

THE RED SEA LODGE 2022 REVEALS 12 BOLD PROJECTS FROM EXCITING REGIONAL VOICES FOR THE 2022 SELECTION

12 projects from emerging Saudi and Arab film talent selected for the mentoring programme

Two projects will receive \$100,000 production grants at the second edition of the Red Sea International Film Festival in December

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia – 15 March 2022 – The Red Sea International Film Festival (RedSeaIFF), today announced the selection of 12 projects from new and exciting voices from Saudi Arabia and the wider Arab region who have been selected for the Red Sea Lodge, a mentoring programme in collaboration with the Torino Film Lab, which is a key part of the Festival's drive to support and promote talent.

At the first edition of the Festival in December, The Red Sea Lodge 2021 winners 'The Zarqa Girl' by Zaid Abuhamdan and 'The Photographer of Madina' by Dalyah Bakheet each received a grant of 100,000 USD.

The Red Sea Lodge schedule is made up of 5 intensive labs designed to take a diversity of talent at the early stages of their career through the essentials of filmmaking to bring authentic stories to the screen.

The 8 month-programme has been designed to nurture and support emerging talent, improve access to Arab content and drive the potential of Arab talent on the international stage. The final workshop will take place during the second edition of the Festival which is scheduled to run from 1-10 December in Jeddah.

Of the 12 projects selected, 6 are from Saudi Arabia while the other projects are from Egypt, Algeria, and Lebanon, with 50% of the participants directed, produced, and written by women. As the Saudi Film industry continues to flourish and strives to become the Middle East's film production hub, cinemas are reporting exponential growth and international productions are heading to shoot in the Kingdom this is an undoubtedly an opportune time for filmmakers breaking into the industry.

The selection committee features leading industry experts, including Savina Neirrotti; Executive Director, TorinoFilmLab, Violeta Bava; Head of Studies, TorinoFilmLab, Jumana Zahid; Red Sea Lodge Manager, Shivani Pandya Malhotra; Managing Director of the Red Sea International Festival, Antoine Khalife; Director of the Arab Program, Red Sea International Film Festival, and Kaleem Aftab; Director of International Programming, Red Sea International Film Festival.

Also supporting the committee is Faiza Amba; Saudi Arabian film writer-director; Mohammad Sayed; Egyptian Film critic and scriptwriter and Ziad Seaibi; Lebanese actor and lecturer at the Notre Dame University.

Shivani Pandya Malhotra, Managing Director of the Red Sea International Festival, said: "Together with the Torino Film Lab we are thrilled to be unveiling the next 12 unique projects for The Red Sea Lodge. The feedback from past participants has been very encouraging and this year's selection is an exciting slate of projects with bold cultural and social ambitions from a diverse selection of voices. The Red Sea Lodge is now building momentum and proving to be a vital support initiative which helps Arab talent to reach new heights in their film careers and ultimately amplify the impact of Saudi and Arab film around the world."

The selected projects from Saudi Arabia are:

Seasons of Love & War; based on the novel 'Divers of the Desert' written by Amal Alfaran, Director/Screenplay Hana Alomair, Co-Writer/Producer Soha Samir.

A Last Argument Against Youth; Writer - Director Mohemmed Algbreen, producer Raghad Bajbaa.

The Crow Nest; Writer/Director Feras Almusharrei, Producer Razan Al Soghayer, Writer Taqwa Ali.

Al Qais; Writer/Director Lujain Hussain, Writer - Producer Abdulrahman Hakeem.

Tahweedah; Writer/Director Omar Al Omirat, Producer Asd Alkarimi.

Yajuj: Curse Of Iram; Director Fahmi Farahat, Producer Jomana Alquraish, Writer Murad Amayreh.

Projects from the wider Arab world:

The Settlement, Egypt - France; Writer/Director Mohamed Rashad, Producer Hala Lotfy.

A Quarter To Thursday In Algiers, Algeria – France; Writer/Director Sofia Djama, Aurélie Turc.

Cain And Abel, Egypt - USA – France; Director Dina Amer, Producer Karim Amer, Writer Omar Mullick.

Dogmas, France – Algeria; Writer/Director Salah Issaad, Producer Taqiyeddine Issaad.

Bubblegum Brigades, Lebanon; Director Samah El Kadi, Producer Michelle Ayoub, Writer Rani Nasr.

Aisha Can't Fly Away Anymore, Egypt; Writer/Director Morad Mostafa, Producer Sawsan Yusuf.

The second edition of the Red Sea International Film Festival will run in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from December 1-10, 2022.

For more information on how to apply:

<https://redseafilmfest.com/>

For further press information:

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About the Red Sea International Film Festival:

The second edition of the Red Sea International Film Festival will bring the best in Arab and World Cinema to Jeddah, nestled on the eastern shore of the Red Sea.

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.

Running alongside the Festival is the Red Sea Souk, the Festival's industry market, designed for global exchange and partnerships between the international and Saudi film industries. The four-day market will offer a packed programme of curated events to foster co-production, international distribution, and new business opportunities. The Souk offers unbeatable access to the new vibrant Saudi scene, as well as the best of the Arab market through pitching sessions, one-on-one meetings, screenings, industry talks, and networking events.

About Majid Al Futtaim

Founded in 1992, Majid Al Futtaim is the leading shopping mall, communities, retail and leisure pioneer across the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

A remarkable business success story, Majid Al Futtaim started from one man's vision to transform the face of shopping, entertainment and leisure to 'create great moments for everyone, every day'. It has since grown into one of the United Arab Emirates' most respected and successful businesses spanning 17 international markets, employing more than 43,000 people, and obtaining the highest credit rating (BBB) among privately-held corporates in the region.

Majid Al Futtaim owns and operates 29 shopping malls, 13 hotels and four mixed-use communities, with further developments underway in the region. The shopping malls portfolio includes Mall of the Emirates, Mall of Egypt, Mall of Oman, City Centre malls, My City Centre neighbourhood centres, and five community malls which are in joint venture with the Government of Sharjah. The Company is the exclusive franchisee for Carrefour in over 30 markets across the Middle East, Africa and Asia, operating a portfolio of more than 375 outlets including City+, the region's first checkout-free store, and an online store.

Majid Al Futtaim operates more than 600 VOX Cinemas screens as well as a portfolio of world-class leisure and entertainment experiences across the region including Ski Dubai, Ski Egypt, Dreamscape, Magic Planet, Little Explorers and iFLY Dubai. The Company is parent to a Fashion, Home and Specialty retail business representing international brands such as Abercrombie & Fitch, Hollister, AllSaints, lululemon athletica, Crate & Barrel, Maisons du Monde, LEGO and THAT, a Majid Al Futtaim fashion concept store and app. In addition, Majid Al Futtaim operates Enova, a facility and energy management company, through a joint venture operation with Veolia, a global leader in optimised environment resource management.

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