

Second Arab and Mediterranean Film Festival of Catalonia · CINEBAIX · 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2008

# PRESS DOSSIER

## II ARAB AND MEDITERRANEAN FILM FESTIVAL OF CATALONIA

Sant Feliu de Llobregat · CINEBAIX · 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2008



Second Arab and Mediterranean Film Festival of Catalonia · CINEBAIX · 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2008

Organised by

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CINEBAIX i SODEPAU

With the collaboration of **BEIRUT ARAB FILM FESTIVAL**

This project is financed by the European Union in the framework of Euromed Audiovisuel II



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**Agència Catalana  
de Cooperació  
al Desenvolupament**



Ajuntament de  
Sant Feliu  
de Llobregat



**Generalitat de Catalunya  
Institut Català  
de les Indústries Culturals**

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## 1. PRESS RELEASE

### 2ND ARAB AND MEDITERRANEAN FILM FESTIVAL in Sant Feliu de Llobregat

**CINEBAIX · from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2008**

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE **BEIRUT ARAB FILM FESTIVAL**

## The Second edition of the Festival improves the offer of independent cinema in Catalonia

- **New institutional support and the collaboration with Med-Screen, the Beirut Festival of the Cinema and the Al Jazeera Children's Channel improve the panorama of the films both quantitatively & qualitatively.**
- **The Festival consolidates an interactive meeting point dedicated to meetings between professionals of the cinema of Catalonia and of the Arab countries. Invited Arab actresses are Nadia Alami (Les coeurs brules) and Nadia Kaci (Delice Paloma) as well as directors Sherif El-Bindary (Rise and shine) and Sonia Chamkhi (Borderline).**

Sant Feliu de Llobregat, October 2008. SODEPAU and the Cinebaix will celebrate the Second Edition of the Festival of the "Arab and Mediterranean Cinema in Catalonia" from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2008. The success and the results of the last year have led to greater support from the Institutions, say to the enhancement of the quality and the quantity of the film presentations and other activities. As the previous year, sponsors of the Festival are the Ayuntamiento de Sant Feliu de Llobregat (Municipality of Sant Feliu de Llobregat) and the Beirut Development Cinema, the film-makers' Association organizing the Biennale of the Arab cinema in Beirut, while the new supporters of this year are the Agencia Catalana de Cooperación al Desarrollo (Catalan Agency for Cooperation and Development) and the Instituto Catalán de Industrias Culturales de la Generalitat de Catalunya.

The Opening Ceremony will be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October at CINEBAIX. Aurora Moreno, Director of the Unidad de Promoción y Difusión del Instituto Catalán de Industrias Culturales (Office of Promotion & Dissemination of the Catalan Institute of the Cultural Industry) will be present at the event, as well as Andreu Felip, director of the Agencia Catalana de Cooperación al Desarrollo (Catalan Agency for Cooperation and Development); Pilar Argente, Delegate of the Hermanamientos, Solidaridad y Cooperación al Desarrollo (Brotherhood, Solidarity and Cooperation & Development) and Inmigración de l'Ayuntamiento de Sant Feliu de Llobregat (Immigration of the Municipality of Sant Feliu de Llobregat); Josep Maria Navarro, President of Sodepau; Jordi Alemany, President of Cinebaix. This project promotes cinema as a key instrument for development education and will thus present **17 films** (eight full-length and nine short films) where fiction will predominate over documentary and relevance will be given to comedy, drama and cartoons. All the movies have been produced by directors from **7 Arab countries** (Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Palestine, Lebanon, Qatar and Tunisia). The majority of the productions will be presented in Catalonia for the first time ever. Every session will be followed by an **open discussion** with some producers, actors and actresses, with the aim of raising awareness towards the Catalans on the cinema realized in the countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean area.

#### Meeting point

This second edition of the Festival aims at becoming a meeting point for the exchange of ideas between the professionals of the Arab, Catalan and national cinemas. This is the reason why it closely collaborates with **Beirut DC**, the main promoter of the **Beirut Cinema Days**, celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> edition this year and actively contributing to the production and the spreading of the Arab filmography in Lebanon and worldwide.

## **Second Arab and Mediterranean Film Festival of Catalonia · CINEBAIX · 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

The second news of this year is the collaboration with the Al Jazeera Children's Channel of Qatar, thanks to which 2 films will be presented during the Festival. This channel is the first Arabic audiovisual space dedicated to children and will present Khalila and Dimna, a full-length cartoon, and Aklam Bila Rasas (Pencils without Lead), a documentary on the education system in Iraq.

Moreover, through the cinema production of the Arab countries and the cineforum, we will experience the opportunity to be the first to know and discuss about the socio-political problems of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, as well as their cultural production. Invited actresses are Nadia Alami (Les coeurs brules) and Nadia Kaci (Delice Paloma); directors are Sherif El-Bindary (Rise and shine) and Sonia Chamkhi (Borderline); the animator Nadia Guiza; the cinema critic and image education specialist Mahmoud Jemni, who will present his exposition (59 pictures) titled «Doors & Windows», realized in collaboration with Tunisian children during the audiovisual workshops he usually holds.

### A key project of the Arab cinema in Catalonia

The Cinebaix of Sant Feliu, a public entity managed by an Association, is the result of a civil initiative to revitalize the Cines Guitart. The Cinebaix will host the film presentations and related discussions during the Festival. Cinebaix has been working since 2005 to raise awareness on cinema presentations by promoting cineforum sessions and discussions.

The Festival is a first class civic and cultural project in the Municipality of Sant Feliu de Llobregat and in the region of Baix Llobregat and is the final result of previous initiatives and current parallel ones, such as the Concert of the Arab Orchestra of Catalonia, one couscous event, child animation and specific courses at the IES (Institutos de Enseñanza Secundaria). Moreover, social movements and associations of immigrants of Baix Llobregat will be involved in the event to raise social and intercultural participation of people left aside from the society.

The Festival of the Arab cinema of Sant Feliu fills a deep gap in the cultural panorama of Catalonia. The lack of such kind of Festivals represented a relevant missing point not only because of its artistic and cultural dimension, but also because of its impact on the citizens, say awareness that can be raised towards issues and problems of these countries which are so close geographically, historically and culturally. Thanks to the interest and the commitment demonstrated by the public, the Festival imposes itself as an outstanding event for the upcoming years.

### Participation of the EU funds in the Festival

This project is the result of SODEPAU's networking within the Mediterranean countries. Thanks to its Lebanese counterpart, the Beirut Development Cinema (DC), the Festival is co-financed by the Med-Screen Programme. This programme supports the production and the dissemination of cinema work arts of the 8 countries belonging to the MEDA (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Palestine and Tunisia).

## 2. PROGRAM

	THURSDAY 23	FRIDAY 24	SATURDAY 25	SUNDAY 26
MORNING	Morning showing for IES Sant Feliu (earring to make concrete shedules)			
10:00	<b>Cartouches Gauloises</b> Mehdi Charef (Algeria / France)	<b>Cartouches Gauloises</b> Mehdi Charef (Algeria / France)		
12:00				
AFTERNOON				
17:00			Public's reception	Public's reception
17:15			<b>Pencils without lead</b> <b>Iraq Documentary</b> Al Jazeera Children's Channel (Qatar)	Presentation <b>Khalass</b>
17:30			Presentation <b>Khalila et Dimna</b>	<b>Khalass</b> Borhane Alaouié (Lebanon / France / Belgium)
17:45			<b>Khalila et Dimna</b> Al Jazeera Children's Channel (Qatar) Razam Hijazi	
18:00				
18:15				
18:30				
18:45				
19:00	Public's reception	Public's reception		
19:15	Presentation of the 2nd Arab and Mediterranean Film Festival of Catalonia	Presentation <b>Kahloucha</b>		<b>PAUSE</b>
19:30		<b>Kahloucha: Tarzan of the Arabs</b> Nejib Belkadi (Tunisia)	<b>PAUSE</b>	Presentation <b>"Rise and shine"</b> & <b>"Délice Paloma"</b>
19:45	Presentation of the photographic exhibition "Doors and windows"		Presentation <b>"Cartouches Gauloises"</b>	<b>Rise and shine</b> Sherif El-Bindary (Egipt)
20:00	Presentation <b>"Waiting"</b>		<b>Cartouches Gauloises</b> Mehdi Charef (Algeria / France)	<b>Délice Paloma</b> Nadir Mokneche (Algeria / France)
20:15	<b>Waiting</b> Rashid Masharawi (Palestine)			
20:30				
20:45				
21:00		Presentació <b>"La Maison Jaune"</b>		
21:15		<b>La Maison jaune</b> Amor Hakkar (Algeria / France)	<b>PAUSE</b>	
21:30			Presentation <b>"Deceased"</b> & <b>"Les Coeurs Brûlés"</b>	
21:45	<b>PAUSE</b>		<b>Deceased</b> Rachid El Ouali (Morocco)	
22:00	<b>Ramzi, dream of the city gate</b> Raja Razek (Palestine)		<b>Les Coeurs Brûlés</b> Ahmad Al Maanouni (Morocco)	<b>DEBATE - COLLOQUIUM</b> With Nadia Kaci, actress of <b>"Délice Paloma"</b> and Sherif El-Bindary, director of <b>"Rise and Shine"</b>
22:15	<b>Yasmine Tughani</b> Najwa Najjar (Palestine)			
22:30	<b>Soup over Betlehem</b> Larissa Sansour (Palestine)	<b>PAUSE</b>		
22:45	<b>DEBATE - COLLOQUIUM</b>	Presentació <b>"Curtmetrages tunisiens"</b>		
23:00		<b>Après l'orage...</b> Afef Ben Mahmoud (Tunisia)		
23:15		<b>Garbage</b> Lotfi Achour (Tunisia)		
23:30				
23:45		<b>Borderline</b> Sonia Chamki (Tunisia)	<b>DEBATE - COLLOQUIUM</b> With Nadia Alami, actress of <b>"Les Coeurs Brûlés"</b>	
00:00		<b>DEBATE - COLLOQUIUM</b> With Sonia Chamkhi, director of <b>"Borderline"</b> and Nadia Guiza, entertainer of <b>"Education à l'image"</b>		
00:15				
00:30				Final act, delivery of Sant Feliu's roses

### 3. FEATURE FILMS

#### 3.1. FICTION FEATURE FILMS

##### **PALESTINE**

## **Waiting**

**Rashid Masharawi**

2005. 88 minutes. Drama. Original Version in Arab with Spanish subtitles.



Direction \_ **Rashid Masharawi**

Screenplay \_ **Rashid Masharawi** and **Oscar Kronop**

Production \_ **Setareh Farsi** and **Rashid Masharawi**

Music \_ **Ralph El Khoury** and **Elie Barbar**

Photography \_ **Jacques Besse**

Editing \_ **Jacques Witta**

Artistic direction \_ **Houssein Baydoun**

Wardrobe \_ **Lisy Christl**

Players \_ **Areen Omari** (Bissan), **Mahmoud Al Massad** (Ahmad), **Youssef Baroud** (Lumière), **Abderrahman Abou El Qassem** (Abou Jamil), **Foudad Al Shomali** (Abou Ziad), **Shukran Mortaja** (Anouar)

Before leaving Palestine, the film director Ahmad (Mahmoud Al Massad) accepts a last work. He has to produce an audition for the new National Palestinian Theatre. In the road, next to the reporter Bissan (Areen Omari) and his cameraman Lumière (Youssef Baroud), Ahmad looks for the talent in the large refugees' camps of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Although Ahmad is ill and tired of the insuperable difficulties of Palestinian life, maybe he decides to forget the opportunity of his long-awaited exile...



**Rashid Masharawi**, borned in Gaza in 1962, grew up in refugees' camp of Shati. Rashid Masharawi lives and Works in Ramallah, where he founded the Cinema's Production and Distribution Centre in 1996, with the purpose of promoting local productions. He also gives support to a mobile cinema that allows him to show films in Palestinian refugees' camps. Other projects are the Annual Festival of Children's Cinema and some workshops about cinematographic production and direction. Rashid Masharawi organises readings and round tables in the cultural

Al-Matal centre. He has received several prizes that recognize all his films.



*"The film provides a clever and sensitive survey of the contemporary situations of the main Palestinian communities, both under occupation and in exile, and shows how the decades long wait for liberation, national self-determination and return, play out in the daily realities of the lives of eight million people, kept waiting, separated from land, work and loved ones."*

**Labor Tribune**

☞ Winning film of **Amiens International Film Festival 2005**

☞ Winning film of **Med - Film Festival** (Italy,, 2005)

☞ **Boston Palestine Film Festival**

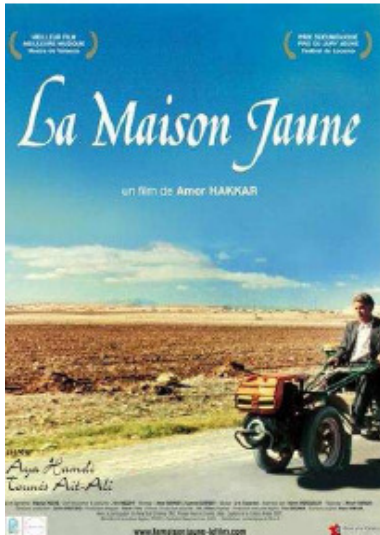
##### **ALGÈRIA / FRANÇA**



## La Maison jaune

### Amor Hakkar

Amor Hakkar 2007. 80 min.



Drama. VO arabic, subtitles in spanish

Director.- **Amor Hakkar**

Script.-**Amor Hakkar**

Production.-**Sarah Films**

Escenographie.-**Karim Nezzar**

Music.- **Facial Salht**

Fotographie.-**Nicolas Roche**

Editing.- **Amor Hakkar, Lyonnell Garnier**

Sound.- **Kamel Mekesseur**

Characters.- **Aya Hamdi, Amor Hakkar, Tounés Ait-Ali, Abdelbaki Hamdi, Abderrahman Benghelab, Khaled Derbouche, Merah Hakkar, Amar Schaibi, Ammar Ghodbane**

Distribution.- **Sarah Films**

Alya, a girl of twelve years old, preparing a piece of dry mud. A police car is approaching her. One of them delivers her a letter reporting that her old brother, being at the military service at the Gendarmerie, has just died in an accident. She takes her motorbike, without waiting and challenging some advertisements; Mouloud, her father, a modest countryman in Aurès, recovers the body of his son. Fatima, her mother, feels a very sad mood. Her obstinate father knows that renouncing is similar to death a little. Will this dad, deeply affected and helped by her daughter Alya, arrive to get his wife and his parents to smile?



Amor Hakkar. Born in Aurès (Argelia) in 1958; being a newborn of six months he settled up in Besanson (French) with his parents. After his scientist studies, he discovered a passion for the cinema and writing. He made shorts films and one long film "Dirty time for a silly man". During 2002, after a dull arrival again to Argelia because of his father's burial, he discovered Aurès, where he returned back many times again.

Coming back to French, he wrote the plot of "The yellow home", and at the end of 2006 he made it in this same country and in the berber language. Actually, Amor

Hakkar prepares "Some days of breathing", a long film in french language.



*"Le réalisateur Amor Hakkar, originaire des Aurès, nous propose (...) une fable humaniste, épurée et émouvante, qui résonne comme un chant d'amour à sa terre natale"*

**Le Monde**



*"Un itinéraire de deuil simple et digne, interprété avec justesse. Beaux visages. Beaux silences. Belles musiques"*

**Le Figaro**



**MOROCCO**

## **Les Coeurs Brûlés / Al Koloub Mouthtariqua** **Ahmad Al Maanouni**

2007\_Black and white\_35mm\_84 minutes in Arabic and Catalan subtitles



Directed by **Ahmed El Maanouni**  
Screenplay by **Ahmed El Maanouni**  
Dialogues **Abdelhak Berni; Ahmed El Maanouni**  
Produced by **Ahmed El Maanouni**  
Co-producer **Ali Kettani**  
Photography **Pierre Boffety**  
Sound **Faouzi Thabet**  
Casting **Abdelhak Berni**  
Editor **Oussama Oussidhom**  
Music **Abdel-Hamid Ibnou Moutahar; Mohamed Derhem**  
Cast **Hicham Bahloul** (Amin); **Mohamed Derhem** (BaJalloul);  
**Mohamed Merouazi** (Aziz); **Azelarab Alkaghat** (The Uncle);  
**Amal Setta** (Hourya ) and **Nadia Alami** (Batoul).  
Production and distribution **Badria Jaidi** (Rabi Films Production)

The film, awarded in the last National Festival of Cinema of Tangier, is about the young Moroccan architect Amin, who lives in Paris, and returns in hurry to Fez to visit his dying uncle, the man who raised him. The visit to his home town will make him face the pain from the past that comes up now with harshness.



Ahmed El Maanouni (Casablanca, Morocco, 1944). Writer, film-maker and producer. Borned in Casablanca in 1944, he studied cinema at the INSAS in Brussels and theatre in Paris. He is the author of the film Alyam Alyam ( 1978), emblematic film of the new Arab cinema in which he draws a portrait of the rural life in the Casablanca region. He was invited by Martin Scorsese at Cannes Festival to present his project "World Cinema Foundation."

**ALGERIA / FRANCE**

## **Délice Paloma**

### **Nadir Mokneche**

2007. 128 minutes. Drama. Original Version in Arab and French with Catalan subtitles



Direction \_ **Nadir Moknèche**  
Screenplay \_ **Nadir Moknèche**  
Production \_ **Bertrand Gore, Nathalie Mesuret / Les Films du Losange**  
Music \_ **Pierre Bastaroli**  
Cinematography \_ **Jean-Claude Larrieu**  
Sound \_ **Esther Frey, Jean-Pierre Laforce, David Rit i François Waledisch**  
Wardrobe \_ **Paule Mangenot**  
Players \_ **Biyouna , Aylin Prandi, Nadia Kaci, Daniel Lundh, Fadila Ouabdesselam, Lyes Salem**

What do you need? A building work license? A girl to spend the night with? You only have to call Mme Aldjéria, main benefactor of the country, because she will mend it and more. The woman who has decided to bring the name of her own country doesn't stop in front of nothing and nobody with the aim of survive in the present Algeria. Although its girls are not very beautiful, they are used to manage to get through it. The last one, Paloma, seems very attractive to Mme Aldjéria's son.

She and her clan dream about buying Caracalla's Thermal Baths, thanks to them, they could change of life. But the project, which is excessively ambitious, drive them under misery....



Borned in 1965, **Nadir Moknèche** lives his childhood and adolescence in Alger. In 1984, he arrives to France to course his Bachelor's degree. After two years studying Law in Paris, he decides to break with all. He goes to London, the place where he decides to undertake several trips. When he returns to Paris, he has dramatic art lessons between 1989 y 1993. He discovers cinema in this period. With a Super 8 camera, he record short movies. From 1993 to 1995, he has cinema lessons from the New School for Social Research in New York and directs his first own shorts, "Garden" and

"Hanifa", which win, in 1996, the first prize of this university festival.

*“Comme dans ses précédents longs métrages, c'est à travers les femmes que Nadir Moknèche attrape des bouts de vérité sur l'Algérie et ses identités vacillantes. On en sort troublé.”* **Elle**

*“Un film qui, de manière sans doute un peu trop appuyée, fait de la naïveté la pierre de touche de son esthétique.”*

**Le Monde**

☞ **Cairo International Film Festival 2007** (*Films réalisés par des cinéastes arabes*)

☞ **Namur International French-speaking Film Festival 2007** (Official contest)

☞ **Festival du film européen à Beyrouth 2007** (*Sélection*)

☞ **Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival 2007** (*Expectativa*)

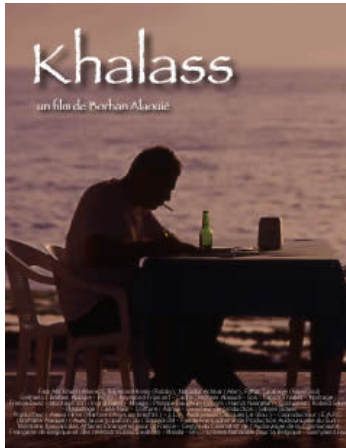
More information in: <http://www.delicepaloma-lefilm.com>

**LIBAN / FRANÇA / BÉLGICA**

## **Khalass**

**Borhane Alaouié**

2007\_Colour\_35mm\_101min in Arabic and with Catalan subtitles



Directed by **Borhan Alawiya**  
Screenplay **Borhan Alawiya**  
Producer **Dima Al-Joundi**  
Photography **Raymond Fromont**  
Sound **Faouzi Thabet, Patrick Hubart, Philippe Baudhuin**  
Cast **Fadi Abi Khalil, Raymond Hosni, Natasha Achkar, Riffat Tarabay, Wafaa Trabaye, Hamzeh Nasrallah.**  
Editor **France Duez**  
Produced by: **JLA- Jacques Le Glou Audiovisuel; Martine Lévy-Lambrechts**  
Distribution **Dima Al-Joundi( Crystal Films)**

Present day, Beirut. The city suffers under the chaos of reconstruction. Ahmed, a freelancer at a local newspaper and Robby, a director of documentaries, are sharing the same dream of a better world. During the war, they've become close friends. Like many others, both of them have been fighting for their dream. They have survived, but are left with the bitter feeling of having been betrayed. Abir, a beautiful young woman, has been growing up during the war. She too has had dreams and has done service. She recently has left Ahmed, because he only lives to take revenge on William Nawi, responsible for the death of many of their friends and now a successful businessman. Abir starts a relationship with her boss Raymond. He's rich and has a lot of influence but he is also involved in sordid trafficking. It's a deliberate escape into another future. Ahmed considers suicide, but doesn't give in because he still considers himself a soldier. Instead, he decides to take revenge in the greedy city of Beirut. He turns to Robby for help, who in memory of their friends, accepts. The only thing that can save them now is the love for their close ones.

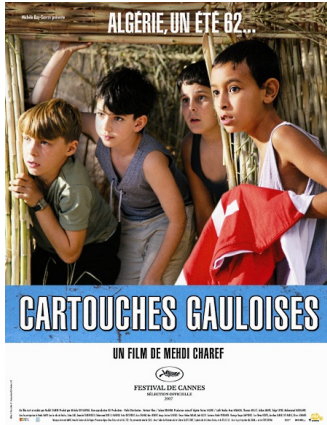
**Alawiya** was born in 1941. He studied at the INSAS in Belgium. He was awarded with the "Tanit d'Or" of the Carthage Film Festival of Tunisia by his film "La massacre de Kafr-Kassem" (1974). His works are both documentaries and fictions, which are about the same subjects: the Lebanese identity, the lack of communication, the suffering due to the forced exile. Some of his most important films are: "Lettre du temps de l'exil" and "Beyrouth, la rencontre". These films resume the film-maker's ambition, which is "promote a thought-provoking process in the spectator, which makes him think about the war".

**ALGÉRIA / FRANÇA**

## **Cartouches Gauloises**

Mehdi Charef

2007\_Colour\_35mm\_92min in French and with Catalan subtitles



Directed by **Mehdi Charef**  
Screenplay **Mehdi Charef**  
Producer **Michele Ray-Gavras**  
Photography **Jérôme Alméras**  
Sound **Hélène Burckel**  
Music by **Armand Amar**  
Casting **Hamada, Thomas Millet, Tolga Cayir, Julien Amate**  
Editor **Yorgos Lamprinos**  
Produced by **K.G Productions**  
Co-producer **Pathé and Battam Films**  
Distribution **Pathé Distribution**

This film is an impressionist portrait of the Algerian war, seen through the gaze of Ali, a ten years old child who works as a newspaper seller. "Cartouches Gauloises" is the story of a friendship between Ali and Nico, two children, one "Indigenous" and the other one "European". Started in despite of the terror of the war, this friendship ends up in the spring of 1962.

**Mehdi Cherif**, film maker, writer and dramatist. He was born in Maghnia, Algeria, in 1952. He arrived in France at the age of seven. He worked in a factory between 1970 and 1983 when he published "Le Thé au harem d'Archi Ahmed" in France. After his meeting with Costa Gavras, he decided to make a film from his book. From the factory to the cinema, Medhi Cherif got an unexpected success with "Le Thé au harem d'Archimède" (1985). Without dwelling on the dark side, this film evokes with sensibility the life of the youngsters in the suburbs, facing the economic crisis.

After this awarded film, Medhi Cherif tries to go beyond the label of "immigrated film-maker", with other films inspired on excluded characters. After many successful films, Medhi Cherif with "Cartouches gauloises" (2006), revisits his own past evoking a wound not healed, the Algerian war and the uprooting of the land of his ancestors. The film- maker draws a picture of Algeria during the month before its independence through the gaze of a child. With many others characters, he reveals a bit of his personal story and a face of the collective history.



*Mehdi Charef signe un film qui lui ressemble. La tendresse, la générosité, l'insouciance et la gravité de l'enfance, la violence habitent ce nouveau long-métrage où tous sont portés à leur façon par un amour immense de l'Algérie."*

**Le Journal du Dimanche**

 Official section of **2007 Cannes Festival**

More information in: [www.pathedistribution.com](http://www.pathedistribution.com)

**QATAR**

## **Khalila et Dimna**

Razam Hijazi

Al Jazeera Children's Channel

Al Jazeera Children's Channel, 2007. 92 min.

VO arabic one, subtitles in catalan; Film of cartoons.

Director.- **Razam Hijazi**

Script.- **Mamdouh Hamada –Razam Hijazi, Mouwafak Massaoud**

Productor.- **Tiger Production**

Photography \_ **Mouna Hajj Yihya; Ahmad Naaima, Ashraf Al Assdy**

Sound.- **Abdel Hadi Almalak-Mohamad Kassem Alfareej**

Music \_ **Simon Abou Assleh**

Performer.- **Mohamad Takroui**

Edition.- **Iskandar Miaasab**

Production Company .- **Al-Jazeera Children's Channel**



Khalila and Dimna is a film of cartoons, based on a transcription, made by Abdullah Ibn El Muqafa, a very well known masterpiece of arabic literature which adults and children have enjoyed for long.



R. Hijazi.- Graduated at the High Institute of Dramatic Art, he has made many cartoons and short films for the TV in Syria. During 2006 he made "Thread of live", the first long film of cartoons for the families at the cinema; completely made in an arabic country.

**Aljazeera Children's Channel / Qatar Foundation – Education**

**More information in <http://www.qf.edu.qa> and in <http://www.icctv.net/index.html>**

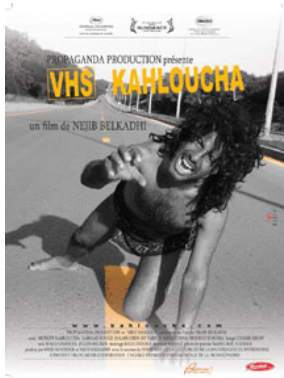
## 3.2. DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILMS

### TUNISIA

## Kahloucha: Tarzan of the Arabs

Nejib Belkadhi

2006. 83 min. Documentary. Original Version in Arab and French with Catalan subtitles.



Direction \_ **Nejib Belkadi**  
Production \_ **Nejib Belkadi i Imed Marzouk**  
Photography \_ **Nadia Bouallegue**  
Cinematography \_ **Chakib Essafi**  
Sound \_ **Julien Hecker i Walid Ouerghi**  
Edition \_ **Badi Chouka**  
Players \_ **Moncef Kahloucha**

Kahloucha is the story of a charismatic and passionate painter, Moncef Kahloucha, who has always cherished a big love for the cinema, especially the 70th decade's one. Equipped with his VHS Panasonic 3500 and immersed in the production of his last work, Tarzan of the Arabs, we see the Tunisian Quentin Tarantino use the help of local talents to plan intense huntings and show battle sequences. For somebody who has never dreamt about doing a film, Kahloucha's story is an inspiring revelation.

*"Filmmaker Nejib Belkadhi offers an affectionate tribute to amateur Tunisian filmmaker Moncef Kahloucha in this documentary proves you don't need a budget to craft wonderfully creative cinema."*

**New York Times**

*"Il n'y a plus d'idéologie documentaire, plaintive, commandée univoque par le chiche impératif de la souffrance obligatoire. C'est tout le prix, immense, de VHS Kahloucha. Sa mesure ? La joie. Il n'y a pas de meilleure aune."*

**Cahiers du Cinéma**

☞ **Sundance Film Festival.** Nominated in 2007 in the documentary film category

☞ **2007 Philadelphia Film Festival**

☞ **Dubai International Film Festival 2008**

More information in: <http://www.vhskahloucha.com/>



**QATAR**

**Aklam Bila Rasas (*Pencils without Lead*)**

Al Jazeera Children's Channel

2007. 32 min. VO àrab amb subtítols en català  
Short film

Director\_ **Walid Fakhreddine**  
Script\_ **Roula Mouwafak**  
Producer\_ **Greenline Production/ Ahmad Hindawi**  
Photography\_ **Ammar Jamal Ameen**  
Sound\_ **Hasanein Farhan**  
Music\_ **Studio Altra-Cairo**  
Interpreters\_  
Edition\_ **Walid Fakhreddine, Lamees Choucair, Alexi khoury**  
Producer\_ **Al-Jazeera Children's Channel**

"Aklam Bila Rasas" is a short film that shows the reality of the educational system in the Iraq through the daily experience of "Mohammad Hussein", a boy of 13 years old and his sister Mariam, among their friends of the neighborhood: Hadi, Abdel, among other.

The short film get into plenum in the life and dreams of Mohammed slightly, doing a simple comparison between him and his sister who enjoy a more or less normal life and the deals with the mother who is striving to give their sons what she has never been able to have in her life. It shows the environment that surrounds them and the environment that surrounds other children, among whom there is the Abed El Moheymen, a boy, that lives in a social context normal and that dreams of being the Imam of the mosque.

**Aljazeera Children's Channel** / Qatar Foundation - Education



More information in <http://www.qf.edu.qa> and in <http://www.jcctv.net/index.html>



## 4. SHORT FILMS

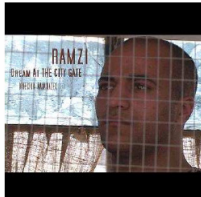
### 4. 1. PALESTINIAN SHORT FILMS

#### **PALESTINA**

#### **Ramzi, dream of the city gate**

Raja Razek

Raja Razek 2006. 13 min. VO arabic one, subtitles in spanish



Director\_ **Raja Razek**  
Script.- **Ramzi Maqdisi**

“Ramzi, dream of the city gate” is a documental about the Palestinian youth through the Ramzi’s life. He reviews his identity and some matters to face. Through his personal history, art and experiences, the film dives in political and complicate situations, fears and obstacles for the palestinian youth to come over in order to get their dreams.

**Raja Razek** is a palestinian-american director, graduated in Digital Mèdias at the Atlanta Institute of Arts. Nowadays she is producing and managing several documentaries and she goes on her studies of journalism.

More information in <http://www.rajarazek.com/>

**PALESTINA**

## Soup over Betlehem

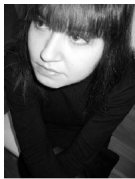
Larissa Sansour

2006. 9 min. Arab original version with Catalan subtitles.



A Palestinian family, in their native town, Bethlehem, argue about their political reality and their diaspora. El 'Mloukhian', a typical Palestinian dish, turns into a main character of the film. The short "Soup Over Bethlehem" (Mloukhian) is named after this local typical dish and depicts a meeting between the West and the Middle East.

With the occupied territories and the Israeli West-Bank barrier in the distance, a group of Palestinian people, all of them educated in the West, are dinning in a terrace in Bethlehem. They are talking in a mix of English and Arab, as it is normal in these environments. The topics vary from the hottest politics issues to cultural anecdotes.



Larissa Sansour was born in Jerusalem in 1973. She studied Fine Arts in Copenhagen, London and New York. Hers is a multidisciplinary work and she use video, photography and Internet with the aim of calling the attention regarding political issues.

Her works have been exhibited around the world, including galleries, museums and film festivals. Her most well-known show was seen at the Tate Modern of London and in the Reina Sofia of Madrid. Now is living and working in Copenhagen.

### Festivals

👉 Annual Chicago Palestine Film Festival 2007



*"I like the video and I recommend people see it because it is a fresh, cinematic approach in showing the challenges Palestinians face living under occupation. "Soup Over Bethlehem" brings the Palestinian home to the international community."*

**Sonia Nettnin, crítica de cinema**

**PALESTINA**

# Yasmine Tughani

Najwa Najjar

2005. 20 min. OV arab with subtitles in catalan



Director\_ **Najwa Najjar**  
Script\_ **Najwa Najjar**  
Producing\_ **Ustura Films, Aimimage**  
Cinematografia\_ **Koutaiba Al Janabi**  
Sound\_ **Gerar Abeille**  
Músic\_ **Souad Massi**  
Interpreters\_ **Hesham Suleiman, Hanan Hillo, Samia Kuzmoz, Walid Abdul Salam, Ruba Blal, Hussein Nakleh, Mohamad Bakri, Omar Jallad, Abu Fadi**  
Edition\_ **Sotira Kyriacou, Diarmid Scrimshaw**  
Production and distribution\_ **Ustura Films**

Yasmine lives in some village of Palestina. She is fallen in love with Ziad and even though she wants to marry to him, the fact is that the her parents have compromised her with another man. As the story develops the dilemma of Yasmine becomes more complex, the wall makes feel their presence.



Najwa Najjar has studied Politics, Economics and Cinema in the United States. She has written and carried out documentaries presented in numerous international festivals. Her films: *A boy Called Mohamed*, (2002), *Jawhar Al silban* (Quintessence of Oblivion) (2001), *Naim & Wade'a* (1999) and *Blue Gold* (2004). *Yasmine Tughani* (2006) is her first short of fiction.

✍  
“After Jerusalem became violently divided,  
I wondered how people could carry on going to the movies. My film offers an answer.”  
**Najwa Najjar**

✍  
“Yasmine’s Song is beautifully shot in rural Palestine and features captivating performances from some of Palestine’s finest actors (including Hesham Suleiman, Hanan Hillo, and Mohammad Bakri). The script’s subtle exploration of the challenges posed by social, political, cultural and physical barriers signals Najjar’s emergence as one of Palestine’s most promising writer-directors.”  
**London Palestine Film Festival 2007**

## Festivals

👉 **Locarno Film Festival**

👉 **London Palestine Film Festival 2007**

## 4.2. TUNISIAN SHORT FILMS

### **TUNISIA**

## **Après l'orage... le beau temps**

Afef Ben Mahmoud

2006. 7 min. Arab original version with Catalan subtitles.

Directora **Sonia Chamkhi**

Guió **Sonia Chamkhi**

Productor **Lotfi Layouni**

Cinematografia **Yousef Ben Youssef**

So **Hechmi Joulak**

Música **Rabi Zammouri**

Intèrprets **Sondes Belhasen, Jamel Madani, Fatma Ben Saïdane**

Edició **Karim Hammouda**

Producció **DIGIMAGE-AMILCAR FILM**

Distribució **Amicar Films**

A city young modern girl spends a day in Aïn Draham, when all of a sudden she has the urgency of taking a dump. During the rest of the day, she is worried about that. But being away from her world, she faces another reality of her own country.

**Afef Ben Mahmoud** és una actriu i directora de Tunísia. Ha participat com actriu en nombroses pel·lícules entre

les quals cal destacar *Making Of* (2006) del director tunisià Nouri Bouzid, i que ha estat mereixedora d'elogis després d'haver participat en diversos festivals.

### **Festivals**



**Festival de Cinema Mediterrani de Tetuan**

**TUNISIA**

## **Borderline**

Sonia Chamkhi

2007. 23 min. Arab original version with Catalan subtitles.



Director: **Sonia Chamkhi**  
Script: **Sonia Chamkhi**  
Producer: **Lotfi Layouni**  
Cinematography: **Yousef Ben Youssef**  
Sound: **Hechmi Joulak**  
Music: **Rabi Zammouri**  
Cast: **Sondes Belhasen, Jamel Madani, Fatma Ben Saïdane**  
Edition: **Karim Hammouda**  
Production: **DIGIMAGE-AMILCAR FILM**  
Distribution: **Amicar Films**

“Borderline” (“El Blaïk de Wara”) is a love story. It’s about a period of happiness between a man and a woman won to misery and deprivation. Both of them are forced to leave the countryside and fate has willed they meet each other in a crossroad of a big city. Saâdia is working as a housemaid, Mokhtar is a guard in a building still under construction, amidst of iron and piles of concrete. They encounter means to both of them the discovery of love and the fulfillment of physical love, in a city where the only hope is rejection. The happier they are, the harder they will fall.



Sonia Chamkhi has a degree in Cinema, Audiovisual and Television. She teaches Image Design and Audiovisual Practice in the Tunisian High Institute of Fine Arts and in the School of Art and Cinema (EDAC). She is also dramatist and writer of fiction, and has worked in the adaptation of some Tunisian films. She is the author of “New Tunisian Cinema, alternative routes” (Sud Editions, 2002). She wrote and co-directed the short films “Douz, the door of Sahara” (documentary, 38 min, video) and “Nesma Wa Rih –Normal- (fiction, 20 min, 35 mm). Recently, she has published her first novel “Leila, the mistress of dawn (Elyzad/Clare Fontaine – 2007). In 2007, she directed with the company of DIGIMAGE Ware El Blaïk “Borderline” (fiction, 25 min, 35 mm) which is her first solo film.

**TUNISIA**

# Garbage

Lotfi Achour

2006. 23 min. Original Version in Arabic with Catalan subtitles.

Director\_ **Lotfi Achour**

Escenography\_ **Natacha de Pontcharra i Lotfi Achour**

Image\_ **Sofian Elfani**

Decoration\_ **Raouf Hilwi**

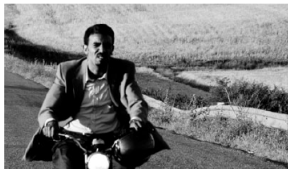
Edition\_ **Antoine Deneubourg**

Music\_ **Henry Torgue**

Sound\_ **Moezz Cheikh**

Players\_ **Noomane Hamda, Nadia Boussetta, Lotfi Abdelli i Atef Hassine**

Producer\_ **Ibrahim Letaïef**



Mounir, an evening caretaker who carries a solitary life, feels comforted encouraging a strange passion for garbage. In love with Latifa, he begins to appropriate her garbage, that turns into the secret testimony of the very hectic life of this woman.



**Lotfi Achour** is a theatre player, director and manager. Lotfi Achour lives between Paris and Tunisia and he has staged 20 plays in Cartago, Paris (Avinyó Festival), Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, etc. He has also created in 2006 an installation for the “White Night” in Paris (National Archives). Educated in Documentary direction in Les Ateliers Varan in Paris, he has produced two short films, including “Ordure”, and currently he is writing his first feature film, Tunis Blues.

## Festivals and prizes

👉 **Dubai Film Festival 2007** best short movie

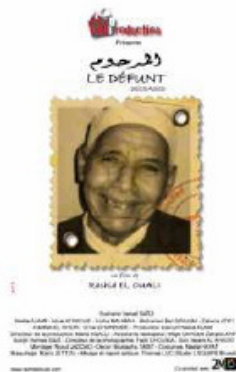
## 4.3. OTHER SHORT FILMS

### MARROC

### Deceased

### Rachid El Ouali

2006. 9 min. Original Version in Arabic with Catalan subtitles



Director **Rachid el Ouali**  
Screenplay **Ismail Saidi**  
Cinematography **Fadi Chouika**  
Sound **Issam Al-Khayat**  
Players **Nadia Alami, Amal Atrache, Aicha Mahmah**  
Production **Clap Production**

Members of the same family are together for the death of a loved one. All they appear in front of the camera, giving their opinion about the dead and his widow, reflecting an humorous look of the Moroccan society and its traditions.



**Rachid El Ouali** is an actor and director born in Morocco in 1965. **He graduated in Mohamed V School of Dramatic Art and in the National Theatre (Rabat) in 1988. He has worked with some of the more known Moroccan directors from Farida Belyazid (Casablanca, Casablanca, 2001; Kied Ensa, 1998), Nabil Ayouch ( Mektoub, 1996), Hassan Benjallun ( Jegement d'une femme, 2000), and Abdelkader Laktaa ( Un amour a Casablanca, 1989; Happy End, 1995).**

In 1995 he won a prize for the best secondary role in the film of Hakim Noury's "Voleur de rêves" in the Tanger National Film Festival. Rachid El Ouali has directed short films like L'Aube ( 2005), Le Defunt ( 2005) and Nini ya Moumou (2004). He has also directed films and series for the Moroccan television channel 2M.

### Festivals

👉 Arab Film Festival – San Francisco – Berkeley – San Jose – Los Angeles

👉 Sydney Arab Film Festival



**EGIPTE**

## **Rise and shine** **Sherif El-Bindary**

2006. 9 min. VO àrab amb subtítols en català

Director\_ **Sherif El –Bendary**  
Càmera\_ **Ahmed Gabr**  
Fotografia\_ **Ahmed Gabr**  
Música\_ **Khaled Shokry**  
Guió\_ **Egyptian Film Center**  
So\_ **Ahmed Gaber**  
Intèrprets\_ **Hend Sabry**  
Producció\_ **Egyptian Film Center**

Sanaa wakes up like every morning with nightmares and hurries for leaving his baby in the nursery in order to go to work in the factory. When she wants to leave home, she doesn't find the keys. Is in this moment when a monologue starts, remembering all her gestures of the vigil. An original way to explain the everyday life of an Egyptian woman.



**Sherif El-Bindary was born in Cairo in 1978. He obtained his degree in Applied Art's** Faculty and worked as a textile engineer in 2001. He participated in many theatre productions in the university and in artistic groups. He registered in the Superior Cinema High School in order to study Direction in 2002. He has worked as a Direction assistant in some publicity advertises.

### **Festivals and Prizes**

- ☞ Winning short film of the **National Egyptian Film Festival** (2006)
- ☞ Winning short film of the **Rotterdam Arab Film Festival** (2006)
- ☞ Winning of the **Ismailia International Film Festival** (2006)
- ☞ Winning short film of the **Mohamed Shebl's Prize** (2006)
- ☞ Selected short film in **San Francisco International Film Festival** (2007)

## 5. GUESTS

### **Sherif El-Bindary.** Producer of Rise and Shine (Egipt)



**Sherif El-Bindary was born in Cairo in 1978. He obtained his degree in Applied Art's** Faculty and worked as a textile engineer in 2001. He participated in many theatre productions in the university and in artistic groups. He registered in the Superior Cinema High School in order to study Direction in 2002. He has worked as a Direction assistant in some publicity advertises.

### **Sonia Chamkhi.** Realitzadora de Borderline (Tunísia)



Sonia Chamkhi has a degree in Cinema, Audiovisual and Television. She teaches Image Design and Audiovisual Practice in the Tunisian High Institute of Fine Arts and in the School of Art and Cinema (EDAC). She is also dramatist and writer of fiction, and has worked in the adaptation of some Tunisian films. She is the author of "New Tunisian Cinema, alternative routes" (Sud Editions, 2002). She wrote and co-directed the short films "Douz, the door of Sahara" (documentary, 38 min, video) and "Nesma Wa Rih –Normal- (fiction, 20 min, 35 mm). Recently, she has publish her first novel "Leila, the mistress of dawn (Elyzad/Clare Fontaine – 2007). In 2007, she directed with the company of DIGIMAGE Ware El Blaïk "Borderline" (fiction, 25 min, 35 mm) which is her first solo film.

### **Nadia Kaci.** Actriu (Algèria)



### **Nadia Alami.** Actriu de **Les Coeurs Brûlés**

**Filmografia:** *Les Coeurs Brûlés* (2007), *El Ayel* (2005), *La vida perra de Juanita Narboni* (2005) i *L'Adieu* (2003).

### **Nadia Guiza.** Dinamitzadora cinematogràfica (Tunísia)