

RED SEA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL HOSTS IN-CONVERSATION WITH PIONEERING SAUDI FILMMAKER HAIFAA AL MANSOUR

9th December 2021 - Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: The Red Sea International Film Festival hosted an in-conversation with acclaimed filmmaker Haifaa Al Mansour yesterday at the VOX Cinemas Al Balad 1. Mansour is not only one of the most significant names in the Saudi film industry, but has led the way in championing female empowerment across the region. Her debut feature multi award winning *Wadjda* was the first to ever be shot in the Kingdom, and celebrated in a special screening for Festival goers today. She has since gone on to direct numerous TV shows and films internationally, including *Mary Shelley* and *Nappily Ever After*, and continues to break ground in filmmaking.

Haifaa Al Mansour explained: “I am incredibly honoured to return home to Saudi Arabia for the first edition of the Red Sea International Film Festival. Those of us who worked tirelessly with dreams of cinema finding a home here know what a truly monumental event this is for the Kingdom, the region and the world. I believe strongly in the power of art to foster positive development and opportunity in our community and hope that this festival serves as a strong foundation for a burgeoning industry that will nurture and amplify our stories and dreams well into the future.”

She continued: “When I started making films years ago, the idea of working as a director seemed outlandish. But I knew that the world was curious to hear from us, to hear our side of the story, and that films from our part of the world would strike a chord with audiences around the world. Now, returning home as an honouree at our first film festival, seems just as unbelievable. It is an incredible honour for me, and such a wonderful opportunity to see the best of up-and-coming talent from the region. The world is still eager to hear from us, and I am so excited to see the infrastructure of a cinematic industry being built to help realize our cinematic visions. I am so excited to see what comes next!”

For more details on the film programs at the Red Sea International Film Festival, please visit this [link](#).

For further press information:
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Editors Notes:

Red Sea International Film Festival

The inaugural edition of the Red Sea International Film Festival is set to bring the best in Arab and World Cinema to the UNESCO world heritage site of Jeddah Old Town.

مهرجان البحر الأحمر السينمائي الدولي
RED SEA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Festival will showcase a compelling slate of new and diverse films, alongside a retrospective program celebrating the masters of cinema as well as introducing audiences to exciting new voices from the region and beyond. The Festival will provide a platform for Arab filmmakers and industry professionals from around the world to connect, host feature and short film competitions, and present a series of events, masterclasses, and workshops to support emerging talent.

The Red Sea International Film Festival will take place from December 6 -15, 2021.