

THE RED SEA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES THE YUSR AWARDS FOR IT'S FIRST EDITION

Jeddah – 13 December 2021: The Red Sea International Film Festival in partnership with VOX Cinemas, MBC GROUP, and Saudia Airlines today announced the winners of the Red Sea competition sections.

The 16 strong feature, 18 shorts selection and 21 ground-breaking global virtual reality experiences are a celebration of the most exciting, innovative new films and cinematic storytelling from established and emerging filmmakers from the Arab world and Africa.

The inaugural edition recognises the incredible range of talent with the Festival's Yusr Awards designed to celebrate the highest achievements in storytelling recognising dynamic new voices and beloved established filmmakers across short, feature and experimental filmmaking.

This year's jury included: President of the Red Sea Features Competition, Academy Award-winning Italian director and writer Giuseppe Tornatore, Tunisian actress Hend Sabry, Palestinian-American director, writer, actress, and producer Cherien Dabis, Mexican festival director and founder of the Morelia International Film Festival Daniela Michel and Saudi film director Abdulaziz Alshlahei.

The Red Sea: Shorts Competition Jury was headed by Egyptian director Marwan Hamed and joined by Saudi Arabian actress and director Ahd Kamel and Finnish-Somali director and writer Khadar Ayderus.

President of the Red Sea Features Competition Giuseppe Tornatore said: "The nominees showcased an incredible range of talent across a diverse and fascinating breadth of themes. This has been an extraordinary experience, we have been moved, provoked and inspired by these films and it has demonstrated the exceptional filmmaking talent and compelling stories from the Arab world, Africa and Asia. The quality of the nominated films made many of our decisions very difficult."

And the winners are:

Best Saudi Film: **RUPTURE** by Hamzah K. Jamjoom - Saudi Arabia

Audience Award: **YOU RESEMBLE ME** by Dina Amer - Egypt, France, USA

Red Sea: Immersive Silver Yusr: **SAMSARA** by Hsin-Chien Huang - Taiwan

Red Sea: Immersive Gold Yusr: **END OF NIGHT** by David Adler - Denmark, France

Red Sea: Short Competition Golden Yusr: **TALA'VISION** by Murad Abu Eisheh - Jordan, Germany

Red Sea: Competition Special Mention: **FARHA** by Darin J. Sallam - Jordan

Red Sea: Competition Best Cinematic Contribution: **Amin Jafari** for HIT THE ROAD - Iran

Red Sea: Competition Best Screenplay: NEIGHBOURS by **Mano Khalil** - Syria, Switzerland

Red Sea: Competition Best Actor: **Adam Ali** for his role in EUROPA - Iraq, Italy, Kuwait

Red Sea: Competition Best Actress: **Arawinda Kirana** for her role in: YUNI - Indonesia, Singapore, France, Australia

Red Sea: Competition Best Director: **EUROPA** by Haider Rashid - Iraq, Italy, Kuwait

Red Sea: Competition Jury Prize: **HIT THE ROAD** by Panah Panahi - Iran

Red Sea: Competition Best Film: **BRIGHTON 4TH** by Levan Koguashvili - Georgia, Russia, Bulgaria, USA, Monaco.

Editors Notes:

Red Sea International Film Festival

The inaugural edition of the Red Sea International Film Festival in partnership with the MBC GROUP, Saudia Airlines and VOX Cinemas is set to bring the best in Arab and World Cinema to the UNESCO world heritage site of Jeddah Old Town from December 6-15, 2021.

The Festival will showcase a compelling slate of new and diverse films, alongside a retrospective programme 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.