

مهرجان البحر الأحمر السينمائي الدولي
RED SEA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

THE RED SEA FUND OPENS ITS THIRD CYCLE FOR PRODUCTION FUNDING

Red Sea Fund announces its 10 winners for its cycle one post-production

Jeddah – 28 June 2022:

The Red Sea Film Festival Foundation announces today the third cycle of The Red Sea Fund, with sterling support to filmmakers that reaches up to \$500,000 per film.

The third cycle will support projects with directors from Saudi Arabia, Arab World and Africa, launching a new generation of filmmakers and supporting established auteurs as they bring their work from script to screen.

The Red Sea Fund encourages bold and original ideas that embrace a rich and diverse range of subjects that inform, educate and entertain global audiences whilst accepting feature fiction, documentary, episodic or animation films for *all applicants* and short fiction. documentary or animation film, only for projects by *Saudi directors*.

The Red Sea Fund celebrates the announcement of the 10 recipients of its 2022 programme that were confirmed as recipients of post-production grants. The fund now in its third year, has a strong track record of bringing films to audiences with 100% of last years funded films presented at the inaugural edition of the Festival.

The fiction features and documentaries originate from Palestine, Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Rwanda, Benin, Yemen, and Tunisia.

Of the selection, the Red Sea Fund supported the feature fiction ASHKAL, from Tunisian director Youssef Chebbi. The world premiere of his debut feature has been selected for the 54th edition of Directors' Fortnight, the non-competitive independent sidebar to the main Cannes festival that was scheduled for May 17 to 28. Set in the Gardens of Carthage, a district of Tunis initiated by the former Regime construction stopped at the beginning of the Revolution. The film follows two cops, Fatma and Batal, who find a burnt body in one of the lots. As construction slowly resumes, they start looking into this mysterious case. When the event repeats itself, the investigation takes a puzzling turn.

The slate also includes SLAVE, directed by Mansour Assad, an Afghani Filmmaker, born and raised in Saudi and the first local film to be selected for post-production funding. The film was selected for its experimental filmmaking techniques and *pushing boundaries* that are prompting a wave of change within the creative industry in the Kingdom. Another first in this cycle of the Red Sea Fund includes a Yemeni film submission THE BURDENED, directed by Amr Gmal, which was received for the first time and made it to the committee's winners list.

Mohammed Al Turki, Red Sea IFF's CEO said: "The Red Sea Fund has supported several, directors, and producers since its inception. The new and exciting plethora of directors in the selection brings new perspectives to the conversation, they are presenting bold and daring stories we haven't seen before. The industry is beginning to flourish and it's encouraging to see so many filmmakers eager to make their mark, our role is to nurture and support this movement."

The 10 backed films are:

THE LAST PROJECTIONIST, directed by Alex Bakri (Palestine, Germany) Feature Documentary
DE ABDUL À LEILA, directed by Leila Albayaty (Germany, Belgium, France, Iraq) Feature Documentary
SLAVE, directed by Mansour Assad (Saudi Arabia) Feature Fiction
NEZOUH, directed by Soudade Kaadan (France, United Kingdom, Lebanon) Feature Fiction
PHIONA, A GIRL FROM MADRID, directed by Mutiganda Wa Nkunda (Rwanda, Benin, France) Feature Fiction
ASHKAL, directed by Youssef Chebbi (Tunisia) Feature Fiction
THE BURDENED, directed by Amr Gmal (Yemen) Feature Fiction
TUK-TUK EYE, directed by Dhyaa Joda (Iraq) Feature Documentary
THE CARDINAL'S ARM, directed by Fayçal Baghriche (France, Algeria) Feature Documentary
SUSPENDED, directed by Myriam El Hajj (Lebanon, France, Norway) Feature Documentary

Submissions for the Red Sea Funding for Production open from 27 June, 2022.

For more information visit <https://redseafilmfest.com/>

Editors Notes:

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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