

For Immediate Release

Red Sea International Film Festival celebrates Saudi Cinema Nights in Jeddah on June 16–17

Two days of premieres, screenings, and Q+As

New features and short films by Saudi directors, with regional premieres of films supported by the Red Sea International Film Festival

Wednesday, 2nd June, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

The Red Sea International Film Festival presents **Saudi Cinema Nights** – a showcase of new Saudi films at MUVI Cinema Mall of Arabia, Jeddah June 16–17, 2021.

The two-day event will see premieres alongside short films in a program of recent works by Saudi directors. Audiences will enjoy the world premiere of *Carnaval City* (2021) and the Arab premiere of *40 Years and One Night* (2020) in the presence of the directors and casts.

On Wednesday, 16 June, ***40 Years and One Night*** (2020) arrives on the Saudi big screen following its world premiere at Malmö Arab Film Festival. Directed by Mohammed Alholayyil, *40 Years and One Night* tells the story of one family, an accident, and a life-changing night of uncovered secrets. *The* sparse and tense family drama received US\$ 500,000 of funding by the Red Sea International Film Festival

The following night, Thursday, 17 June, ***Carnaval City*** (2020), directed by Wael Abu Mansour, makes its world premiere. When Masoud sets out with Salma on a journey with no destination and no plans to return, the road into the desert leads to an abandoned theme park and a reckoning with the self. After they break down in the desert, the adventure takes an unexpected turn. *Carnaval City's* entrancing road trip pays homage to Wim Wenders' *Paris, Texas* (1984)

The world premiere is preceded by a curated selection of recent Saudi shorts, a program that brings together some of the Kingdom's most exciting emerging directors and actors:

...And when do I sleep? (2020)

Directed by Husam Alsayed

In the dead of night, insomnia warps vision – Adam hears a woman call out, but no one is there. This eerie short from director Husam Alsayad – a founder member of Telfaz11 – plunges the viewer into a twisted dream world.

Ongoing Lullaby (2020)

Directed by Hisham Fadel

An intimate portrait of a woman's daily life as she becomes hounded by a relentless inner monologue. Director Hisham Fadel sensitively captures Sarah Taibah's riveting performance,

tracking the melancholy, doubts, fears, and hesitations of a woman striving to be independent, yet haunted by creeping loneliness.

The girls who burned the night (2020)

Directed by Sarah Mesfer

Teenage Saudi sisters, Sasabel and Wasan, are battling for independence. A small act of rebellion causes first tension, then greater understanding, as they explore their dreams and hopes together in the dark.

Goin' South (2019)

Directed by Mohammed Alhamoud

Newlyweds pay their first visit to the groom's hometown. Despite a modern approach to dating, discovering they come from two different worlds, their relationship is put to the test. It's a sensitive look at shifting cultures by award-winning director Mohammed Alhamoud, founder of Last Scene Films, an independent production house in Riyadh.

The two-day public program brings together filmmakers, film industry, and film lovers from across the Kingdom in Jeddah, the home of the Red Sea Film Foundation, for a celebration of the most exciting emerging voices in the Saudi film scene. Limited tickets are available to purchase from the MUVI box office, Mall of Arabia.

Schedule

16 June at MUVI Mall of Arabia

7 pm | Saudi Cinema Nights feature program | *40 Years and One Night* | Arab world premiere screening, followed by Q+A

17 June at MUVI Mall of Arabia

7 pm | Saudi Cinema Nights short film program |

Screenings followed by Q+A

...And when do I sleep?

Ongoing Lullaby

The girls who burned the night

Goin' South

9:15 pm | Saudi Cinema Nights feature program | *Carnaval City* | world premiere screening, followed by Q+A

40 Years and One Night (2020)

Five grown siblings and their children return to their childhood home to celebrate Eid al-Fitr. The warm family gathering is suddenly interrupted by a phone call, bringing news that their father has been in a car accident. Across a single, harrowing night, the past is re-written and relationships recast as secrets that will undo family ties are unleashed. *40 Years and One Night* tells the story of one family, reflecting on and revealing wider truths about an entire society.

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Mohammed Alholayyil

Writer: Abdulrahman Khawj

Co-writer: Bashayer Abdulaziz

Producer: Abdulrahman Khawj

DOP: Amine Messaadi

Cast: Jaafar Algharib, Sana'a Bakr Yonis, Meshal Almutari, Zara Albalushi, Khalid Saqr, Osema Saleh, Rahaf Ibrahim

Carnaval City (2020)

When Masoud sets out with Salma on a journey with no destination and no plans to return, the road into the desert leads to an abandoned theme park and a reckoning with the self. After they break down in the desert, the adventure takes an unexpected turn. *Carnaval City's* entrancing road trip pays homage to Wim Wenders' *Paris, Texas* (1984).

CAST & CREDITS

Director: Wael Abu Mansour

Producer: Saleem Homsy

Cast: Mohammed Salama, Nada Almojadedi, Naif Aldufairi, Abdulelah AlQurashi, Sarah Taibah