

مهرجان البحر الأحمر السينمائي الدولي
RED SEA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Red Sea International Film Festival Announces Opening of Film Submissions for its Second Edition

The Arab world's most anticipated cinema event welcomes applications from Arab, Asian, and African filmmakers to compete for the Yusr Awards

Program sections for the Festival announced, including contemporary global and Arab cinema, Saudi features, shorts and experimental films, retrospectives, and future-oriented AR and VR experiences

Yusr Awards and Prizes announced

Jeddah – 3 July 2022:

The Red Sea International Film Festival is set to open to submissions for its second edition, taking place December 1–10, 2022. Filmmakers from Asia and Africa, including the Arab world, are invited to submit films from July 3 until August 14, 2022.

Established names and emerging filmmakers from Arab, Asian and African filmmakers across the globe are welcome to submit their films to the Red Sea: Competition and Red Sea: Shorts Competition. Saudi filmmakers can also apply to screen as part of New Saudi/New Cinema. Submissions will be viewed and selected by the Red Sea International film festival selection committee. The Festival aims to promote cross-cultural exchange and foster the growth of the Arab film industry, positioning Saudi Arabia as a key contributor to the international film industry. As the Arab world's most exciting film event, the Red Sea International Film Festival embraces new talent from Saudi Arabia and the region, alongside the best in Asian, African, and Global cinema.

The second edition of the highly anticipated Red Sea International Film Festival will bring together local film lovers, filmmakers, and international industry leaders. The event provides an essential platform to strengthen creative connections between Saudi and the world with a program of the best in global cinema, classic and contemporary Arab film, alongside professional and industry strands.

More details of the Festival program have also been revealed, providing an exciting platform for the second edition of the Festival which is shaping up to elevate the Saudi and Arab film scene further on the global stage. Program sections will showcase contemporary international and Arab cinema, Saudi features, shorts and experimental films, retrospectives, and future-oriented AR and VR experiences.

The films in competition will vie for the Yusr Awards, chosen by an international jury. The Red Sea Golden Yusr award for Best Film in competition will be awarded \$100,000. Cash prizes will also be awarded to Best Director (\$30,000); the Red Sea Golden Yusr for Best Short Film (\$25,000); and the Red Sea Silver Yusr for Short Film (\$15,000); in addition to the Red Sea Silver Yusr Jury Prize (\$20,000). Other prizes will be awarded for Best Screenplay, Best Actor, Best Actress, Immersive, Cinematic Contribution and Red Sea: Competition Special Mention. There will also be cash prizes for the Audience Award and Best Saudi Film.

Submissions are welcomed via <https://redseafilmfest.com/en/film-submissions/> in the following sections:

Red Sea: Competition

Featuring works from Asia and Africa, including the Arab world, the competition values cinematic forms that push limits across fiction and documentary. Presenting cinematic work that pushes traditions, with innovative filmmaking and great storytelling by emerging and established voices, with generous prizes awarded by an international jury.

Red Sea: Shorts Competition

Featuring works of less than 60 minutes from Asia and Africa, including the Arab world, the competition values cinematic works that offer fresh takes and new ideas that tell compelling diverse and innovative stories in the short film form. Presenting daring productions by emerging and established voices, it's the place to discover something new and to connect with next-generation creators that push limits across fiction and documentary, with generous prizes awarded by an international jury.

New Saudi/New Cinema

A curated introduction to the most vital new filmmakers and artists from Saudi Arabia. Diverse and dynamic, the voices shaping the scene; from arthouse features and shorts to documentaries, these are the films primed for launch on the international circuit.

In addition to the the open categories, there are seven curated sections, including:

International Spectacular

Cinema from around the globe featuring celebrated auteurs and international filmmaking icons. This section will feature some of the most highly anticipated and talked about films of the year shown for the first time in the Arab world.

Arab Spectacular

Find the pulse of Arab creativity in this carefully curated selection of commercial and independent movies, award winners, and regional premieres. This is a celebration of the films and personalities at the heart of Arab cinema.

Red Sea: Festival Favorites

An expansive roundup of the year's international hits – audience and critics' favorites hot from the Festival circuit, and films discovered and specially curated by the Festival team.

Red Sea: Immersive Future

Celebrating technological advances in cinema, from new modes of viewing, immersive experiments and the latest in audio-visual experiences, this strand features the best in Augmented and Virtual Reality.

Red Sea: Treasures

A focus on the classics, including acclaimed titles from across the ages, and across the world. A selection of unmissable gems, these are the masterpieces that have inspired generations of directors – many screened for the first time in Saudi Arabia.

Red Sea: Families and Children

Entrancing stories for children, younger audiences and families with a big appetite for film, featuring leading studios, networks, and filmmakers from around the globe.

Red Sea: New Vision

Films that stand out with a fresh cinematic vision, addressing unique topics.

Red Sea: Episodic

Saudi Arabian premiers of the best in episodic storytelling from around the globe. Up to two episodes of series from television, streaming or web platforms. The place to discover the best in episodic, screened for the first time in the Kingdom.

Film submissions for the second edition of the Red Sea IFF open from 3 July 2022.

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

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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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