

Buthina Canaan KHOURY – MAJD PRODUCTION
Maria's Grotto – 53 mn
 director : Buthina Canaan Khoury

PALESTINE
 © November 2007

with the support of Swiss Corporation, Unifem org (United Nations Development Fund for Women), RTBF (Belgium)

Festivals : Dubai's Film Festival 2007 - Won the silver Muhr Award ; Thessaloniki Film Festival, Greece 2008 ; Encounter Film Festival, South Africa 2008 ; Tatouan Fest, Morocco 2008 Jury Mention ; Layoun Fest, Morocco 2008 ; Rotterdam Fest, Nederland 2008 - Golden Hawk ; Doc à Tunis 2008 (Tunisia) ; Sguardi Altrove Film Festival, Milano Italy 2008 - Special Mention ; Leipzig Film Festival, Germany 2008 ; Rio De Jenario Film Festival, Brazil 2008

Maria's Grotto was nominated for Ahmad Atia award in Sitges (Spain)

www.womeninstruggle.com/j/



A gripping portrait of women, whose lives were dictated by a moral code, *Maria's Grotto* is a painfully true film about the issue of honor killings in Palestine. Khoury explores the issue through the stories of four women : one is wrongly accused of dishonoring her family and then murdered; the second dies after being forced by her brothers to swallow poison ; the third survives repeated stabbings inflicted by her brother ; and the fourth is a Hip-hop singer who dares speak out about honor killings, and faces death threats.

Through these stories, Khoury exposes the magnitude of 'honor' killings in Palestine.

Nahed AWWAD & Bertrand GLOSSET – KARAVAN FILM
À 5 minutes de chez moi / 5 minutes from home – 52 mn
 director : Nahed Awwad

PALESTINE
 & TURKEY
 © April 2008

co-produced by Bertrand Glosset - KaRaVan film (Turkey), Nicolas Wadimoff - Akka Films (Switzerland), and director Nahed Awwad - Manara Films (Palestine), and TSR (Switzerland), with the support of Fonds français de coopération de Jerusalem, Palestinian Authority - Ministry of Culture.

Festivals : The film premiered on April 2008, in Festival Visions du Réel in Switzerland - selection "regards neufs".

www.karavanfilm.com/KaRaVan/Projects.html



The Jerusalem Airport lies along the road that links Jerusalem to Ramallah. At a 5 kilometer distance from Ramallah and 10 kilometer distance from Jerusalem, the airport has been occupied by the Israeli army since 1967. Nahed Awwad has witnessed the expansion of this east side of the dusty runway, to become a large checkpoint for access into the West Bank.

Notwithstanding, she discovers that it has not always been as such, and that this sad spot today used to be a place where international aircrafts landed in the 1950s and 1960s, when there used to be free traveling. The happy images and testimonies of the past contrast bitterly with those of the present where access is denied to the aviation zone that is now being besieged behind barbed wire and will soon be trapped behind the Israeli Separation Wall.

Nahed goes to meet this place, evoking the past in order to have a better apprehension of the present : today's Palestinian reality that is marked by forgetfulness.

Hachemi ZERTAL – CIRTA FILMS
La Chine est encore loin / Wa Laou Fi Elsin – 120 mn
 (ex Poussière d'École)
 director : Malek Bensmaïl

ALGERIA
 © July 2008

co-produced by Hachemi Zertal - Cirta Films (Algeria), Philippe Avril - Unlimited (France), INA (France), 3B Productions (France) et ENTV (Algérie) with the support of CNC, SCAM, Région Alsace, Communauté Urbaine de Strasbourg & Centre Images (France); programme "Alger, capitale de la culture arabe 2007", Ministère de la Culture (Algeria). Distribution Tadrart Films (France), Cirta Films (Algeria).

http://malek.bensmail.free.fr/film_chine/film_chine.html



Le 1er novembre 1954, près de Ghassira, un petit village perdu dans les Aurès, un couple d'instituteurs français et un Caïd algérien sont les premières victimes civiles d'une guerre de sept ans qui mènera l'Algérie à l'indépendance.

Plus de cinquante ans après, Malek Bensmaïl revient dans ce village chaoui, devenu « le berceau de la révolution algérienne », pour y filmer au fil des saisons ses habitants, entre présent et mémoire, mais aussi son école et ses enfants...

Chronique d'une Algérie profonde dont la Chine, terre symbolique, semble encore lointaine.

Jad ABI KHALIL – BEIRUT DC
The One-Man Village – 87 mn
director : Simon El-Habre

LEBANON

© September 2008



co-produced by Irit Neidhardt - Mec Film (Germany). This project was awarded with the Dubai Film Connections award 2007

Festivals: Ayam Beirut Al Cinema'ya (Arab Cinema Days) – opening film (Lebanon – 2008), International Film Festival Dubai – Muhr Arabic Documentary (UAE – 2008) *Special Jury Price*, Berlinale – Forum Section (Germany – 2009), Dox-Box (Syria – 2009), Arabesque – Kennedy Center Washington DC (USA – 2009), One World Human Rights Film Festival Prague – Main Competition (Czech Republic- 2009) *Special Mention from the Grand Jury*, International Film Festival of Mediterranean Cinema Tétouan (Morocco – 2009), Doc à Tunis (Tunisia – 2009), Berlinale à Paris (France – 2009), Visions du Réel – Séances Spéciales (Switzerland – 2009), Hot Docs – International Competition (Canada – 2009) *Best International Feature Documentary*, DOK.Fest Munich – Opening Film – Official Competition (Germany - 2009), Minneapolis – St. Paul International Film Festival (USA – 2009), Jeonju International Film Festival – International Competition (Korea – 2009), Documenta Madrid – Official Competition (Spain- 2009), Monaco Charity Film Festival – Official Selection (Monaco – 2009) *Special Jury Price*, Arab Film Festival Rotterdam (Netherlands – 2009) *Silver Hawk*, Freiburger film forum (Germany – 2009), Edinburgh International Film Festival (UK – 2009), FID Marseille – special screenings (France – 2009), Festival du Film Franco-Arabe (Jordan – 2009), Expresión en Corto International Film Festival – Competition (Mexico – 2009) *Special Mention of the Jury*, Dokufest – International Documentary competition (Kosovo – 2009) *Special Mention of the Jury*, Yerevan International Film Festival – International Doc. Competition (Armenia – 2009), Limesos International Film Festival (Cyprus – 2009), Film Festival Della Lessinia – Competition (Italy – 2009) *Special Mention of the Jury*, Mediterranean Film Festival – Official Competition (Bosnia and Herzegovine – 2009), Split International Film Festival – Forum Section (Croatia – 2009), EBS International Documentary Film Festival – Award-winning Documentaries Section (South Korea – 2009), Vancouver International Film Festival (Canada – 2009), AMAL – Euro-Arab Film Festival – Official Selection (Spain – 2009) *Best documentary*, Free Zone Human Rights Film Festival (Serbia – 2009), Corona Film Festival Cork (Ireland - 2009), Silk Road Film Festival Bursa (Turkey – 2009), Architecture Film Festival Rotterdam (Netherlands – 2009), Films Form the South Oslo (Norway – 2009), Vilnius International Documentary Film Festival (Latvia – 2009).

<http://theonemanvillage.com/>

The One Man Village follows life in the Christian village of Aïn el-Halazoun in the Lebanese Mountains that was emptied in combats during the civil war in Lebanon between 1975 and 1990.

In 1983, the region of the Mount Lebanon, an hour away from the capital Beirut, faced merciless fighting between Christian and Druze militias which ended in reprisals in the form of civilian massacres and the displacement of populations. The Christian inhabitants of Mount Lebanon had to seek refuge in Beirut. Entire villages, including Aïn El-Halazoun, were evacuated and destroyed.*

Reconciliation was officially declared in 1994 and Christians were allowed to return to their villages. Thirteen years later, Aïn El Halazoun is still a ghost village. Its inhabitants decided to stay in Beirut in spite of the difficult living conditions there. They go back to the village to cultivate their plots of land or visit their houses regularly and always leave before sunset.

Only one man decided to return to Aïn el-Halazoun for good : Semaan El-Habre.

Over the period of one year, Simon el-Habre returned to his village with his film team to observe the daily routine in Aïn El-Halazoun. His portrait of life in a quasi ghost village reflects the collective and individual memory. It calls into question formal reconciliations. Yet, through the story of Semaan El-Habre who decided to return home against all odds, it is also, and above all, the story of a healing.

** A religious/ethnic minority, living mainly in the Lebanese Mountains, North Palestine and West Syria.*

Reine MITRI
Vulnérable – 52 mn
director : **Reine Mitri**

LEBANON
© September 2009

co-produced by Djinn House (Lebanon), ZDF-Arte (la 'Lucarne'), RTBF (Belgium),
with the support of CNC (France) - fonds à l'innovation.
Festivals: Prix des Ecrans Documentaires 2009 (Arcueil, France)



Ce film est une chronique d'angoisse et de malaise. De 2006 à 2009 j'ai filmé dans mon espace intime, sur l'écran de télé, une violence au quotidien, et sur l'écran de montage, un autre film qui est resté suspendu – celui sur la guerre de juillet 2006. J'ai aussi filmé mes amis ; ceux qui ont quitté le pays et ceux qui y sont restés. Tout au long, des questions se sont posées : quel espace reste-t-il pour la liberté de l'individu, pour l'espoir, la créativité et l'amour ? Le bonheur individuel, peut-il exister au milieu du malheur collectif ? Comment vivre avec la défaite ?

Mohamed ZRAN – SANGHO FILMS
Vivre Ici – 120 mn
director : Mohamed Zran

TUNISIA
© September 2009

Prebuy from YLE (Finland) ; Tunisian Television, **with the support** of Ministry of Culture (Tunisia), Fonds francophone de production audiovisuelle du Sud (France) Delivery end of 2008.
Festivals: Compétition officielle au festival Middle East International Film Festival (MEIFF)- Abu Dhabi, *Prix du meilleur réalisateur*, Compétition officielle Festival de Florence (Italie)

<http://www.mohamedzran.com/vivreici/index.php>



A hardware shop in southeast Tunisia is the unlikely arena for some pertinent political and philosophical discussions in Mohamed Zran's heartfelt tribut conversation, philosophy, and peace. Behind his shop counter, Simon is confidant and ringmaster to the chattier inhabitants of Zarziz, a small city in the south Tunisia. Among many others, a progressive teacher, a dreaming artist, a taxidriver, and a jovial marriage-fixer pass between the store's shelves. "There Afghanistan, Palestine and Israel, they make war in the name of ideals, chimera, values and follies... Everywhere, agitation is having the upper hand in a world where everybody is trying to find their own little room," writes director Mohamed Zran. "Here, in Zarziz, a feeling of peace is covering the elements." Uncovering true world of the Middle East, Being Here showcases the day-to-day reality of its peaceful inhabitants, those quick to smile and eager to co-exist.

Maher ABI SAMRA
La dérive de l'individu / The drift of the Individual
director : Maher Abi Samra

LEBANON
© March 2010

Co-producer : Serge Lalou - les Films d'Ici (France). Confirmed interest from NTV (Lebanese Television) & Al Arabyia



A reflection on the intersecting destinies of comrades who were once bound by ideologies and remain tightly knit friends, We Were Communists is director MaherAbi Samra's uninhibited examination of the legacy of Lebanon's civil war and its post-war present. Four men recount their stories from the battlefield, their broken dreams, and their eventual disillusionment in light of the country's ongoing unsettled crises. At once artistically and politically audacious, incisive and tender, We Were Communists travels the chimeric and daunting reality of Lebanon's fractured post-war landscape. As sectarian leaders continue to strengthen their hold over political discourse, the film poses serious questions regarding the country's future.

Aziz DAIRI – GAMA C
Soleika, la dernière dame du mellah de Fès / the last lady of the Mellah in Fez
director : Aziz Dairi

MOROCCO
PRODUCTION

Prebuy from 2M (Morroccan Television) **with the support** of Musée du Judaïsme Marocain (Bruxelles). Negotiating for a sale to France 5 (via Carlos Pinski, met in Sintra-S3). Delivery end of 2009.

<p style="text-align: center;">Habiba DJAHNINE - POLYGONE ÉTOILÉ Algérie Terre d'asile director : Habiba Djahnine</p> <p>The project is being rewritten further to the first location scoutings. The director/producer is looking to set up a French-Algerian coproduction.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">ALGERIA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DEVELOPMENT</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Akram SAFADI Gold Dreams for 2008 director : Akram Safadi</p> <p>The director is rewriting the project.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">PALESTINE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DEVELOPMENT</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Hichem BEN AMMAR - 5/5 PRODUCTIONS Renaissance 2° director : Hichem Ben Ammar</p> <p>The director/producer is currently working mainly on other projects.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">TUNISIA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DEVELOPMENT On hold</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Hocine SAADI - SIMPLE PRODUCTION La vérité et le mensonge / Truth and Lie director : Hocine Saadi</p> <p>The director/producer is currently working mainly on other projects.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">ALGERIA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DEVELOPMENT On hold</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Syhem BELKHODJA-LATRACHE - DOC A TUNIS 2006-2009</p> <p>A workshop was proposed during the festival 2008 in association with EURODOC & ARTE.</p> <p>Partners : Ministère de la Culture et de la Sauvegarde du Patrimoine - Ministère des affaires étrangères - Ministère de la Jeunesse, des Sports et de l'Education Physique - Ministère du Tourisme - Agence Tunisienne de Communication Extérieure - Ministère Français des Affaires Etrangères (DGCID - Bureau du Documentaire) - EDAC (Tunis) - Association Ness El Fen - Festival IDFA (Hollande), FID Marseille (France), Lussas, Documentaire Sur Grand Ecran, DOCUDAYS (Liban).</p> <p>With the support of : Institut Français de Coopération (Tunis) è Jan Vrijman Fund (Amsterdam) - Goethe Institut (Tunis) - Ambassade de Suisse - ONTT - ERTT - Radio Mosaique - La Presse de Tunisie - ARTE - EURODOC - TUNISAIR - ESAC - ISAMM - Ecole Louis Lumière, Femis (Paris) - SEMAT (Cairo) - AID (Amman) - Centre Culturel Menzah 6.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">TUNISIA</p>