ASWAN 1st International Women Film Festival
February 20-26 2017
Aswan International Women Film Festival
First edition, February 20-26, 2017
Festival’s Board

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And so is realized the cultural equality upon which the strategy of the Ministry of Culture is founded with every Egyptian city having its own cultural and artistic activities. Aswan comes first with Aswan International Women Film Festival whose first edition is taking place during February 2017. This event will be the milestone in a series of cultural and artistic activities held this year, with two dimensions… The first is that 2017 is the year of women in Egypt, where governmental entities and NGOs are together celebrating the Egyptian woman and her role while discussing her problems and concerns. The truth is that Egyptian woman reaffirms day after day that she is a cornerstone in the community and all its segments. Statistics show 55% of those who walked the streets during the revolution of 30 June, were women and girls, while the revolution of January 25, women roles in Tahrir Square were more than obvious to refer to…

The Egyptian woman has been subjected to hostile attitudes coming from a spectrum that wanted to isolate her from the world and draw her into the depths of a dark past. This spectrum has deliberately insulted and harassed her but she came stronger and tougher. However, under the justice of the law and the triumph of the society for the values of civilizations, these waves were retreated because of our Egyptian heritage: Egyptian history informs us that six queens of the caliber of Hatshepsut and during the Islamic era a great queen like Shajar al-Durr, have all ruled Egypt. In the modern era, we see “her” in every field as a leader and activist.

Second, the call initiated by President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi during the conclusion of the Youth Conference, which was held in Aswan, making Aswan capital of the African economy and culture. If the Ministry of Culture is sponsoring the festival, with several ministries and official entities, the credit for his festival must go to a group of young people who founded Aswan International Film Festival and made a lot of effort to establish it with an international and wide participation.
Again, returns Aswan strongly to the map of world tourism through an important event: Aswan International Women Film Festival, where films from the five continents are screened and where many creators from all over the world gather for the love of cinema and to discuss women’s issues and how we can prevent violence against her in addition to Abu Simbel Producers Salon to promote lensing of international films in Egypt. All these aspects makes this newborn festival an important and integral event for the future of film industry, especially as it coincides with workshops for young amateurs from Aswan.

If the Aswan governorate is witnessing the birth of this new festival on February 20, the sun will continue to shine on the face of King Ramses at Abu Simbel on the morning of February 22, for Egyptians to continue their creativity through generations and ages.
Governor of Aswan

I am pleased to extend my greetings to the organizers of Aswan International Women Film Festival which will be held during the annual phenomenon of the sunrise on King Ramses II, an event that reflects human genius in time and place. Aswan with the kindness of its people is welcoming this festival on its land and besides its Nile and between its monuments and its heritage in order for this event to become an addition to the cultural and touristic map in Egypt and a new stage reflecting the status of Aswan on the international and regional scene. Hence, we all will concentrate our efforts for the success of this festival with the festival’s board and tram with all my best wishes for a great and successful activities of the first edition.

God save Egypt and its loyal sons

General / Magdy Hegazy
Governor of Aswan
A dream we shared, as Egyptian girls and women, to have a cinematically elegant platform that reflects our problems, touches our reality and showing how we all contribute to build our beloved country in a fair and true way.

We have, as Egyptian girls and women, from the marginalization of our roles on film and from the portrayal of Egyptian women in an unfairly image that is contrary to reality. Sometimes, it was deliberate to insult her by showing her as only a body to make certain box office profit which then reflected on the public opinion on the value and status of Egyptian women and undoubtedly was one of the reason of harassment and violence against girls and women of in Egypt.

We are fully aware of the importance of cinema aka the seventh art in the formation of thoughts and conscience of the public ...Hence, we cannot overlook the impact of purposeful art in reflecting women's issues on film in a time when Egypt is in quite need of the support of its children, men and women .. It is a critical time for women to contribute more than any time before...

We share a great happiness because 2017 is announced to be the Year of Egyptian Woman where it will start with the organization of this festival. International films will be screened from all over the world on the land of civilization with one purpose: uphold the status of women ...Really, art has an important message and a soft power that is one of the characteristics of Egypt.

Hence, comes the National Council of Women’s full support to Aswan International Women Film Festival...the first of its kind in Egypt with its creative ideas that deserve our support and assistance ...

The National Council of Women has signed a cooperation protocol with Aswan International Women Film Festival to provide the festival all aspects of support. It was also decided to create an award on behalf of the Council not to mention the presence of the Council during all the festival’s activities...

Really everything in the festival looks so special; starting with this time when the sun rises over the statue of Ramses II, which is an important event reflecting of our heritage ...

The festival management has also decided to choose LEILA, DAUGHTER OF THE DESERT for the opening of the first edition, marking its 80th anniversary and its screening in Venice Festival. The closing ceremony marks the screening of DALIDA, the story of this great international artists with Egyptian roots... The festival’s awards have the name of Egyptian women who pioneered in Egyptian cinema...

Nut Forum will discuss women’s problem including violence suffered by women, both within the family or in the community....

Finally, the Council is sending greetings from the heart to all those involved in the festival with all its best wishes for success and aspiration.

Dr.Maya Morsy
Head of the National Council of Women
Cinema was the greatest passion for which I dedicated the most beautiful years of my life … cinema is life with all its joys and sorrows … cinema is the light that not only illuminates screening rooms, but also lights up our lives with a lot of beautiful meanings … And so, Aswan International Women Film Festival (AIWFF) comes like a star shining across Upper-Egypt to became a celebration of cinema in the city of Aswan, the land of civilization and history.

In Aswan, the creators will meet in the world of film magic… where women are the focus of screened films … It is a new celebration that will be added on the maps of film festival across Egypt, given the fact that Egyptian cinema was born on the hands of creative women who carved their names with letters of light in the history of the seventh art… In the beginning, there was Bahiga Hafez, Aziza Amir and Fatma Roushdi who paved the way to the stars of the current generation whose new films travel the world, from its east to its west.

In Aswan, we will meet every year, gathered by our love of cinema and its magic across film screens… We will enjoy the creativity of women filmmakers and monitor the issues and dreams of women worldwide … Here in the land of the Nile River and its prosperity, the land of love and peace, we will meet annually to show the world how Egypt is beautiful, safe and capable of embracing successful film festivals from its far north to its far south, and from its far east to its far west.

Here from Aswan we will salute each and every creative talent who fought for the freedom of women… We will raise our slogan for this edition: “No To Violence Against Women”. We will also make sure that women will always be the cornerstones of all societies …

Long live Women And Their Creativities.

Actress/Producer Elham Shahein
Honorary President of AIWFF
Women in Egyptian cinema had always had special status … Egypt where the first cinema machine rolled before most of the European countries and the Americas had a film industry uniquely associated with women.

I don’t know if this is celebrating her or using her or maybe women have seen women themselves in filmmaking a way to reflect their ambition and willingness to early exit from the era of the harem that reigned over the region during certain social systems that took religions and morals as an excuse to impose restrictions on women’s freedom.

During the early films, one should note that actresses had star power and box office status more than actors not only in Egyptian cinema but worldwide. Women producers appeared as well as women director who all created film with great professionality. Hence the choice of our opening 1937’ film LEILA, DAUGHTER OF THE DESERT with Bahidja Hafez as its star, director and producer.

Perhaps this beginning in Egyptian cinema is what has driven its path toward social and familial issues which made it popular like air and water (it was the most important industry in the early twentieth century in Egypt). The decline and content and box office failure when cinema started to exploit women affected filmgoing to the point that mothers punished their children if they think of going to the movies after it was the best reward...

That’s why we thought of social development of society by fighting against the darkness and violence that prevailed in our country in recent decades, through bringing back cinema to women and women to cinema and hence we decided to go to the far point from Cairo, the big city that swallows all activities. We decided to go where ancient life has started. In Aswan, up there, women were queens and goddesses who were source of inspiration to ancient Egyptians. Maybe we did not travel there to lens a film but I am sure tomorrow that Aswan will be the landscape of films made by new generations from Aswan. Our workshops were overpopulated by this new generation who represent the future. And I am sure than the next editions will be showing their new works. New films will be created by Aswan women with new dreams and new lights that fight the darkness...

I know that the word “festival” in Egypt started to mean disorientation and deformation … but we did not come to make a noise in this quiet, beautiful city. We came to learn from our ancestors … the art of contemplative viewing.

Mohamed Abd El Khalek
Festival President
When the sun of Monday, February 20, 2017 rises, it will announce the beginning of the first step in achieving a dream that began nearly four years ago, shared with my friend scriptwriter Mohamed Abdel-Khalek where Aswan was the place that caressed our imagination to embrace a specialized festival in women's films, siding this beautiful city of civilization, which was deprived for many years from an art event worthy of what its sons have given to humanity and reminiscent of the role played by women in our lives since the dawn of history, especially women who were pioneers in filmmaking on silver screens.

We have chosen Aswan but we faced challenges to achieve this dream. We made a hiatus to think of another location but the faces of Aswan people and the architecture of Nubian homes kept on tackling our imagination for a festival that illuminates the Philae Temple and the High Dam that were witnesses to the ancient and modern Egyptian greatness.

We shared our dream with many, and by the virtue of the fellowship of the same profession for ten years, Amira Atef was at the forefront of our partners. She revised and learned every detail with amazing accuracy and she flew with us to the skies of our dream by giving us positive energy whenever we encountered obstacles ... As for Azza Kamel, I consider her the biggest asset in this project because of her amazing efforts that cannot be reduced in a few lines. With Amira and Azza, the dream came in full circle before we were granted the honorary presidency of the beautiful and great actress Elham Shahein, an artist with a big heart whom we have chosen with great sureness because of her beliefs in women cinema and because her venturing in film production with her own finance making her the sole Egyptian actress doing so nowadays.

On the way towards our dream, we had additional partners as important as the aforementioned figures; partners who gave us their best efforts and their full support by opening for us closed doors; Sherif Awad, Ahmed Hassouna, Ashraf Sarhan, Sayed Abdel-Khalek, Marwa Said, Maggie Hamid and even Uncle Abdo, this good old man from Aswan to whom we always asked about Aswan, its geography and weather whenever we wanted to know some details...

Finally, the dream will be realized... A dream we know its beginning but we don’t know its end... since our dreams are still without limit...

Hassan Abou El-Ela
Festival Director
TRIBUTE
TRIBUTE

Naglaa Fathy
Actress
Egypt

A famous Egyptian actress and one of the most recognizable faces in the Egyptian cinema. She was born Fatma al-Zahraa in 1951 and was discovered by producer Adly Al-Mowaled by chance after he saw her in Alexandria only to offer her film debut. Having consulted with the late artist (Abdel Halim Hafez), a close friend of the family, he gave her artistic name Naglaa. Her film debut came in 1966 with THREE FRIENDS only to given a starring role by leading producer Ramses Naguib) in JOYS by Ahmed Badrakhan. The early seventies was a period of great activity for Fathy where she starred in dozens of films along with leading men of the era. She also formed an onscreen duet with Mahmoud Yassin in a series like MY BLOOD AND MY TEARS AND MY SMILE and OBLIVION TRIP. Although most of her films during the seventies belonged to the romantic genre, Naglaa Fathy also created comic and dramatic performances. She also starred in several remakes of classic starrer of Faten Hamama whom she regarded as role model.

Her work gradually diminished during the eighties that she concluded it with THE DREAMS OF HEND AND CAMELLIA with director Mohamed Khan. She retired after her marriage to anchorman Hamdy Kandil and devoted herself to charity.
A Romanian film and theatre actress, she made her debut in cinema, portraying the complex Alina Ringhis, main character in Cristian Mungiu's praised drama, BEYOND THE HILLS. For her outstanding performance in this film she received the Best Actress the 2012 Cannes Film Festival. Before 2012, she performed for several years in theatre productions, both in Romania, on the stage of the Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu, and abroad, when on tour to Kiev, Sarajevo, Helsinki, Turku, Sankt-Petersburg, Skopjie, Trabzon, Naples, Bogota, Rome.
Bahidja Hafez
An actress, a film director, a screenwriter and a musical composer who was born in Muharram Bek District at the city of Alexandria in 1908. Her father was Ismail Mohamed Hafez, headmaster of Sultanate Private School during the reign of Sultan Hassan Kamel while the son of her aunt was Ismail Sidqi who became the Prime Minister of Egypt. In 1930, she got a degree in music composition from Paris Conservatory which later allowed her to compose soundtracks for several films in which she co-starred including THE VICTIMS (also was its co-director), THE ACCUSATION, LEILA, DAUGHTER OF THE DESERT, LEILA THE BEDU GIRL, SALWA, Market’s Flower, AL-SAYYID AL-BADAWI. Hafez also founded first music syndicate in 1937. She passed away in 1983.

Leila, Daughter of the Desert
Directed by: Bahidja Hafez 1937

Written by:
Bahidja Hafez
Mahmoud Al-Ahmady

Cinematography by:
Hassan Mourad,
Mohamed Abdel-Azim

Edited by:
Vahé Boyadjian

Cast
Bahidja Hafez
Hussein Riad
Zaki Rostom

Runtime:
125 MIN

Print Source:
Rotana

Synopsis
Ziad and Omar scheme a plot to kidnap the Bedouin Leila with the help of Kesra after they promised him that she will be his. Ziad and Omar also have a more sinister plan to discredit Leila’s cousin whom they also envy ...
CLOSING FILM
Lisa Azuelos
Born 1965 in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. She is a writer, director and producer, known for LOL (2012) and ONE WILD MOMENT (2015). Azuelos is of Moroccan descent and daughter of singer Marie Laforêt, co-director), THE ACCUSATION, LEILA, DAUGHTER OF THE DESERT, LEILA THE BEDU GIRL, SALWA, Market’s Flower, AL-SAYYID AL-BADAWI. Hafez also founded first music syndicate in 1937. She passed away in 1983.

**Dalida**
Directed by: Lisa Azuelos 2016

Written by:
Lisa Azuelos
based on the book by Orlando Jacques Pessis
Catherine Rihoit
Cinematography by:
Antoine Sanier
Edited by:
Baptiste Druot
Cast
Sveva Alviti
Riccardo Scamarcio
Jean-Paul Rouve
Runtime:
124 MIN
Print Source:
ADF

**Synopsis**
Based on the true story of acclaimed music icon Dalida who was born in Cairo then gained celebrity in the 1950s by singing in French, Spanish, Arabic, German, Italian. She came to Egypt to star Youssef Chahine’s LE SIXIÈME JOUR. Her life tragically ended in 1987 after selling more than 130 million records worldwide...
COMPETITION LONG
Jury of Long Film Competition

Hala Khalil
Film Director
Egypt
Hala Khalil is a director, scriptwriter and producer. She has written and directed numerous films, short films documentaries and TV series and has also worked as an executive producer. Her filmography includes: BEST OF TIMES (2004), CUT AND PASTE (2006) and her award-winning short, THE KITE (1997). Khalil has also served on several festival juries (Cairo, Ossian, Rotterdam Arab and Beirut).

Dr. Rita Datta (Rwita Dutta)
Film Critic/ Film Director
India
A film-scholar, film-maker and film-critic, her first documentary 3RD WORLD premiered in 2006. Her debut short-narrative WINGS OF DESIRE got the best film award in Hyderabad International Film Festival in 2008. At present, she is writing the script of an India-Bangladesh co-production. Datta writes articles regularly on cinema for several national and international journals and also contributes for several publications on films & film studies. She is a member of the International Film Critics Association - FIPRESCI. Presently she is writing a book on 'Women in Indian Cinema'.

Carmen Gray
Film critic
Germany
She was born in New Zealand and now lives in Berlin. Gray is a freelance journalist and film critic who has written for publications including The Guardian, The Observer, Sight & Sound, Screen International, The Calvert Journal, Senses of Cinema and Estonian Culture Weekly. She is the former Film Editor of Dazed & Confused magazine in London. She is also a film programmer, and is on the selection committee for Berlin Critics’ Week. She has served on juries at many major festivals, including Toronto, Berlin, Locarno, Moscow and Rotterdam, as well as for the Harpa Nordic Film Composer Award. She previously worked as a language teacher, and now regularly teaches writing workshops for young critics in Poland, Serbia and Estonia.
Nina Anjaparidze  
Film Critic  
Georgia  
She studied at Shota Rustaveli State University. Worked at the Georgian National Film Centre as Film Export Specialist. Currently she is the director of Tbilisi International Film Festival.

Ya Ni  
Film Director  
China  
She graduated from the University of China, majoring as art director. Ya Ni studied with famous film directors Su Li and Yan Gong. Ya Ni is a national first-grade director, and winner of State Council. The films independently written, produced and directed by Ya Ni include LOVE OF LOUNGE BRIDGES and PEOPLE WITH NO EYES.
Hsiao-Hsien Hou

He was born in Kuangtung Province that had been an intellectual center in China. In 1948, his family moved to Taiwan and, in 1969, he studied film at the National Taiwan Arts Academy. He began his film career as a scriptwriter and assistant director. Hou's films are often about growing up in rural Taiwan. His films between 1980 and 1989, got either best film or best director awards from prestigious festivals like Venice, Berlin, Hawaii, and Nantes.

The Assassin
Directed by: Hsiao-Hsien Hou 2015

Written by:
Cheng Ah
T’ien-wen Chu
Hsiao-Hsien Hou
Hai-Meng Hsieh
Cinematography by:
Ping Bin Lee
Edited by:
Chih-Chia Huang
Ching-Song Liao
Cast
Chen Chang
Qi Shu
Yun Zhou
Runtime:
105 MIN
Print Source:
mariannek@teleview-int.tv

Synopsis
Ziad and Omar scheme a plot to kidnap the Bedouin Leila with the help of Kesra after they promised him that she will be his. Ziad and Omar also have a more sinister plan to discredit Leila’s cousin whom they also envy …

ASWAN
International WOMEN Film Festival
20-26 February 2017

COMPETITION LONG
Christy Garland
Born 1968 in Canada, she directed the documentaries THE BASTARD SINGS THE SWEETEST SONG (2012) that was critically acclaimed and DOORMAT (2008). Garland is currently shooting WHAT WALAA WANTS in the West Bank.

Cheer Up
Directed by: Christy Garland 2015

Cinematography by:
Sari Aaltonen
Edited by:
Thor Ochsner,
Graeme Ring
Runtime:
75 MIN
Print Source:
ac@widehouse.org

Synopsis
A team of cheerleaders from the Arctic Circle in Finland struggle to improve but teenage life can be tough for them. For Patricia, Aino and Miia, finding out who they are, where they belong and what family means is much more important than any trophy.
Annie J. Howell, Lisa Robinson
Lisa Robinson and Annie J. Howell’s debut long narrative, SMALL, BEAUTIFULLY MOVING PARTS (2011) went on to play over thirty festivals. They both live in New York.

Claire in Motion
Directed by: Annie J. Howell, Lisa Robinson 2015

Written by:
Annie J. Howell
Lisa Robinson
Cinematography by:
Andreas Burgess
Edited by:
Jim Isler
Cast
Betsy Brandt
Chris Beetem
Zev Haworth
Runtime:
83 MIN
Print Source:
jy@visitfilms.com

Synopsis
Claire is sure of herself, her work and family, until - like a bad dream - her husband disappears, leaving a trail of puzzling secrets that shatter her certainty. Claire’s search for her missing husband leads her to a world of secrets.
The Eagle Huntress
Directed by: Otto Bell 2016

Otto Bell
A creative director based in New York, he studied at Oxford University then directed more than fifteen advertising documentaries for different brands. The Eagle Huntress is his long documentary debut.

Synopsis
Thirteen-year-old Aisholpan has just one wish - to become an eagle huntress, thereby continuing the family tradition. To fulfill her dream, she must overcome one remaining fundamental obstacle: falconry is usually the purview of men.
Yahia Mouzahem
He realized several documentaries and the short films ME, HER AND OTHERS, VENGEANCE and IMAGINATION. Mouzahem was also co-producer of BEN BOULAID by Ahmed Rachedi.

The Assassin
Directed by: Yahia Mouzahem 2016

Written by:
Hafiza Merimache
Cinematography by:
Frédéric Dorian
Edited by:
Ryma Bensalah
Cast
Sawsan Moalegue
Lobna Sediri
Sara Hanachi
Runtime:
86 MIN
Print Source:
ymouzahem@yahoo.fr

Synopsis
the lives of several families residing in a big house at casbah de constantine. between the families are bonds of friendship and solidarity under the haughty gaze of the owner lalla zbida who looks after them...
Selma Vilhunen
He was born in Kuangtung Province that had been an intellectual center in China. In 1948, his family moved to Taiwan and, in 1969, he studied film at the National Taiwan Arts Academy. He began his film career as a scriptwriter and assistant director. Hou's films are often about growing up in rural Taiwan. His films between 1980 and 1989, got either best film or best director awards from prestigious festivals like Venice, Berlin, Hawaii, and Nantes.

Little Wing
Directed by: Selma Vilhunen 2016

Written by:
Selma Vilhunen
Cinematography by:
Tuomo Hutri
Edited by:
Samu Heikkilä
Cast
Linnea Skog
Paula Vesala
Lauri Maijala
Runtime:
100 MIN
Print Source:
bjorg@medialuna.biz

Synopsis
Varpu is a twelve-year-old girl who doesn’t know who is her father. The relationship between her and her mother, Siru, is good and warm, but there’s one flaw: Siru doesn’t treat Varpu as a child. One day, when mother and daughter have a fight, Varpu steals a car and drives across Finland to find her father.
Anca Damian
She studied at the Academy of Theatre and Film Arts in Bucharest where she majored in cinematography and later obtained a Doctor’s degree in Film. Her films CROSSING DATES (2008), CRULIC - THE PATH TO BEYOND (2011) and A VERY UNSETTLED SUMMER (2013) participated in numerous film festivals.

Magic Mountain
Directed by: Anca Damian  2015

Written by:  
Anca Damian
Cinematography by:  
Anca Damian
Edited by:  
Ion Ioachim Stroe
Cast
Chen Chang
Christophe Miossec
Jean-Marc Barr
Jerzy Radziwilowicz
Runtime:  
89 MIN
Print Source:  
pascale@pascaleramonda.com

Synopsis
An animated docudrama retracing the biography of Adam Jacek Winkler wonders through nearly half a century of history. A Polish refugee in Paris, Adam lived a boundless life, wanting to change the world
Ana Katz
Born 1975 in Buenos Aires, she is director known for A STRAY GIRLFRIEND (2007), and MUSICAL CHAIRS (2002). In 2015, she also appeared in the Spanish film KIKI, LOVE IS MADE and, in 2016, in the Uruguayan-Argentine co-production THE CANDIDATE.

My Friend from the Park
Directed by: Ana Katz 2015

Written by:
Inés Bortagaray
Ana Katz
Cinematography by:
Guillermo Nieto
Edited by:
Andrés Tambornino
Cast
Julieta Zylberberg
Andrés Milicich
Mirella Pascual
Runtime:
86 MIN
Print Source:
jy@visitfilms.com

Synopsis
Running away from a bar without paying the bill is just the first adventure for Liz (mother to newborn Nicanor) and Rosa (supposed mother to newborn Clarisa). This budding friendship between nursing mothers starts with the promise of liberation.
Marina Seresesky
Born 1969 in Buenos Aires, she was an actress who moved behind the camera with the short films THE WEDDING (2012) and THE CORTEGE (2010) that won more than 120 festival awards around the world.

The Open Door
Directed by: Marina Seresesky 2015

Written by:
Marina Seresesky
Cinematography by:
Roberto Fernández
Edited by:
Raúl De Torres
Cast
Carmen Machi
Terele Pávez
Asier Etxeandía

Runtime:
82 MIN
Print Source:
produccion@meridionalproducciones.com

Synopsis
By night, Rosa is a street prostitute, something she inherited from her mother Antonia. Rosa does not know how to be happy. But this Christmas, the unexpected arrival of a new family member will give her an opportunity.
Sara Broos
A Swedish filmmaker, she makes author-driven personal films. Broos also produced short films, videos and documentaries. Her first long documentary received The Dragon Award at Gothenburg Film Festival and Best Nordic Documentary at Nordic Docs in Norway.

Reflections
Directed by: Sara Broos 2015

Written by:
Sara Broos
Cinematography by:
Billie Mintz
Hampus Linder
Sara Broos
Edited by:
Sara Broos
Runtime:
80 MIN
Print Source:
broosfilm@gmail.com

Synopsis
The director takes her mother Karin Broos, a famous Swedish painter, on a seaside trip to Latvia, hoping to close the silent gap between them. Out of this experience, we relive the complexities of a mother-daughter relationship.
Rubaiyat Hossain

She is known for her critically acclaimed debut MEHERJAAN (2011) which faced political and cultural wrath in Bangladesh for its antiwar narrative. Rubaiyat Hossain has completed her BA in Women Studies and MA in the US.

Synopsis

Theatre actress Roya suffers from her husband’s wish for children and traditional life. Not interested in motherhood, she decides to reconstruct a famous and politically minded play for modern times, reclaiming her identity and her freedom.
Belgium

Stephan Streker


A Wedding
Directed by: Stephan Streker 2015

Written by:
Stephan Streker

Cinematography by:
Grimm Vandekerckhove

Edited by:
Jerome Guiot
Mathilde Muyard

Cast
Lina El Arabi
Sébastien Houbani
Babak Karimi

Runtime:
98 MIN

Print Source:
sales.jour2fete@gmail.com

Synopsis

Eighteen-year-old Zahira is asked by her family to follow Pakistani tradition and choose a husband out of three young men. Torn between family customs and her western lifestyle, the young woman turns for help to her brother and confidant Amir.
Mohamed Hammad
After media studies at Helwan University, he wrote and directed the acclaimed short films THE FIFTH POUND (2006), CALL CENTER (2006) and PALE RED (2009). His long narrative debut WITHERED GREEN was screened at Locarno and Stockholm then at Dubai Festival where Hammad received Best Director Award.

Withered Green
Directed by: Mohamed Hammad 2016

Written by:
Mohamed Hammad
Cinematography by:
Mohammed El-Sharkawy
Edited by:
Mohamed Hammad
Mohammed El-Sharkawy
Cast
Heba Ali, Asmaa Fawzi
Tamer Abdel-Hamid
Runtime:
72 MIN
Print Source:
omhefzy@gmail.com

Synopsis
Iman, a young woman who is committed to customs traditions, lives with her younger sister Noha after the death of their parents in a small apartment. When a young man approaches Noha for marriage, Iman immediately contacts their estranged uncles to be present during his visit.
Enrico Pau
Born 1956 in Cagliari, he is a film director and film professor. His cinematic experiences began with several short films that are presented at various festivals. His first long film LIGHTWEIGHTS (2002) was a story of two boxers and their rivalry. In 2006, Pau directed his second long film JIMMY ON THE HILL that won the CICAE Award at Locarno Film Festival.

Synopsis
Until the end of the 1950s, the legendary accabadora (Woman of Death) existed in the villages of rural Sardinia. Annetta is one of these women who is usually called upon by families to help the terminally ill exit this world as painlessly as possible.
إعلان أو صفحة بلاء

مسابقة الأفلام الروائية الطويلة
COMPETITION SHORT
Nathalie Biancheri
Film Director
Italy
Based in London, she graduated from Kings College in Comparative Literature and Classics and began her career at the BBC. She has worked as a Researcher, Associate Producer and self-shooting director in documentaries and dramas at both the BBC and independent production companies. Her short narrative THE CROSSING was nominated for Best Short Film at Edinburgh International Film Festival. She is currently shooting two feature length documentaries, I WAS HERE and IN HIS SKIN.

NUJOOM ALGHANEM
Film Director
UAE
Nujoom Alghanem is an Emirati poet, scriptwriter and award-winning director. She has produced several short fictions and documentaries. In addition to producing her own films, she is also a film, media and cultural consultant to educational and professional institutes and organisations in the UAE. Alghanem’s filmography includes: NEARBY SKY (2014), which won Best Non-Fiction Prize in the Muhr Feature competition at DIFF and AMAL (2011), which won First Prize in the Muhr Emirati competition at DIFF.
Wessam Soliman
Scriptwriter
Egypt
She graduated at the Higher Institute of Cinema and wrote the script for several short films, including PLEASE DO NOT WAIT and SPRING 89. Her long narrative films include BEST OF TIMES (Best Screenplay from the Catholic Center), DOWNTOWN GIRLS (Best Screenplay from the Film Society), FACTORY GIRL (Best Screenplay from Salé Festival), and IN THE HELIOPOLIS FLAT (Best Screenplay from the National Film Festival Award).

Lydia Papadimitriou
Film Critic
Greece
Lydia Papadimitriou is Reader in Film Studies at Liverpool John Moores University. She has published extensively on different aspects of Greek cinema, and is currently researching on film festivals, distribution, documentary, and Balkan cinema. She has authored 'The Greek Film Musical' (2006), co-edited 'Greek Cinema: Texts, Forms and Identities' (2011), and is the Principal Editor of the 'Journal of Greek Media and Culture'. She has published numerous articles in books and journals, including New Review of Film and Television Studies (NRFTS), Screen and Filmicon. She has recently co-edited a special issue ‘Film Festivals: Origins and Trajectories’ (2016).
Mohamed Saadoun

Alia
Directed by: Mohamed Saadoun 2017  
Synopsis
Suffering from her uncaring husband and son, a housewife takes a refuge in her imagination to go places she has never been.

Cast: Ola Mandour - Mostafa Elfeky  
Runtime: 10 MIN  
Print Source: saadoun.director@gmail.com

Maryam Touzani
Born in Tangier, she has pursued a university degree in London. She moved back to her country after her studies and worked as a journalist, specializing in cinema. WHEN THEY SLEPT, her first short narrative, was awarded around the world. AYA GOES TO THE BEACH is her second short narrative.

Aya Goes to the Beach
Directed by: Maryam Touzani 2016  
Synopsis
Ten-year-old Aya is a domestic worker in a small house. Locked away from the world, she takes care of the household duties. Despite this situation, the child inside her resurfaces daily. Motherhood, she decides to reconstruct a famous and politically minded play for modern times, reclaiming her identity and her freedom.

Cast: Badia Aziz - Nouhaila ben Moumou  
Runtime: 17 MIN  
Print Source: touzanimaryam@hotmail.com
Dubravka Turić
Born 1973 in Zagreb, she received her MA in film from the University of Zagreb in 1998. Turić has edited over twenty narratives, experimental, and animated films, and over two hundred commercials. BELLADONNA is her directorial debut.

Belladonna
Directed by: RDubravka Turić 2015

Synopsis
Three women of different ages and backgrounds meet in the waiting room of an ophthalmologist’s office. Overhearing the conversation of the two older women, the young woman Sasha learns of the tragedy they experienced.

Gertrud Schulte Westenberg
Born in Saxony, she studied educational science in Bielefeld and economics in Berlin. She has directed the documentary RENT REBELS and the two short films DRAGON CIRCLE and CABUWAZI BEYOND BORDERS.

Cabuwazi Beyond Borders
Directed by: Gertrud Schulte Westenberg 2016

Synopsis
During the summer of 2015, thousands of refugees arrived in Berlin and amongst them are many children. An independent group named “Cabuwazi Beyond Borders” travels directly to these refugee centers to teach children circus classes.
Cristina Picchi

Champs des Possibles
Directed by: Cristina Picchi 2016

Synopsis
A contemporary city symphony where floating memories blend with urban sounds and tales of loss and love are mirrored by the demolition and construction of new buildings.

Nicoline Skotte Jacobsen
She works at Forfra Film, a production and advertising company in Copenhagen. FRONT VIEW OF MY FATHER won the Most Innovative Documentary Award at Sichuan Festival, China.

Front View of My Father
Directed by: Nicoline Skotte Jacobsen 2015

Synopsis
The director invites her estranged father to participate in different games to let them both reflect on the divorce that has deprived them of sharing her childhood. motherhood, she decides to reconstruct a famous and politically minded play for modern times, reclaiming her identity and her freedom.
Mohamed Yargui
Born in Bejaia, he studied dramatic arts and film technique at the House of Culture of Bejaia. Yargui directed several short films: AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL and HOURIA.

I Promise
Directed by: Mohamed Yargui 2016

Synopsis
On the rocky paths leading to his childhood birthplace, Allili ascends in silence unravelling his thoughts of his sister Baya and the burdens he holds...

Cast: Farid Oukal - Wahida Bounit
Runtime: 17 MIN
Print Source: mohamedyargui@hotmail.fr

Raymund Ribay Gutierrez
Born in 1992, he graduated from Mapua Institute of Technology with a BS Multimedia Arts and Sciences. Attended Brillante Mendoza’s directing film workshop where worked as a 2nd assistant director and cinematographer.

Imago
Directed by: Raymund Ribay Gutierrez 2016

Synopsis
On a humid night within the bustling slums of Metropolitan Manila, Inday, a 54-year-old single parent of a special child goes to her unusual work.

Cast: Ruby Ruiz, Louie Tan
Runtime: 17 MIN
Print Source: festival@filmsdistribution.com
Maria Ibrahimova
Her debut documentary MISS GULAG was screened in more than 40 international festivals. LETTER TO GOD won an Audience Award at the DC Shorts Film Festival in Washington.

Letter to God
Directed by: Maria Ibrahimova 2015

Synopsis
A lonely widower discovers that he is dying. After a series of mysterious encounters, he decides to do the only thing he can think of: write a letter to God.

Cast: Yuri Baliev, Maria Ibrahimova
Runtime: 17 MIN
Print Source: jenny@augohr.de

Syni Pappa
Born in Cologne, she graduated from Raindance Film School in London. In 2015, she completed her short WHACK that was screened in several festivals. Currently, she is writing her long film debut WRONG ISLAND.

The National Garden
Directed by: Syni Pappa 2016

Synopsis
Fashion design child prodigy Tina attends a Halloween contest dressed as a Penguin only to lose the first prize to Princess Jasmine. However, she comes to a life changing revelation.

Cast: Mary Karazisi, Katerina Lazopoulou
Runtime: 15 MIN
Print Source: jenny@augohr.de
Aisha Alzaabi
She has several short films and commercials to her credit. Her film THE OTHER DIMENSION (2014) won Best Short Film Award in at DIFF 2014.

A Night in a Taxi
Directed by: Aisha Alzaabi 2016

Cast: Bakhsh Mohmmed, Mohmmed Kbashi
Runtime: 15 MIN
Print Source: aishaalzaabi@live.com

Synopsis
A taxi driver working the night shift in Abu Dhabi always listens to the grumblings of his passengers. However, the day he wants to express his inner feelings, no one is prepared to lend him a sympathetic hearing.

Marwa Kamel
She graduated from the Animation Department at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Minia University 2002. Kamel directed her documentary A DREAM OF SALT in 2016.

Sandoq Eldonia
Directed by: Marwa Kamel 2015

Cast: Hassan Eladl, Amna Ali Salem
Runtime: 6 MIN
Print Source: meroo590@gmail.com

Synopsis
A child is trying to reach the whereabouts of a mysterious treasure through the words of a storyteller and his pictures inside a peep show.
Dijana Mladenovic
She is the founder Kinematograf Co. In 2013, she directed her first short film THRESHOLDS. SCARLET is her second short film.

Scarlet
Directed by: Dijana Mladenovic 2016

Cast: Alma Prica, Niksa Butijer
Runtime: 15 MIN
Print Source: dijana.mladenovic@pu.t-com.hr

Synopsis
After a completed military action, the atmosphere of triumphant relaxation and camaraderie will be suddenly and irreversibly disturbed by a revelation of a hidden crime.

Abdel-Fatah Farag
An editor at the investigation section of Al-Watan newspaper, he directed his first documentary HARVESTER OF SORROW in 2013, which dealt with the lives of garbage collectors in Cairo. SHIMAA is his second documentary.

Shimaa
Directed by: Abdel-Fatah Farag 2015

Runtime: 12 MIN
Print Source: abdo_farg_red@yahoo.com

Synopsis
Shaimaa works in assembling scrap at Tal Al-Hadadeen area in Tanta, Gharbia Governorate. Through her life and her dreams, she is still practicing this arduous profession mostly handled by strong men....
Ali Asgari, Farnoosh Samadi
Asgari was born in Tehran, he studied filmmaking in Italy. His short film MORE THAN TWO HOURS competed in Cannes 2013 and Sundance 2014. Samadi graduated from Rome’s Fine Arts Academy. She was the scriptwriter for MORE THAN TWO HOURS by Asgari. They both are collaborating on a new long film.

The Silence
Directed by: Ali Asgari, Farnoosh Samadi 2015

Cast: Fatma Alakus, Cahide Ozel
Runtime: 15 MIN
Print Source: giovanni@kinoproduzioni.it

Synopsis
Fatma and her mother are Kurdish refugees in Italy. On their visit to the doctor, Fatma has to translate what the doctor tells to her mother but she keeps silent.

Sara Broos
She completed her acting studies in Vienna. During her master studies at Hamburg Media School she directed WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN and SECRECIES.

Tilda
Directed by: Katja Benrath 2015

Cast: Debby Mullholland, Gerhard Olschewski
Runtime: 14 MIN
Print Source: jenny@augohr.de

Synopsis
The shy old woman Tilda lives surrounded by her dolls. Her only connection to the outside world is Pastor Krause. However, she could never dream of looking him in the eye.
Laura Luchetti
She has directed short films, music videos, commercials, documentaries, theatre productions. Luchetti’s first long film HAYFEVER has been awarded by many International Film Festivals. The script of her new film TWIN FLOWER was selected at Cannes’ atelier 2015.

Toilets
Directed by: Laura Luchetti 2016

Synopsis
Lea is an old lady who has worked in the same public toilets for many years. She loves her job with its tidiness and cleanliness, but more than anything else, she loves to dream.
Amal Benkacimi
A filmmaker who started her career in cultural and artistic programs. Her first film THE SWING (2013) was a collective workshop outcome while her second film HARASSMENT (2014) received an award at Oscar Egypt Film Festival for Narratives and Documentaries 2016.

Acoustic Musical Journey
Directed by: Amal Benkacimi 2016

Synopsis
A journey of relaxation with the French artist Beret Relax Hang who narrates her stories with several with musical instruments and her family.

Gonzalo San Vicente
Born 1981 in Uruguay where he studied communications and worked as a freelancer in film and TV. San Vincente moved to Berlin in 2008 where he founds Floruit Films where AMI was born.

Tilda
Directed by: Gonzalo San Vicente 2016

Synopsis
Little Ami finds out that her mother must leave on a business trip. But Mom tells Ami a white lie that turns true in a way neither of them expected.
Alessandro Capitani
He graduated from the National School of Cinema of Rome in 2009. His short film JENNIFER’S LAW (2013) was awarded in several festivals including an educational trip to Universal Studios.

Bellissima
Directed by: Amal Benkacimi 2016

Cast: Giusy Lodi - Emanuele Vicorito
Runtime: 12 MIN
Print Source: alessandrocapitani1980@gmail.com

Synopsis
Twenty-years old Veronica is entrapped in her overweight. During a party, a young man starts to make fun of her. The desperate Veronica hides in the toilets thinking that there is no one else who can see her.

Nadine Boller
Born in 1986 in Switzerland, she finished her Master in film science at Lausanne University. Boller attended an intensive documentary course at MET Film School Berlin to realize her first project: a documentary about a nomad family in Kyrgyzstan. Three films emerged including THE BLOCK (2015).

The Block
Directed by: Nadine Boller 2016

Runtime: 10 MIN
Print Source: jenny@augohr.de

Synopsis
In the middle of the steppes of Kyrgyzstan, an old foundation dating back to the Soviet era is gaining more and more importance in the nomads’ daily life.
Irma Orozco
Born 1983 in Guadalajara where she studied graphic design and music at its university. Currently she is living in Germany, working as a freelance animator and visual artist.

Don Ruperto
Directed by: Irma Orozco 2017
Synopsis
Don Ruperto is an old cynical man who does not care about other people's feelings. When he gets himself into trouble, he is helped by those he once hurt.

Gonzalo San Vicente
He studied filmmaking at Jesuit Workshop. An editor and assistant director, Shafiey is currently preparing his first long film.

The Dream of a Scene
Directed by: Gonzalo San Vicente 2016
Synopsis
A young director is looking for a heroine who can accept shaving her hair as an expression against what is prevalent in the society. However, he faces rejection until Shaimaa arrives and accepts the role...

Cast: Liliet Fahmi, Yasser Shafiey
Runtime: 22 MIN
Print Source: yassershafiey@live.com

Runtime: 11 MIN
Print Source: jenny@augohr.de
Maria Ibrahimova
Her debut documentary MISS GULAG was screened in more than 40 international festivals. LETTER TO GOD won an Audience Award at the DC Shorts Film Festival in Washington.

I Want to Fly
Directed by: Maria Ibrahimova 2016

Synopsis
Kamal has a dream: he wants to fly, but many say paragliding is an impossible dream for a man in a wheelchair...

Mohanad Diab
Born 1985, he directed short documentaries and narratives. Diab began his career as a TV presenter then completed graduate studies in directing, editing and scriptwriting. TAHRA'S LIFE won Best Documentary Award at Alexandria Film Festival for Mediterranean Countries 2015.

Tahra’s Life
Directed by: Mohanad Diab 2015

Synopsis
Tahra endured a lot of difficulties and hardship to achieve a better living for her five children through her work in construction, blacksmithing and tailoring...
Jasna Nanut
Born 1975 in Zagreb, she worked in television for fifteen years until she decided to dedicate herself to filmmaking. Tanya is her first short narrative film. Nanut is currently working on her first long screenplay.

Tanja
Directed by: Jasna Nanut 2016

Cast: Marina Redžepović, Zdenko Jelčić
Runtime: 25 MIN
Print Source: jasna.nanut@gmail.com

Synopsis
Tanya lost her job, her boyfriend and her apartment. She moves back into her dad’s place in the neighborhood where she grew up. One day, Tanja meets her old schoolmate Denis at a local bar.
Salé Festival Films
Younes Reggab

The Fallen Leaves
Directed by: Younes Reggab 2014

Written by:
Younes Reggab
Younes Chara
Aziz Ablaghe
Mohamed Rayane
Cinematography by:
Ali Reggab
Edited by:
Younes Reggab
Haitam Ahammad
Cast
Rabie Kati
Sanaa Bahaj
Yasmina Zaki Messaoudi
Runtime:
119 MIN
Print Source:
produccion@meridionalproducciones.com

Synopsis
Zahra, a successful dancing teacher, is preparing the end of the year show at her conservatory. However, Unbeknownst to everyone, she is hiding a deep secret going back to her tragic adolescence.
Farida Bourquia
Born 1948 in Casablanca, she studied at Lunacharsky Institute and the Theater Institute in Moscow starting from the 1960s. Upon returning to Morocco in 1970s, she taught drama at Casablanca Conservatory and worked at the National TV. In 1982, Bourquia made her directorial debut EMBERS that was followed in 2007 by TWO WOMEN ON THE ROAD. She is considered to be the first Moroccan woman working in the field of film directing.

Reflections
Directed by: Farida Bourquia 2014

Synopsis
A great epic retracing Moroccan’s history when the country became a great empire with the advices Zaynab Ennafzaouia, a legendary woman of genius who lived during the reign of the Almoravid King Youssef Ibn Tachefine her fourth husband.
Egyptian Panorama
Yousry Nasrallah

Born 1952 in Cairo, he studied economics at its university then filmmaking at the Higher Institute of Cinema. Nasrallah started to work as film critic for the Lebanese newspaper Al-Safir then became an assistant director in Lebanon then to the great director Youssef Chahine in GOODBYE BONAPARTE and AN EGYPTIAN STORY. For Chahine as well, he co-wrote ALEXANDRIA AGAIN AND FOREVER in 1990, the same year he made his directorial debut with and fought the first directorial experience in the same year with SUMMER THEFTS then MERCEDES in 1993. His film credits also include THE CITY (1999), THE GATE OF SUN (2004), THE AQUARIUM (2008) and SCHEHERAZADE, TELL ME A STORY (2009).

Brooks, Meadows and Lovely Faces

Directed by: Yousry Nasrallah 2016

Written by:
Yousry Nasrallah

Cinematography by:
Samir Bahzan

Edited by:
Mona Rabei

Cast
Laila Eloui
Menna Shalabi
Bassem Samra

Runtime:
115 MIN

Print Source:
ynasrallah@hotmail.com

Synopsis

Yahya works with his two sons Refaat and Galal as cooks for special events. It is planned that Refaat will get married to Karima, his cousin from his father’s side. However, both are in love with someone else.
Kamla Abou Zekri
She began her career as assistant-director in the film 131 HARD LABOR (1993). Abou Zekri made her long narrative debut with the romantic comedy INTRODUCTION TO SWINDLING (2004). Acclaimed films followed with HEADS & TAILS, ON LOVE AND PASSION and ONE-ZERO. The latter was screened in Venice Festival.

A Day for Women
Directed by: Kamla Abou Zekri 2016

Written by:
Hanaa Atteya
Cinematography by:
Nancy Abdel-Fatah
Edited by:
Moataz El-Kateb
Cast:
Elham Shahein
Hala Sedki
Nelly Kerim
Runtime:
111 MIN
Print Source:
info@mad-solutions.com

Synopsis
The news about opening a new swimming pool at a local community wins the excitement of women who come from different social backgrounds. At the pool, Laila starts seeking consolation for losing her son, while Shamiya looks for empathetic listeners to her personal life's stories and Azza is simply joyful about putting on a swimming suit for the first time at this all-women gathering!
Hala Khalil

Hala Khalil is a director, scriptwriter and producer. She has written and directed numerous films, short films documentaries and TV series and has also worked as an executive producer. Her filmography includes: BEST OF TIMES (2004), CUT AND PASTE (2006) and her award-winning short, THE KITE (1997). Khalil has also served on several festival juries (Cairo, Ossian, Rotterdam Arab and Beirut).

NAWARA
Directed by: Hala Khalil 2016

Written by:
Hala Khalil

Cinematography by:
Zaki Aref

Edited by:
Mona Rabei

Cast
Menna Shalabi
Mahmoud Hemeda
Sherine Reda

Runtime:
106 MIN

Print Source:
rashagawdat@gmail.com

Synopsis

Every day Nawara goes to work along a path that takes her between the alleys of the poor neighbourhood and the roads that lead to the villas within a luxury compound. Every day, on her way to work, she carries the worries of the people in her neighbourhood and their simple dreams. Little does know that the spring of 2011 will bring her something unexpected.
Those Who Behave Are Dead
Directed by: Ismail Farouk 2014

Written by:
Mohamed Abdel-Khalek
Cinematography by:
ISameh Selim
Edited by:
Ghada Ezz El-Deen
Cast:
Ghada Abdel-Razek
Abeer Sabry
Marwa Abdel-Menem
Runtime:
110 MIN
Print Source:
rania@sabbah.com

Synopsis
Seven women live in pension and share a great friendship although they came from different social backgrounds in the reality of a male-dominated society.
Award of the Egypt Film Critics Association (EFCA) 
by the name of the great Egyptian film critic Samir Farid

With the launch of the first edition of the Aswan International Women Film Festival 2017, as a continuation of the protocols of cooperation between the Egypt Film Critics Association (EFCA), member of the International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI), and the Egyptian festivals and in the framework of supporting film culture using various elements of experience and artistic evaluation, EFCA has reached an agreement with the board of AWIFF to form a committee of critics to assign a new Award by the name of great Egyptian film critic Samir Farid, one of the founders of EFCA and one the most prominent Egyptian and Arab figure in film criticism and culture. The Award will be assigned every year.

Award Regulations:
- The committee will grant one award by the name of film critic Samir Farid for Best Film in the official competition of the festival.
- The committee will award certificates of appreciation (maximum two certificates) for Best Artistic Contribution.

Jury of Samir Farid Award:

Jury of Samir Farid Award:
Film Critic Magda Morris (President)
A member of EFCA
Deputy editor of Gomhoreya Newspaper
Participated in several national and international juries
President of the Luxor European and Arab Film Festival, 4th edition
Writes weekly articles in Gomhoreya, Ahaly, Hayat Newspapers

Film Critic Mohamed El-Rouby
Film and theatre critic and
A member of EFCA- its Vice President (2009 -2015)
Chief Editor of Masrahna (Our Theater) Newspaper
Participated in several national and international juries

EFCA:
It was founded as an initiative of film critic Samir Farid in 1972 and was headed by te veteran critic and director Ahmed Kamel Morsi, with the membership of Fathi Farag, Ahmad Rafat, Samir Farid, Youssef Cherif Rizkallah, Ahmed El-Hadary and many others. Through more than forty years, EFCA organized hundreds of film events film, published dozens of newsletters and publications and included the most prominent names in history of Egyptian film criticism including Sami Asalamouni, Khaireya El-Beshlawi, Rafik al-Sabban, Anwar Khurshid, Hashim El-Nahas, Subhi Shafiq and Amir Emary.
NUT FORUM

TOGETHER, WITH ART,
WE OPPOSE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
### Thursday: 23 February

**Session One**  
9:00 - 11:00  
El Ta’a El Marbota Campaign - NCW  
UN Women experience in Combating Violence against Women.  
Women between Reality and Screen - Mrs. Karima Kamal

**Session Two**  
11:30 - 13:30  
(Negative) Photos of women refugees from Syria to Lebanon in the Lebanese media - Ghida Anani/ Birut  
Film Screening: "I'am Ahlam"  
Violence against Women in Libya - Zahra' Langhi  
Film Screening: "Justice for Salwa is Justice for All"  
Karama Regional Coalition & Violence against Women Issues - Hebaqu Osman (America)

**Session Three**  
14:00 - 16:00  
Discrimination against Women in Private and Public Life - Asma Khader /Jordon  
Media and Violence against Women in Algeria - Heda Hazam

**Session Four**  
16:30 - 20:30  
Free tours to watch festival films

### Friday: 24 February

**Session One**  
9:00 - 11:00  
Combating Violence against Women in Croatia - Rada Boric  
Short film: "Scarlet grimizno" - Croatia  
Combating Violence against Women in Finland - Krsi Mustalahti  
Film Screening

**Session Two**  
11:30 - 13:30  
Media and Violence against Women in Morocco - Ayat Aznak  
Media and Violence against Women in Tunisia  
Film Screening

**Session Three**  
14:00 - 16:00  
Film Screening: "Mobil Cinema Festival Films" - ACT & UN Women  
British Council: My Right Project  
Film Screening

**Session Four**  
16:30 - 20:30  
Free tours to watch festival films
### Saturday: 25 February

**Session One**  
9:00 - 11:00  
Combating Violence against Women in Upper Egypt - Civil Society Organizations  
Film Screening

**Session Two**  
11:30 - 13:30  
Cinema and Violence against Women - Azza Kamel  
Film Screening

**Session Three**  
14:00 - 16:00  
Women’s role in Peacemaking - the Judge Naima Gebril - Libya  
Film Screening

**Session Four**  
16:30 - 20:30  
Free tours to watch festival films

### Sunday: 26 February

**Session One**  
9:00 - 11:00  
Film Screening:  
Ahlam Hind and Camelia - Feature Film - Egypt

**Session Two**  
11:30 - 13:30  
Film Screening: "From Pain I Came" - Short Documentary - Egypt  
Film Screening: "Accabadora" - Feature Film - Italy

**Session Three**  
14:00 - 16:00  
Film Screening: "Bellisma" - Feature Film - Italy

**Session Four**  
16:30 - 20:30  
Closing Ceremony at 7.00 pm
WORKSHOPS
Drawing Animation Workshop (Aswan youth workshop)

Dr. Ashraf Mahdy, the Marinette teacher at the faculty of Fine Arts will present a creative process through which he will train some of Aswan young people to learn some limited animation skills by computer software.

Dr. Mahdy will perform his animation experiments on the paintings of the well-known painter, Engy Aflatoun, who was interested in woman issues in her works. Dr Mahdy will present a rare video tape about a female pioneer whose creative art works were rejected by the anti-woman complex reality world in Egypt.

Dr. Franceseca Araiza

Dr. Franceseca Araiza, the asst. professor at the American University in Cairo and founder of "Rice Your Voice " Organization will train some young girls from Aswan and the nearby governorates how to become documentary film directors. Dr. Araiza's main subject during the festival activities will be "WOMAN & NATURE IN SOUTHERN EGYPT" through which girls will present their documentary films.
“Through my eyes” as women see it
Documentary Workshop for Women
Kirsi Marie Liimatainen

There’s no camera that can make a picture or create a film. Only your eyes can make a film or tell a story. Forget about different lenses, lights and other technical accessories, just use what you’ve got. We want to hear your life story - it’s a story worth telling.

Rosetta Messori

is a singular photographer, whose images testify to a strong narrative tension and, at the same time, an overwhelming pictorial vocation. Her images are the result of long exposures and a particular movement of the camera while shooting, in order to “dematerialize” the real with the aim of creating new forms generated from contact with light.

Messori’s photographs have the poetry of a narrative and the formal elegance of a painting. The attraction exerted on the artist by ancient civilizations and cultures such as the Egyptian, Assyrian or Babylonian one, by primordial places of the deserts in which the nature explodes in a jubilation of shapes and gleams, creates in her mind the need to "find a balance between light and colour, shape and speed, where the time turns on itself and everything seems to penetrate.”
Mohamed Hamdy
Imaging Photosynthesis Workshop
(Aswan Youth Workshop)

It’s a workshop that trains youth to document, the suggested locations for films scenes photography. During our 1st tournament, Aswan youth will be trained to document the beauties of the locations that are good for film photography as a start to collect all Egypt location data. Every year, the workshop will present its film photography location data documentation to the producers participating in Abu Simpel Seminar that will be attended the film producers. Also this data will be available on Aswan Forum for the film producers around the world who wish to come and work in Egypt.

Sayed abdelkhalek
Workshop Coordinator

Actor, Director Participated in many Films and Theatrical Projects since 2001, also numerous art Workshops and Graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts and Drama art Criticism

In Aswan Int. Woman Film Festival, the workshop program aims to train youth, in Aswan and other nearby cities, on the narrating arts; photography and cinema language such as cinematography, graphics and directing. Workshop program also trains youth, especially females, on using cinema language to express their ideas and dreams that they didn’t express before because of their society restricted habits and traditions. The workshop program also seeks to take in the greatest possible number of upper Egypt youth where they lack the specialized institutes of Cinema, animation and Visual Arts.

.230 young men and women applied for the festival workshop scholarship. By co-ordinating with Aswan university and some other organizations, 40 applicants were granted the scholarship. The festival workshop program seeks to extend the working period along the year to increase the workshop peniﬁary youth number especially Aswan and nearby cities residents.

Through workshops, the festival seeks to rediscover young talents and especially those of females who reside these areas and make them intensive training programs supervised by professional artists from inside and outside Egypt.

Let’s dream of a day when Aswan Int. Film Festival presents films made by local artists from upper Egypt who can compete for prizes in different festivals around the world.
Great film producer Gaby Khoury
Director of the Forum and the Main Spokesperson

His name has been associated with the late and great filmmaker Youssef Chahine for whom he produced most of his films as partner in production. He is managing Misr International Films to leave a clear imprint in the world of film production, perhaps for the quality of films which belongs mostly to cinema of reality that is not aiming to make box office revenues. Khoury also coproduced with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) the historical documentary production on ancient Egypt. He also coproduced many commercial films worldwide.

Director and Producer / Sherif Mandour
Supervisor of The Producers Salon

Member of the board of the Egyptian Film Chamber and member of member of the Film Commission of the Supreme Council for Culture. He graduated from the Faculty of Social Work, and then turned to study directing at the Higher Institute of Cinema in Egypt. He began as an assistant director in the Egyptian television programs, and later worked as an assistant director in films with senior directors. He created his own company which produced many important films and also directed other films such as MEDITERRANEAN MAN and PARTITA. He is the pioneer of independent film production with AIN SHAMS aka EYE OF THE SUN and HELIOPOLIS. Jury member in festivals such as Oran in Algeria and Karama in Jordan. Recipient of numerous production awards at international festivals.
Mohamed Hefzy  
Producer and screenwriter

He studied engineering and then scriptwriting. Hefzy founded Film Clinic that started as a scriptwriting workshop then became a production company in 2008. He seeks to open foreign markets to Egyptian film with his cinematic experiences and support for young and talented cineastes …

hab Ayoub  
Film producer

One of the most important producers in Egypt … He began his career in 2000 as a producer of many Egyptian films. He also participated as an actor in some films. Ayoub has considerable experience in the supervision of international production lensing in Egypt …
Ashraf Sarhan  
Actor and director  
Coordinator of The Producers Salon

He works at the Russian channel RT where he presents a weekly popular program that scored great viewership  
He won numerous awards in Russia for his TV presentation.  
He created many of roles in films and on theater including on Ruhr Theater in Germany and at Marcel Diaz Lab.  
His most distinct role came with director Hala Khalil in her film CUT AND PASTE.  
He also participated in the movie AL-SHABAH (THE GHOST) and PAPER CODE among others  
He also appeared in many Russian and European films .
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