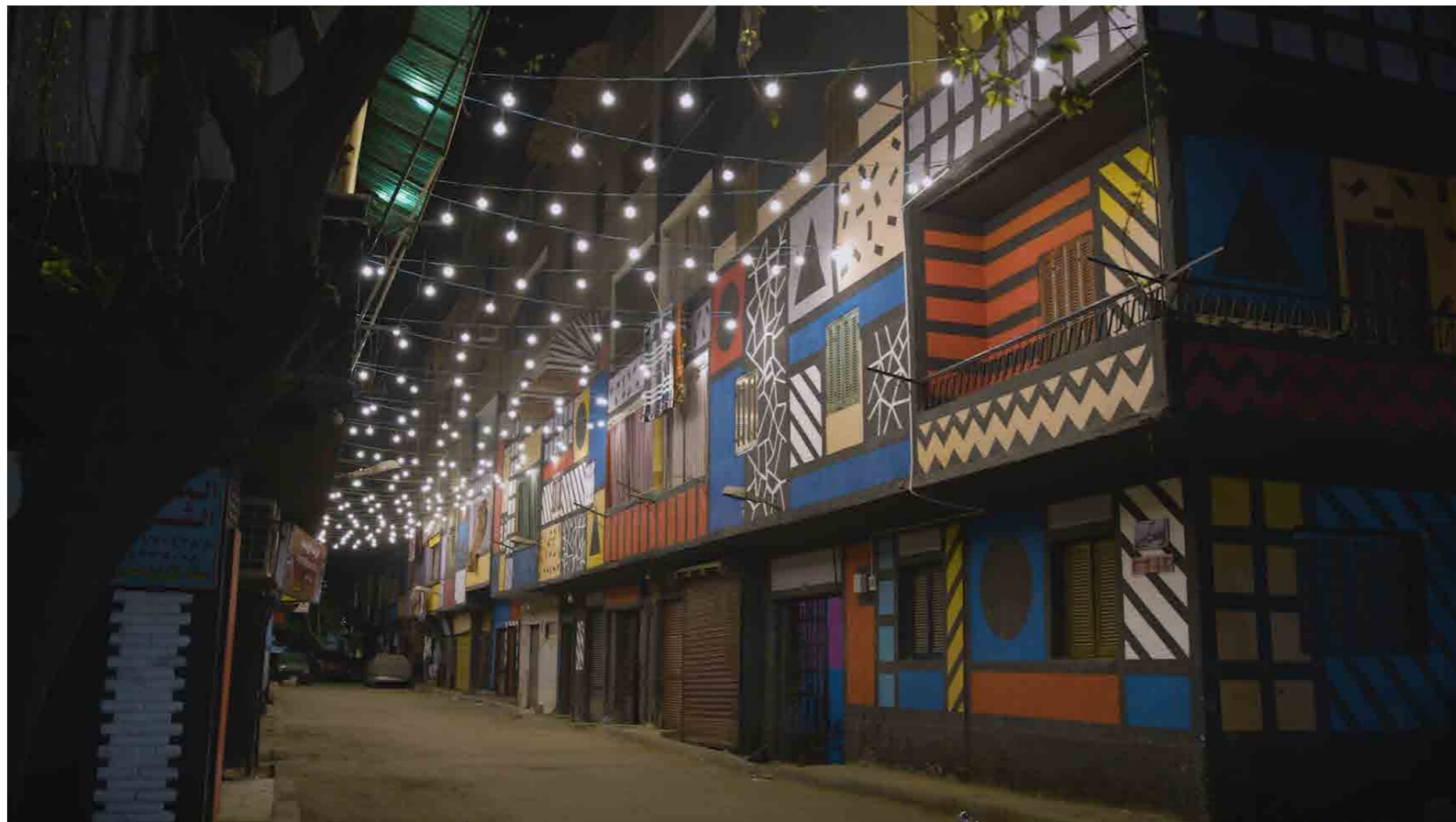
Editor
Saeed Tuhaitah

Saad Tuhayti began his photography journey in late 2012, capturing the beauty of his village amidst the mountains of Al-Namas. In 2016, he ventured into filmmaking, finding it a powerful way to express his emotions to others. Over time, Saad developed a unique style in directing and cinematography, blending his approach across documentary films and commercials.



Most Beautiful Street in Egypt

Director: Eslam Esmail



12 min
Egypt
2024

SYNOPSIS: following a group of youth who spend a year planning to revitalize and transform their neighborhood street into a masterpiece of art, turning their humble corner in a marginalized area into a symbol of creativity and hope.

Screenplay
Eslam Esmail

Cinematography
Eslam Esmail

Producer
Eslam Esmail

Editor
Eslam Esmail

Eslam Esmail, an Egyptian independent filmmaker born in December 1998, is based in Cairo and known for his innovative storytelling. Despite studying software engineering at Ain Shams University, his passion for filmmaking flourished, leading him to pursue a career in cinema.



Mother

Director: Najwa Khechemi



15 min
Tunisia
2023

SYNOPSIS: Impacted by the COVID economic crisis, Khalti Habiba aged of 76 years, comes back to her village to reclaim her father's legacy.

Screenplay
Najwa Khechemi

Cinematography
Julien Saez

Production Company
KVINNA TILL KVINNA FONDATION

Editors
Najwa Khechemi
Oumaima Mahjoub

Najwa Khechemi, obtained the National Audiovisual degree of editing and script in 2012 and her Master's degree in 2014, and she participated in several editing workshops, such as the National Film School in Denmark 2015, IDFA-academy Summer School 2017 & 2018, DOX BOX-GARAGE 2019, etc. She wrote for cinema, and she was an editor for several documentaries, such as "El Gort", "Par où commencer?", "Couscous: Seeds of Dignity", "A Haunted Past", etc.



No Fuel

Director: Esraa Yassin



5 min
Egypt
2023

SYNOPSIS: "No Fuel," a short documentary, is about an Alexandrian girl who goes to work 6 kilometers by her own bicycle and faces challenges in her path, such as the violence of Egyptian streets and the lack of lanes for cyclists. She emphasizes the environmental impact of using the bicycle as a means of transport. She reflects on her feeling relaxed and enjoying when she cycles in a street full of trees, in contrast she cycles in a street full of buildings, she feels that she is in a rush and wants to do it quickly.

Screenplay
Esraa Yassin

Cinematography
Dina Alaa El Din
Mohamed Khaled

Production Company
KVINNA TILL KVINNA FONDATION

Editor
Mohamed El Hossieny

Esraa Yassin is the writer and director of "No Fuel" documentary. She is an environmental activist. She managed incubator in green entrepreneurship and leads environmental campaigns with Banlastic, Egypt. She has more than 6 years of experience in business development and social development and has worked with startups and international NGOs.

She participated with her photography works in the "Their Eyes" exhibition which Goethe Institute Alexandria funded in partnership with 6 Bab Sharq and Cinema for Development initiative, as an output of a workshop about photography of documenting Alexandria heritage buildings in 2024.



Pearl of Fire

Director: Yosra Rezgui



5 min
Egypt
2023

SYNOPSIS: From the shop of Uncle Ali, one of Tunisia's oldest blacksmiths, Abdelhafid tells of the challenges of the craft, and his passion for keeping this ancient heritage alive.

Screenplay
Esraa Yassin

Cinematography
OUSSEMA SELMI

Cast
ALI FERCHICHI
ABEDALHAFIDH OURHENI

Editor
MAY AMAL MEJRI

Yosra Rezgui, 27 years old Tunisian, is a director and assistant director in several cinema and television productions in Tunisia. She holds an applied bachelor's degree in cinema and audiovisual from the Higher Institute of Multimedia Arts in Manouba, Tunisia, with specialization in writing and directing in 2020, first year of the Master of Research in Cinema Theories and Techniques at the Higher School of Cinema in Tunisia. She directed the independent short film "Bint Lajouad" 2018 and is director of the short film "Other side", which was selected in the official competition of the International Amateur Film Festival in Qalibia in 2022.



Saleeg

Director: Afnan Bawyan



10 min
Saudi Arabia
2023

SYNOPSIS: Sixty-year-old Hajer lives alone in Historic Jeddah. She prepares the famous local rice dish "Saleeg". She hears the bell of the grocer outside. She hurries to the living room window, and neglects to cover the pot. The birds fly in and begin to nibble, but accidentally knock off the rice into the pot, and it begins to cook and expand in size. While Hajer struggles with the Indian grocer who fails to understand her, Saleeg fills the entire kitchen and overflows into the rest of the house. Hajer panics and grabs a ladle and scoops Saleeg into multiple plates and sets them in the hallway. Someone knocks at the door, her neighbor's daughter Shams is offering a plate of food, but Shams freaks out at the Saleeg and runs away. Hajer asks her foreign neighbors for help, who do not understand her. Saleeg floods the rest of the house and into the yard, carrying Hajer outside.

Screenplay
Esraa Yassin

Cinematography
Jeroen Zulstra

Producer
Mariam Khayat
Afnan Bawyan

Cast
Amal Alamouoi
Sophia Puri

Editor
May Amal Mejri

Afnaan Bayoun is a Saudi director and writer who began her directing journey with the film "Sleek," her first project after four years of experience. Throughout her career, she has worked as a script supervisor on seven feature films and has written scripts for other long films. Additionally, she served as an assistant director on the Saudi film "Kandahar," which was shot in AlUla.



Star

Director: Mohammad Samir Al-Tahan



16 min
Syria
2024

SYNOPSIS: The film addresses the theme of loss among children through the story of a girl who flees her home with her family due to terrorism, leading to feelings of longing for her doll left behind. Following the tragic earthquake last year, the story features two sisters who yearn for their doll, alongside the narrative of a mother grieving the loss of her daughter.

Screenplay
Mohammad Samir Al-Tahan

Cinematography
Basel Sarawelgy

Cast
May Merhej
Firas Al-Faqir
Abeer Baytar
Ayat Al-Atrash

Editor
Wael Taha

Producer
Wael Goubara

Mohammad Samir Al-Tahan, a Syrian director and screenwriter, began his career winning a children's cinema screenplay competition for *The Trapped Doll*. He directed *The Game*, screened at the Youth Cinema Festival, and received acclaim for *Red Signal* at Damascus Cinema Days. His works include *Astronaut*, *City Bars*, and the award-winning script *Ice Cream*. His play *Red Clay* showcased his talent in blending cinema and theater.



Tarwida

Director: Mooney Abu Samra



23 min
Jordan
2023

SYNOPSIS: In the vast expanse of the desert, a determined young geologist finds herself stranded. She is the lone survivor of a group of geologists on a survey mission who drowned due to sudden rain caused by climate change. Faced with the harsh reality of her circumstances, she sets forth on a profound and introspective odyssey, A mysterious traveller with a turbulent past joins her and presents a series of puzzling challenges to inspire and motivate her. Through their shared journey, she grapples with conflicting emotions, oscillating between the unwavering hope of survival and an inner resistance to the inescapable forces of fate.

Screenplay
Mooney Abu Samra

Cinematography
Ahmad Saif

Producer
Rama Ayasra

Editor
Nansy Fares

Cast
Hayat Abu Samra
Nabil Al Raee

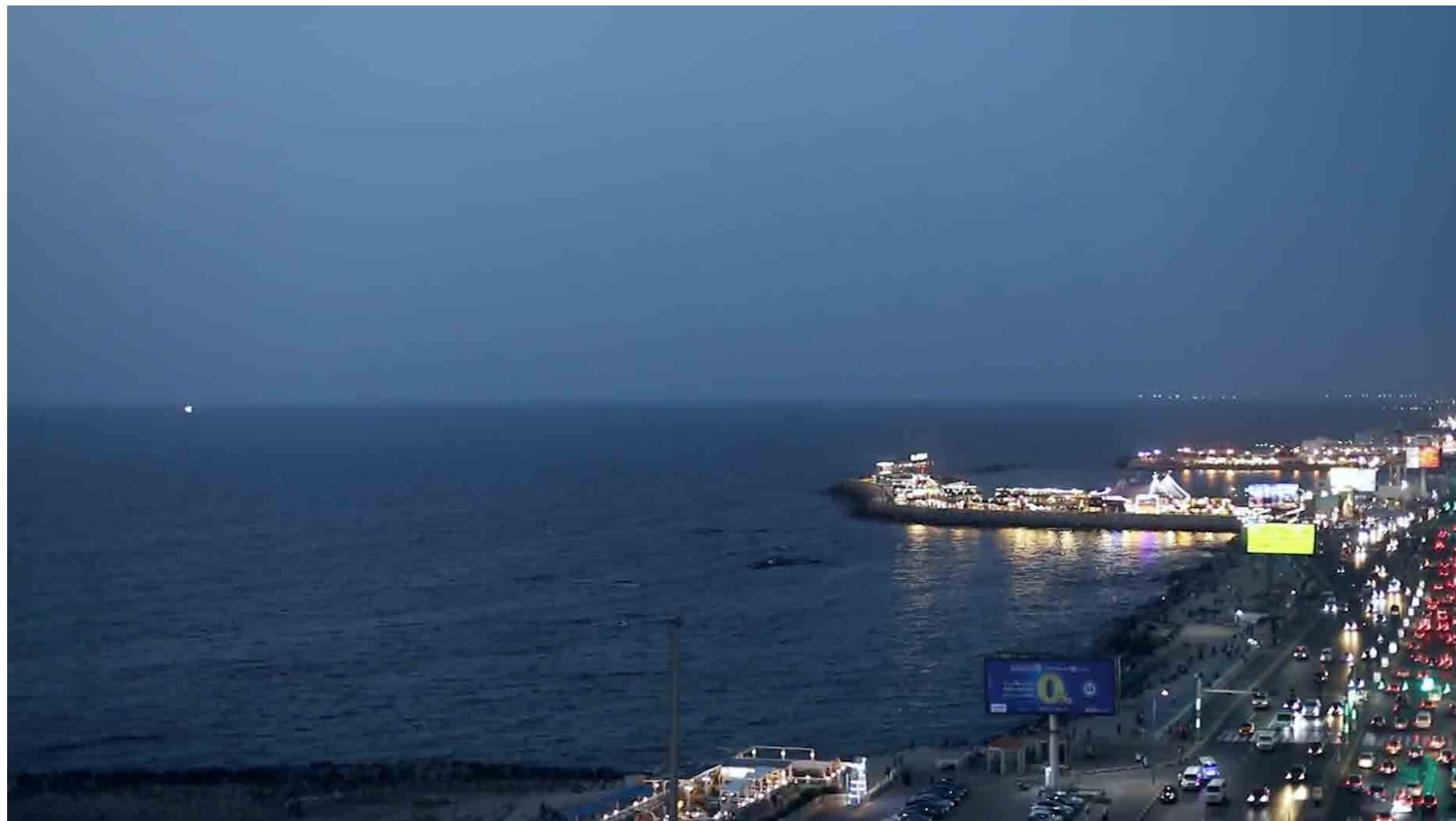
Writer/Director Mooney Abu Samra embarked on her cinematic journey in 2021. She studied filmmaking with the Royal Film Commission, receiving training in narrative and documentary filmmaking, as well as literary adaptation for the screen. Mooney began her career as an editor in 2016. Mooney is developing her first feature film, "DESERT CARGO " which has received three awards in the development category at the Amman International Film Festival.

With a strong passion for cinema, Mooney aspires to continue creating inspirational cinematic works that resonate with audiences and contribute to the advancement of the Arab film industry.



The blue well "everything is fine "

Director: Mahmoud Darwish



17 min
Egypt
2024

SYNOPSIS: In the year 2000, the year I was born, "Mohamed" began his daily journeys from his home—a hut by the railway—to the corniche, seeking relief from his chronic asthma. I met "Mohamed" during our shared fishing sessions when I was a child. Although I stopped going, he never did, and I still encounter him whenever I visit the corniche, looking for a breath of fresh air or a new idea. In the film, we follow "Mohamed's" daily journey, which has remained unchanged over the past 24 years, except for the shoreline, slowly devoured by the concrete monster, and the sea, now stingy with its fish. Will the encroachment stop, or will he eventually become like a fish gasping for air on the rocks of the shore?

Screenplay
Mahmoud Darwish

Cinematography
Ahmad Saif

Producer
Rama Ayasra

Editor
Nansy Fares

Cast
Hayat Abu Samra
Nabil Al Raei

Mahmoud Darwish, born in Alexandria in 2000, is a visual artist and filmmaker. He studied in the Faculty of Specific Education, specializing in sculpture. Mahmoud received a scholarship from the Goethe-Institut to study and produce animated films, through which he created his first film, Invisible. He has worked on sculptural pieces and murals for theater productions, including Pound of Flesh, Mermaids, The Secret, and Carnival of Clowns, all produced by the Egyptian Ministry of Culture. Mahmoud also worked as a sculptor, performer, and member of the production team for the project Drama 1882, under the supervision of artist Wael Shawky, which represented Egypt officially at the Venice Biennale in 2024.



The Woodland

Director: Firas Al-Taybeh



25 min
Egypt
2023

SYNOPSIS: In the wild, on the way to bury their father, two estranged brothers reunite after an extended separation. This day compels them to reach a joint decision but not before confronting the past.

Screenplay
Mahmoud Darwish

Producer
Majd Hijjawi
Production
The Fund Film Jordan
Productions Labiba
A.A Films
The Imaginarium

Cinematography
Ghassan Nazmi

Editor
Eyad Hamam

Cast
Khaled Al Ghwir
Oday Fawaz

Firas Al Taybeh is a Jordanian Filmmaker / Actor, he studied sculpting and fine arts at Jordan University, and then he studied film at the Red Sea Institute of Cinematic Arts (RSICA).

He taught filmmaking for 5 years at SAE College Jordan. He wrote and directed several fiction short films like "Al Wadi" and documentary short films such as "An invisible face".

Firas also appeared as an actor in several acclaimed features, drama series and shorts like "Kabreet 45", "Deserted", "Farha", "Lamma Shoftak", "familial fever", "Counter Attack" to name a few.

He is currently developing his first feature length film, which received a development fund from the Jordan film fund and also received 2 development awards from the Amman Film Industry Days in 2022



Tremors

Director: Nicolas Jacquette



25 min
Egypt
2023

SYNOPSIS:

Screenplay
Nicolas Jacquette

Editor
Nicolas Jacquette

Producer
Rama Ayasra

Narrator
Abdellah Bennabbou

Nicolas Jacquette, Designer and Associate Director at Agence Si | Studio irresistible in Paris since 2009, collaborates with J. Liniger and Chloé Verlhac. He specializes in digital communication, data visualization, and motion design, focusing on ecological transition and CSR. As an official observer at COP24, he engages with international leaders on climate change. Awarded the "Gérard Vandembroucke Prize" in 2021 for supporting freedom of expression, he received 7 international design awards for his work with the EU Council for France's 2022 Presidency.



What Remains

Director: Ahmed Osman



10 min
Egypt
2024

Screenplay
Ahmed Osman

Editor
Ahmed Osman

Producer
Ahmed Osman

Narrator
Ahmed Osman

Ahmed Osman is an Egyptian visual artist born in Alexandria on January 20, 1988. As a painter, photographer, and theater artist with a strong interest in the film industry, Ahmed has been actively engaged in the art scene since 2005. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, Department of Photography, at Alexandria University in 2010, and joined the Egyptian Fine Arts Syndicate the same year. Since 2009, Ahmed has participated in numerous art exhibitions and events in Egypt and internationally, specializing in plastic arts, visual performance, theater, and filmmaking. He also earned a diploma in education in 2014.



Yafa

Director: Khaled Jamal Alshaikh



25 min
Palestine
2024

SYNOPSIS: The Palestinian short film Jaffa explores the impact of occupation, loss, and trauma on Palestinian life through the lens of environmental and emotional struggle. After losing her family to an airstrike, Jaffa clings to her loyal dog Gina, whose companionship helps her cope. When Gina's life is endangered during a tear gas attack in besieged Beit Sahour, Jaffa fights to save her, symbolizing resilience and the enduring bond between humans and their environment amidst brutality.

Story
Nidal Al-Natour

Producer
Youssef Nasr

Cast
Nidal Al-Natour

Khaled Jamal Alshaikh is a cinematographer and director of photography with a Bachelor's degree in Media and Communication (2012-2016) and advanced studies in direction from the Higher Institute of Cinema (2017-2018). He has worked with various media channels, including Palestine TV, Alhurra, Al Sharq, Sada El-Balad, Mehwar, Ten, and Al Ghad. Khaled has served as a director of photography for programs like Primo and People as One with Amr Al-Leithi, and filmed documentaries such as Kasr Al-Ainy Hospital Development and The Egyptian Artisans Battalion. He is experienced in producing and filming diverse visual media projects.

Student Film Competition Jury

Dr. Ghada Gabara

Dr. Ghada Gabara is the President of the Academy of Arts and holds a Bachelor's degree from the Higher Institute of Cinema. She served as the Head of the Editing Department at the institute for one year and was the Vice Dean. She has also been the Head of the Directing Department and the Dean of the Higher Institute of Cinema. Dr. Gabara plays a significant role as the President of the Abu Hol Cinematic International Festival and the President of the International Cinema of Tomorrow Competition at the Cairo Film Festival. In addition, she has participated in numerous international film festivals, where she has contributed her expertise to the development of audiovisual arts and the promotion of cinematic culture.



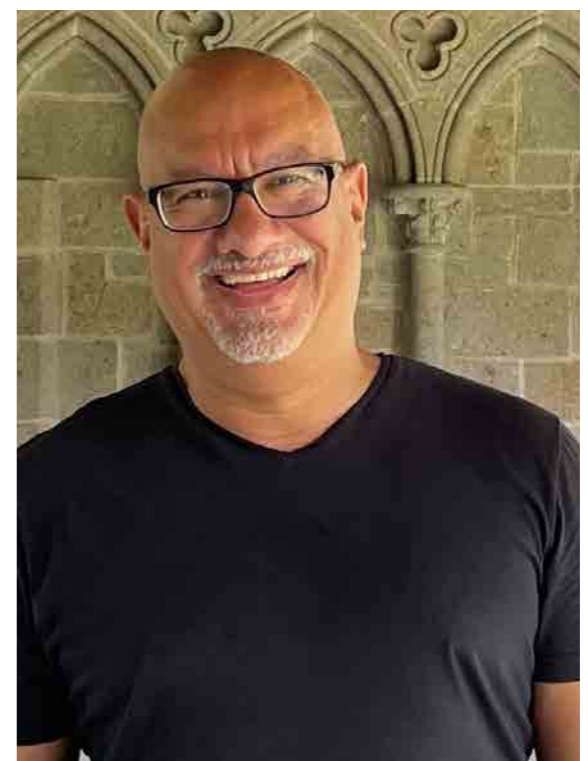
Dr. Wael Toubar

Dr. Wael Toubar is a professor at the Faculty of Dar Al-Uloom, Fayoum University. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Arabic Language and Islamic Sciences from Fayoum University, as well as a Master's degree and a Ph.D. in Islamic Sciences from the same faculty. He has several scientific publications and research studies and supervises master's and doctoral theses.



Aazer Sawiris

A former journalist at Al-Ahram newspaper and Reuters news agency, he is the President of the Helsinki Arab Film Festival and the Chairman of the Board of the Alif Khutwa Wa Khutwa Foundation for Arts and Culture in Finland



Ababwa

Director: Zyad Ashraf Arafa



Bahr

Director: Belal Abosamra



Bekonya

Director: Rawda Taha Deraz



Between clay and fire

Director: Eman Mahmoud Abdel Rahim



Cotard

Director: Ayman ELSanbokhty



Dead by coincidence

Director: Ossama El Kazaz



Elkenz Elmansy

Director: Abdullah Khaled



Jaw Ard

Director: Abdulazim Ayman



Last Question

Director: Ahmed Abdel Karim



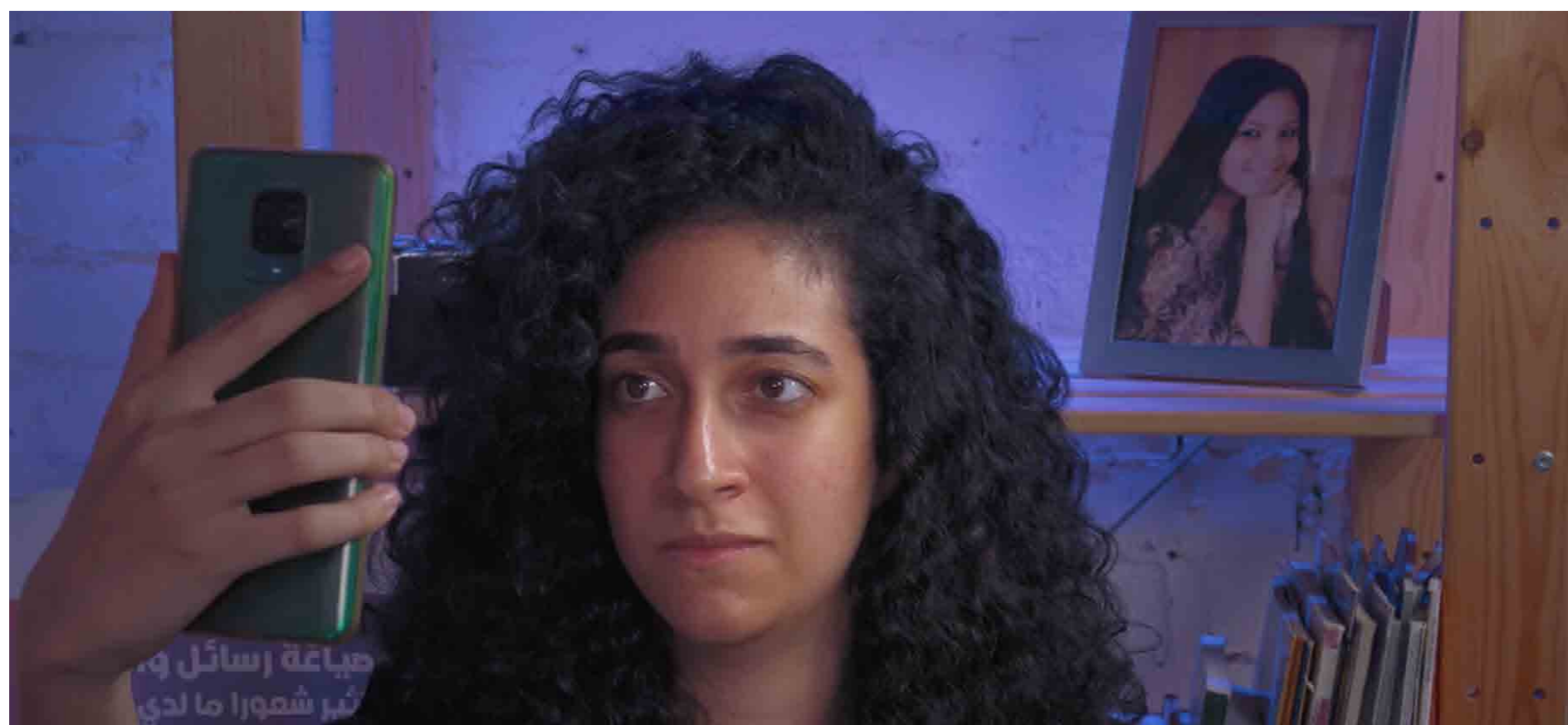
Mirror

Director: Zeiad Ragheb



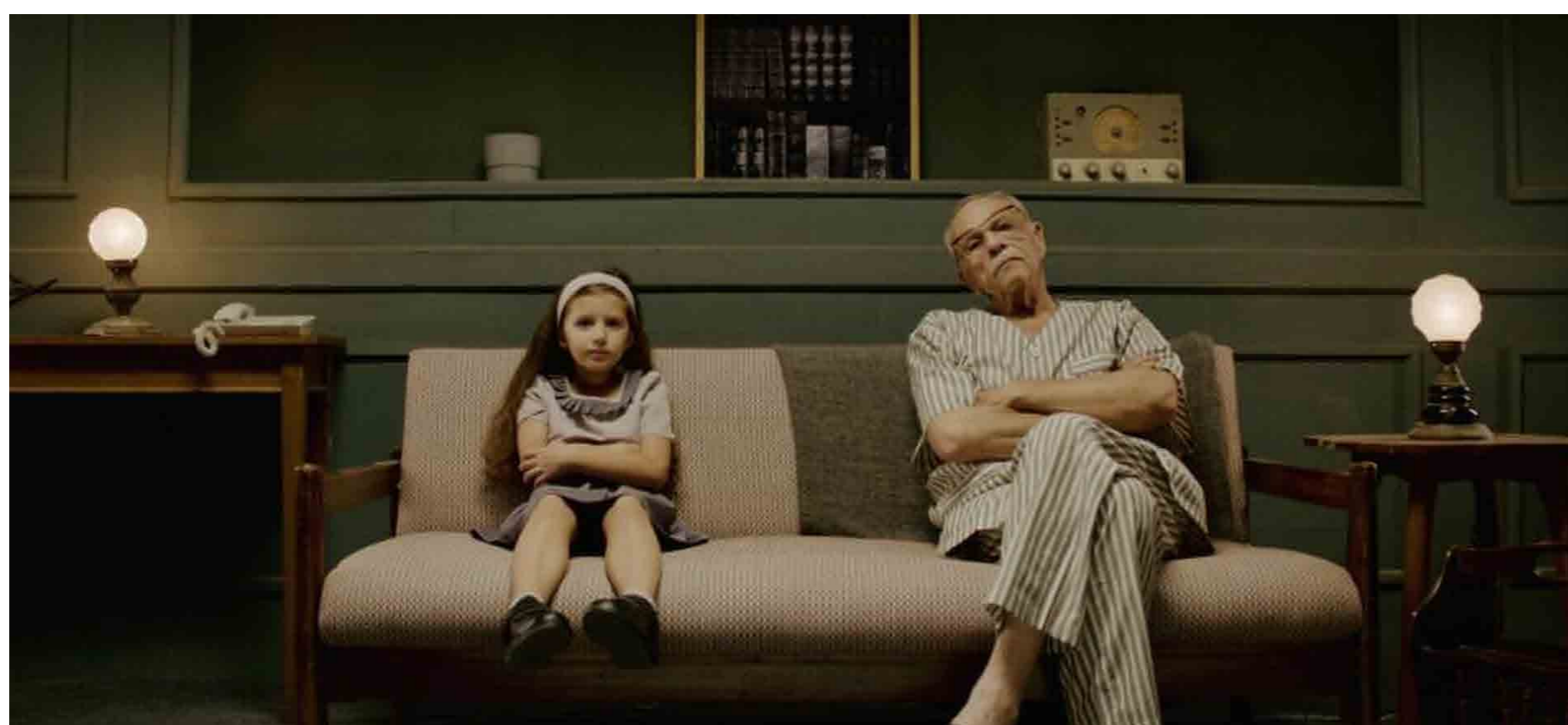
Photo to Remember

Director: Omar Elwy



Re-mote el Television

Director: Samar El-Hendawi



Roesess

Director: Rahaf Shawky



Postman

Director: Ahmed Fayez Nafea Galal



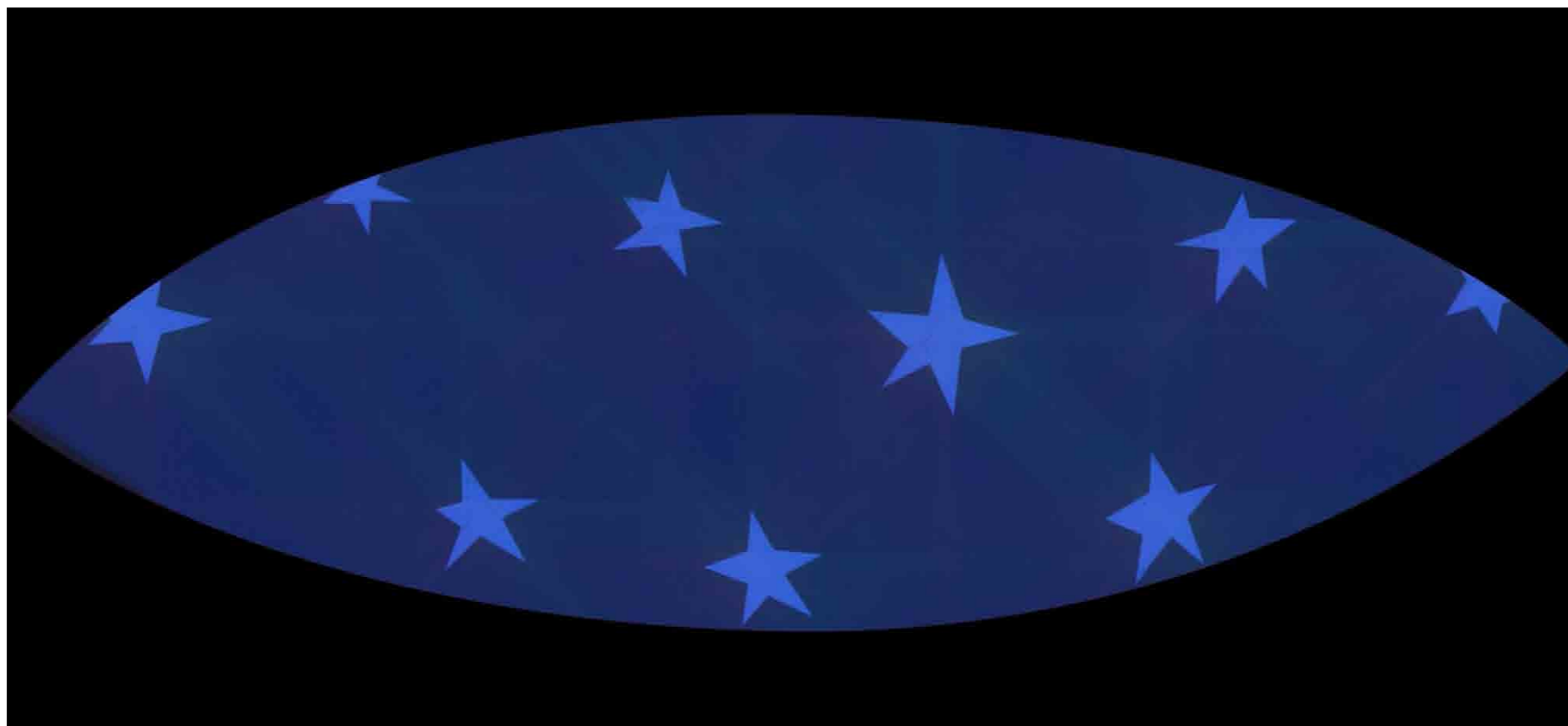
The sun won't rise

Director: Adham Khaled



There Once Was A Boy

Director: Salma Enani



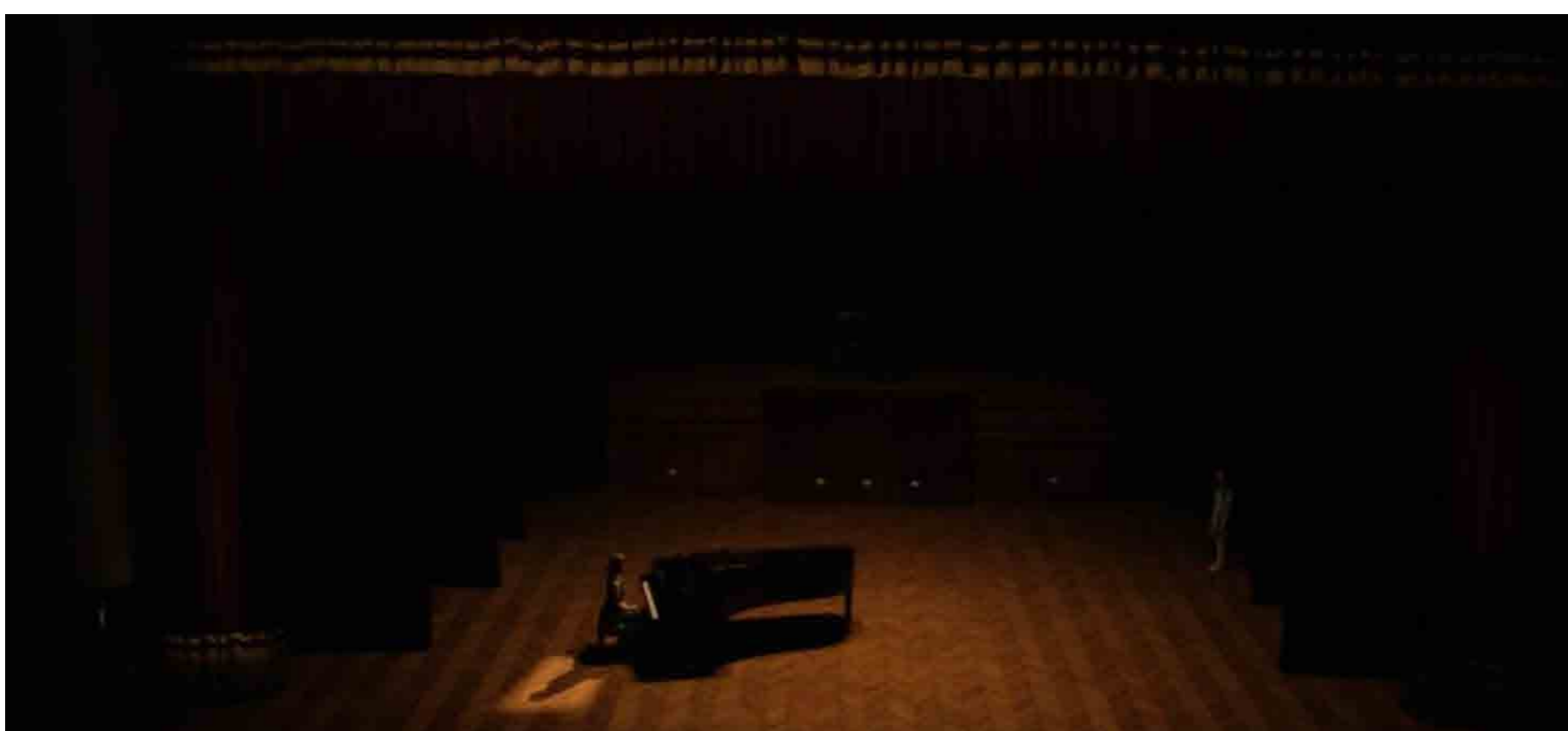
Thread and loom

Director: Mariam Mohamed Ahmed



Waltz of dreams

Director: Laila Rezk



The Nile's Overflow

Director: Nasra Elzahaby



Opening Film

FAIYOU M I N T E R N A T I O N A L F I L M F E S T I V A L

1st
EDITION

Bakhaf Ealyk

Director: Eslam Hiddaya



5 min
Egypt
2024

SYNOPSIS: "Bakhaf Ealyk" is an experimental film that tells the story of a woman living a routine life, carrying out her daily tasks in a traditional manner. One day, she is surprised by the appearance of a gift bag in her living room, which stirs feelings of anxiety. Through this simple narrative, the director opens a window into the life of a modest housewife, shedding light on the environmental and social changes that impact this social class.

Screenplay
Islam Hedayah

Production
Banlastic Egypt

Cinematography
Islam Hedayah
Editors
Islam Hedayah
Narrtor
Hanan Khalil

Eslam Bahaa Mahmoud Hiddaya is an Egyptian filmmaker and architect. He studied filmmaking independently through workshops and cultural centers like the Jesuit Cultural Center and Goethe Institute in Alexandria. Eslam has worked as a video editor and director of photography on independent film projects and has directed commercials and documented artistic events. His work has been recognized in several film festivals





***Palestinian
Films Program***

FAIYOU M I N T E R N A T I O N A L F I L M F E S T I V A L

1st
EDITION

Masharawi Fund for films & filmmakers in Gaza

Presents

OFFICIAL SELECTION

tiff

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2024

من المسافة صفر

From GROUND ZERO

Untold Stories from Gaza

A collection of
22 short films
from Gaza 2024



MASHARAWI FUND

www.masharawifilms.org



Part 1

1. Reema Mahmoud SELFIE (7'49)
2. Muhammad Al Sharif NO SIGNAL (4,19)
3. Ahmed Hassouna SORRY CINEMA (6'56)
4. Islam Al Zeriei FLASHBACK (5'21)
5. Mustafa Kolab ECHO (2'32)
6. Nidal Damo ALL IS FINE (4'29)
7. Khamis Masharawi SOFT SKIN (7'54)
8. Bashar Al Balbisi CHARM (4'12)
9. Tamer Nijim THE TEACHER (5'15)
10. Ahmed Al Danaf A SCHOOL DAY (3'09)
11. Alaa Islam Ayoub OVERLOAD (3'52)

Part 2

1. Karim Satoum HELL'S HAVEN (4'47)
2. Alaa Damo 24 HOURS (6'02)
3. Aws Al Banna JAD AND NATALIE (3'13)
4. Rabab Khamis RECYCLING (3'15)
5. Etimad Washah TAXI WANISSA (4'48)
6. Mustafa Al Nabih OFFERINGS (4'43)
7. Hana Eleiwa NO (7'31)
8. Wissam Moussa FARAH AND MYRIAM (5'43)
9. Basel El Maqousi FRAGMENTS (3'24)
10. Neda'a Abu Hasna OUT OF FRAME (6'51)
11. Mahdi Kreirah AWAKENING (4'53)

*Platforms, Seminars
and Workshops*



FAYOUM™
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
For Environmental &
Contemporary Arts



HAWARA
PLATFORM
For Environmental
and Climate

25—30
NOV, 2024



HAWARA PLATFORM

For Environment and
Climate Issues

منصة حوارة
للبيئة والمناخ

Hawara Platform for Environment and Climate

The Hawara Platform for Environment and Climate is an integral part of the Fayoum International Festival for Environmental Films and Contemporary Arts. It hosts seminars and discussions focused on environmental and climate issues in Egypt and globally. The platform features activists in the field of environmental preservation and climate change, covering related topics and offering workshops to discuss the impact of climate on various environments, especially in Fayoum. The platform also links environmental issues with cinema, exploring how cinema influences environmental awareness and ways to produce eco-friendly films (Green Cinema).



Dr. Dalia Basony

Hawara Platform 2024 Activities

Day One:

The Relationship Between Cinema and the Environment
Green Cinema Production

Day Two:

Youth and Water

Speakers:

Nevine Abdel Rahman:
General Manager of Awareness and Customer Service at the Holding Company for Water

Ahmed Magdy:

Goodwill Ambassador for Water, European Union

Mai El Gheity:

Actress and Activist in the Field of Water and Environment

Ahmed Yassin:

Expert , CEEBA .

Lorenzo Vingut:

Head of Green and Sustainable Transformation Team, EU Delegation in Egypt

Dr. Ayman Ayad: Head of the Water and Facilities Sector, EU Delegation in Egypt

Mostafa Habib: Water Ambassador

Omaima Abdel Nasser:

Graphic Designer and Communication Expert

Shahira Amin: Head of Communications

Team - Federation of Egyptian European Business Associations

Abdel Meguid Abdel Razek:

Former Head of Al-Ahram Office and Communication , Expert, CEEBA.

Day Three:

Group Discussion Moderated by Dr. Hassan Abou Bakr

Speakers:

Eng. Marwa Arafa

Dr. Omar Sabahy

Ms. Aya Mamdouh

Dr. Rami Mohamed

Eng. Thuraya Seada

Ms. Naglaa Ahmed



FAYOUM™
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
For Environmental &
Contemporary Arts



QARUN
PLATFORM

for education, training and
production of short projects

25—30
NOV, 2024



QARUN PLATFORM

for education, training and
production of short projects

منصة قارون للتعليم
والتدريب و انتاج المشاريع
القصيرة

Qarun Platform for Film Production and Support

The Qarun Platform is an initiative aimed at supporting film projects in the production or development stages, focusing on initiatives that promote environmental awareness and contribute to environmental preservation. The platform seeks to address issues that concern those interested in global environmental and climate challenges, encouraging youth of both genders, especially from the Fayoum Governorate, through a comprehensive program of education, awareness, and artistic and cinematic production. Activities include lectures, seminars, and artistic and environmental meetings.

Training Program 2024

The platform has officially launched its first training program in collaboration with Fayoum University. This program focuses on enhancing the cinematic culture of young people in the governorate through screenings and discussions related to films, with an emphasis on their environmental aspects. The program includes training courses to teach various cinematic skills, supervised by filmmakers and technicians, along with experts in environmental fields. A selection of trainees will participate in practical programs for environmental film production, which will involve writing, shooting, and editing short films that highlight the beauty and diverse environments of Fayoum. These films will be showcased during the Fayoum Festival in the fall of 2024. Fayoum University is responsible for nominating a number of students interested in the arts and cinema.

The platform is managed by Dr. Dalia Basyouni and director Tamer Ragab, coordination by Habiba Makawy.

Dr. Dalia Basiouny

is an Egyptian writer, director, academic and translator. Her writing credits span theatre, film and TV series in both Arabic and English. She has a long experience in teaching drama, writing, film and theatre. She worked in media, press, theatre making, content development and curriculum development.

She is also active in designing and facilitating workshops on script writing, playwriting, directing, gender awareness, storytelling, heritage, theatre of the oppressed, youth education and conflict resolution.

Dalia is also a master gardener and an eco-farmer reclaiming desert land into a food forest.



Director: Tamer Ragab

I began my journey in the creative arts with a background in fine arts, which led me to work initially as a graphic designer and then as an art director. These roles honed my skills in visual communication and storytelling, but photography soon captured my interest, and I pursued it professionally, diving deeply into the art of capturing moments.

My fascination with visual storytelling eventually led me to cinema, where I directed short films, documentaries, and television commercials each project a unique opportunity to explore new narratives and perspectives. Now, I'm channeling all my experience, passion, and vision into my first feature film, an endeavor that brings together everything I've learned along this journey in the arts.



Habiba Mekkawy

is an Egyptian filmmaker and a graduate of a British university. She works as an assistant director on ads, drama, and masterclasses, and as a director, editor, and producer for short films and music videos. Passionate about humanity, social issues, culture, and psychology, her work explores compelling and thought-provoking themes.





Two years ago, we were three dreamers envisioning this festival: journalist Nermine Amer, artist Sayed Abdelkhalek, and myself. We were honored to meet Dr. Ahmed Al-Ansari, Governor of Fayoum, who enthusiastically embraced the idea from day one and adopted it. This dream soon became the dream of every employee and citizen in the governorate, with everyone working diligently, energetically, and passionately under the leadership of the maestro, Dr. Mohamed El-Touny, Deputy Governor of Fayoum.

When we visited Prof. Dr. Yasser Magdy Hatata, President of Fayoum University, and Prof. Dr. Assem El-Essawy, Vice President for Community Service and Environmental Development, we were met with the same enthusiasm and commitment. Long live the honorable men of Egypt, always dedicated to the development of their country.

The dream grew, and a wonderful elite of stars joined us, enriching every step and adding artistic weight befitting their stature. Among them were artist Hany Lasheen, actor Ahmed Magdy, and writer Nahed Salah.

The Fayoum International Environmental Film Festival is not limited to cinema alone but extends to embrace visual arts as a fundamental part of its mission. The deep belief that visual arts are a powerful and impactful means of expression compelled us to insist on incorporating them into the festival's activities.

Visual arts reflect our relationship with the environment through innovative works inspired by nature. These include sculptures made from recycled materials and paintings addressing issues such as climate change and human impact on the planet.

In the festival, visual arts were not merely a space for contemplation and beauty but also a platform for dialogue and inspiration. They introduced a new concept that expresses the relationship between humanity and nature. This integration of cinema and visual arts contributed to creating a unique experience that blends the aesthetics of creativity with profound environmental messages.

Prof. Dr. Samir Shahin
Vice President of the Festival
Cinema and Contemporary Arts



FAYOUM™
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

For Environmental &
Contemporary Arts



FAYOUM FACES
FORUM

For Contemporary
Arts

25—30
NOV, 2024



FAYOUM FACES FORUM

For Contemporary Arts

وجوه الفيوم
للفنون المعاصرة
1 EDITION



Nermine Amer
Secretary-General of the Festival
Coordinator of the Faces of Fayoum Program

We can say that the relationship between cinema and visual arts is a complementary one, where each enriches the other, offering together a visual and emotional experience.

Over time, cinema has been influenced by various art movements, such as surrealism, which allowed the blending of imagination and reality, inspired by the works of artists like Salvador Dalí and Max Ernst. These influences gave rise to films bursting with unconventional imagery and compositions that defy logic, creating cinematic worlds characterized by dreamlike and mysterious qualities.

Similarly, cinema drew inspiration from cubism and other artistic movements, opening the door to new ways of depicting time and motion on screen. This enabled filmmakers to present events from multiple perspectives and portray intertwined moments, thereby deepening the viewing experience.

In Fayoum, artists aim to merge the language of cinema with visual arts to deliver an integrated artistic experience. They draw inspiration from the aesthetics of both to express unique visions that combine visual and narrative dimensions, enriching the artwork with depth and substance.



***Ameer Al-Khatib
Founder of Euman
the Festival Organizing Institution***

When beauty appears, the soul shines, and when the sky weeps with joy, the earth laughs and spreads its fragrance. The question closes its eyes to dream, so let us dream together with this festival in its first edition.

Let us embrace the image with our unique visions and delve into this festival's exploration of the most ancient portraits drawn by humans, "The Fayoum Portraits." Each of us sees something different, and I am certain that what I see, no one else does.

We are honored to participate, on behalf of the Migrant Artists Network in Europe, in this festival, "The Environmental Film Festival," enriching an essential aspect of life, which is art—or, if I may say, beauty.

"Faces of Fayoum," or as I like to call it, "The Fayoum Portraits," are the oldest in history. Before humanity learned to draw portraits in any other part of the world, the Egyptian people were drawing them. This comes as no surprise, as the beginnings of many things have their origins here.

Artists from Europe and others from the Arab world have come to present their visions of these portraits. They have come to testify that Egypt is still vibrant, alive, and committed to humanity and its environment, despite the many cracks and damages it has endured. Together, we all say with one voice that we are here, and we are coming to life.



Dana Al-Khashti
Kuwait



Laila Dashti
Kuwait



Dr. Dalia Fouad
Egypt



***Juha-Pekka Väisänen
Finland***



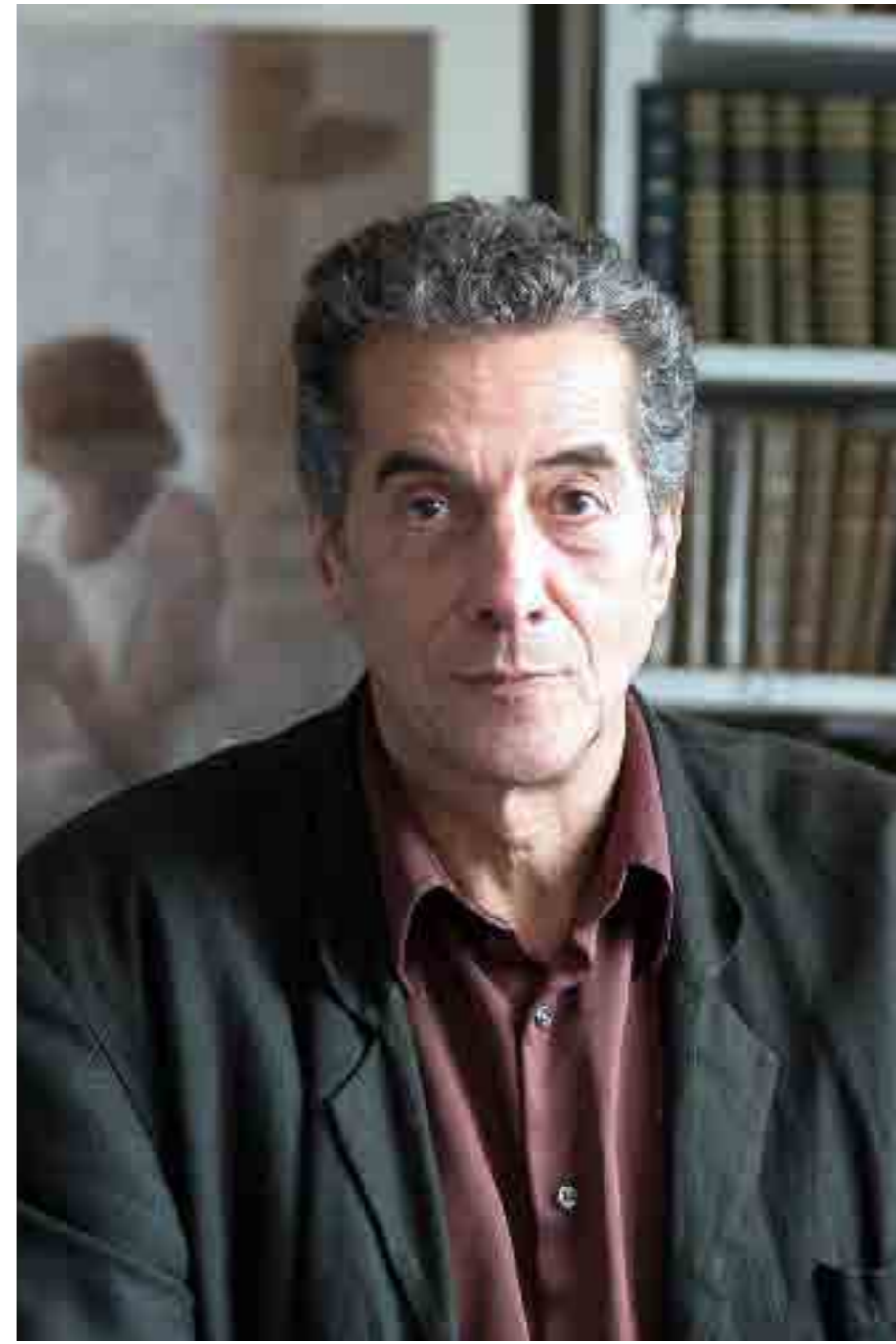
***Khaled El-Saai
Syria***



***Sattar Naama
Belgium***



Jalal Alwan
Iraq



Hervé Constant
United Kingdom



Prof. Dr. Sou Beungkun
South Korea

Festival Team

Festival Head: **Director / Hani El-Lashin**
Deputy Festival Head: **Prof. Dr. Samir Shaheen**
Festival Director: **Director / Said Abdel Khalek**
Artistic Director: **Prof. Nahed Saleh**
Festival Advisor and Member of the Supreme
Committee: **Artist / Ahmed Magdy**
Artistic Consultant for the Festival: **Prof. Essam Zakaria**
General Secretary of the Festival: **Prof. Nermin Amer**
Festival Coordinator: **Dr. Dalia Basyouni**
Workshop Program Coordinator: **Mr. Tamer Ragab**
Festival Coordinator in Fayoum: **Mr. Tarek Qanawy**
General Coordinator of the Festival: **Ayman Abdel Moneim**

Technical Office:

Technical Office Coordinator: **Walaa Abdel Aziz**
Technical Office Members: **Habiba Makawy**
Film Reception: **Abdelrahman El-Nagmy**
Film Screening: **Tarek Nazir**

Press Center:

- Press Center Director: **Mohamed Kadry**
- Press Office Member: **Islam Ghoneim**
- Volunteer Manager: **Abdelrahman Haider**

Opening and Closing Ceremony:

Ceremony Director: **Haidar Shawheer**
Assistant Director: **Mohamed Ibrahim**
Editor: **Louay Sorour**
Lighting and Sound: **Mohamed Abd El-Mohsen**

Set Designer: ***Mina El-Sharouni***
Award Design: ***Shrouk Hall***
Security Company Top Force: ***Brigadier General / Mohamed Hosny***
Website: ***Prof. Hisham Suleiman***

Festival Photographers: ***Mody***
Taha El-Turmasi

Hospitality and Flight Management: ***Dr. Ashraf Salama***
Wael Hassan

Promotional Design and Poster: ***Mahmoud Ismail***

Social Media Management: ***Salma Mohamed***

- Social Media Team: ***Aiten El-Sheikh***
Samia Youssef
- Catalog Designer: ***Tamer Ragab***

Workshops and Seminars:
Seminar Management: ***Prof. Dalia Basyouni***
Karun Workshop Management: ***Director / Tamer Ragab***
- Permits: ***Ashraf Ragab.***

Special Thanks to ***Fayoum Security Directorate***
Office of the Governor of Fayoum
Fayoum University Administration