

# NETWORKING SESSIONS

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# REGIONAL KEY PLAYERS



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Saturday  
December 02, 2023

17:00 — 18:30

Souk Industry  
Room

## Producers

### Table 01



#### Rula Nasser

Founder & Producer -  
The Imaginarium Film (Jordan)

Rula Nasser is an experienced Jordanian producer. She started with BBC and Discovery Channel projects in the Middle East, before joining the Royal Film Commission in 2005. She founded The Imaginarium Films in 2011, focusing on local talent. Her recent films include "The Alleys" at Locarno Film Festival 2021, "The Holy Spider" by Ali Abbasi, and "Rebel" by Adil El Arabi and Bilal Fallah. In 2022, her latest achievement was "Inshallah A Boy" by Amjad Al Rasheed, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2023 and was nominated for the 96th Academy Awards (Oscars) in 2024.



#### Aseel Abu Ayyash

General Manager -  
The Imaginarium Film (Jordan)

Aseel Abu Ayyash is a Jordanian filmmaker who has worked in the film industry since 2010. After completing her graduate studies with a focus on production, she worked in multiple formats, including TV series, short videos, and documentaries. She produced an acclaimed one-take film called "A Cold Morning in November", which was screened at the Cannes Film Festival, and in 2016, she co-produced the feature film "Roads to Olympia", which was released in several countries, and her latest project "Inshallah A Boy" by Amjad Al Rasheed (2023) which premiered at the Cannes International Film Festival and is Jordan's official entry for the 96th Academy Awards (Oscars).

### Table 02



#### Afnan Sarraj

Commercial Director -  
Arab Radio and Television (KSA)

Afnan Sarraj is the Head of Digital Content / Commercial Manager in Arab Radio and Television Network (ART). Afnan has been working in the field of distribution, acquisition, co-production, & production since 2006. Afnan graduated from The American University of Cairo, Faculty of Economics & Mass Communication. Afnan Sarraj is also managing all the production & co-production projects.



#### Sherif Alloub

Content Manager -  
Arab Radio and Television ART  
(Egypt)

Sherif Alloub, born in 1980, has been active in the media industry since 1998, starting as a third assistant director for various dramatic projects. He pursued his studies at the Faculty of Mass Communications, specialising in Radio and Television, and graduated in 2001. One of his notable achievements was helping in the launch of the Rotana Film Classic channel in 2003. He played a crucial role in improving the channel's programming department along with his colleagues. Sherif Alloub participated in establishing Al-Ahly Club channel in 2008, the first sports channel dedicated to a club in the Middle East. This experience provided him with valuable insights into television production. In 2014, he joined the Commercial Department at Arab Radio and Television, where he became responsible for the acquisition and distribution of their vast content library. Sherif Alloub's contributions and dedication have made him a respected name in the media industry.

### Table 03



#### Haya Alghanim

Executive Producer -  
New Arab Cinema (Kuwait)

Haya Alghanim is a filmmaker based between New York City and Kuwait City and the founder of New Arab Cinema. She received her MFA in Film from Columbia University and is on the marketing team of leading film distributor, Kino Lorber.

### Table 04



#### Ahmed Badawy

Founder & Producer -  
Film Square (Egypt);  
Partner - Synergy Film (Egypt)

Ahmed Badawy is an Egyptian film producer, a partner in Synergy Film Company, and the founder of Film Square Company. He has produced numerous films, such as "Keira & El-Gin", "The Blue Elephant", and "Beit El Ruby" among many others, which have topped the box office in Egypt and the Arab world. He is currently involved in several film projects.

# Producers

## Table 05



### Cindy Le Templier

Producer -  
The Film House (Qatar)

Cindy Le Templier, a French-Jordanian producer based in Doha, dedicated to producing impactful films. With a rich background in both French and Arab cinema, she now spearheads the film initiative at The Film House, aiming to produce innovative films and digital projects. Currently, she has two regional films in the development stage.

## Table 06



### Saleh Nass

Film Director & Producer -  
Elements (Bahrain)

Saleh is a Bahraini creative producer who has been on the journey of independent films for over fifteen years. He directed a series of acclaimed short films and has lent his expertise as a writer and/or editor on many others. He currently explores the wonderful world of stories in script development.

## Table 07



### May Odeh

Founder & Producer - Odeh Films  
(Palestine), Co-Founder - Mayana  
Films (Germany)

May Odeh is a Palestinian producer and filmmaker. Her recent feature as a producer is "Hanging Gardens", which premiered in 2022 in Venice Film Festival then went on to win best film at the Red Sea International Film Festival in 2022, and is also Iraq's official submission to the Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film 2024. Odeh was known for producing "200 Meters" by Ameen Nayfeh, which received more than 30 awards worldwide and was Jordan's official submission to the Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film. In 2020, Odeh was named by Variety as MENA Talent of the Year. She is the founder of Odeh Films; a production company aiming to produce and distribute creative documentary and fiction films. Recently, May Odeh and Zorana Mušić founded Mayana Films based in Berlin and Munich. Mayana Films is a hub for intriguing stories in the framework of independent international cinema.

## Table 08



### Pierre Sarraf

Film Producer -  
Né à Beyrouth Films (Lebanon)

Pierre is the co-founder of the Beirut-based production company "Né à Beyrouth Films". To date, he was involved in the production of 12 features, 10 shorts, 6 documentaries and more than 60 commercials. Among his recent projects as co-producer are "Insyriated" (Panorama Audience Award, Berlinale 2017), "Capernaum" (Jury Prize, Cannes 2018, Academy Award nomination for Best Foreign Film 2019), "Warsha" (Best Intl Short, Sundance 2022), and "Dirty Difficult Dangerous" (Venice 2022).

## Table 09



### Gaby Zarazir

Producer -  
Madame Le Tapis (Lebanon)

Gaby studied cinema with the life goal of holding strong behind the camera when turning 140 years old (or the camera holding him, perhaps). He is a Lebanese film producer at Madame Le Tapis. Gaby strives to reduce the production's negative environmental impact while maintaining the creative quality of the projects.

## Table 10



### Ahmed Nashaat

Senior Producer & Development  
Producer - Everyone Films (Egypt)

Ahmed Nashaat is a prolific producer from Egypt with extensive experience in various fields of media and film production. Currently a Senior Producer for TV Commercials and a Development Producer for Drama & Cinema Production at Everyone Films Production House, he is involved in the creation of exciting projects set to be launched soon. Ahmed and his team operate in Riyadh, Cairo, and Dubai, offering a full range of production services, from advertising and animation to CGI and VFX. Their strong passion for storytelling and visual aesthetics drives their endeavor to produce captivating films and TV series.

## Table 11



### Christelle Younes

Producer & Co-Founder -  
Bee On Set Productions (Lebanon)

Christelle kicked off her career as an independent producer in 2021 after her debut film had its World Premiere at the Berlinale. She is now financing 3 features, and was recently selected as Jury member at the Athens Film Festival for its international competition. Christelle has also won the Producer's Lab award at the Rotterdam Festival in 2024.

## Table 12



### Wael Abumansour

Head of Studios -  
Telfaz11 (KSA)

Wael Abumansour is the Head of Telfaz11 Studios and a highly recognized writer-director and producer. Wael joined in 2021 after his company Last Scene Films, co-founded with Mohammad Alhamoud and a prominent production house in Riyadh, was acquired by Telfaz11. At Telfaz11, he is responsible for producing high-quality, long-form series, movies, and feature films. Wael oversees management, production teams, and the growth of the business. Under his leadership, Telfaz11 Studios is set to grow by expanding its film and series slate, and its distribution and marketing functions. This growth positions Studios as a fully-fledged and independent entity, setting itself apart as one of the premier film studios in Saudi Arabia.



### Mohammed Alhamoud

Head of Development -  
Telfaz11 (KSA)

Mohammad Alhamoud is a pioneering Saudi filmmaker who joined Telfaz11 in 2021 as the Head of Development of Studios. In this pivotal role, Mohammad oversees all ideas initiated by the Studios, curating the creative concepts. Beyond his contributions to Telfaz11, Mohammad is renowned in the Saudi Arabian film industry as an indie filmmaker. Co-founding the Talashi Film Collective in 2008, he produced exceptional short films that earned recognition at neighboring film festivals long before cinemas emerged in Saudi Arabia. Graduating with an MFA in film directing from the esteemed Academy of Art University in San Francisco in 2013, Mohammad's creative prowess is evident in remarkable shorts like "Shadow" (2009), "Anarosa Springs" (2013), and the compelling "Ertidad" (Goin South) (2019), selected for renowned international film festivals. In 2017, he founded Last Scene Films, a prominent Riyadh-based production house later acquired by Telfaz11, and continues to expand horizons by supporting emerging talents.

# Distributors

## Table 13



### Carine Chaiban

Senior Director Non-Theatrical Sales - Front Row Filmed Entertainment LLC (UAE)

Carine is responsible for non-theatrical distribution on both the acquisition product and productions. She has a 360° vision view of the market having been a content buyer and programming person. She has previously worked at NBCU, OSN, Du, Deluxe and Jawwy Intigral before joining Front Row.



### Eli Touma

Head of Acquisitions & Distribution - Front Row Filmed Entertainment LLC (UAE)

With nearly 10 years under his belt in the industry, Eli handles all acquisitions and theatrical distribution for Front Row in the MENA. Having also worked with Fox/Sony, Eli has fostered hundreds of regional releases for major studios, independent films, Arabic films, Bollywood productions, as well as Japanese anime and shorts.

## Table 14



### Alaa Karkouti

Co-Founder - MAD Solutions (Egypt - UAE- Lisbon - New York) & Arab Cinema Center (Egypt - Berlin)

One of the most recognized figures in the Arab cinema industry, Alaa Karkouti is the CEO of MAD Solutions — the Arab World's most prolific distributor of Arab film content — and co-founder of the Arab Cinema Center, a platform that connects film professionals around the globe to their Arab counterparts.



### Maher Diab

Creative Director & Managing Partner - MAD Solutions (Egypt - UAE- Lisbon - New York), Arab Cinema Center (Egypt - Berlin)

Maher Diab is the creative beating heart behind MAD Solutions, which he co-founded and built into the Arab world's leading distributor of Arabic film content with the help of his skills as a visual artist and keen eye for storytelling. He is also the co-founder of the Arab Cinema Center.

## Table 15



### Marwan Elshafie

Distribution Manager - CineWaves Films (KSA)

An Egyptian independent filmmaker and actor, with more than 7 years of experience in the field of film distribution at the local and international markets. He was recently selected to participate in the first edition of the initiative (Cannes Makers) which was held in the market of the Cannes International Film Festival as one of the promising talents in the Arab world in the field of film industry and film distribution. Marwan's activity is also related to film projects in their early stages, as he was a project coordinator at Cairo Film Connection within the CIFF in its 42nd session.

## Table 16



### Mohamed Frini

Managing Director - Hakka Distribution (Tunis)

Mohamed co-founded Hakka Distribution in 2013, the first distribution company specialized in art house films, and today, one of the most active companies in Tunisia. He is managing two art house cinemas, Amilcar in Tunis since 2015 and the Metropole in Menzel Bourguiba, which reopened in March 2019. He is also the founding president of ÉCHOS Cinématographiques, an association active in the promotion of cinephilia for the marginalized audiences, since 2017. Mohamed has taken on the challenge of allowing auteur films to access the largest number of screens across the country, building a healthy economic model in a context where cinemas were closing and the public had almost no access to auteur films.

## Table 17



### Jessica Khoury

Head of Sales & Distribution - Film Clinic (Egypt - UAE)

Jessica Khoury, currently Film Clinic's Head of Distribution and Sales, is a professional and experienced media and entertainment executive with a rich experience in independent Arab cinema and filmmaking. Prior to her joining Film Clinic, Jessica has worked for Pacha Pictures in Paris and MC Distribution, as well as About Productions in Beirut, which had a great impact on shaping her global and regional experience, fueled by her passion for the filmmaking industry. Khoury is a GMM 2022 Fellow and a 2019 EAVE producers workshop alumnus.

## Table 18



### Ramzi Khoury

Managing Director - Orient Films (UAE), Deputy CEO - Misr International Films (Egypt)

Ramzi Khoury is the Managing Director of Orient Films LLC, the leading distributor of mainstream Egyptian movies in the Arab world. He is also the Deputy CEO of Misr International Films, a company with 50+ years of production and exhibition experience.



### Gaby Khoury

Managing Partner and CEO - Misr International Films (Egypt)

Gaby is a leading figure in the Arabic cinema scene, and a main contributor to the development of the exhibition and distribution industries in the region. Throughout his career, Gaby has produced many critically acclaimed films and TV series alongside directors such as Youssef Chahine, Yusrri Nasrallah, Atef Hetata, and Kamla Abou Zekri.

## Table 19



### Mamdouh Salem

CEO - Rowad Media (KSA)

A Saudi film director, producer, and distributor. He directed and produced many films and plays in Saudi Arabia and the Arab world. He founded the first Saudi Film Festival in 2006. The Arab Center for Cinema chose him at the top of the list of the 100 most important names in the Arab film industry. He participated in many regional and international film festivals, and has won many local and international awards. He was chosen by the British Council as the best cultural leader.

## Table 20



### Hyam Saliby

Managing Director & Founder - HES FILMS INTERNATIONAL (Lebanon)

Hyam Saliby is an entertainment executive with over thirty-five years of experience devoted to acquisitions, development, and licensing of feature film and television properties worldwide. She achieved an extensive experience leading the formation of complex deal structures in the international film business. Specialized in acquisitions, financing, and distribution of feature films, she demonstrates a great combination of distribution and management expertise in studio and independent film distribution companies. She also holds a strong network of executives worldwide and industry relationships with producers, content providers, financiers, sales agents, lawyers, and film boards.

## Table 21



### Youssef Shazli

Executive Director - Zawya Cinema & Distribution (Egypt)

Youssef Shazli is the co-founder and executive director of Zawya Cinema & Distribution. He first joined Misr International Films in 2013 as the festival coordinator of the Panorama of the European Film. He launched Zawya Cinema in 2015 and Zawya Distribution in 2015, with the aim to make quality films more accessible in Egypt and the region. In 2023, Youssef joined the El Gouna Film Festival as the Head of Cinegouna Bridge, GFF's industry platform. He holds a BA in International Development Studies from McGill University.

# Film Commissions, Funds & Labs

Table  
22



## Bahaa Abdulmajeed

Distribution & Exhibition Sector  
Director - Saudi Film Commission (KSA)

Bahaa is leading the Distribution & Exhibition sector within the Film Commission. Where he is responsible of the development of this key part of the value chain. Before joining the Film Commission, Bahaa led the Entertainment sector within the Ministry of Investment Saudi Arabia. MISA is the governmental entity that oversee all related matters to investment within the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Bahaa led the development of the national entertainment investment plan, where MISA works hand in hand with related key stakeholders, in order to support and sustain the growth momentum that the Entertainment sector that Saudi is enjoying. He also works to identify the value chain of the entertainment sector and the opportunities within it to support localizing it in the Kingdom.



## Fahad Alsuwayan

Film Commission Consultant -  
Saudi Film Commission (KSA)

Fahad started working at a young age with a public relations and advertising agency, and moved on to manage platforms for journalism and digital content. After obtaining a bachelor's degree in business administration and finance, he worked in banking services for several years. In 2014, he founded an events company and joined Telfaz11 and others to produce films and advertisements, winning several awards and nominations. In 2018, he moved to work on major initiatives to develop the cultural sector, such as strategies, policies, infrastructure, funds, and incentives. Among the most prominent are: regional media headquarters, and international films "Desert Warrior" and "Kandahar".

Table  
23



## Emad Z. Eskander

Head of The Red Sea Fund -  
Red Sea Film Festival (KSA)

Emad Eskander is a Saudi storyteller and filmmaker. A marketing graduate from King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals, Emad started his career as a creative conceptualizer in ad agencies, before gaining valuable experience in multiple multinational companies. His passion for films in Saudi and the region prompted him to leave the corporate world for a more creative role in local up-and-coming film agencies. In 2019, he founded his own conceptualizing and writing studio "Blue Bus Entertainment". In its first year, the studio was able to make huge strides in the local and regional film industry. Emad currently works as the Head of Red Sea Fund.



## Salman Almusaad

Cycle Manager of Red Sea Fund -  
Red Sea Film Festival (KSA)

Salman Almusaad is an accomplished film producer based in Saudi with over eight years of experience in the industry. He has worked on significant international productions, such as "Born a King" (2019) and "Kandahar" (2023), and played an integral role in numerous Saudi feature films. Salman's passion for filmmaking and commitment to excellence have earned him a trusted and respected reputation in the Saudi film industry. He is also a Fund Cycles Manager for the Red Sea International Film Festival, which provides a platform for emerging filmmakers to showcase their talents and connect with professionals from around the world. Salman's experience gives him a unique perspective on the film industry and the challenges and opportunities facing filmmakers today.



## Munthir Altuwayrib

Supervisor Contract of the Red Sea  
Fund - Red Sea Film Festival (KSA)

Munthir Altuwayrib is a filmmaker who was part of NEOM's first Saudi feature, "Within Sand" (2022). Munthir made a pivotal choice of transitioning from the academic field to a realm more aligned with his aspirations, working in films in his home country Saudi Arabia. In the meantime, he works as the legal and financial supervisor at Red Sea Fund.

Table  
24



## Khalil Benkirane

Head of Grants -  
Doha Film Institute (Qatar)

After graduating in film studies from San Francisco State University, Khalil Benkirane ran Cinemayaat, the Bay Area Arab Film Festival from 1998 to 2002. He then relocated to Morocco in 2003 to direct his first feature documentary, "The White Thread". In 2008, he moved to Qatar to produce films for Al Jazeera Children then joined the Doha Film Institute to run the Grants Programme.

*Khalil Benkirane will not attend the session at the indicated time. Should you wish to meet him, he will be available on December 4th from 11:30am to 01:00pm. To arrange a meeting, kindly contact him at the following email address: kalbrane@gmail.com"*

Regional Key Players  
Saturday, December 02, 2023

17:00 — 18:30

# Streamers

Table  
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## Nuha Eltayeb Alkhazeen

Director of Content Turkey, Middle  
East & Africa - Netflix

Nuha is the Director of Content for Turkey, Middle East & Africa at Netflix. She has over 15 years experience across the region, with past roles as the Director of Acquisition for CBC in Egypt and as the Senior Manager for Arabic Channels at OSN's Programming Department. At Netflix, she identifies Arabic and Turkish content to license while building partnerships with creators and distributors.



## Ahmed Sharkawi

Director of Arabic Content  
Development - Netflix

Ahmed is the Director of Arabic Content Development at Netflix. With 25 years experience, Ahmed has overseen over 500 hours of scripted drama. Part of the founding team for Sony Pictures Television (SPT) in the Middle East, Ahmed also headed the scripted development division at SPT Arabia. He now builds series from script to screen, leading teams across the creative and business elements of the process.

Table  
26



## Karim Safieddine

Co-Founder, CEO & Executive  
Producer - Cinemoz (Lebanon)

Karim Safieddine is the founder and CEO of Cinemoz.com. Karim founded Cinemoz following a career in film and TV production and distribution, mainly spent between Magnolia Pictures (NYC) and The Weinstein Company (NYC), as an international sales agent, negotiating premium content licensing for the EMEA and digital platforms. He is also the founder of Red Room Productions, a Paris-based company dedicated to trans-media content production and distribution of digital formats developed on web and mobile trends in European markets. Karim holds a Master's Degree in International Law from the Sorbonne University in Paris, along with a Master's Degree in Film Business and Management from the City University of London, during which he wrote a thesis on digital content and media distribution in MENA territories.



## Maroun Najm

Co-Founder & Distribution Director -  
Cinemoz (Lebanon)

Maroun Najm is the Co-Founder and Distribution Director of Cinemoz Group. With over a decade of experience in tech and the media and entertainment industry, Maroun has been focused on pushing the boundaries of digital distribution and redefining content narratives across the MENA region.

# INTERNATIONAL KEY PLAYERS



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Sunday  
December 03, 2023

17:00 — 18:30

Souk Industry  
Room

## Film Comissions, Funds & Labs

### Table 01



#### Jitin Hingorani

Head of Programming - Film  
Bazaar - National Film Development  
Corporation (NFDC) (India)

Jitin Hingorani, Head of Programming at NFDC's Film Bazaar, is a curator with extensive experience in the film industry. He has managed content for major events like Tribeca and SXSW and founded the Dallas/Fort Worth South Asian Film Festival. Jitin's career includes work as a news anchor, Bollywood entertainment reporter, and PR/marketing/events manager. He holds degrees in Broadcast Journalism and English from The University of Texas and Oxford University. Beyond his film career, he enjoys binge-watching British crime dramas.



#### Deepti Chawla

Head of Distribution, Marketing &  
Exports - National Film Development  
Corporation (NFDC) (India)

Deepti Chawla has 22+ years of rich and diverse experience in creative producing and distribution of content. She has built her understanding of content through long-term relationships with the talent pool along with collaborations with global content partners in theatrical space and OTTs. She is also a regular at distribution forums of EFM, Marche du Films, AFM, Filmart, TIFF, Film Bazaar, Content Market Moscow, Asthana Media Week, as well as an internationally selected screenwriter in Torino Film Lab 2021, London Films School 2022, and Canneseries 2023.

### Table 02



#### Emilie Pianta Essadi

Head of International Mobilities  
Division - Institut Français (France)

Artistic director and producer (music and cinema) since 1990's. Head of Cinema du Monde (World Cinema Division) at Institut français from 2013 to 2022, (La Cinémathèque Afrique, La Fabrique Cinéma, Cinemas du Monde pavillon in Cannes film Festival, Aide aux cinemas du monde (along with CNC). Since 2022, Head of International Mobilities division at Institut français (La Fabrique Cinema and several programs and funds to support export for cultural companies (ICC Immersion) and mobility support programs for artists and cultural networks (MIRA, Fonds Caraïbes et Ocean Indien, FEF Creation Africa).

### Table 03



#### Miroljub Vučković

International Relations & Promotion  
Consultant - Film Center Serbia  
(Serbia)

Miroljub Vuckovic, a prominent figure in the world of cinema, has had a remarkable career spanning over four decades. He currently serves as the International Relations and Promotion Consultant at Film Center Serbia since July 2020. Throughout his career, he has held various key positions, including Chairman of the South-East European Cinema Network and as the Acting Director of Film Center Serbia. Miroljub Vuckovic has been a dedicated advocate of European cinema, representing Serbia in Eurimages and being a member of the European Film Academy. His contributions extend to his role as a columnist for Belgrade's daily newspaper, Blic, and as a Script Reader for international film funds and project grants.



# Film Comissions, Funds & Labs

## Table 04



### Chia-Hua Yeh

Manager, Partnership & Business Development - Taiwan Creative Content Agency (TAICCA) (Taiwan)

Chia-Hua Yeh was in charge of the curation and participation of Taiwanese content in international market events and festivals at TAICCA. Currently, Chia-Hua and his team strive to promote audiovisual contents abroad, and to develop business opportunities in oversea markets. He continues bridging partners and establishing collaboration in all aspects worldwide.



### Chun-Ling Peng

Project Manager, Partnership & Business Development - Taiwan Creative Content Agency (TAICCA) (Taiwan)

Chun-Ling Peng has been the project manager of TAICCA since 2021. He used to work for a production company, focusing on commercial productions and documentaries. He is committed to promoting the latest Taiwanese content to the international markets as well as sharing the vibrant Taiwanese film industries with the world.



### Shu-Kuan Su

Manager, Department of Strategy & Research - Taiwan Creative Content Agency (TAICCA) (Taiwan)

Kuan is a Ph.D. from Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan. She is currently Manager at Taiwan Creative Content Agency (TAICCA), overseeing TAICCA SCHOOL and TAICCA ACCELERATOR programs, and is the Deputy Director of TCCF Pitching. She was a Director for CNEX Foundation and CNEX Chinese Documentary Forum (CCDF) from 2015 to 2020. She has extensive industry experience in the organization of film events, talent workshops and festivals.

# Festivals

## Table 05



### Rosh Abdelfatah

Artistic Director - Rotterdam Arab Film Festival (Netherlands)

Rosh Abdelfatah, a Dutch-Syrian film producer/director who graduated in audiovisual design in the Netherlands in 2006. A member of Dutch Filmmakers since 2007; he is the Director of the Arab Film Festival Rotterdam and the founder of CMENA.nl, an online platform for Arabic cinema in the Netherlands. He completed a significant oral history project on Dutch immigrants.

## Table 06



### Christophe Leparc

Managing Director - Directors' Fortnight, Director - Cinemed (France)

In the film industry since 1990, Christophe Leparc is specialized in the organization and programmation of film festivals. He has notably worked for Women Directors' Films Festival of Créteil, Mediterranean Film Festival of Montpellier (Cinemed) and Semaine de la Critique, Cannes. Since 2007, he is the Managing Director of the Directors' Fortnight, the other sidebar of Cannes Film Festival. He was appointed Director of Cinemed in 2016.



### Hervé Aubron

Member of Selection Committee - Directors' Fortnight (France)

Hervé Aubron is a film critic for Cahiers du cinéma and a member of the Directors' Fortnight's Selection Committee. Former editor-in-chief of Magazine littéraire and teacher in Film Studies at Paris 3-Sorbonne Nouvelle University, he has published books about Werner Herzog, David Lynch and Pixar studios.

## Table 07



### Paolo Bertolin

Consultant - Venice International Film Festival (Italy)

Paolo Bertolin is a film programmer, writer and producer. He is a member of the selection committee of Venice International Film Festival. He has worked for several international film festivals and institutions, including Cannes' Directors' Fortnight, Locarno Open Doors, IFFRotterdam, Doha Film Institute, Mumbai Film Festival and Visions du réel.



### Alessandra Speciale

Consultant & Industry Program Curator - Venice International Film Festival (Italy)

Since 2013, Alessandra has been a member of the official selection team of Venice International Film Festival, Africa and Arab Countries consultant and curator of the industry program Final Cut in Venice for African and Arab films in post production. Since 1991, she has been the artistic director of the African, Asian and Latin America Film Festival of Milan.

## Table 08



### Francesco Capurro

Forum Director - Series Mania (Italy)

Originally from Italy, Capurro moved to France in 2005 to work in different positions for film festivals such as Premiers Plans, Paris Cinéma, Le Festival des Arcs... He worked for three years at the Marché du Film of the Cannes Film Festival. Since 2013, he has been the head of Series Mania Forum, which has since become one of the leading professional events in Europe for the TV series industry.

## Table 09



### Mouhamad Keblawi

Founder, Business & Artistic Consultant - Malmö Arab Film Festival - MAFF (Sweden)

Mouhamad Keblawi is a director, producer, expert and artistic consultant. He carries a broad experience in project management in media production and business development within the film and creative industries, and founded the Malmö Arab Film Festival. He received the Arab Film Personality Award for the year 2022 from the Arab Cinema Center, as well as the Creative Industry Award from the city of Malmö in Sweden for the year 2023.

## Table 10



### Christian Mouroux

President - Cine Fétil (Argentina)

A producer, filmmaker, cultural manager and teacher, Christian is the co-founder and president of Cine Fétil (laureate of the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize), organizer of the LatinArab International Film Festival, the Latin Arab Co-Production Forum, and Arab and Latin American film exhibitions around the world. In 2020, he released his first feature documentary, "Espejos Rotos".

## Table 11



### Giona Antonio Nazzaro

Artistic Director - Locarno Film Festival (Switzerland)

Giona A. Nazzaro is the Artistic Director of the Locarno International Film Festival. Former General Delegate of the Venice International Film Critic's Week. Programmer and curator for Visions du Réel (Nyon, Switzerland) and IFFR - International Film Festival Rotterdam. He worked for Rome Film Festival, Torino Film Festival and Festival dei Popoli (Florence, Italy). Journalist, Film Critic, and author; he curated the art exhibition Il di/segno del cinema - The De/Sign of Cinema (2015, Cagliari, Italy).

# Festivals

## Table 12



### Yirgashewa Teshome

Founder & Director - Ethiopian International Film Festival (EARTHOPIAN) (Ethiopia)

Yirgashewa Teshome is a filmmaker and Founding Director of the Ethiopian International Film Festival (EARTHOPIAN), where he worked with numerous African and international film professionals. He developed a vast experience in Africa, Europe and USA, and many of his researches have been published in international journals, including his latest book publication "A Film History in Ethiopia; from Grand Palace to ETHIOIFF". He also worked as a director and producer of short and feature projects.

## Table 13



### Johanne Svendsen Rognlien

Festival Programmer Arab Film Days & Oslo Pix Film Festival - Oslo Festival Agency; Representative Sørfond(Norway)

Johanne Svendsen Rognlien is the Artistic Director at Oslo Pix Film Festival, and co-programming Arab Film Days in Norway. She is representing the co-production fund Sørfond which grants top financing for the co-production of films. Rognlien is educated in film and media studies at the University of Copenhagen.

# Distributors

## Table 14



### Hussain Amarshi

Founder & President - Mongrel Media (Canada)

Hussain Amarshi is the Founder and President of Mongrel Media – Canada's leading arthouse film distribution company. A graduate of University of Toronto and Queen's University, Hussain has been involved in film for over 30 years; he founded the Kingston International Film Festival in 1989; ran the Euclid Theatre in Toronto; worked on Atom Egoyan's 'Exotica' and Jeremy Podeswa's 'Eclipse', before setting up Mongrel Media in 1994. Hussain is a producer on Deepa Mehta's film "Funny Boy" and is an Executive Producer on "Beeba Boys", "Brooklyn", "Everything Will Be Fine", and "Maudie". Hussain served as a member of the AGO Board of Trustees from 2016 to 2020; and has served on several arts boards including the Design Exchange and the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Gala Committee.

## Table 15



### Jason Bressand

Sales Manager - Gebeka International (France)

Jason Bressand, formerly the head of international sales and festivals at Alfama Films under Paulo Branco's leadership, joined Gebeka International in 2022. Prior to his tenure at Alfama, he gained valuable experience in the film industry with roles at Moonshaker Films, 2.4.7 Films in France, and FilmNation Entertainment in New York. His journey includes completing a Master's Degree at the EDHEC Business School in Lille. In his role, Jason Bressand is excited about the opportunity to contribute to the growth of Gebeka International, supported by the prestigious Gebeka and Goodfellas companies. He is particularly drawn to the expanding realm of animation, citing numerous ambitious projects in the pipeline. Bressand looks forward to showcasing the best of these animations on the international stage.

## Table 16



### Mathilde Colle

Marketing & Sales Manager - The Party Film Sales (France)

Marketing and Sales Executive for The Party Film Sales, Mathilde handles all rights sales for Asia (excl. Japan), MENA and Africa, Portugal, Turkey, Greece, Eastern and Central Europe, Baltics, and Russia/CIS. The Paris-based company works with fiction films and documentaries, including the recent "Four Daughters" by Kaouther Ben Hania, as well as TV content.

## Table 17



### Harris Dew

Senior Vice President & General Manager - IFC Center (USA)

Harris Dew oversees programming, marketing and operations for IFC Center, a five-screen New York City arthouse cinema that presents premieres, revivals and retrospectives, along with DOC NYC, the largest documentary festival in the U.S. He previously held positions in programming and publicity at film festivals, cinemas and distribution companies and has served on numerous selection committees and film festival juries.

## Table 18



### Sara Ghorra

Director of Worldwide Sales & Distribution - AGC Studios (USA)

Sara Ghorra is the Director of Worldwide Sales & Distribution at AGC Studios in Los Angeles. Prior to her move to the US, she was the film acquisition manager at the Middle East distribution company Empire Entertainment. Before delving into acquisition and sales, she handled the marketing and PR for Empire Entertainment's slate in the Levant.

## Table 19



### Alexis Hofmann

Head of Acquisitions & Producer - Bac Films (France)

Alexis Hofmann has a degree in modern literature, film history and is a graduate of La Fémis. He joined BAC FILMS in 2006 as a booker, before becoming a marketing project manager for the company. Since 2014, Alexis has been Head of Acquisitions at BAC FILMS. Since 2020, he has been developing several productions (feature films and TV series) alongside David Grumbach.

## Table 20



### Kasia Karwan

Founder - Moonshot (France)

Kasia Karwan founded Moonshot in Paris in 2016, as an agency distributing new talents of independent cinema worldwide. Since 2022, Moonshot has broadened into international coproductions, benefiting from Kasia's expertise in film and TV across Europe and North America. A fervent advocate for storytelling and talent development, Kasia is a member of the Cannes Film Festival Short Films Committee, and serves as an acquisitions specialist at Velvet Spoon, fostering Poland's genre film culture.

## Table 21



### Wendy Lidell

SVP Theatrical and Nontheatrical Distribution & Acquisitions - Kino Lorber LLC (USA)

Wendy Lidell is Sr. VP, Theatrical/Nontheatrical Distribution & Acquisition at Kino Lorber LLC. Prior to joining Kino Lorber in 2016, Lidell was President of International Film Circuit, which she founded in 1987. She is presently overseeing the theatrical release and Academy campaign for the Cannes award winning film, "Four Daughters", by Kaouther ben Hania.

# Distributors

## Table 22



### Cristina Mota

Co-founder and Head of Acquisitions  
- Nitrate Filmes (Portugal)

Founding member and part of the border direction of Santa Maria da Feira Film Society since 1995, Cristina Mota has been producer of the Luso-brazilian Film Festival in Santa Maria da Feira from the beginning. In 2012, she co-founded the distributor Nitrate Filmes and from there on, has also been involved in several workshops on distributing and exhibiting, and participated in the most important world film festivals and markets. In 2017, with her partner Américo Santos, they reopened Cinema Trindade in Porto and she is managing this historical venue in the city center.

## Table 23



### Marie Zeniter

Vice President of Global Sales -  
Utopia (USA)

Born in Paris, Marie has lived on both US coasts, in Japan, and Canada. In 2012, she was selected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to develop French businesses abroad and moved to NYC. She soon started programming for US in Progress and Tribeca Film Festival. Before joining Utopia in 2022, Marie worked at IFC Films and Magnolia Pictures.

# Producers

## Table 24

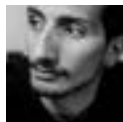


### Karim Aitouna

Producer - Haut Les Mains (France),  
Waq Waq Studio (Morocco)

Graduated in law, film studies and cultural management, Karim Aitouna is a film producer working between France and Morocco with Haut les Mains Productions in Lyon and Waq Waq Studio in Tangier. In 2013, he was selected as Emerging Producer at the Jihlava DIFF. Karim Aitouna is member of EAVE and EURODOC. He worked as lecturer and consultant for many funds, labs and festivals (IFFR Pro Days by Rotterdam IFF, Open Doors Pro by Locarno IFF, Les Ateliers de l'Atlas by Marrakech IFF, Red Sea Film Fund, Nouveau Marché by Festival Nouveau Cinema in Montreal, and Ouaga Film Lab) among others.

## Table 25



### Luigi Chimienti

Producer & Co-founder - Disparte  
(Italy)

Luigi Chimienti is co-founder of Disparte. His latest feature films produced are "Maternal" by Maura Delpero (premiered at Locarno Film Festival) and "Margini" by Niccolò Falsetti (premiered at the Venice's International Critics' Week). He's a MAIA, MIDPOINT, EAVE and Rotterdam Lab alumnus. He's also an EFA and EPC member.

## Table 26



### Rita Dagher

Producer - Senorita Films  
(France)

Rita Dagher is at the helm of Senorita Films which aims to produce feature films, TV series and documentaries. Films she produced include: "A Prayer Before Dawn" by Jean-Stephane Sauvaire; "Soy Nero" by Rafi Pitts; "Miss Julie" by Liv Ullmann; "My Enemy's Enemy" by Kevin MacDonald; and "Terror's Advocate" by Barbet Schroeder.

## Table 27



### Mark Denessen

Owner & Producer - Ginger Pictures  
(Netherlands), The Bigger Picture  
AV-agency (Denmark)

Mark is the founder of The Bigger Picture AV-agency. Since 2002, he has been collaborating with over fifty AV companies across Europe, providing expertise in development, financing, business planning and management. He is also the founder of Ginger Pictures where he co-produced over twenty films and series such as "Monster Loving Maniacs" (2022) and Vinterberg's Oscar-winning "Another Round" (2020).

## Table 28



### Fabian Driehorst

Producer & CEO - Fabian&Fred  
(Germany)

Fabian Driehorst is a producer and the CEO of the studio Fabian&Fred. His films were nominated for Annie Awards and shortlisted for the Oscars and the European Film Awards. He is chairman of ASIFA Germany and a member of AMPAS and the European Film Academy. In 2023, he became a mentor for Women in Animation.

## Table 29



### Omar El Kadi

Co-founder & Producer - Easy Riders  
Films (France)

Born in Beirut in 1989, Omar moved to Paris in 2016, earning an MBA in Finance from ESCP. At 21, he joined Metropolis cinema, later heading MC Distribution's acquisitions in the MENA, distributing acclaimed films. In 2023, he became CEO at MC Distribution. In parallel, he co-founded the Paris-based production company Easy Riders Films in 2019, gaining recognition at prestigious international film festivals.

## Table 30



### Michael Frenschkowski

Head of Features & Special Projects,  
Producer - Terra Maters Studios  
GmbH (Austria)

Michael has beyond 30 years of experience in producing films, and is involved in Terra Mater's highly acclaimed feature docs. He is a member of the European Film Academy, and the board of "Bridging the Dragon", and co-initiator of the International Screen Institute, a European training initiative for media-professionals.

## Table 31



### Valérie Garcia

President - Gabman  
(France)

Valérie has over two decades of experience producing seminal work in features, series and documentaries in France and around the globe. Her seminal works include "Two is a Family" starring Omar Sy, and "La Famille Bélier" which was remade into the Academy Award-winning feature "Coda". Under her new company, Gabman, she works to bring new talents to such heights from the MENA region, Europe and the US.

## Table 32



### Alexandre Gavras

Producer & General Manager - KG  
Productions (France)

Alexandre is graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He's a producer, director and actor. He mainly produced Xavier's Legrand films which won numerous awards (Venice, French Academy Awards...), he also produced Joachim Lafosse's "The Restless" (in competition in Cannes 2021) as well as Costa-Gavras' "Adults in the Room".

## Table 33



### Clarens Grollmann

Technical & Creative Director - K5  
Factory GmbH (Germany)

Clarens Grollmann is a producer and technical director with a portfolio in film and VR/AR games. He has produced films such as "Fata Morgana" and "No Name Restaurant" in the MENA region, and directed the innovative project "The Walled Off Hotel VR". In K5 Factory, he shows his talent for merging storytelling and technology.

# Producers

## Table 34



### Sébastien Hussenot

Producer - La Luna Productions (France)

Sébastien Hussenot produced around 100 films during the last 25 years (shorts and feature films), with many international coproductions (with Tunisia, Lebanon, Italy, Iran, Ghana, El Salvador, Azerbaïdjan, etc...). His productions got an Oscar nomination, several Cesar nominations, and several selections in the Cannes Film Festival (Official Competition, Semaine de la Critique, Director's fortnight, ACID).

## Table 35



### Emmanuel Lupia

Producer - Tosala Films (DR Congo)

Emmanuel Lupia is a producer born in 1984. Eclectic, he contributes to the emergence of new talents in the Congolese film industry. He produced the film "Maki'la" by Machérie Ekwa (Berlinale 2018), and "Omen" by Baloji (New Voice Award-Cannes Film Festival). He is developing fiction and documentary film projects.

## Table 36



### Dheer Momaya

Founder & Producer - Jugaad Motion Pictures (India)

Dheer Momaya is a National Award Winning and Oscar shortlisted producer and founder of Jugaad Motion Pictures. Their films have been screened at TIFF, Tribeca, Busan, BFI, Palm Springs and have been theatrically distributed in over 30 international territories. The latest feature, "Last Film Show" (2021) (directed by Pan Nalin) is presented globally by Orange Studio (France). It has been acquired by Samuel Goldwyn Films (USA), Shochiku (Japan), Medusa (Italy), Neuevisionen (Germany), Karma Films (Spain), and theatrically distributed in 25 other territories. It is the first Indian film in 21 years to be shortlisted for the Foreign Language Film Oscar.



### Dar Gai

Founder & Director - Jugaad Motion Pictures (India - Ukraine)

Dar's feature narratives have opened in festivals such as Busan, BFI, Palm Springs and SXSW, and have won multiple international awards. Her films and series have been acquired by Netflix, Amazon and other international distributors for theatrical/OTT exhibition. She has written and directed clutter breaking music videos with international music labels like Universal and Sony. The music video for "cold/mess" was deemed as "Music Video of the Year" by The Rolling Stone magazine. The song was also featured on President Obama's end of year list. She is currently the creator and show-runner for a Young Adult series with Netflix India.

## Table 37



### Patrice Nezan

Feature Film Producer - Les Contes Modernes (France)

For the last 20 years, producer Patrice Nezan has been active in producing audience driven art-house films in France, Europe and worldwide, in both fiction features and animation features. He supports projects that adopt a humanist, empathic and creative approach on the world of today and of tomorrow.

## Table 38



### Diego Ramírez Schrempf

Executive Producer & Partner - Dynamo (Colombia)

Diego's long career in the TV industry has established him as one of the most important producers in Colombia and Latin America. He was executive producer on "Falco" (2013-2018), winner of an International Emmy award in 2019. In addition, he is the co-creator and showrunner on "Green Frontier" (2019), one of Colombia's first original series for Netflix. He was also a production supervisor on the renowned "Narcos" (2015-2018), one of the most-watched shows in the world. In 2023, "La Cabeza de Joaquín Murrieta" premiered on Prime Video, a series where he also worked as co-creator and showrunner. Diego is currently an executive producer on "One Hundred Years of Solitude" for Netflix, the biggest show ever made in LATAM.

## Table 39



### Loïs Rocque

Producer and Theatrical Distributor - Les Alchimistes (France)

Loïs Rocque co-founded Les Alchimistes in 2020 after creating his first company in 2016. His production activity is focused on social documentaries, international or French co-productions; an expansion towards fiction projects is in progress. Member of EURODOC (2021), SPI, and UNIFRANCE.

## Table 40



### Moustapha Sawadogo

Producer - ImagiNation (Burkina Faso)

Graduate of the EAVE program (European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs), Moustapha Sawadogo is a producer based in Burkina Faso (West Africa). Since 2021, he has been Head of the Yennenga Workshops (Academy and Postproduction) at the Pan-African Film Festival of Ouagadougou - FESPACO.

## Table 41



### Andrew Smith OBE DL

Corporate Affairs Director - Pinewood Group (UK)

Andrew Smith OBE DL joined the Pinewood Studios Group in June 2008 as Corporate Affairs Director. Synonymous with world class British and international productions, the Pinewood Studios Group is home to some of the most successful feature films and TV shows of all time, including "James Bond" and "Star Wars". Andrew is Chair of the Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership; a member of BAFTA, the British Film Commission Advisory Board, the British Screen Forum, the Department of International Trade Creative Industries Trade Advisory Group and a Governor of the British Film Institute. In June 2021 Andrew was made a Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire and in January 2022 was awarded an OBE in the Queen's 2022 New Year's Honours for services to 'Business and the British Film Industry'.

## Table 42



### Marine Vaillant

Producer - Special Touch Studios (France)

Marine Vaillant has worked for Anne Dominique Toussaint and volunteered at the Sundance Film Festival. Her latest release, "Les Chenillesii", directed by the Keserwany sisters, won the Golden Bear Award. With Special Touch Studios, she produces feature films from the SWANA region, where she has lived and keeps roots.

## Table 43



### Karim Zreik

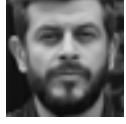
Executive Producer & President - Cedar Tree Productions (USA)

Karim Zreik is the founder and President of Cedar Tree Productions, currently under an exclusive overall deal with Amazon Studios. Karim works with Amazon Studios to develop film, television and animation projects. Prior to founding Cedar Tree Productions, Zreik was the Head of Television for Lord Miller Productions from 2020-2022. Before joining Lord Miller, Karim served as Sr. Vice President, Original Programming & Production at Marvel TV Studios where he oversaw all live action and animated television.

# Post-Producers

Table

44



## Chadi Abo

VFX Producer - HECAT Studio  
(France)

Chadi studied in ENSAD Paris and started a long career in VFX in major films like "The Matrix Reloaded", "300", "Alexander" and others. In 2012, Chadi founded HECAT Studio, an image creation studio specialised in VFX and animation. In 2020, Chadi was nominated for the Oscars and won two Emmy awards for "The Cave".

Table

45



## Stéphane Chirol

Vice President Sales - Titrafilm  
(France)

Stephane Chirol has been working in the entertainment industry, specifically in media and communications, for almost 30 years. He began his career in Chile and the USA. He joined TITRAFILM in 2003 as the Director of Sales for TV activities to build the dubbing activities, and was appointed as Vice President of Sales for global activities in 2013.



## Yannick Xuereb

Commercial Director - CTM  
Solutions, Titrafilm group (France)

After an impressive tenure spanning over two decades at Euro Media Group, a forefront European entity in OB van broadcast facilities, Yannick Xuereb ventured into an ambitious project with HBS, dedicating two years to the Qatar FIFA World Cup. April 2023 marked a significant career milestone for Yannick, as he embarked on a new journey with the CTM Group, assuming the pivotal role of Vice President of Sales. CTM, renowned for its cutting-edge approach, specializes in post-production, media asset management, archiving, and advanced hybrid cloud-based storage solutions. Standing as a key component of the TITRAFILM group for more than a hundred years, CTM has consistently contributed to shaping the global media landscape.

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# Talent Management

## Table 01



### George Christopoulos

Founder & Agency Director - Film & Music Oticons (Greece)

George Christopoulos, a passionate aficionado of film music from a young age, founded OTICONS talent agency in 2010 and has been representing a stellar ensemble of film and media composers since then. Among the composers he represents are the world renowned Shigeru Umebayashi ("In the Mood for Love"), Yann Tiersen ("Amelie"), Johnny Klimek ("Matrix 4"), Jean-michel Bernard ("Be Kind Rewind"), Tuomas Kantelinen (MBC's "Karantina"), the legendary documentary composer Miriam Cutler ("RGB", "A Plastic Ocean") and one of the most in-demand young composers in Hollywood, Kid Moxie (Orion Pictures logo music, Cyberpunk 2077).

## Table 02



### Arabella Flores

Manager - Black Bear Management (USA, Mexico)

Arabella Flores is a manager and producer from Toronto, Canada, based between Los Angeles and Mexico City. She focuses on representing global storytellers from all around the world, including writers, directors, producers, and actors in every stage of their career.

## Table 03



### Chris Prapha

Partner & Head of Talent - Artist International Group (USA)

Chris Prapha is a partner and principal talent manager at Artist International Group. AIG currently represents actors Michelle Yeoh, Mickey Rourke, Julia Ormond, Darko Peric, Anil Kapoor, Jordi Molla, Fan Bingbing and Rossy de Palma as well as writers/directors including Vadim Perelman, Ludovic Bernard and Tony Kaye. AIG has offices in Los Angeles, New York and London, as well as joint ventures in the UK, France, Korea, Hong Kong, Mexico, Spain and Brazil. Previously at Anonymous Content, Mr. Prapha developed extensive relationships in the international market and transformative collaborations across borders. Mr. Prapha's international upbringing in France, Thailand, and the United States has gifted him a true understanding of the greater global scale when it comes to championing international talent and ideas across different territories and cultures.



### David Unger

CEO - Artist International Group (USA)

David Unger is the founder and CEO of Artist International Group, a global talent management, media advisory and production company. Artist International Group, founded in 2017, focuses on identifying and nurturing talent, developing IP and sourcing diversified media and entertainment opportunities all with a global insight. The company represents a diverse international client list of actors, writers, directors, models and financiers. Mr. Unger specializes in talent management, media finance and brand advisory.

# Casting

## Table 04



### Juliette Ménager

International Casting Director & President - Joule Studio (France)

Juliette Ménager has provided artists for over a thousand productions. Her eclecticism, vision and taste for innovation means she is constantly on the creative cutting edge. In 1994, she created Joule Studio Casting, where today she still plays a significant part in finding the best talent. Collaborations with directors like Alejandro Innaritu, Darren Star, Steven Spielberg and Spike Lee allowed Juliette's studio to become 'the casting rendez-vous' in Paris. In 2019, with the casting team, she won an Artios Award for "The Marvelous Mrs Maisel" (2017). She is a member of the CSA, ICDN and ARDA and an Academy Member since 2022.

# Script & Development Consultants

## Table 05



### Nezar Andary

Associate Professor of Film and Storytelling, Filmmaker - Alsidr Environmental Film Festival & American University (UAE)

Nezar Andary is a filmmaker, academic, and curator. His recent feature "Unlocking Doors of Cinema" (2019) was screened in festivals around the globe. He has taught cinema and literature for years at diverse universities in the US and United Arab Emirates. Currently, he is working on a feature film entitled "5 Airplanes, a Train, and No Barking".

## Table 06



### Teresa Cavina

Festival Curator & Script Editor (Italy)

Teresa Cavina is an Italian festival programmer, script analyst and co-production expert. She has worked in different capacities for major film festivals outside (Venice, Locarno, Rome, Sarajevo...) and inside the Arab world (Abu Dhabi, El Gouna). She has been working for film funds and consulting as a script doctor and editor.

## Table 07



### Hakim Mao

Director & Script Consultant - Initiative Film (France)

Born and raised in Agadir, Morocco, Hakim Mao is a writer, director and script consultant. After studying editing, he enrolled in the Louis Lumière National Film School in Paris to study cinematography, writing and directing, before attending the Méditalent screenwriting lab. After several experiences as an assistant director and casting manager, he joined Initiative Film in 2014; a Paris-based film development company. He works internationally as a script consultant, story editor and trainer for several workshops and programs. Hakim has directed two short films, the last of which is "Idiot Fish" (2022), still on its festival run and broadcast on Arte. He is currently developing his first feature film.

# Script & Development Consultants

## Table 08



### Mariam Naoum

Script Writer & Founder - Sard (Egypt)

Mariam Naoum is an Egyptian screenwriter who graduated with a Screenplay bachelor's degree from The Higher Institute of Cinema. She is a leading social scriptwriter whose work addresses the challenges of those who are socially and economically marginalized with a particular focus on women's issues. Mariam is an award-winning screenwriter with a superior background in a range of different writing styles across various platforms, including short feature films, programs, documentary films, children's programs, advertisements and television series. In 2016, she founded Sard Writers' Room that seeks to create scripts for the big and small screens, and offers grants to young screenwriters developing long feature films to be mentored by Sard's team of experienced writers.



### Rim Chamia

General Manager - Sard (Egypt)

Rim Chamia started working in the field of advertising and animation after her graduation from Cairo University with a BA in Mass Communication. She headed to the world of art as an assistant director in the office of director Youssef Chahine, and worked on many Arab and foreign films, especially French films. She also serves as a senior drama director for radio and television. Rim joined the Sard Writing Workshop in 2017 as its general director, currently one of the first and most important writing workshops in Egypt.



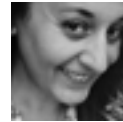
### Aya Dowara

Film Producer & Sard Executive Director - Sard (Egypt)

Aya Dowara is a film producer and cultural manager, and the Executive Director at Sard. She worked with Mariam Naoum for the past two and half years. Her latest is the co-production of the documentary film "Captains of Zaatari", as well as being on the production team for "Newton's Cradle TV". Aya is the Director of the European Egyptian Cultural Programme, EU National Institutes for Culture. She used to work as a cultural specialist at the US Embassy managing the film, entrepreneurship and gender programs for 10 years.

# Production & Distribution Consultants

## Table 09



### Rosa Attab

Producer, Writer & Consultant (France)

A BAFTA and Independent Spirit Awards nominee who was featured in Variety as one of 10 Producers to Watch in 2017, French of Algerian heritage Rosa Attab is an independent and multicultural writer-producer working between Paris and London. She also acts as a consultant for companies such as CAA and Dear Gaia Films. Attab is a producer on Lynne Ramsay's "You Were Never Really Here" (Best Screenplay, Best Actor for Joaquin Phoenix at Cannes FF 2017). She was a writer-producer on Samir Guesmi's "Ibrahim" (Cannes FF 2020); Yassine Qunia's "A Brighter Tomorrow" (Director's Fortnight 2021); and Yann Demange's "Dammi" (Locarno FF 2023, TIFF 2023) featuring Riz Ahmed, which will be screened at this year's edition of the Red Sea International Film Festival.

## Table 10



### George David

Producer and Talent Development Consultant (Jordan)

George David is a seasoned production, talent development and international film commission consultant. He served as the Managing Director of the Royal Film Commission - Jordan (RFC), and President of the Board of Directors of the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI). In addition to several years in entertainment PR, he worked as a producer and production manager in Los Angeles and in the MENA region. David specializes in development, physical production, film commissions, film funds and incentives, and ATL and BTL training and education. He is currently consulting on several public and private sector film and television initiatives globally.

## Table 11

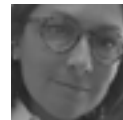


### Gaetano Maiorino

Managing Director & Head of Acquisitions - True Colours (Italy)

After working in film festivals, Gaetano Maiorino started his career in International Distribution at Adriana Chiesa Enterprises, then at Coccinelle Film. In 2013, he worked for the Toronto International Film Festival, and in 2015, joined True Colours. In 2020, he became the Managing Director and Head of Acquisitions. He is also a European Film Academy Member since 2021.

## Table 12



### Maia Malas

Head of Development and Production - Front Row Production (UAE)

Maia Malas has been heading development and production at Front Row Productions since 2021. Before that, she oversaw development at a UAE-based production company, and worked in the UK as a producer for media organizations and TV channels. Maia also collaborated on a feature film writing workshop for first-time filmmakers in Egypt, and created a program for documentary-making for first-time Syrian filmmakers.

# Production & Distribution Consultants

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## Table 13



### Myriam Sassine

General Manager & Producer  
- Aflamuna/ Tatino Films Lab  
(Lebanon)

Lebanon-based Myriam Sassine produced award-winning films such as "Costa Brava Lebanon" by Mounia Akl, "1982" by Oualid Mouaness, and "Dancing on the Edge of a Volcano" by Cyril Aris. In 2016, she co-founded Maskoon Fantastic Film Festival, and currently manages Aflamuna Connection (previously known as Beirut Cinema Platform). She's also the co-head of Tatino Films' Full Circle Lab Nouvelle-Aquitaine.

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## Table 14



### Bader Alzahrani

Managing Partner - TWOATOMS  
CAPITAL (UK)

Bader brings more than 18 years of in-depth leadership and executive experience spearheading organisations and advancing growth in corporate venturing and public policy. He works now as a Managing Partner at TwoAtoms Capital, a TMT financial and investment advisory firm; he served as the CEO of the Cultural Development Fund (Saudi Arabia) and the General Authority for Media Regulation (Saudi Arabia), where he was responsible for the relaunch of cinemas in Saudi Arabia. Before that, he served as a Managing Director for Endeavor Saudi Arabia. He led multiple commercial transactions in venture capital, and advised on investment strategies during his previous work with Aramco, primarily in technology. Bader holds a degree in Geophysics from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and an MBA from London Business School.

# Programmers & Festival Consultants

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## Table 15



### Lynda Belkhiria

Festival Programmer/ Producer  
(Algeria - France)

Festival programmer, film industry consultant, head of Cairo Film Connection, and Head of Programming at Oslo Arab Film Days. Frequently a jury member, and an organizer of the event: "No Means No!" She is also the owner of the production company N'dirou Film (let's make a Film) in Algeria.

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## Table 16



### Hayet Benkara

Head of Meetings on the Bridge & Consultant - Istanbul Film Festival  
(Türkiye)

Hayet Benkara is a French-born Film Industry Advisor, with 20 years of experience in the film industry. She has worked for 15+ years for the Toronto International Film Festival, as the Manager of the market, TIFF Studio and Talent Lab. She has worked in many other prestigious film festivals such as Cannes, Rotterdam, Locarno, Doha Film Institute, Marrakech, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi. Year-round, she advises young and established filmmakers and producers on development, production, co-production, distribution, marketing, and festival strategies.

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## Table 17



### Thibaut Bracq

Film and Industry Event Programmer  
- La Fabrique (France)

Having studied literature, philosophy, and cinema, Thibaut Bracq finished his Master's Degree in Management of Cultural Organizations from "Université Paris Dauphine" in 2016. Between 2007 and 2019, he was a programmer at Angers Films Festival and coordinated the Angers workshops from 2012 to 2019. Before that, he managed the professional co-production market Paris Project at Paris Cinéma IFF from 2007 to 2012. He recently managed the Atlas Workshops at the Marrakech IFF (2019-2023), and the Alliance for Development and Open Doors Extended programs at the Locarno Film Festival. He has been an international programmer for the festival in Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia since July 2013. He is now coordinator of La Fabrique program in Cannes, and works alongside the Institut Français.



# Legal Consultants

Table  
18



## Kailin Che

Counsel & Head of Financing -  
SmithDehn LLP (USA), Divergent  
Pictures (Canada)

Kailin Che, a seasoned California entertainment, media, and tech attorney at SmithDehn LLP, serves a diverse clientele, handling complex transactions for producers, artists, and media companies in film, TV, music, and commercial ventures. She also offers strategic counsel to tech firms, especially in the realm of Artificial Intelligence. Her clients encompass renowned entertainment companies and top financiers, including A24 Films, Ford Foundation, Blink Films, Taylor and Dodge LLC, and Republic. Beyond her legal work, Kailin heads financing at Divergent Pictures.

Table  
19



## Davide Paoli

Lawyer, Founder & CEO -  
Kalbero (UAE)

Davide is a legal Tech Expert and Criminal Corporate Lawyer with over 13 years of experience in the Middle East. He is the founder and CEO of Kalbero, a law firm based in Dubai. He also worked as counsel in multiple blockchain, fintech and crypto projects worldwide, and advises start-ups and multinationals alike on the risks of working and investing in tech platforms, using proprietary forensic solutions to audit new and old projects in the industry.

# Marketing Consultants

Table  
20



## Matias Noschis

Film Marketing Strategist -  
Alphapanda (Germany)

Mathias Noschis is the founder of Alphapanda, a digital marketing agency for the film industry with team members in Berlin, Warsaw and Milan. Alphapanda's client list includes Warner Bros, the European Film Academy, Neon/Super, Bankside Pictures and several independent producers, distributors and sales agents.

# Music Composers

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## Tuomas Kantelinen

CEO & Composer -  
Kantelinen Company (Finland)

Tuomas Kantelinen studied classical composing in Finland and continues to make music for both cinema and concert audiences. He has composed orchestral film music for over 100 feature films, including Sergei Bodrov's "Mongol" (2007); Peter Flinth's "ARN" (2007); Renny Harlin's "Mindhunters" (2004); and "The Legend of Hercules" (2014). Recently, he also scored Bobby Moresco's "Lamborghini" (2022) and Adi Hasak's drama series "Karantina" (2023).

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## Vassilis Milesis

Film Composer - Screen Composer  
Academy (Greece)

Vassilis Milesis is a multi-awarded film composer, music editor, orchestrator and music lecturer. He is also the co-founder of SCA, a pioneering summer program for film composers based in Athens. In addition, he is an Unreal Authorized Instructor, and is developing his own video game named "Hansen".



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