

مهرجان البحر الأحمر السينمائي الدولي RED SEA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

THE RED SEA FUND OPENS ITS FOURTH CYCLE FOR POST-PRODUCTION FUNDING

Red Sea Fund announces 23 winners for its cycle two development submissions

Jeddah – 8 August 2022:

The Red Sea Film Festival Foundation announces today the fourth cycle of The Red Sea Fund, which offers support of up to \$100,000 per film to projects with directors from Saudi Arabia, the Arab world and Africa. This cycle offers funding to support post-production, for films that are already at rough cut stage but need a boost to take them through to completion, distribution and exhibition. The cycle opens on 8th August and closes on 22nd August.

The Fund helps to launch a new generation of filmmakers, as well as established auteurs, by bringing their work from script to screen. This year marks the Fund's largest funding boost for the film industry. The Red Sea Fund looks for bold, original ideas covering a diverse range of subjects. Funded films should inform, educate and entertain global audiences. The Fund supports several genres of film, including feature fiction, feature documentaries, animations and episodic films. Support is also available for short films, although these are only open to Saudi directors.

The Red Sea Fund celebrates the announcement of the 23 winners of its cycle two development grants. The winning projects include five projects from Africa, eleven from the Arab world, and seven films with Saudi directors. The winning genres comprise of three episodic projects, one feature animation, three feature documentaries, thirteen feature fiction films, and three short fiction films.

Mohammed al Turki, CEO of the Red Sea IFF, said, "For the last two years, the Red Sea Fund has supported many directors and producers – but each round of funding brings a new, exciting selection of untold stories that deserve a larger audience. It is truly inspiring to see industry grow in this way and to see so many passionate filmmakers eager to share their visions. We are proud of our role in encouraging this creativity to flourish and grow."

The 23 funded films are:

Chimbo Chebere – The Hyena's Song, Feature Fiction (Zimbabwe, France, Germany).

Directed by Naishe (Hassan) Nyamubaya, produced by Jeremie Palanque

Lily's Double Planet, Feature Fiction (Germany, Sudan)

Directed by Marwa Zein, produced by Michael Henrichs

Vagabonds, Feature Fiction (Ghana, France)

Directed by Amartei Armar, produced by Sebastien Hussenot and Ike Yemoh

Dimbit and Ababa, Episodic (France)

Directed by Feben Elias Woldehawariat, produced by Sebastien Onomo
The Last Dame!, Episodic (Senegal, France)

Directed by Alassane Sy, produced by Pierre Jules Pochy
Brothers, Feature Fiction (Mauritania)

Directed by Aliou Sow, produced by Sebastien Onomo
El Bastardiya (Once Upon a Time in Tripoli), Feature Fiction (Libya, Egypt)

Directed by Abdullah Al-Ghaly, produced by Hala Lotfy
Landslide, Feature Fiction (Jordan)

Directed by May Ghouti, produced by Dalia Abu Zeid
Le Refuge, Feature Fiction (Morocco)

Directed by Talal Selhami, produced by Lamia Chraibi
Red Bus in Baghdad, Feature Fiction (Iraq, Switzerland, Canada)

Directed by Ali Mohammed Saeed, produced by Aida Schlaepfer
Tigris, Feature Fiction (Iraq, Italy, France, Saudi Arabia)

Produced and directed by Haider Rashid
Weedestine, Feature Fiction (Palestine, Jordan, Sweden)

Directed by Said Zagha, produced by Mais Salman
American Dream, Feature Documentary (Egypt)

Directed by Amir El-Shenawy, produced by Ahmed Abdelsalam
Women of my Life, Feature Documentary (Iraq, Switzerland)

Directed by Zahraa Ghandour, produced by Samir Jamaldin and Zahraa Ghandour
Yalla Parkour, Feature Documentary (Sweden, Qatar)

Directed by Areeb Zuaiter, produced by Basel Mawlawi
Meskoun, Episodic (Morocco)

Directed by Hicham Lasri, produced by Lamia Chraibi
Hayat Yousef, Feature Fiction (Saudi Arabia)

Directed by Feras Almusharria, produced by Anas Ba-Tahaf
Hejj to Wonderland, Feature Fiction (Saudi Arabia)

Directed by Maha Al-Saati, produced by Sahar Yousefi
Lithium, Feature Fiction (Saudi Arabia)

Directed by Talha and Amro bin Abdulrahman, produced by Maan and Yaser bin Abdulrahman
Before You Leave, Feature Animation (Saudi Arabia, Japan, Indonesia)

Directed by Razan Alsoghayer and Hala Alhaid, produced by Ahmad Kinani and Bashayer Aqeel
Gathering, Short Fiction (Saudi Arabia)

Directed by Waleed Alqahtani, produced by Aziz Albraik
Red Eye, Short Fiction (Saudi Arabia)

Directed by Mohammad Jastaniah, produced by Mohammed Sendi
University Girl, Short Fiction (Saudi Arabia)

Produced and directed by Ali Alsarheed

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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