

10 مهرجان أفلام السعودية  
Saudi Film Festival  
Ithra | 2-9 May 2024



10  
Festival Guide  
Tenth Edition



هيئة الأفلام  
Film Commission



CINEMA ASSOCIATION



مبادرة أرامكو





# 10 مهرجان أفلام السعودية Saudi Film Festival

Ithra | 2-9 May 2024



## Supporter



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# Saudi Film Festival Guide

Tenth edition 2 - 9 May 2024

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## Festival Program



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[www.saudifilmfestival.org](http://www.saudifilmfestival.org)



## Definitions and instructions

### Public morals

Those attending the festival's event sites are obligated to accept and follow the general etiquette in force in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to follow the instructions of the festival organizers or those on their behalf. Visitors under the age of sixteen will not be permitted to enter the exhibition hall without their guardians. The mobile phone must be turned off before entering the exhibition hall. Note that photography inside the hall is prohibited, and the films shown are subject to special rights, the piracy of which is punishable

### The movies

Films are shown in their main language (Arabic or English) with some films containing Arabic or English subtitles. Films are shown in the following halls: Ithra Theater - Ithra Cinema

### The tickets

Tickets can be booked through the Ithra website: [www.ithra.com](http://www.ithra.com). You must bring the ticket to facilitate entry procedures at the time of the event. Please make sure to arrive 15 minutes before the show start time so that you do not lose priority entry. Empty seats will be made available to those without tickets starting 15 minutes before the start of the show. The movie theater gate closes 5 minutes before the start of each screening session according to its time

### Nearest airport

**King Fahd International Airport - Dammam.**  
**Tel: 0138831000**

### The nearest hospital to the festival site

**Dhahran General Hospital - Dhahran Tel:**  
**0138912222**

### The nearest hospital to accommodate guests

**King Fahad University Hospital - Al Khobar, Al Aqrabiyah District, Bashar Bin Burd Street - Tel. 0138966666**

### Movie ratings

The festival's films are subject to classification by the General Authority for Media Regulation

#### G

The film is suitable for all ages. The content is within a positive framework and free from the effects of violence or threats, and most of them are cartoon films

#### PG

Adult accompaniment is recommended for those under 12 years of age. The content is generally safe, but it is recommended that consideration be given to whether the content may disturb some children, such as: a little violence, sadness or fantasy

#### PG12

Adult accompaniment is required for those under 12 years of age. The content is generally safe, but may contain scenes that may not be appropriate for them, so adults should evaluate whether or not it is appropriate. This category of films may include: science fiction, superheroes, or films based on comic books

#### R12

Adults under the age of 15 must be accompanied by adults. The topics of films in this category are suitable for viewing by ages fifteen and above. Young people are allowed to enter provided that adults are present, as it may include scenes that are not suitable for them, such as action films, superheroes, science fiction, natural disasters, Romance with a simple plot, simple war movies

#### R15

Viewers under the age of 15 are prohibited from entering. The content includes mature topics, which are treated in a reserved and appropriate manner for those of this age and above, such as: wars, crime, gangs, romance, horror, and violence

#### R18

Viewers under 18 are prohibited, content contains more mature themes, and may contain extremely violent scenes, domestic violence, or political topics

Saudi Film Festival - Cinema Society  
Al-Khobar City, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



## **Beloved ones**

From here, the programs of the tenth edition of the Saudi Film Festival begin, with more than 90 cultural and cinematic events, over 8 consecutive days starting from the evening of Thursday, May 2nd, and concluding on the evening of Thursday, May 9th, 2024

We have woven this space full of actions, planted and watered throughout the past year, to light the way and pave new paths for Saudi cinema. This cannot be achieved without your presence finally and your giving first, which has been clearly manifested in the turnout, support, and continuous interest

The festival celebrates Saudi and Gulf filmmakers, as well as filmmakers from the Arab world and other continents, to present the culmination of the experience that has been nurtured cycle after cycle

The festival must evolve with high ambitions and strive to match the pace of the Saudi film producer, while maintaining its authentic environment, rooted in love, purity, and sincerity

From the Cinema Association organizing this festival, we express our enduring appreciation for the festival's partner, the King Abdulaziz Cultural World Center, and this appreciation is coupled with gratitude for the main supporter and the guiding umbrella for the cinema sector in our dear country; the Film Commission under the Ministry of Culture, who paves the way and empowers the players in the Saudi cinematic scene; in turn, supporting the Saudi Film Festival

Special thank you to all the sponsors of the festival starting with the Cultural Fund and the sponsors of the production market, and the participating entities

Greetings from the hearts of the team that worked sincerely for you, and it is an honor for me to present the guide of the festival for its tenth edition

**Ahmed Al-Mulla**

Festival Manager





# Tenth Edition

May 2 - 9, 2024

The 10th edition of the Saudi Film Festival, scheduled to be held from 2-9 May 2024, is organized by the Cinema Association in partnership with the King Abdulaziz Cultural World Center (Ithra), and with the support of the Film Commission under the Ministry of Culture

In addition to the screenings of the Golden Palm films and parallel films, the festival offers a distinguished package of cultural and enriching programs, including seminars and advanced training workshops, as well as providing a platform for production companies, producers, and filmmakers to empower their projects through the production market

The Saudi Film Festival also celebrates the releases of the Saudi Cinema Encyclopedia during the festival days

The festival is one of the most important platforms for promoting Saudi films, held at international standards and hosting a selection of international industry professionals and experts. It also contributes to achieving common goals in developing the film sector by creating a local and international media presence for the voices of Saudi filmmakers, and enhancing the cultural image of the Kingdom









# Honored Personality

The festival continues its tradition of honoring cinematic figures, celebrating the pioneers of cinema in the Kingdom and the Gulf, and recognizing their achievements and careers. In its 10th edition, the festival will honor the artist Abdulmohsen Alnemr



## **Abdulmohsen Alnemr - Actor Saudi**

Saudi actor Abdulmohsen Alnemr has been a prominent figure in the Arab art scene since 1981. Known for his exceptional performances and ability to portray characters with diverse psychological and social dimensions, he has established a unique and prominent position in Arab art

His career took off in 1981 with the TV series "Al Shater Hassan." He has appeared in numerous Gulf and Arab productions, showcasing his versatility in a wide range of roles. Alnemr, along with director Abdul Khaleq Alghanem and artist Samir Al Nasser, founded the production company Al Njoom for Artistic Production



To crown a groundbreaking artistic career that has extended over more than four decades

Abdulmohsen Alnemr has excelled in television, shined on stage, and showed exceptional talent in cinema

His first appearance in cinema was in the 1990 film "Shams". He appeared in the film "Shadows of Silence" in 2006, "Wedding Dress" in 2016, "Long Road" in 2022, and his most prominent cinematic appearance in the film "Hajjan" in 2023

Cultural Fund..

**for Cultural Creators**



**We cultivate opportunities and pave the way for cultural businesses and creatives by offering financing and non-financing solutions to enhance the cultural sector's outputs..**

And contribute to its growth and sustainability.

We believe in the significant role the film sector plays in the national economy growth as one of the 16 promising cultural sub-sectors.

We offer financing packages to support the establishment and expansion of film sector businesses while contributing to the development of the Saudi film industry domestically and internationally.







# Feature Film Competition



## ماي ورد

روائي طويل | دراما  
محمود الشيخ

العرض الجمعة 5 المجموعة 44 الإعادة

يوم الأربعاء 2024/5/8 19:00 Ithra Cinema  
يوم الجمعة 2024/5/3 19:00 Ithra Cinema  
سينما إثراء سينما إثراء



Official competition

Rose Water

.A widowed grandmother fights for her new marriage

## Mahmood Yahya Alshaikh



A multi-talented individual involved in the film industry as a producer, director, and writer. He began his film career in 2007 and has since produced five short ".films. In 2022, Alshaikh directed two television series titled "Warm Feeling





المجموعة 31

الإعادة

العرض الجمعة 22

هجان

Monday

يوم الإثنين

Sunday

يوم الأحد

روائي طويل | دراما

2024/5/6

21:00

2024/5/5

21:00

أبو بكر شوقي

Ithra Cinema

سينما إثراء

Ithra Theater

مسرح إثراء



Official competition

Hajjan

Brothers Matar and Ghanim reside in the vast Saudi Arabian desert. Following a tragic event, young Matar embarks on camel racing to keep ownership of his beloved camel, Hofira. Employed by the ruthless owner Jasser, Matar must go to great lengths to protect Hofira's life in this timeless tale of coming-of-age.

Abu Bakr Shawky



A writer and director who has written and directed documentary and narrative films, most notably "Yomeddine" and "The Day of Judgment." They have participated in numerous festivals and have been nominated for several awards.



## ذلك الشعور الذي العرض الجمعة 45 الإعادة الجمعة 47

Thursday يوم الخميس Wednesday يوم الأربعاء  
2024/5/9 14:00 2024/5/8 21:00  
Ithra Cinema سينما إثراء Ithra Theate مسرح إثراء

روائي طويل | دراما  
جيجي حزيمة



**Official competition**      **World premiere**      **It's Always That feeling**

Retired actor Harry and his wife Dahlia are enjoying a peaceful evening at their Philadelphia apartment, on the eve of Harry's 40th birthday, when an unexpected visitor from Harry's past, Maya, suddenly arrives at their doorstep. As they reconnect, Maya, Dahlia, and Harry are forced to confront their own unresolved grief and the sacrifices they must make in order to move forward

### Gigi Mohammed Hozimah



Saudi director and writer based in the United States. She earned a master's degree in filmmaking from Kingston University in England. In 2013, she co-founded Look At The Wall Productions, her own production company. Hozimah's first feature film, "He Belongs to Us" (2017), was shot in New York City and received recognition at various film festivals, including Newfilmmakers NY in 2018 and screenings at independent cinemas. Her second film, "That Abandoned Place," which she wrote and directed, was filmed in New York City and Philadelphia. This film won the prestigious Golden Palm Award at the Saudi Film Festival in 2023.



المجموعة 33 الإعادة المجموعة 24 العرض  
Tuesday يوم الثلاثاء Monday يوم الإثنين  
2024/5/7 14:00 2024/5/6 14:00  
Ithra Cinema سينما إثراء Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء

كوتش هلال  
روائي طويل | كوميديا  
فيصل بوحشي



### Parallel Show

### Coach Hilal

Hilal, a swimming coach at a small club, aspires to lead his young team to the Olympics. However, his dreams are threatened when a new coach joins the club and begins vying for his position, sparking a competitive battle for control over the team.



### Faisal Abdullah Buhaiishi

A filmmaker and theater director, pursued his filmmaking studies in Los Angeles and received scriptwriting training from the MBC academy, winning the Best Writer award from GEA in 2019. His script for a feature film also placed third in the Saudi Film Festival in 2022. Buhaiishi has participated in numerous international film festivals showcasing his work.



الإعادة الجمعة 23  
يوم الأحد  
2024/5/5 21:00  
سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

العرض الجمعة 14  
يوم السبت  
2024/5/4 21:00  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater

بين الرمال  
روائي طويل | دراما  
محمد العطاوي



### Official competition

### Within Sand

When Snam gets ambushed by a group of thieves, he finds himself lost in the Saudi desert. While his pregnant wife, Halla, faces the men of the tribe to ensure his return, he finds himself being followed by a lone wolf

### Mohammed Alatawi



A director and CEO of Alsarid Films. He rose to prominence with his acclaimed film 'Within Sand,' which secured the Jury Prize for Best Feature Film at the prestigious Red Sea International Film Festival in 2022. Recognizing his skill and creativity, Screendaily honored Alatawi as one of the six emerging directors to watch in the region



**ثلاثة**  
روائي طويل | دراما سيكولوجية  
نائله الخاجه

المجموعه 41	الإعادة	المجموعه 7	العرض
يوم الأربعاء	يوم الجمعة	Friday	يوم الجمعة
2024/5/8	16:00	2024/5/3	21:00
Ithra Theate	مسرح إثراء	Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء



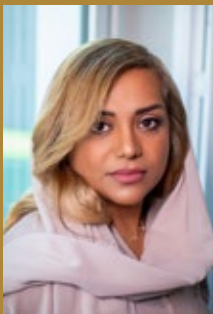
Official competition

World premiere

THREE

A boy becomes possessed by jinns, leading his mother to seek help from an unlikely man, who must put his Western ideologies aside to save her son through an intense ritual

**Naela Abdulrahim Alkhaja**



The first female director in the United Arab Emirates, recently finished her debut feature film "Three," set for a 2024 theatrical release in the Gulf and MENA region. Her next project, "BAAB," a fantasy horror film, will feature Oscar winner AR Rahman composing the music. Two of her short films, "The Shadow" and "Animal," can now be streamed on Netflix. Al Khaja is managed by Sarah Arnott at Zero Gravity Management



الإعادة الجمعة 25

Monday  
2024/5/6  
Ithra Cinem

يوم الإثنين  
14:00  
سينما إثراء

العرض الجمعة 16

Sunday  
2024/5/5  
Ithra Theater

يوم الأحد  
14:00  
مسرح إثراء

اختفاء سالم

روائي طويل | جريمة  
سمير عارف



### Parallel Show

### Disappearance of Salem

Abunaji is a businessman who operates covertly as the leader of a drug and organ trafficking gang. His daughter, Hebba, works in a theater troupe with Salem, who coincidentally obstructs one of Abunaji's tasks. Hebba rebels against her father to save Salem.

### Sameer Arif



A writer and director who has contributed to the production of numerous Saudi and Gulf films and series. His works have been showcased on many platforms and channels.



العروض الجمعة 28 الإعادة الجمعة 35  
يوم الإثنين يوم الثلاثاء  
2024/5/6 19:00 2024/5/7 16:00  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

## المرهقون

روائي طويل | دراما  
عمرو جمال



### Official competition

### The Burdened

A struggling family from Yemen discovers that the mother is carrying a fourth child, putting them in a difficult situation

### Amr Mohamed Gamal



An independent Yemeni cinematic and theater director from Aden who received the Presidential Award for Literature and Arts in 2003. He founded the Aden Gulf Theater Group in 2005, where he writes and directs all productions. His play "With You, Coming Down" was the first Yemeni play performed in Europe in Berlin. In 2018, he worked on his first feature film "Ten Days Before the Wedding," which was the first commercial film shown in Yemen in 30 years. The film ran for over eight months and was Yemen's first entry at the Oscars in 2018



**أحلام العصر**  
روائي طويل | دراما سيكولوجية  
فارس قدس

المجموعه 46	الإعادة	المجموعه 36	العرض
Wednesday	يوم الأربعاء	Tuesday	يوم الثلاثاء
2024/5/8	21:00	2024/5/7	19:00
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater	مسرح إثراء



### Official competition

### Fever Dream

Abdulsamad, a retired football star haunted by media scrutiny, teams up with his daughter Ahlam to seek revenge on a social media platform. With the help of renowned PR agents Alaa and Hakeem, they dive into a world of marketing massive real estate projects that stoke their greed. As they immerse themselves in the allure of fame, dark secrets are unearthed, and their involvement in the scheme deepens, leading to a harrowing journey of ambition and consequences



### Faris Mohammed Ali Godus

A filmmaker who's style is distinguished by a great deal of self-expression and dedication, harkening back to his original passion for cinema. His high visual capabilities, whether in editing, colors, or the smallest details of production, always help him capture the cinematic scene with enjoyment and interest. His approach to writing and directing digital content has modern creative patterns, showcasing a self-reflective direction that accurately mirrors the director's eye





الإعادة الجمعة 15

يوم السبت Saturday

21:00 2024/5/4

سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

العرض الجمعة 6

يوم الجمعة Friday

21:00 2024/5/3

مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater

انا الاتحاد

روائي طويل | تاريخ

حمزة طرزان



Official competition

World premiere

I am Al Ittihad

In the seaside city of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, an elderly man recounts to a young boy the tale of Al Ittihad, the first football club, starting from its inception in the late 1920s. The narrative unfolds through the early 1970s, delving into the challenges the team encountered and how the club and its members confronted them.

Hamzah Tarzan



A native of Mecca who grew up in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, initially pursued a major in computer engineering at KFUPM but later left to pursue his true passion for filmmaking at the New York Film Academy. As a Saudi filmmaker, he has garnered acclaim for his portfolio of more than 20 award-winning short films, feature movies, and TV series. He currently serves as the CEO of Tarzan Studios, LLC, located in Hollywood, Los Angeles.



F

Film AlUla  
Studios

F

production 2

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[filmalula.com](http://filmalula.com)

AlUla, an extraordinary region of natural beauty and heritage, features a range of pristine landscapes and under-the-radar locations. It is the ultimate film destination with state-of-the-art studios, seamless access to strong rebates and additional incentives, and a welcoming local community.

# Short Film Competition





الجموعه 19	الإعادة	العرض للجموعه 12	يوم السبت
Sunday	يوم الأحد	Saturday	يوم السبت
2024/5/5	16:00	2024/5/4	19:00
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater	مسرح إثراء

1420

روائي قصير | قضايا اجتماعية  
اروى سالم



Official competition

World premiere

1420

Samia and Salem defied customs and traditions to marry for love, embarking on a beautiful journey together. However, as the years passed, they found themselves at a crossroads. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Samia lost her sight after their union, but began to perceive the world through the beauty of music. Meanwhile, Salem transformed into an extremist, making it challenging to navigate religious matters. Fearing for their safety, forbidden things and darkness cast a shadow over their lives. Sadly, their only daughter, Worod, became the unwitting victim of this internal conflict



Arwa Salem

A filmmaker who previously worked as an assistant director and has been involved in numerous commercial advertisements and music videos in Egypt. One of her noteworthy accomplishments includes presenting the first commercial advertisement in the series "When Girls Speak." She has collaborated on various commercial advertisements that aim to accentuate the distinctive qualities of each brand



العرض الجمعة 34 للإعادة للجموعة 40  
يوم الثلاثاء يوم الأربعاء  
2024/5/7 14:00  
Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء Ithra Cinema سينما إثراء

يوم أحد

روائي قصير | دراما سيكولوجية  
عبدالعزیز الجمیلی



### Official competition

Sunday

This film follows the story of a troubled individual struggling with a mental disorder due to societal and familial pressures, which push him to consider committing murder. The protagonist grapples with his inner conflict, portrayed through a intense argument between two characters in a single room, each representing opposing views on the act of taking a life. Ultimately, the film raises a thought-provoking question: Is there ever a moral excuse for the grave act of murder?

### Abdulaziz Sayyed Al Jumaili



A film director and screenwriter who initially began his artistic career in theater in 2017 as a scenographer, designing costumes, stage decor, and lighting. He collaborated with various theater groups in Oman and received awards both locally and internationally. His theater experience equipped him to work in the realm of promotional films, where he served as a production designer and artistic director for numerous production companies in Oman. Subsequently, he founded a specialized company in this field, the first of its kind in the Sultanate. His extensive artistic background and expertise in theater and production led him to venture into the world of cinema, where he now focuses on writing and directing films.



الجموعه 19

الإعادة

العرض للجموعه 12

Sunday  
2024/5/5

يوم الأحد  
16:00

Saturday  
2024/5/4 19:00

يوم السبت  
19:00

Ithra Cinema

سينما إثراء

Ithra Theater

مسرح إثراء

يوم

روائي قصير | تجريبي

أحمد أكبر



Official competition

World premiere

A Day

A seventy-year-old man feels lonely and insignificant in his reality. He reminisces over his past as the world around him is changing. The remaining pieces of his past seem to fade away one by the other, and he is getting more broken .with each piece gone

Ahmed Akbar Kadhem



A Bahraini filmmaker and editor who has won several local and international awards. Ahmed grew up in an environment that appreciated films but had many different views about them, which strengthened his acceptance and desire to .explore different cultures and ideas through films



الإعادة للجموعة 37  
يوم الثلاثاء 19:00  
سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

العرض للجموعة 26  
يوم الاثنين 16:00  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater

## وحده أفضل

روائي قصير | غموض  
ريكار برزان



### Official competition

### Better Alone

The film tells the tale of a 60-year-old man who chooses to construct his own world within modern society, distancing himself from societal regulations and laws. In the midst of grieving the loss of his wife and listening to others' life stories through the radio, he creates a personal sanctuary filled with privacy and solitude.

### Rekar Barzan Najmadin



Born in Sulaimani in 1996, he holds a bachelor's degree in cinema from the University of Sulaimani. Barzan has been actively involved in drama and has taken on various roles in production, direction, and assistant artistic direction. He has worked on multiple projects, including several short films and plays. Additionally, he has written and directed four short films: "Story of City" (2016), "Oscar Goes To" (2018), "Alone Is Better" (2021), and "Death Between Life" (2024). Each of his films has been featured in local festivals and events, and he continues to work on new projects.






**موتيل**  
 رواي قصير | غموض  
 سامر الجهني - غادة السحيمي

الجموعه 17	الإعادة	العرض للجموعه 8
Sunday	يوم الأحد	Saturday يوم السبت
2024/5/5	14:00	2024/5/4 14:00
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء



### Parallel Show

Khalid's journey from Jeddah to Madinah takes an unexpected turn when his car breaks down at a remote station. As he seeks assistance, he becomes entangled in mysterious and intriguing events unfolding at the station. Khalid is faced with bizarre occurrences that challenge his outlook and resilience, leading him through a peculiar and unsettling environment.

### Motel

### Samer Matar Aljuhani



With 7 years of experience in the field of photography, he has contributed to many national coverages and official events, and has worked on numerous private and public projects.





الإعادة للجمعة 27  
 Monday 2024/5/6  
 Ithra Cinema سينما إثراء

العرض للجمعة 20  
 Sunday 2024/5/5  
 Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء

مصنوع للجمال ...  
 يستخدم للقبح  
 روائي قصير | دراما  
 جعفر البقالي



Official competition

Made for Beauty ... Used for Ugliness

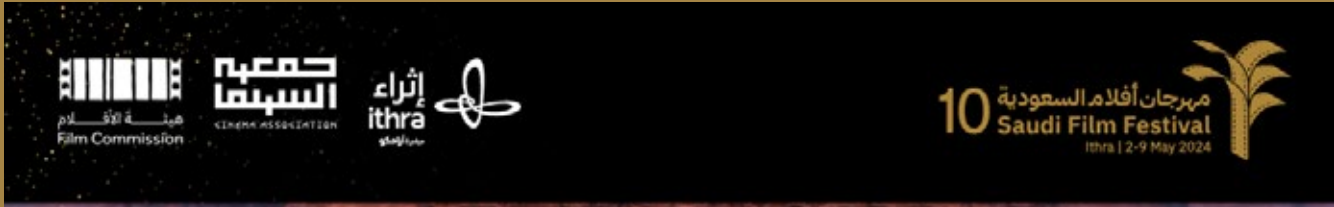
After 28 years of separation due to war, a soldier is finally reunited with his daughter

World premiere

Jaffer Mohammed Al-Baqali



A Bahraini writer, director, and editor who has produced many works and won several awards. One of his notable works is the film "The Ruler," which he directed and participated in various festivals



29 الجمعة	الإعادة	العرض للجمعة 18	<b>مسند</b>
Monday	يوم الأثنين	Sunday	روائي قصير   تحريك
2024/5/6	19:00	2024/5/5	عبدالرحمن مقبل
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater	مسرح إثراء



**Official competition**

**World premiere**

**Musnad**

The film is set in the Al-Ula region, specifically at the Al Farid Palace. Musnad, a young boy, resides with his father, Yousouf, and is determined to unravel the cryptic message his mother left behind when she mysteriously vanished.

### Abdulrahman Yahya Moqbel Saleh



A distinguished CGI animation director and producer, known for his expertise in lighting design and artistic editing. Since 2019, he has been producing visually and emotionally impactful short films. His latest achievement is the 2024 short film "Musnad", showcasing his versatility in directing and writing. He also directed "The Journey" (2018) and "Was In 2020" (2020), both highly acclaimed. His work is renowned for engaging audiences and leaving a lasting impression.



العرض الجمعة 2 للإعادة للجموعة 13  
يوم الجمعة 16:00 يوم السبت 19:00  
Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء Ithra Cinema سينما إثراء

## متعة مظلمة

روائي قصير | دراما سيكولوجية  
ديمه الصالح



Official competition

World premiere

The Dark Delight

In the city of Riyadh, seven-year-old Salem indulges in violent electronic games without any supervision from his parents. Salem's behavior is affected by them. ?Will this lead him down a dark path

Deemah Ibrahim Alsaleh



A graduate of the Filmmaking and Animation program in PNU, she is passionate about the animation industry. With a solid foundation in both filmmaking and animation, she has the ability to tell stories through captivating visuals. She has a background in various animation techniques, along with a strong foundation in illustration and design






10 مهرجان أفلام السعودية  
 Saudi Film Festival  
 Ithra | 2-9 May 2024



**لوميري**  
 روائي قصير | تحريك  
 هيا ابوالريش

الجمعة 21	الإعادة	العرض للجمعة 10
Sunday	يوم الأحد	Saturday يوم السبت
2024/5/5	19:00	2024/5/4 16:00
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء



Official competition

Luminary

After having his star stolen by hand-like entities, a glass boy named Vivi embarks on a journey to chase after it

Haya Abualreesh



A visual development artist aiming to create new imaginative worlds with profound messages, she directed and worked on the animated short film "Luminary".



الإعادة للمجموعة 17  
يوم الأحد 14:00  
سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

العرض للمجموعة 8  
يوم السبت 14:00  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater

لعبة حياة  
روائي قصير | خيال علمي  
عبدالله الهجن



### Parallel Show

Ali, a memory-impaired prisoner, decides to embark on a game based on his memory to retrieve his past

### Game of Life



### Abdullah Ahmed Alhejin

A passionate filmmaker with a keen interest in the realms of fantasy and science fiction, his goal is to establish a distinct visual identity for these genres within the Arab world. He enjoys delving into creative scientific theories that captivate him and incorporating elements of Arabic culture into his storytelling. Having graduated from King Abdulaziz University with a degree in Visual & Sound Production in 2023, he embarked on his filmmaking journey in 2020 with his directorial and production debut, "Tourette's." The film has been screened at multiple national and international film festivals



الإعادة الجمعة 29  
يوم الأثنين 19:00  
سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

العرض للجمعة 18  
يوم الأحد 16:00  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater

## لسته الماچله

روائي قصير | كوميديا  
تقوى ناصر



Official competition

World premiere

The Grocery List

The story is set in a special supermarket that only sells milk bottles, where Jihad, a young man, is pushed around in a cart by his mother Nora. The women in the store use a WhatsApp group to find the perfect milk bottle for their children. Jihad's strong desire for a specific bottle leads to a conflict with his mother, who chooses a different one. Jihad must decide between following his own desires .and meeting societal norms, leading to a pivotal moment in the story

Taqwa Ali Nasser



A Bahraini filmmaker and scriptwriter with a BA in Cinematic Arts from Malaysia. She has made 9 films since 2016 in various genres and languages. Taqwa's work includes narratives, music videos, and documentaries. She has written a mini-series called "Al-hanaya" and a docudrama feature "A Palm Tree in Muttrah." Taqwa has participated in scriptwriting workshops globally and has won awards for her short films. She also directed a short film for Bahrain National TV and her latest project, "The Grocery List 2024," has received funding from .multiple sources



الإعادة الجمعة 48 العرض الجمعة 43

يوم الخميس  
Thursday  
2024/5/9  
16:00

سينما إثراء  
Ithra Cinema

يوم الأربعاء  
Wednesday  
2024/5/8  
19:00

مسرح إثراء  
Ithra Theater

## قصة صالح

روائي قصير | دراما سيكولوجية  
زكي آل عبدالله



### Official competition

Saleh

A teenage boy in a rural village in Saudi Arabia becomes his aging father's care-taker. Saleh works delivering fruits on his Vespa to save money and buys his .father a satellite dish to keep him entertained



### Zaki Fouad Alabdullah

A filmmaker and recent MFA graduate with a degree in film production at Northwestern University. His educational background is in Psychology before moving to filmmaking. His working method is an attempt to blur the line between fiction and nonfiction films. His latest film Saleh was his MFA thesis film and filmmaker Marco Williams mentored it. He won the Canadian cinematography award for best cinematographer in 2023 for the photography of Saleh and it granted him a nomination for the Golden Eagle Award for Best Cinematography in 2024



الإعادة الجمعة 9

يوم السبت  
2024/5/4 14:00

سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

العرض للجمعة 1

يوم الجمعة  
2024/5/3 14:00

مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater

# غلس

روائي قصير | جريمة

عبدالله السويد



## Parallel Show

## Galas

A tragic film inspired by a real-life account, Hussam follows the solitary journey of a young boy who grapples with the challenges of existence amidst a turbulent home environment. With an alcoholic father and a mother who vanished under mysterious circumstances

## Abdullah Abdulrahman Alswayad



Enthusiastic and proactive professional with a practical, cooperative, and harmonious approach. A passionate initiator driven to achieve the vision and mission of the organization. With over 5 years of dedicated experience in creative management, professional project management, and a solid understanding of production and media, all while bringing a dynamic skill set to drive success and innovation





عذر أجمل من ذنب  
روائي قصير | دراما  
هاشم شرف

المجموعة 21	الإعادة	المجموعة 10	العرض
Sunday	يوم الأحد	Saturday	يوم السبت
2024/5/5	19:00	2024/5/4	16:00
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater	مسرح إثراء



Official competition

A Beautiful Excuse For A Deadly Sin

A man tries to bring his horse into his apartment by using the narrow staircase, facing objections from other residents in the building

World premiere

Hashim Sharaf



Hashim Sharaf is a Bahraini film director, graduated from RMIT University, Australia, with a Bachelor degree in Filmmaking & Cinema studies. Since then, Hashim established himself as a leading figure in the Bahraini film industry by receiving local and international awards for his short films and directing major TV shows on Shahid.nHashims' short films won the Jury prize in Baghdad Film Festival (2016), Best Film in GCC in Sharjah Film Festival (2015), Best Director at Red Carpet Festival and was nominated for the Best film award by the National Arab American Society (NAAS) in Carthage International Film Festival in Tunis, one of the most important film events in Africa and Arab world.nOn the other hand, in the last 10 years, he produced and directed TV shows and commercials in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman for the biggest corporate companies in the region and and got awarded with the Pioneer marketer 1st .Place Award in Riyadh



الإعادة الجمعة 9

Saturday يوم السبت  
2024/5/4 14:00

Ithra Cinema سينما إثراء

العرض للمجموعة 1

Friday يوم الجمعة  
2024/5/3 14:00

Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء

## ضياء شمسي

روائي قصير | دراما

لى جركس



### Parallel Show

Diaa Shamsi

An emotionally intense drama that explores the intricate dynamics between a narcissistic mother and her daughter as they confront issues of image obsession and self-worth

### Lama Kamal Jarkas



Lama Jarkas is a Lebanese artist hailing from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She is currently pursuing her studies in Cinematic Arts at Effat University. She discovered her passion for storytelling and visual arts from a young age. Her diverse cultural background has greatly influenced her artistic perspective, which she seamlessly incorporates into her creative endeavors. Lama has demonstrated her commitment to the craft through her involvement in various film projects, and has proven her skills as a producer on three films. In addition to her involvement in film projects, Lama also serves as an art director on numerous student sets. As an aspiring filmmaker, Lama is constantly seeking new challenges and opportunities to grow as an artist



الإعادة للجموعة 11 العرض للجموعة 4  
يوم السبت 2024/5/4 16:00  
سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema  
يوم الجمعة 2024/5/3 19:00  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater

صندقة غنم  
روائي قصير | كوميديا  
هاني البيضاني



Official competition

World premiere

Sandagat Ghanam

Set in a religiously conservative village in southern Saudi Arabia, this film follows the story of a teenage protagonist who must navigate the expectations of his community in order to pursue his passion for musical instruments, particularly the oud. As he hides his true self to blend in, he faces an internal conflict between conforming to societal norms and following his passion. Will he be able to reach the oud that is offered for sale without sacrificing a part of himself?

Hani Abdullah Albedani



best screenplay winner on almajed tv channel competitionn- i have a documentary named evacuation that got screened in saudi film festival in its 8th editionn- qualified to the semi final for MBC Academy roadshow



الجمعة 9	الإعادة	العرض للجمعة 1	
Saturday	يوم السبت	Friday	يوم الجمعة
2024/5/4	14:00	2024/5/3	14:00
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater	مسرح إثراء

## سيقان سالم

روائي قصير | كوميديا  
طلال المساعد



### Parallel Show

### Salem's Legs

When two friends embark on a new adventure, their lives veer in an unforeseen direction. As they navigate through unexpected challenges, they grapple with the repercussions of their choices. It's clear panicking is a luxury they cannot afford

### Talal Almusaad



A Saudi director, 'Salem's Leg' (2023) is his debut film. Through this project, the director aims to make a significant impact in the film industry, demonstrating his talent and dedication to filmmaking on a global scale



المجموعة 21	الإعادة	المجموعة 10	العرض
Sunday	يوم الأحد	Saturday	يوم السبت
2024/5/5	19:00	2024/5/4	16:00
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater	مسرح إثراء

**سعيد**  
روائي قصير | دراما  
رامي الزاير



### Official competition

**Saeed**

In the small village, Mishna has long lived a solitary existence. However, as she reaches the age of seventy, a startling revelation unveils the hidden truth behind her loneliness



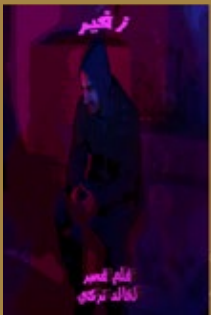
### Ramy Alzayer

A Saudi writer and film director, he started his artistic career in 2010 as a theater actor, through many plays inside and outside the Kingdom. He turned to the world of cinema and directing in 2019 through a film "The Day I Lost Myself" and "I Need Your Forgiveness". It competed in the seventh edition of the Saudi Film Festival and the Red Sea Film Festival, and won Best Short Film Award at the London Short Film Festival. The film will be shown on the platform Netflix



الجمعة 9	الإعادة	العرض للجمعة 1
Saturday	يوم السبت	Friday
2024/5/4	14:00	2024/5/3
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater
		مسرح إثراء

زفير  
روائي قصير | خيال علمي  
خالد السليمي



### Parallel Show

### Zfeer

An experimental short animated film follows an astronaut's encounter with an enigmatic entity named Zephyr. Together, they embark on a journey delving into the astronaut's past, revisiting pivotal life events in a quest to validate his beliefs and explore the depths of nihilistic philosophy

### Khaled Turki Al-Sulaimi



A driven writer and director hailing from the Eastern Province, he ventured into the realm of filmmaking in 2020. His deep-rooted passion for cinema traces back to his childhood. Beginning with directing short films, comedy sketches, and music videos, he realized that his true calling lay within the world of film and decided to make it his primary focus. Endeavoring to craft his own distinct style, he has explored various genres, ranging from comedy to horror. Captivated by the realm of writing and directing, he is drawn to the belief that he can shape his own unique universe



الإعادة للجموعة 11 العرض الجمعة 4  
يوم السبت 2024/5/4 16:00 يوم الجمعة 2024/5/3 19:00  
سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater

## خمسين

روائي قصير | دراما سيكولوجية  
عبدالله الرويس

Official competition

World premiere

Khamseen



Nawaf breaks into a house for a robbery, unaware that the owner is present. As a dangerous confrontation unfolds, Nawaf must engage in a risky game of manipulation and strategy to avoid a deadly outcome and secure his escape

## Abdullah Eid Alrowis



A talented creative writer and screenwriter whose impressive portfolio includes numerous series, films, and award-winning advertisements. His work has earned him international recognition and nominations in prestigious competitions. Recent achievements include the independent film "Forsa" and contributions to series produced by the MBC Group. Additionally, he has showcased his creativity through a collection of personal and local sketches



الجموعه 21	الإعادة	العرض للجموعه 10
Sunday	يوم الأحد	Saturday يوم السبت
2024/5/5	19:00	2024/5/4 16:00
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء

## ترانزيت

روائي قصير | غموض  
باقر الربيعي



### Official competition

### Transit

Ya'qub is a dedicated member of the hospital's statistics department, providing support to families seeking information on their missing loved ones from the war. A call that triggers suspicion and concern occasionally crosses his desk, prompting him to investigate further

### Baqer Jasim Al-Rubaie



An Iraqi filmmaker with a Bachelor's degree in cinema from the University of Baghdad has created five short films and is a member of the Iraqi Artists Syndicate and Radio and Television Union. They have served on judging committees for film festivals and garnered awards for their contributions to cinema at various international and local events

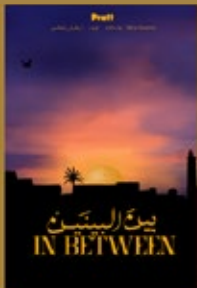




العرض الجمعة 43 الإعادة الجمعة 48  
يوم الأربعاء Wednesday يوم الخميس Thursday  
19:00 2024/5/8 16:00 2024/5/9  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

## بين البينين

روائي قصير | تحريك  
إيثار باعامر



### Official competition

### In Between

An animated film follows a young woman in her twenties who defies societal norms to embark on a journey of self-discovery. Through overcoming obstacles, facing internal conflicts, and navigating challenges, she eventually finds her true identity and learns to embrace herself despite societal expectations.



### Ethar Sameer Baamer

A pioneering Saudi artist and animation director, holds an MFA in Animation & Motion Graphics from Pratt Institute, New York. Her innovative work seamlessly translates subconscious ideas into tangible creations, exploring the interplay of reality and imagination. Deeply rooted in Saudi culture, Ethar infuses her creations with a unique cultural essence. Her films and artwork have become global ambassadors of creativity, traveling the world. With a distinguished portfolio, she drives the visual artistic scene forward, pushing boundaries. Ethar's visionary approach and cultural resonance boldly aspire to redefine the Saudi art and animation on a compelling global stage.



الجمعة 29

الإعادة

العرض للجمعة 18

بصيرة

Monday  
2024/5/6

يوم الأثنين  
19:00

Sunday  
2024/5/5

يوم الأحد  
16:00

روائي قصير | غموض

Ithra Cinema

سينما إثراء

Ithra Theater

مسرح إثراء

عبدالعزیز الحسين



Official competition

World premiere

Blindless

The story revolves around Dhafer, a criminal on the run from security authorities in Riyadh. Seeking refuge, he stumbles into the apartment of Youssef, a blind former military man. As their unlikely encounter unfolds, both men find themselves caught in a web of unforeseen circumstances, leading to a gripping and suspenseful deadlock for all involved

Abdulaziz Khalid Alhussain



A cinematographer based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, started his filmmaking journey in 2014 while he was still in high school. Alongside his cinematography work, he is currently honing his skills in filmmaking, with a particular focus on directing. His passion for films and their distinctive techniques drives his creative endeavors



العرض الجمعة 43 الإعادة للجمعة 48

Thursday يوم الخميس 2024/5/9 16:00  
Wedensday يوم الأربعاء 2024/5/8 19:00

Ithra Cinema سينما إثراء Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء

## بخروش

روائي قصير | تاريخ  
رضوان جمال



Official competition

World premiere

Bakhrush

The film tells the story of Bakhrush Bin Allas, a key knight of the first Saudi kingdom. He bravely faces the Ottoman forces, despite being outnumbered and outgunned. With only basic weaponry, Bakhrush stands defiant against the Ottomans, demonstrating extraordinary courage. His reputation for wisdom, practicality, and tribal knowledge solidifies him as a symbol of resilience and leadership in the face of overwhelming adversity.

Ridhwan Jamal



An experienced film director with a background in advertising. He is passionate about storytelling and has a keen eye for detail, enabling him to create visually compelling narratives that connect with audiences. His portfolio includes documentaries and short films, showcasing his versatility and ability to excel in fast-paced environments. Ridhwan's expertise in guiding teams towards creative excellence allows him to bring his imaginative visions to life through captivating visuals.



الجموعه 17	الإعادة	العرض للجموعه 8	
Sunday	يوم الأحد	Saturday	يوم السبت
2024/5/5	14:00	2024/5/4	14:00
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater	مسرح إثراء

## انا بخير

روائي قصير | فنتازيا  
فيصل الزهراني



### Parallel Show

### I'm Fine

After Khair loses his best friend, Zaatar, he discovers a magical secret behind his loss

### Faisal Mohamed Alzahrani



A writer, filmmaker, and cinematographer. At a young age, he has already made significant strides in the Saudi film industry. His directorial debut, "From My Tree," showcases his unique vision and storytelling. In 2022, he made waves as the youngest filmmaker in Saudi Arabia and received the MBC Academy Award in the directing category. His success continued as his film was nominated at the Saudi Film Festival, solidifying his position in the industry. Faisal is an inspiring figure for aspiring young filmmakers in Saudi Arabia



العرض الجمعة 1  
يوم الجمعة  
2024/5/3 14:00  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater

الإعادة  
يوم السبت  
2024/5/4 14:00  
سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

المواطن الأجنبي  
روائي قصير | كوميديا  
منصور البدران



### Parallel Show

### The Foreign Patriot

A Pakistani street vendor, consumed by his passion for wrestling, finds himself in a life-altering situation when he saves the life of his wrestling idol. In return for his heroic deed, he gains a unique perspective on the intricacies of the .American Dream

### Mansour AlbADRAN



A Saudi film director and producer, he started his career in films in 2008 by participating in the Emirates Film Festival in Abu Dhabi. Throughout his his career, he directed more than 9 films, both documentary and narrative films, most of which were selected for film festivals in Saudi Arabia and abroad. He is a graduate of DePaul University in Film Production and SVA University in Film Directing from New York



العصفور الخامس  
روائي قصير | دراما  
مريم العباد

الجمعة 29	الإعادة	العرض للجمعة 18	يوم الأحد
Monday	يوم الأثنين	Sunday	يوم الأحد
2024/5/6	19:00	2024/5/5	16:00
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater	مسرح إثراء



Official competition

World premiere

The Fifth Bird

Ghalya, a young woman who has grappled with loneliness, made the decision to prioritize marriage as the key to fulfillment in her life, even at the cost of sacrificing her education. This choice reflects a deeply ingrained family tradition that spans generations, with her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother .all following a similar path

Maryam Alabbad



Hailing from Kuwait, this director brings her diverse experiences as a First Assistant Director in Kuwait, Egypt, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. Notable projects include TV series like “Amer Ikhlaa 2” and “Shes Gone with Water.” In addition to her work in the film industry, she has also served as an Administrator at the Industrial Bank of Kuwait while actively involved in creating short films such as “Alabaya”, “The Stranger”, and “The Job”, the latter winning accolades at the Kuwait Film Festival. Beyond her film work, she also freelances on TV ads, shows, .and plays



للجموعة 13

الإعادة

العرض للجموعة 2

Saturday  
2024/5/4

يوم السبت  
19:00

Ithra Cinema

سينما إثراء

Friday  
2024/5/3

يوم الجمعة  
16:00

Ithra Theater

مسرح إثراء

## القرابة

روائي قصير | تشويق  
علي الهاجري



### Official competition

### Kinship

In the delivery room awaiting the arrival of their first child, Khalid and Noura should be filled with anticipation and happiness. However, Khalid is unexpectedly consumed by fear and doubt. As he attempts to bond with his newborn, Khalid is haunted by his inner demons and past traumas. When Noura leaves him alone with the baby, Khalid sees this as a chance to form a connection, but instead, he is confronted with a harrowing internal battle. Will Khalid confront his inner ghosts and find peace within himself to forge a bond with his son?



### Ali Madi Alhajri

A Qatari filmmaker whose passion for storytelling goes beyond the boundaries of imagination and reality. His dedication to pushing the limits of narrative is evident in his exploration of human experiences and internal struggles. Working with a Qatari institution, he produces and directs authentic short documentaries. Currently, he is in the post-production stage of his second short film, delving into themes of life, loss, and rebirth.



جمعية  
السينما  
CINEMA ASSOCIATION



مهرجان أفلام السعودية  
10 Saudi Film Festival  
Ithra | 2-9 May 2024



العرض للمجموعة 12 الجمعة 19  
يوم السبت Saturday  
19:00  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater

الإعادة للمجموعة 19  
يوم الأحد Sunday  
16:00  
سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

## الصرخة

روائي قصير | كوميديا  
مقداد الكوت



Official competition

The Scream

.A bittersweet reflection on the life of a depressed young man in Kuwait

Meqdad Mukhtar Alkout



Obtained a Bachelor's degree in English Literature and has composed and directed ten short films. Notably, served as a writer for the hit comedy YouTube show "Sheno Ya3ni" and as the head writer for Season 1 of the TV comedy series "Social Needia." Also worked as a writer for Season 2 of the sitcom "Taqdeer Ehtiyaj." Demonstrated creative abilities through writing and directing a YouTube "mini-series titled "World of Suwalef





الصندوق الأخضر  
روائي قصير | غموض  
سلطان القمشوعي

الإعادة	العرض
للمجموعة 37	الجموعه 26
Tuesday	Monday
2024/5/7	2024/5/6
Ithra Cinema	Ithra Theater
يوم الثلاثاء	يوم الاثنين
19:00	16:00
سينما إثراء	مسرح إثراء



Official competition

The Green Box

When a curious teenager stumbles upon a mysterious box, he discovers that it has the power to double whatever he places inside.

Sultan Ali Al Qamshouai



Hailing from the Sultanate of Oman, he is a versatile filmmaker and writer, renowned for his short narrative films, commercials, and short stories.



# أجراس بافالوف

روائي قصير | تجريبي  
خالد فهد

الإعادة	العرض
الجمعة 40	الجمعة 34
يوم الأربعاء	يوم الثلاثاء
Wednesday	Tuesday
2024/5/8	2024/5/7
14:00	16:00
سينما إثراء	مسرح إثراء
Ithra Cinema	Ithra Theater



Official competition

World premiere

Pavlov's Bells

After Pavalov's groundbreaking success in his animal experiments, his ambition leads him to venture into uncharted territory - human experimentation

Khalid Fahad



A decorated writer and film director, renowned for his award-winning films "such as "Little Baird," "Valley Road," and "From The Ashes"



العرض الجمعة 18 للإعادة الجمعة 29  
يوم الأحد يوم الاثنين  
16:00 19:00  
مسرح إثراء سينما إثراء  
Ithra Theater Ithra Cinema

## أنا وعيدروس

روائي قصير | دراما  
سارة بالغنيم



### Official competition

### Me & Aydrus

Joud persuades her family's driver, Aidrous, to take her and a friend on a date against his initial objections. The film transports us back to Saudi Arabia 20 years ago, painting a picture of a time when girls faced stricter societal constraints.



### Sara Balghonaim

A filmmaker currently working towards her Master of Fine Arts in Film & TV Production at New York University. Her directorial debut, "Me & Aydarous," was premiered at the Aspen Shortsfest and screened as an official selection at the Palm Springs International Shortfest in 2023. Additionally, Sara has recently produced "Sweet Refuge," which received the prestigious Directors' Guild of America Student Award.

NEOM MEDIA INDUSTRIES



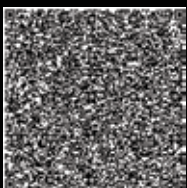
NEOM

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TO THE REGION**

**TALK TO US  
TODAY**



**NEOM.COM**

#### **PROVEN TRACK RECORD**

38+ productions including Hollywood, Bollywood and Arab films, all genres of TV and TVCs

#### **WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES**

6 sound stages with full production support and expansive backlots, plus 4 more stages under construction including a volumetric stage

#### **CREW DEPTH**

International production team able to support multiple productions of any genre, budget and scale

#### **STUNNING LOCATIONS**

Sweeping deserts and dunes, mountains, pristine coastline and beaches, amazing rock formations and lush valleys

# **Documentary Film Competition**

## **Feature Films**

هيئة الأفلام  
 Film Commission

جمعية  
 السينما  
 CINEMA ASSOCIATION

إثراء  
 ithra  
 سينما

10 مهرجان أفلام السعودية  
 Saudi Film Festival  
 Ithra | 2-9 May 2024

الإعادة للجمعة 38  
 يوم الثلاثاء  
 2024/5/7  
 21:00  
 سينما إثراء  
 Ithra Cinema

العرض للجمعة 30  
 يوم الاثنين  
 2024/5/6  
 21:00  
 مسرح إثراء  
 Ithra Theater

**هورايزن**  
 وثائقي طويل | وثائقي  
 فايان لامير



Official competition

World premiere

Horizon

A documentary that highlights the beauty and diverse wildlife in Saudi Arabia

Fabien Lemaire



A director known for his work on numerous series and films, with a focus on capturing and showcasing the beauty of wildlife



للمجموعة 19

الإعادة

العرض الجمعة 12

## سباق الحمير

Sunday  
2024/5/5

يوم الأحد  
16:00

Saturday  
2024/5/4 19:00

يوم السبت

وثائقي طويل | وثائقي

Ithra Cinema

سينما إثراء

Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء

محمد باقر



Official competition

World premiere

Donkey Race

A comedic documentary film about a weekly donkey race held in Al-Ahsa, Saudi Arabia. The story follows a week of preparations for the Friday race between speed barriers. The film documents the past, present, and future generations of racers, whose numbers are dwindling due to the declining interest in donkeys and their owners. However, they still cherish their beloved animals and their weekly tradition greatly

Mohammed Baqer



A filmmaker with great photographic experience that has distinguished his work with expressive imagery. His works have won more than 15 international awards in expressive portrait arts and documentary films. He has successful experiences in commercial advertising, tourism, and documentary films

**المحطة سبعة**  
 وثائقي طويل | وثائقي  
 عبادة الحمامي

الإعادة	العرض
الجمعة 11	الجمعة 4
Saturday	Friday
2024/5/4	2024/5/3
Ithra Cinema	Ithra Theater
يوم السبت	يوم الجمعة
16:00	19:00
سينما إثراء	مسرح إثراء



**Official competition**

**World premiere**

**Station Seven**

Reflecting on the most important events in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2023 from various political, social, economic, cultural, and sports perspectives, through a story that tells its details and effects from the perspective of characters who lived it and were part of it

**Obada AlHamami**



A documentary filmmaker and television producer who co-founded AWJ Studios for sustainable content production. He has worked for various Arab TV stations, beginning his career as a montage technician before joining MBC group in 2011. There, he produced and directed programs such as “In the Week” and “Good Morning Arabs”. Abada has also conducted training courses in film industry and editing, and has created several notable works including films like “Station 7” and documentaries like “Saudi Successes” and “That’s My Testimony”. He has had a successful career in both creative and practical aspects of film and television production





الإعادة للجموعة 27  
يوم الأثنين 16:00  
سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

العرض للجموعة 20  
يوم الأحد 19:00  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater

## أندرقراوند

وثائقي طويل | قضايا اجتماعية  
عبدالرحمن صندقجي



Official competition

World premiere

Underground

An investigative documentary shedding light on the musical talents in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, showcasing their early careers, the significant challenges they encounter in their respective fields, and their aspirations for the future. The film also explores the current state of the Saudi music industry and its future outlook.

**Abdulrahman Hassan Sandokji**



A filmmaker known for his work in creating and producing captivating television programs and documentary films. His projects, such as "Phosphine," "Alzheimer," "Jaleed," and "The Cave," have garnered high acclaim, winning multiple prestigious awards and gaining a vast audience appreciation.





# **Documentary Film Competition**

## **Short Films**



الإعادة الجمعة 11

Saturday 2024/5/4  
يوم السبت 16:00

Ithra Cinema سينما إثراء

العرض للجمعة 4

Friday 2024/5/3  
يوم الجمعة 19:00

Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء

## كتم الأنفاس

وثائقي قصير | وثائقي  
عيسى الصبحي



Official competition

World premiere

Holding Breaths

The tale unfolds the underwater journey and life story of diver Omar Al-Ghilani, who plunges to depths surpassing 100 meters without the aid of breathing apparatus. His expedition brims with surprises, revelations, and obstacles, originating as a mere hobby and evolving into a worldwide pursuit

Issa Salim Alsubhi



A director and writer known for his work in narrative, documentaries, and television programs. His portfolio includes over 10 award-winning short films, with notable achievements such as winning the Sultan Qaboos Medal for Culture, Arts, and Literature in 2018 for "The Black Is Not Worthy of You." Additionally, "Before Sunset" and "Khaled" received accolades at various film festivals, with "Hold Breathing" winning first place at the Arab States Broadcasting Union in 2023. He also conducts filmmaking workshops, showcasing his expertise and solidifying his reputation as a talented filmmaker in the industry



العرض الجمعة 2 للإعادة للجموعة 13  
يوم الجمعة Friday يوم السبت Saturday  
16:00 2024/5/3 19:00 2024/5/4  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

## قدها

وثائقي قصير | وثائقي إبداعي  
نهلة الصغير



### Official competition

### Qaddaha

This documentary film follows the story of two Saudi female heroes who won gold medals at the Saudi Games 2

### Nahla Ahmed Al-Sughayyir



A budding director in the industry, currently studying theatre performance and improvisation to enhance her skills. Her debut short film, "Qaddaha," marks her entry into the world of filmmaking



الإعادة الجمعة 26 العرض  
يوم الثلاثاء للجموعة 37  
Monday يوم الأثنين  
2024/5/7 19:00 2024/5/6 16:00  
Ithra Cinema سينما إثراء Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء

## فيلم هدهدة

وثائقي قصير | وثائقي إبداعي  
علي عبدالله



Official competition

World premiere

Hadhadah Film

The documentary film examines the special connection between a mother and child, where the mother uses personalized songs and stories to soothe her child. It explores whether this tradition will continue or diminish in the future

Ali baqir alabdullah



An inspection engineer with a passion for visual and literary arts, who is also an independent filmmaker, director, director of photography and lighting, and .writer



للجموعة 17

الإعادة

العرض للجموعة 8

## صوت الربابه

Sunday  
2024/5/5

يوم الأحد  
14:00

Saturday  
2024/5/4

يوم السبت  
14:00

وثائقي قصير | موسيقي

Ithra Cinema

سينما إثراء

Ithra Theater

مسرح إثراء

عبدالرحمن الغامدي



### Parallel Show

### The Sound of the Rebab

This short film serves as an introduction to the world of ancient music, focusing on the Rebab, one of the oldest musical instruments. Through its enchanting sound, the Rebab takes viewers on a captivating journey to the ancient Middle East, rediscovering its long-forgotten melodies.

### Abdulrhman Saleh Alghamdi



Abdalrahman Alghamdi is a Saudi Arabian film director and producer, who is based in Saudi Arabia. His love of film making took him all over Saudi Arabia and the Middle East. He has been part of more than 10 short films and documentary projects.



الجمعة 9	الإعادة	العرض للجمعة 1	
Saturday	يوم السبت	Friday	يوم الجمعة
2024/5/4	14:00	2024/5/3	14:00
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater	مسرح إثراء

شاي جعفر  
وثائقي قصير | وثائقي  
محمد الموسى



### Parallel Show

### Jaafar's Tea

A documentary about the story of “Jaafar’s Tea,” the most talked-about word among attendees of the Saudi Film Festival, and about the secret of the man who created this story

### Mohammed Hussain Almousa



Born in Al-Ahsa in the eastern region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he works in the field of cultural management. He is an artist interested in documenting folk tales and intangible heritage. He directed the film “Astonishment” and directed the film “The story of Wajh city”. He has also directed several documentaries about the relief projects provided by the Kingdom in the continent of Africa





العرض الجمعة 26 للإعادة للجمعة 37  
يوم الاثنين Monday يوم الثلاثاء Tuesday  
16:00 2024/5/6 19:00 2024/5/7  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

سعد  
وثائقي قصير | وثائقي  
نواف الجراي



Official competition

World premiere

Saad

Between self-discovery and confronting his fears, Saad faces a new challenge in his life when he is nominated for the Saudi Games Karting Race, with a grand prize of one million riyals. Saad begins preparing himself both physically and mentally to embark on a new journey fraught with challenges and obstacles

Nawaf Abdulaziz Alharabi



Beginning his career in early 2020 at Jamr Studio, he oversaw the content department and crafted compelling content, including commercials. His debut documentary film titled "Saad" showcased his skills as a writer, director, and director of photography. With a focus on documentary filmmaking, he continues to strive in the film industry, aspiring to evolve and thrive as a filmmaker



الجموعه 29	الإعادة	العرض للجموعه 18	
Monday	يوم الأثنين	Sunday	يوم الأحد
2024/5/6	19:00	2024/5/5	16:00
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater	مسرح إثراء

**روح رمضان**  
وثائقي قصير | وثائقي  
عبدالله عكاشة



### Official competition

A short documentary that explores and highlights four different areas in the city of Riyadh during the holy month of Ramadan. The documentary provides an Delightful glimpse into the unique Ramadan activities and traditions in each .area throughout the blessed month

### Ramadan Spirit

### Abdullah Mohammed Okasha



Born in Saudi Arabia in 1999, he is a member of the Gharem Studio and Sandlifers group. He intertwines his love for filmmaking and skateboarding by delving into the streets of Saudi Arabia and immersing himself in urban life. This fusion of passions has allowed him to cultivate a unique perspective, capturing and documenting various facets of street cultures and everyday life in his own .distinct style



رجل الغابة المخفية  
وثائقي قصير | وثائقي  
خالد الهوسه

الإعادة	العرض	الجمعة 10	الجمعة 21
يوم الأحد	يوم السبت	Saturday	Sunday
19:00	16:00	2024/5/4	2024/5/5
سينما إثراء	مسرح إثراء	Ithra Theater	Ithra Cinema



Official competition

World premiere

Hidden forest man

Upon becoming a member of the Saudi Hiking team, Yahya Alqaisi is struck by an inspiring idea that he tirelessly works towards, propelling him into a wonderful adventure and an unparalleled experience

Khalid Jameil Hwsa



His passion for storytelling was ignited by their love for the vibrant colors of film. In 2019, their curiosity sparked a journey that culminated in the production of their first film in 2023. As curiosity gave way to creativity, a new chapter began at the Saudi Film Festival (9), marking the start of a fresh adventure with their second film and the inaugural project of this exciting new journey



الإعادة	العرض	المجموعه 2	المجموعه 13
يوم السبت	يوم الجمعة	Friday	Saturday
19:00	16:00	2024/5/3	2024/5/4
سينما إثراء	مسرح إثراء	Ithra Theater	Ithra Cinema

## ذاكرة عسير

وثائقي قصير | وثائقي  
سعد طحيطح

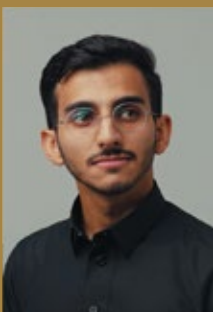


Official competition

World premiere

Aseer Memory

This short documentary follows a man driven by his passion for knowledge as he collects antiques, rare manuscripts, and documents landmarks in the Aseer region. With a rich library at his disposal, he meticulously records the history of the region through both written word and captivating images.



Saad Tahaitah

His photography journey started in late 2012, as he journeyed through the mountains of Al-Namas in his village. By 2016, he had ventured into the movie industry, discovering a powerful medium through which to convey his emotions to audiences. Developing a unique directing and photography style, he blended elements of documentaries and advertisements to create a distinctive visual language for himself.



العرض الجمعة 10  
يوم السبت  
Saturday 16:00  
مسرح إثراء  
Ithra Theater

الإعادة  
يوم الأحد  
19:00  
سينما إثراء  
Ithra Cinema

للجموعة 21  
Sunday  
2024/5/5

## دهجان الورد

وثائقي قصير | وثائقي  
محمد العجمي



Official competition

World premiere

Dahjan Al-Ward

A documentary film that explores the process of rosewater production in the Green Mountain of Oman through the "Dahjan Al-Ward," which is the traditional oven used to extract rosewater. The film delves into the locations where roses are cultivated and highlights the benefits derived from rosewater

### Mohammed Abdullah Alajmi



An Omani film director and the secretary of the Omani Cinema Association holds a diploma in lighting cinematography and a bachelor's degree in radio and television. He has received numerous awards in cinema, such as the Audience Award at the Sur International Film Festival in Lebanon for "Al-Maniour" in 2023 and the Jury Award at the Shababik International Film Festival for "Daira." In 2023, he also won the Best Omani Film award at the East Cinema International Festival and the Arts Award for promotional films



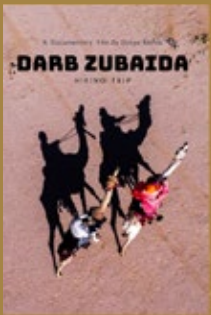
جمعية  
السينما  
CINEMA ASSOCIATION

إثراء  
ithra  
مسرح



درب زبيدة - رحلة هايكنغ  
وثائقي قصيرا وثائقي  
دنيا العطوة

الإعادة	العرض
للمجموعة 21	للمجموعة 10
يوم الأحد	يوم السبت
2024/5/5	2024/5/4
19:00	16:00
سينما إثراء	مسرح إثراء
Ithra Cinema	Ithra Theater



### Official competition

### Darb Zubaida - A Hiking Trip

Embark on an awe-inspiring journey through the ancient pilgrim path in this documentary film led by retired General Abdulaziz Al-Obaida. Join 150 individuals on a thrilling adventure spanning 96 kilometers, as the film delves into the path's rich history and its role in connecting civilizations. Explore the physical challenges, cultural diversity among participants, and the breathtaking beauty of nature along the way. Experience an exciting and uplifting cinematic voyage that highlights the transformative power of exploration and the unifying spirit of brotherhood.



### Alatva Dunya

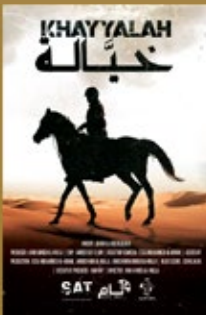
The director transitioned to documentary filmmaking in 2017 with "Loss," delving into the complexities of grief, particularly within the Syrian war. Her narratives resonated with audiences for their depth and authenticity. In 2022, she released the visually striking short film "Disappearance," exploring the fleeting nature of life. The same year, "Darb Zubayda" intertwined culture, history, and personal narratives, earning Alatva multiple awards at festivals and establishing her as a talented filmmaker.



العرض الجمعة 8 للإعادة للجمعة 17  
يوم السبت يوم الأحد  
Saturday Sunday  
14:00 14:00  
2024/5/8 2024/5/9  
مسرح إثراء سينما إثراء  
Ithra Theater Ithra Cinema

## خيّالة

وثائقي قصير | دراما وثائقية  
هاني الملا



### Parallel Show

### Khayyalah

A writer and producer known for works like “Threads of Mazaib” and films “Wasted Time” and “Intrusion,” associated with the SAT Initiative. Additionally, he is an accomplished novelist with books such as “The Little Prisoner” and “The East Cell.” Hani is also a screenwriter, conducts workshops on various genres, and holds a Bachelor’s degree in English Literature. He is fluent in three languages and a talented visual artist with a deep interest in different art forms, including drawing and sculpture



### Hani Ahmed Almulla

A documentary that follows the journey of the first Saudi female equestrian in the sport of endurance. Abrar shares her story of going from a mere coincidence to becoming one of the world’s leading women in her field. This inspiring film showcases her determination, perseverance, and passion for the sport, highlighting her achievements and the challenges she has overcome as the only Saudi female in the sport of endurance



العرض للجمعة 43 الإعادة للجمعة 48  
يوم الأربعاء Wednesday يوم الخميس Thursday  
19:00 2024/5/8 16:00 2024/5/9  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

## حياة مشنية

وثائقي قصير | دراما وثائقية  
سعد طحيطاح



Official competition

World premiere

Life of Mashnia

In the small village, Mishna has long lived a solitary existence. However, as she reaches the age of seventy, a startling revelation unveils the hidden truth behind her loneliness

Saad Tahaitah



A director who embarked on his career in photography in late 2012 in a village nestled among mountains. By 2016, he transitioned into the realm of filmmaking, allowing him to convey his emotions more profoundly to his audience. Through his work in directing, photography, and storytelling, he has crafted a distinctive style that is uniquely his own





العرض الجمعة 12  
يوم السبت Saturday  
19:00  
مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater

الإعادة  
يوم الأحد  
16:00  
سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

للمجموعة 19  
Sunday  
2024/5/5

بعد 48

وثائقي قصير | وثائقي  
علي البيماني



Official competition

World premiere

After 48

The documentary follows the remarkable story of Nooruddin Ismail, an Indian Shawarma chef who dedicated 48 years of his life to the same place and profession

Ali Said Albimani



An independent director and writer who has created over 8 documentary and drama short films. Currently is serving as the head of the audiovisual department at the National Documents and Archives Authority in the Sultanate of Oman. Their work has been featured in various international and local festivals, including the Muscat Film Festival, Moscow International Short Film Festival, Abu Dhabi Film Festival, and Saudi Film Festival



الإعادة الجمعة 48 العرض للجموعة 43

Thursday يوم الخميس Wednesday يوم الأربعاء

2024/5/9 16:00 2024/5/8 19:00

Ithra Cinema سينما إثراء Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء

بر سار

وثائقي قصير | دراما وثائقية

محمد جاسم



Official competition

World premiere

Bar Saar

A documentary explores the life of a small community in Bahrain through the eyes of a father and his son, showcasing their local customs and their connection to one of the strangest cultural phenomena, which is donkey racing

Mohammed Jassim Ahmed



A budding filmmaker from Bahrain is deeply passionate about documentaries. He finds inspiration for his films in real-life stories and events unfolding in his surroundings. He firmly believes in the richness of untold Bahraini narratives waiting to be shared with the world. While he appreciates and analyzes all types of films, documentaries hold a special place in his heart. One of his notable works includes directing the Bahraini short film "Rah," which delves into the poignant theme of sea burials, a practice resonating deeply with many Bahrainis who view the sea as their second home



الإعادة للمجموعة 40 العرض الجمعة 34  
يوم الأربعاء يوم الثلاثاء  
Wednesday Tuesday  
2024/5/8 14:00 2024/5/7 16:00  
Ithra Cinema سينما إثراء Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء

## الشتاء الأخير

وثائقي قصير | وثائقي  
حيدر داوود



### Official competition

### The Last Winter

Mohsen returns to Sweden after four years to reunite with his friend Haider, who is filled with a profound yearning for their homeland, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Together, they spend their time cherishing their final winter in Sweden.



### Hayder Dawood

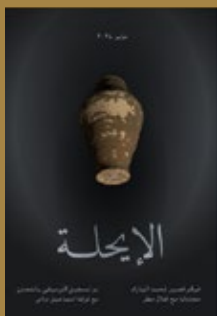
A Saudi filmmaker known for capturing and documenting local narratives rooted in Saudi culture. After moving to Sweden in 2018 for his graduate studies, he incorporated themes of home and cultural identity into his work. His collaborations with international film festivals enhanced his storytelling techniques, leading him to explore non-fiction and non-linear narratives. Hayder gained recognition in the Saudi film scene with his films "COLOR OF SUNSET" and "THE WINDOW OF LIFE," both showcased at prestigious festivals. He is now preparing for the world premiere of his latest documentary, "THE LAST WINTER," at the upcoming Red Sea Film Festival in December 2023.



# الإيحلة

وثائقي قصير | وثائقي إبداعي  
محمد المبارك

الجمعة 13	الإعادة	العرض للجمعة 2	
Saturday	يوم السبت	Friday	يوم الجمعة
2024/5/4	19:00	2024/5/3	16:00
Ithra Cinema	سينما إثراء	Ithra Theater	مسرح إثراء



Official competition

World premiere

Ihala

The film delves into the fading traditions that we now only catch fleeting glimpses of, enough to understand their significance. Connecting memories and spiritual tales of bygone eras, the installation portrays Al Ihala as a mystical, almost .ethereal object hovering within the remnants of its once vibrant production site

**Mohamed Majeed AlMubarak**



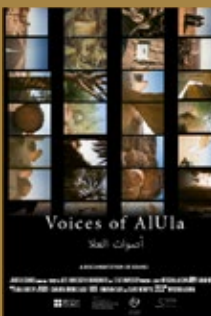
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الإعادة الجمعة 18 العرض  
يوم الاثنين يوم الأحد  
2024/5/6 19:00 2024/5/5 16:00  
Ithra Cinema سينما إثراء Ithra Theater مسرح إثراء

## اصوات العُلا

وثائقي قصير | وثائقي إبداعي  
ميتوشكا الكوفا



Official competition

World premiere

Voices of Alula

A short documentary focused on the search for sound in the Saudi Arabian desert city of AlUla. With its rich history and vast landscape, the desert town is a mystery to uncover for the explorer. The film goes on a search for the 'voice' of Alula through intimate stories, snippets of people met on the way, and curious soundscapes of the desert, oasis and natural landscape. How can we gather an idea of place, so vast and unexplored, through the sounds it is made from



Mitoshka Alkova

A documentary filmmaker from Bulgaria, known for her work exploring themes of nostalgia, the documentation of people and places, and storytelling centered around real, raw emotions and memories. She graduated from the BFS a couple of years ago and has since established herself as a filmmaker with a keen understanding of the significance of authentic storytelling. Her latest documentary, 'Voices of AlUla,' delves into the preservation of space through sound, showcasing her unique and sensitive approach to filmmaking



جمعية  
السينما  
CINEMA ASSOCIATION



مهرجان أفلام السعودية 10  
Saudi Film Festival  
Ithra | 2-9 May 2024



الإعادة الجمعة 11

يوم السبت  
Saturday  
2024/5/4 16:00

سينما إثراء Ithra Cinema

العرض الجمعة 4

يوم الجمعة  
Friday  
2024/5/3 19:00

مسرح إثراء Ithra Theater

## لا ترتاح كثيرا

وثائقي قصير | وثائقي إبداعي

شيماء التميمي



### Official competition

### Don't Get Too Comfortable

Shaima Al-Tamimi writes a poignant letter to her late grandfather, delving into her introspections on their ancestral migrational journey and its profound impact across three generations

### Shaima Saleh Al Tamimi



This Qatar-based Hadrami-East African visual storyteller uses her lived experiences to address social issues focusing on migration, healing, and sociocultural dynamics. A 2020 Photography and Social Justice Fellow at the Magnum Foundation, she created 'Don't Get Too Comfortable' (2021), which was nominated for the Orizzonti Award for Best Short Film at the Venice International Film Festival and showcased at over 35 festivals worldwide. Shaima is also on the board of YWT (Youth of the World Together) that focuses on providing opportunities in film mentorship and production to the youth of Yemen.



# Jury Committees



# Jury Committee

## Feature Film Competition Jury

Haile Gerima was born and raised in Gondar, Ethiopia in 1946, and was greatly influenced by his family, including his mother, a teacher, his father, a writer and former resistance fighter, and his grandmother. He moved to the U.S. in 1967 to study film at UCLA after a period at Haile Selassie University. There, he collaborated with peers challenging traditional Western filmmaking norms and directed notable works such as “Bush Mama” and “Harvest 3,000 Years.” Teaching at Howard University from 1975, Gerima’s films focused on Black voices and themes. His dedication to independent Black cinema led to founding distribution and production companies and Sankofa Video, Books & Café. Celebrated for films like “Sankofa,” he continues to inspire filmmakers as a Professor Emeritus at Howard University. Gerima has been honored with various awards, including the Vantage Award in 2021



**Ethiopia**      **Haile Gerima**  
*Head of Jury*

Hanaa Saleh Al Fassi began her journey in the film industry as a writer, director, and producer in 2003 at the Academy of Cinema and Technology under the guidance of Egyptian director Rafat Al-Mehy. She obtained a master’s degree in cinema and production in Los Angeles. Her short films have been selected in many prominent film festivals, including her production of “Between the Sea” in the 2019 Annecy International Animated Film Festival. Her films have also been showcased at the Wellington Art Gallery in New Zealand. They have been featured in various regions of Egypt, including Cairo, Alexandria, and Minya, in the Egypt Public Library as part of the Medfest Festival. Additionally, her work has been featured on the Tunisian network Al-Mouakasat, promoting cultural awareness in women’s prisons and youth rehabilitation centers in Tunisia. Her projects have also been selected to participate in important initiatives such as the “Rawi Lab” in Jordan in collaboration with the Sundance



**Saudi**      **Hanaa Alfassi**  
*Jury member*

Hédi Zardi has over 20 years of experience in the film and TV industry across a wide range of fields, with extensive knowledge of the international landscape. He is an experienced, innovative, and motivated project developer, thinker, creative producer, and story editor. Zardi served as an associate producer on several feature films and, in 2015, co-founded the international sales company Luxbox with Fiorella Moretti. After 8 years in international sales and co-production, he currently serves as the head of the Atlas Workshops, an industry and talent development program established in 2018 by the Marrakech International Film Festival



**Tunis**      **Hedi ZARDI**  
*Jury member*





## Short Film Competition Jury

Khalid Saqr is a Saudi actor who began his artistic career in 2009 in theater before moving on to local dramatic roles and participating in short films, including “Apartment 6.” Over more than 10 years, he has built a wide fan base through his roles in plays, series, and films. “Zero Distance” and “Kidnapping” have won several awards, including Best Actor at the Youth Film Festival for the film “Autowa” and Best Actor for his role in the film “300 km” at the Saudi Film Festival in 2017, as well as an appreciation certificate from the judging committee of the Saudi Film Festival in 2016 for the film “Kaman



Saudi

**Khaled Saqr**

*Head of Jury*

Aida Schlaepfer Al Hassani, born in Baghdad to a Lebanese mother and an Iraqi father, is a highly accomplished director and filmmaker with a diverse background. After moving to Europe, she studied German and settled in Switzerland. Despite her accounting and business management degree, Aida’s passion for film and the arts led her to pursue a degree in Art and Media Design in Zurich. She further honed her skills by earning a master’s degree in film directing from the High Cinema Institute at the Academy of Arts in Cairo. Aida has directed numerous films and advertisements, including notable works such as “Shadow Black and White,” “Silent Screening Inside a Woman,” and “Gangs of Baghdad.” Her film “Marionette” gained international acclaim and was screened at various film festivals worldwide



Iraq

**Aida Schlaepfer**

*Jury member*

Born in 1968 in Takarazuka City, Japan, he studied journalism at Pepperdine University in California, USA. He spent three years as a student in Clermont-Ferrand, France, where he discovered the world of short films at its prestigious festival. Influenced by the festival, he went on to direct a short film, “Ichigo-Ichie” (35mm, b/w) in Los Angeles, which was selected as an official entry to the Tokyo International Short Film Festival in 1998. After working on two Hollywood productions, he returned to Japan to write scripts for his own radio program in Osaka. He was a member of the Committee for the Osaka European Film Festival from 1998 to 2000



Japan

**SEIGO TONO**

*Jury member*

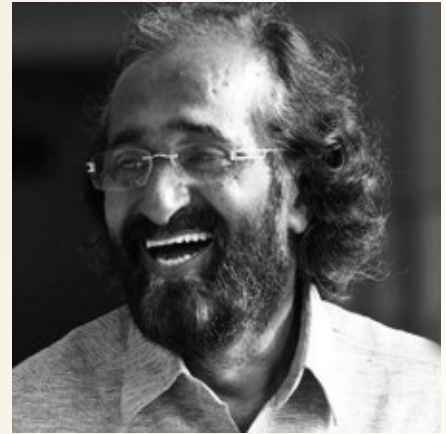


# Jury Committee

## Documentary Film Competition Jury

V.K. Joseph is a film critic, poet, and film activist. He is the President of FIPRESCI Indian Chapter, a member of the Board of Studies for MA Film Studies at Malayalam University in Kerala, and the Executive Editor of DRISHYATHALAM, a monthly film journal of FFSI. Joseph is also the Executive Director of the SIGNS Film Festival, a pioneer Indian national festival of documentaries and short films for the John Abraham Awards for the past 12 editions

He previously served as the Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy and as the Chief Coordinator of the International Film Festival of Kerala in 1998. Joseph has received numerous awards for his work including the Indian President's National Film Award for Best Indian Film Critic in 2007 and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the



India

**VK JOSEPH**  
*Head of Jury*

As a photographer, artist, and writer, she finds wonderful and inspiring stories wherever she goes. She has focused all her attention on this for years. Traveling and discovering new landmarks, and getting to know the locals in remote places has always fascinated her. She has traveled the world extensively and has seen breathtaking areas. Her goal is to capture and convey their wonderful stories to an audience who enjoys listening to them



Saudi **Hussain Daghri**  
*Jury member*

Myriam Sassine majored in audiovisual studies and received an M.A. in Cinema Research. In 2010, she joined About Productions producing several features and documentaries such as Costa Brava, Lebanon by Mounia Akl (Venice Film Festival Official Selection / TIFF 2021), All This Victory by Ahmad Ghossein (Venice Critic's Week 2019), 1982 by Oualid Mouaness (TIFF 2019), Panoptic by Rana Eid (Locarno 2017) and Diaries from Lebanon by Myriam El Hajj (Berlinale Panorama 2024). From 2016 to 2020, she was the COO of Schortcut Films dedicated to co-producing international films such as Félicité by Alain Gomis and Beauty and the Dogs by Kaouther Ben Hania. In 2016, she cofounded Maskoon Fantastic Film Festival, the only genre film festival in the Middle East and acts as the festival's executive director. Since 2021, she's the artistic director of Aflamuna Connection, previously known as Beirut Cinema Platform



Lebanon **Myriam Sassine**  
*Jury member*



## Unproduced Script Jury

Abdullah Orabi is a producer and writer. He participated in the production of 3 feature films with TV11: (The Matchmaker), (Sayfi), and (AlGaid). He also produced two short films: (For the Sultan's Glory) and (Jawi), which participated in and won several awards at local and regional festivals. His screenplay for his feature film (Al Daar) won the Production Market Award at the Saudi Film Festival and 3 other awards. He recently published the book (Death of Adel) by Rashm Publishing House. He participated in writing and producing the documentary program (Laila), consisting of 30 episodes, which aired on SBC channel. He worked as a film programmer at Wadi Cinema, an independent cinema initiative launched by TV11 in collaboration with the Diriyah Biennale. He is one of the founders of Cinema Merkaz, the first independent cinema in Jeddah



**Abdullah Orabi**  
*Head of Jury*

Noor Alsaif is a visual artist with 15 years of experience as a content writer, film critic. She has held many solo exhibitions in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Beirut, Dubai, and Kuwait. Noor conducts research in film studies and transforms her research project into artistic achievements in cinematic formats based on narrative expression. In addition to writing and art, Nour also designs book covers and magazine covers. One of her prominent works is designing the cover of the first issue of the famous magazine Time Out Riyadh



**Noor Alsaif**  
*Jury member*

Abdullah Thabit is a Saudi poet and novelist, born on March 7, 1973, in the village of "AlAthraban" in Abha city, in the Asir region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Arabic language and literature from King Khalid University, Abha. He is a writer in several local and Arab newspapers and magazines, with ten publications in poetry and novels. Some of his works and texts have been translated into several languages



**Abdullah Thabit**  
*Jury member*



# Jury Committee

## Production Market Projects Jury

Dora Bouchoucha has been a film producer since 1994, producing and co-producing numerous award-winning documentaries, short films, and feature films. She founded the Carthage Film Festival Projects' workshop, Takmil, and the SUD ECRITURE workshops, which she has been overseeing. Actively involved in training and promoting southern cinema, she formerly served as the head of the Carthage Film Festival. She received a career achievement award at the Gouna Film Festival, Luxor African Film Festival in Egypt, Salé Festival in Morocco, and Med Film Festival in Rome in 2018. In June 2021, she was appointed Vice President of the Institut du



**Tunis**

**Dora Bouchoucha**

*Head of Jury*

Almotaz Aljefri is a film producer and executive professional with extensive expertise in creative development and managing live-action physical productions. He has a strong record of advising senior management, leading creative and production teams, and fostering a culture that encourages original thinking and innovation. With an MFA in Producing from The American Film Institute, Almotaz has produced over ten films premiered on prestigious platforms and at global festivals. Notable works include "ARABIAN ALIEN" at Sundance, serving as Production Manager on "CHERRY," an Apple TV Original Film, and producing "NAGA," a Netflix Film premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. As the CEO of Movitaz Entertainment founded in 2014, he focuses on developing films and providing new services and financial solutions to support Saudi



**Saudi**

**Almotaz Aljefri**

*Jury member*

Karim Aitouna is a film producer who graduated in Law, Film Studies, and Cultural Management, Karim Aitouna is a film producer working between France and Morocco with HAUT les MAINS productions in Lyon and Waq Waq Studio in Tangier. In 2013, he was selected as an Emerging Producer at the Jihlava DIFF. He produced, among others, Anna Roussillon's award-winning "I Am The People" (2014), David Yon's "The Night And The Kid" (2015), Rà Di Martino's "Contro Figura," Ahmed Fawzi Saleh's "Poisonous Rose," which won over 16 international awards and was Egypt Oscar nominated for 2020. Recently, he produced the documentaries "Dans La Maison" by Karima Saidi, "Gevar's Land" by Qutai-ba Barhamji, and "Europe" by Philip Scheffner. Karim Aitouna is a member of EAVE and EURODOC and has worked as a lecturer and consultant for funds, labs, and festivals such as IFFR Pro Days by Rotterdam IFF, Open Doors Pro by Locarno IFF, Alpi Film Lab by Torino Film Lab, Les Ateliers de l'Atlas by Marrakech IFF, Red Sea Film Fund, and more



**Morocco**

**Karim Aitouna**

*Jury member*

# 35 Awards

## Competitions and Awards

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### Feature Narrative Films Competition Awards

The Golden Palm for Best Feature Film  
The jury's golden palm  
The Golden Palm for Best Actress  
The Golden Palm for Best Actor

The Golden Palm for Best Sound Design  
The Golden Palm for Best Cinematography  
The Golden Palm Best Screenplay Executor  
The Golden Palm for Gulf Film

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### Short Narrative Films Competition Awards

The Golden Palm for Best Short Film  
The jury's golden palm  
The golden palm for best Actress  
The golden palm for best Actor

The golden palm for Best Cinematography  
The golden palm for best Animation 1  
The golden palm for best Animation 2  
Abdullah Almohaisen Award for first film  
The golden palm for Gulf Film

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### Documentary Film Competition Awards

The Golden palm for best Documentary Film  
The jury's golden palm  
Unique Documentary Subject Award

Tuwaiq Mountain Award for a saudi city film  
The golden palm of the Gulf Film  
The golden palm for best Saudi Environment

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### Unproduced Script Competition Awards

Award for best First long script  
Award for best Second long script  
Award for best third long script

Award for best First short script  
Award for best Second short script  
Ghazi Al Gosaibi Award for best script about  
Saudi novel

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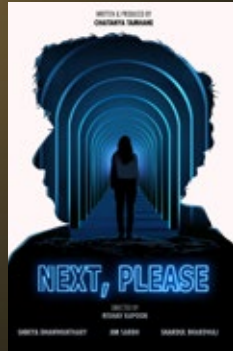
### Production Market Projects

Development scholarship for feature film  
Scholarship sponsor for feature film production  
Scholarship sponsor for feature film after  
production

Development scholarship for Short film  
Scholarship sponsor for Short film production  
Scholarship sponsor for Short film after  
production



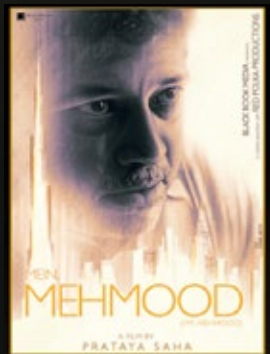
# Films Spotlight on Indian Cinema



## Next please

Short Film | Drama | Director: Rishav Kapoor

A woman goes on a virtual reality date and is transported to a prohibition era bar in her quest for love



## Mein Mehmood

Short Film | Drama | Director: Prataya Saha

The film traces the life of Mehmood, a middle-aged immigrant in Dubai from the Indian subcontinent. His inability to speak the English language limits his ability to converse with potential clients, thus putting his job in jeopardy



## Country of Blind

Feature Film | Drama | Director: Rahhat Shah Kazmi

After falling 1,000 feet from a cliff, a mountaineer winds up in a strange valley that's inhabited by blind people



## Ghuspaith

Short Film | Drama | Director: Mihir Lath

An Indian photojournalist Manav must cross the perilous border between Bangladesh and India with his family while being hunted down by a group of ethnic cleansing Mujahideen fighters



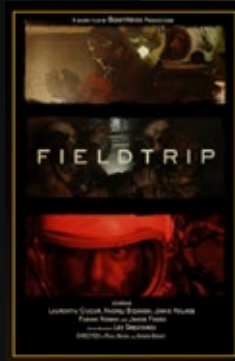
## The daughter

Short Film | Drama | Director: Samyak K Biswas

Amidst a curfew in an Indian town, Indu struggles with her father's last wish, creating a poignant and challenging predicament. Will Indu's journey through curfewed streets fulfill her father's wish



# Science fiction films



## Fieldtrip

Short Film | Science Fiction | Director: Paul Arion

A man inside an AI robotic spacesuit must navigate through his own minefield



## Mulika

Short Film | Science Fiction | Director: Maisha Maene

An 'afronaut' emerges from the wreckage of a spaceship in the volcanic crater of Mount Nyiragongo. Descending into the city below, encountering the people of Goma, he begins to understand what he must do



## The Future Isn't What It Used To Be

Short Film | Science Fiction | Director: Adeyemi Michael

Set in the year 2080, with the Earth ravaged by climate change, a desperate nomad makes a discovery that leads to an unexpected mission and a chance for solace



## The Veiled City

Short Film | Science Fiction | Director: Natalie Cubides-Brady

In 1952, London was engulfed in the Great Smog. As a result of industrialisation, a leaden fog settled over the entire city. The archive images from this period become letters from a desolate future







# Workshops



# Workshops

## Performance Art for the Camera



**Monther Rehana**

Monther is a Jordanian actor who studied theater and television at Yarmouk University in Jordan. He has participated in several Arab TV series and movies, most notably the series "Al Igtiyah" and the movie "Al Hara," among other works that garnered high acclaim

**:Workshop topics**

- .Introduction to acting on screen -
- .Different forms of acting -
- .Character building and exploring the role -

## Making an independent film using global technology



**Paul Arion**

Paul Arion is an expert in the field of visual effects, directing, cinematography, and filmmaking for over 25 years. He was part of a team that won 5 Oscars for visual effects and received 3 nominations for visual effects Oscars, as well as many other awards. With a huge portfolio of Hollywood films and short films listed on IMDB

**:Workshop topics**

**Exploring Cinematography: Technology, Art, and -**  
**.Principles**

**Basic steps for producing a successful film with pro -**  
**.fessional visual effects**

**Pre-production coordination for independent films -**  
**with limited budget, focusing on integrating visual**  
**.effects**



## Film Journalism Skills



**Mohammad Abdulrahman**

Mohammad Abdulrahman is an Egyptian journalist and art critic, working in the field of arts and cinema journalism for 20 years. A member of the Egyptian Journalists Syndicate, he has published several books including "Film Journalism Skills" and "Techniques of Short Films"

**:Workshop topics**

- .Levels of specialized journalism -
- .Types of cinematic journalism writing -
- Covering film events and sources for cinematic jour- -
- .nalists

## The Art of Editing



**Ihab Gohar**

Ihab Johar, a video editor, started his professional career in 2006 through his interest in storytelling. He has completed a variety of films and television series that .have been successful

**:Workshop agenda -**

- Fundamentals of how a film editor deals with the -
- .story
- The relationship between the film editor and the -
- .director
- The director's understanding of editing principles for -
- .cohesive results
- .The editor's relationship with the film -
- .The editor's role in the post-production phase -



# Workshops

## Production file and project pitching



**Michel Kammoun**

Michel studied cinema in Paris after studying architecture in Beirut. His short films have been featured in prestigious international festivals and aired on several television channels. His first feature narrative film "Falafel" won international awards and participated in prominent film festivals worldwide, while his second film "Beirut Hold'em" received acclaim from international critics

### -Workshop Topics

- Essential elements of a production portfolio
- Required international standards for project submission
- Key factors for successful project presentation

## From Sketching to Animation



**Travis Blaise**

Travis J Blaise is an American animator and director with over 33 years of professional experience. For 14 years, he contributed to numerous animated films at Walt Disney Animation Studios, including Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, Pocahontas, Tarzan, Brother Bear, The Lion King, Lilo & Stitch, and many others

### :Workshop agenda

- .Basics of developing a short story -
- .Drawing and building characters -
- .Developing story concepts -
- .Constructing story elements -



## Rights in the field of filmmaking



**Mohammed Rashed Buali**

A director and lawyer, he worked as the Vice President of the Bahrain Cinema Club and the artistic director of the Nukh Film Festival for short films and the president of the Bahrain Cinema Days. He was selected among Asian directors participating in the Asian Film Academy 2012 in South Korea and the Berlin Creative Meeting at the Berlin International Film Festival in Germany in 2013.

### **Rights in the field of film industry**

**The author's ownership of the literary text before and after production**

**How to deal with contract issues and practical problems**



# Scenario development lab

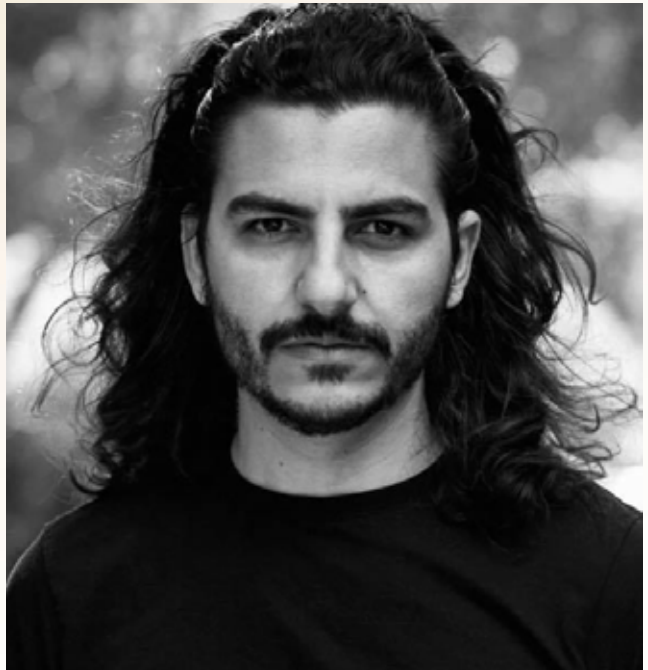
:Scenario Development Workshop  
Advanced Level



**Dima Azar**

Dima Azar is a Jordanian producer and a scriptwriting consultant. She is also a founding member and managing partner at Al-Hikaya Fund, a production company based in Amman that supports emerging cinematic talents in Jordan and the Arab world

Short Screenplay Development Lab



**Ali Kareem**

Ali works as a film consultant and on selection committees for film festivals such as the Arab Film Festival in San Francisco and InterFilm Berlin (Oscar-qualifying). Ali was a jury member at the Atlanta Film Festival in the United States in 2020 (Oscar qualifiers) and the Sulaimaniya Film Festival in 2019. In 2023, Ali was selected as a director and screenwriter for the Berlinale Talents program in Berlin









# Master Classes



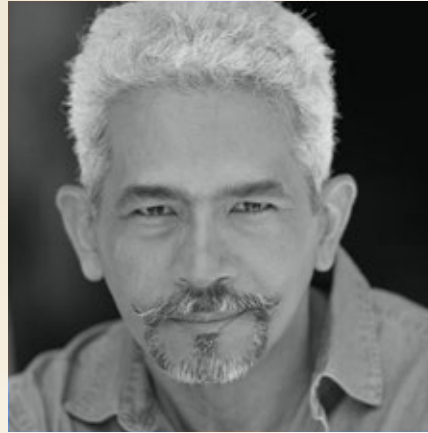
# Master classes

## From Karnataka to Mumbai - Transition through Bollywood's lens

Atul Sudheer

Over the past twenty years, Atul has worked in the Indian film industry, completing more than 110 films and 5 series, and has won 12 awards so far. Atul's first major film role was in the historical drama "Yaaram Hoo," where he played a Hindu extremist determined to kill Gandhi. Atul has also adapted the screenplay for the film "Laal Singh Chadda," the official Indian version of "Forrest Gump".

The journey of standing in front of the camera in Bollywood stories



## The Art & Strategy of Film Producing: From Concept to Distribution

Jonathan Martin

Jonathan Martin is a multi-faceted filmmaker and film festival founder & director. Since 2011, his films have won over 250 industry and festival awards.

.Identifying the project and available opportunities

.Identifying potential investors

.The role of the producer in film distribution





## The revolution of AI and Virtual Production and its impact on the filmmaking

### Wink Winkler

Wink Winkler is a digital artist and educator with over 18 years of experience in the gaming, film, television, and software development industries. He currently works as a professor at Samford University and is a co-owner of Sketch To Animate, where he is dedicated to advanced technology. His latest project is the leading animated production from Sketch to Animate called ARC, Animal Relocation Colony



The problems of “production” or “needs” gave birth - to what we know today as artificial intelligence and .virtual production

The benefits of artificial intelligence and virtual production (cost, flexibility, real-time visualization tailored .(to production needs

In collaboration with AmCham KSA





# Cultural Seminars



# Cultural Seminars

Speaker



Abdulmohsen Alnemr - Saudi Actor

## Honored Personality at the Festival

A panel session featuring esteemed guest and renowned actor Abdulmohsen Alnemr, where he will share insights on his most notable experiences in the world of cinematic acting



Discussion leader  
Majed Ibrahim  
Al Arabiya TV Host

Speaker



Emad Iskandar  
Director of the Red Sea Fund

## Investment Funds About investment funds

A panel session featuring representatives from funding and support organizations within the Saudi film industry, highlighting the available opportunities and optimal strategies for securing them



Discussion leader  
Baraa Alem



Majed Alsaman  
Head of the Cinema  
Department at Ithra



Faris Alasker  
Executive Director at the  
Cultural Department Fund



Speaker

Abdulah Alqurashi  
Director



Alaa Yousef Fadan  
Producer



Faisal Baltyuor  
Producer



## Saudi Films at the Box Office

A panel session will be held featuring Saudi filmmakers and industry experts to discuss the performance of Saudi cinema at the box office, highlight the latest developments in the market, and share their perspectives on the future of the sector



Discussion leader  
Abdulmohsen Almutairi  
Filmmaker

Speaker

Joseph Vattam Thottiyil Kuriakose  
Indian film critic and poet



Emad Eskander  
Producer and Director



## The relationship between Indian cinema and Arab cinema

A panel discussion will be held featuring filmmakers from India to discuss the impact of Indian cinema and its ties with Arab cinema, exploring the existing connections and potential future collaborations between the two industries



Discussion leader  
Mohammed Rashed Buali  
Director



# Cultural Seminars

Speaker

Adnan Al-Manaws  
Saudi writer, and poet



Manuel Sanchez  
Director, writer, producer and  
programming director of the  
Rambo Festival



DEPARDIEU ALAIN HENRI LIONEL  
French Producer



## Poetic Cinema

A panel session focused on exploring the intersection of cinema and poetry, examining the concept of poetic cinema, and discussing how film can capture the essence of poetry



Discussion leader  
MOEZ MAJED  
Poet, translator, and director of  
the Sidi Bou Said International  
Poetry Festival





Speaker

Mohamed Ghazala  
Filmmaker



Mohamed Ghazala  
An Animator and Filmmaker



Ayman Jamal  
Executive Producer



## Animation

An expert panel discussion provides filmmakers and industry professionals with insights into the evolving filmmaking landscape in the Saudi market, highlighting available opportunities for those seeking to explore this dynamic sector



Discussion leader  
Afnan Bawyan  
Filmmaker



10

Editions of Cultivating  
the Filmmaking Sector



# Events

# Production Market

## 23 exhibitors

Project offers  
Signing books  
Introduction sessions  
Counseling sessions  
Market closing ceremony

A vital platform that brings together Saudi and international filmmakers, producers, financiers, and talents. This market is considered an opportunity to exchange ideas, get to know each other, and market cinematic projects, as new and innovative films and film projects are showcased, in addition to providing financing opportunities and production partnerships. This creative environment aims to promote the film industry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and encourage interaction and cooperation between artists, producers and investors in the field of cinema





# Saudi Film Festival Museum

Through the Festival Museum, the history of the festival is displayed from its founding until the current session, highlighting notable moments and historical exhibits such as photos, videos and posters, in addition to displaying some of the winning films of previous sessions



# Red Carpet

From the opening ceremony and throughout the festival days until the closing ceremony, the festival is celebrated by welcoming its guests, including legal figures, stars, jury committees, trainers, and especially the participating filmmakers, on the red carpet to take official photos and conduct interviews with the media





# Signing books

## Saudi Encyclopedia of Cinema

The Cinema Society issues 20 books, ranging from cognitive, critical, and translated, in continuation of its journey to enrich the cinematic content of the Arab library



# Events

## opening ceremony

The festival's activities begin with the opening ceremony in a festive atmosphere, during which the festival's programs are reviewed, including film screenings and various events, honoring the honored personality, and showing the opening ceremony film

## Children's programme

Providing a program targeting children in the field of filmmaking that includes film screenings, meeting a film personality, in addition to an interactive filmmaking experience and a tour of the Ithra Center

## Photography corner

An interactive experience for festival attendees to take photos in a distinctive décor bearing the festival's identity. They can receive the photos digitally or print them

## Photography experience

Establishing an interactive experience for filming a movie scene using new technologies. This experience is organized in an environment simulating a real filming environment, where all the elements necessary for the scene are provided, including decorations, lighting, clothes, makeup, and other accessories

## Closing ceremony

The closing ceremony is held on the last day of the festival, during which a report is presented on the most prominent programs of the festival and the winners of all competitions are announced

## Cognitive and enrichment content products



### 9 issues of Safa Newsletter

A daily bulletin through the festival's website, which includes coverage of the festival's events and interviews with participating filmmakers, entities and specialists in various topics in the film sector



### 5 cultural programs

With the aim of enriching the cinematic content on the Internet and providing an experience for following the festival's events, the festival produces 5 programs in which it hosts participants and an elite group of filmmakers and presents it through the festival's channel





