

## THE RED SEA SOUK ANNOUNCES PROJECTS AND PARTICIPANTS FOR ITS SECOND EDITION

*The Red Sea Souk Project Market, the Red Sea Lodge, and the Work-In-Progress Showcase will offer first looks at 23 feature projects and 6 in-progress films from an array of talents from Africa, the Arab Region, and the Diaspora.*

**Jeddah, Saudi Arabia – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022:** The Red Sea Souk, a crucial platform designed to discover and connect Arab and African filmmakers to the international film community, has announced its selection for the **Red Sea Souk Project Market** and the **Work-In-Progress Showcase**.

As part of the Red Sea International Film Festival, the Project Market and the Work-In-Progress Showcase are hosted within the Red Sea Souk, which is now in its second edition and will run December 3–6, 2022. The Red Sea Souk offers comprehensive industry programs, unbeatable access to the vibrant new Saudi scene, and the best of the Arab market.

The **Red Sea Souk** selection continues to expand its borders and create bridges with independent cinema in Europe and the USA, positioning itself as a platform for future collaborations to increase the international reach of Arab and African stories. Ten feature debuts and eight from established directors represent the diversity of the selection and embody strong artistic voices bound for the screen.

Ten films that took part in the Red Sea Souk last year, supported by the Red Sea Fund, have been selected for some of the world's most prestigious festivals ever since, including the Cannes Film Festival, Venice Film Festival, and the Locarno Film Festival.

It is worthy of note that the Project Market is the perfect place to pick up the latest projects from an exciting generation of new and established voices, connecting filmmakers and financiers from across the globe through one-to-one meetings to explore potential collaborations.

The first edition of the Market proved instrumental in instigating those vital first introductions; over 560 meetings were hosted, and the Red Sea Souk welcomed 3,115 industry film professionals and media representatives. This year, over 350 distributors, producers, buyers, financiers, sales companies, festival representatives, and commissioners will be on-ground to meet with the projects.

All selected projects will compete for cash prizes offered by the **Red Sea Fund**, to be awarded by two juries. The Project Market jury will award \$35,000 for development, \$35,000 for the Jury Special Mention Award, and \$100,000 for production. All selected films in the Work-In-Progress Showcase will compete

for the Red Sea Souk Post-Production Award of \$30,000. Participating projects are also eligible for additional awards funded by the Red Sea Souk sponsors and partners.

The Project Market will also present the eleven **Red Sea Lodge** projects developed throughout the year during intensive workshops in partnership with the **Torino Film Lab**. Following development and meetings with industry professionals, two projects will be awarded the annual Red Sea Lodge production prizes of \$100,000 each.

On the other hand, the **Work-in-Progress Showcase** is already building a solid legacy. It will present six films in post-production — the first directors' cuts — from selected independent filmmakers to distributors, producers, buyers, financiers, and festival programmers, in addition to creatives, for future collaboration to bring these films to fruition and screens.

Myriam Arab, Red Sea Souk consultant, said: "I'm thrilled to announce the selection for our second year. Following the success of our inaugural edition, we have seen an increase in submissions from established and emerging filmmakers who are redefining filmmaking in the region. There is an increased appetite for content. Combined with the region's sheer amount and diverse array of talents and stories to be told, the Red Sea Souk is a vital platform supporting independent filmmakers in the Arab world and Africa."

#### **The Red Sea Souk Project Market:**

##### **The selected projects include:**

***Behind the Palm Trees*** by Meryem Benm'Barek (Morocco/France/Belgium)

***Darwin in Taif*** by Maha Al-Saati (Saudi Arabia/Canada)

***I Am Coming for You*** by Cyrielle Raingou (Cameroon)

***Gura*** by Lotfy Nathan (Egypt/USA)

***Men in the Sun*** by Mahdi Fleifel (Palestine/United Kingdom/Greece/The Netherlands/Denmark)

***She Was Not Alone*** by Hussein Al-Asadi (Iraq)

***Tigris*** by Haider Rashid (Iraq/Italy)

***Trip to Jerusalem*** by Gaby Zarazir and Michel Zarazir (Lebanon/France)

***Vagabonds*** by Amartei Armar (Ghana/France)

***Where is the Healer?*** by Tebogo Malebogo (South Africa/USA)

***Wolfmother*** by Ismaël El Iraki (Morocco/France)

***Yunan*** by Ameer Fakher Eldin (Syria/Palestine/Germany/France/Italy)

#### **The Red Sea Lodge Projects included in the Project Market:**

***The Settlement*** by Mohammed Rashad (Egypt)

***Yajuj*** by Fahmi Farahat (Saudi Arabia)

***The Last Argument Against Youth*** by Mohammed Algebreen (Saudi Arabia)

***A Quarter to Thursday in Algiers*** by Sofia Djama (Algeria)

***You Were the Poet, and I Thought I Existed*** by Sara Mesfer (Saudi Arabia)

***Tahweedah*** by Omar Al Omirat (Saudi Arabia)

***Bubblegum Brigades*** by Samah El Kadi (Lebanon)

***Dancing On Fire*** by Hana Alomair (Saudi Arabia)

***Aisha Can't Fly Away Anymore*** by Morad Mostafa (Egypt)

***Dogmas*** by Salah Issaad (Algeria)

***Scapegoat*** by Feras Al-musharrei (Saudi Arabia)

### **Red Sea Souk Work-In-Progress Showcase Projects:**

#### **The selected projects include:**

***Banel e Adama*** by Ramata-Toulaye Sy (France/ Senegal/ Mali)

***Concrete Land*** by Asmahan Bkerat (Jordan)

***Hounds*** by Kamal Lazraq (France, Morocco, Belgium)

***Jewfro*** by Jack Markovitz (South Africa)

***The Burdened*** by Amr Gamal (Yemen/Sudan/ Saudi Arabia)

***The Mother of All Lies*** by Asmae El Moudir (Morocco/Qatar/Saudi Arabia/Egypt)

Full details and can be found via [redseafilmfest.com](http://redseafilmfest.com)

**END**

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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 program 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 industry market designed for global

exchange and partnerships between the international and Saudi film industries. The four-day market will offer a packed program 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.