


Palestine Showcase Cannes Docs 2024

 Lérins 4, Cinema 4, Marché du Film

 Sunday 19, May 2024

 10:00 - 11:15

Palestine Showcase / Cannes Docs 2024

The months since October 2023 have underlined the great struggle we face as Palestinians to merely exist. Our arts and culture - and in particular, our cinema - have long played a fundamental role in protecting our narrative and reflecting the Palestinian struggle over the past 76 years. Against the backdrop of the current genocide, it has never been more urgent for Palestinian filmmaking to be platformed as a space of creative resistance, exchange and dialogue. The Palestine Film Institute's work in supporting and promoting Palestinian narratives stems from the belief that we can rebuild the cultural infrastructure that has been destroyed; this is our commitment to a better future for the next generation. Our work to enable the participation of Palestinian filmmakers on their own terms in international forums is a vital part of this work.

Returning to Cannes for the 7th year, we are proud to present 4 documentaries in progress in partnership with Cannes Docs during the Marché du Film (20-17th May). These projects were selected by an independent international jury, have received bespoke mentorship by PFI industry consultants and are supported to access the festival through accreditation and travel stipends. We invite you to join us for the 2024 Palestine Showcase at Cannes Docs.

PFI would like to thank everyone who has supported us in amplifying the voices and images of the Palestinian people and their filmmakers since we launched in 2018. Big thanks to the Cannes Doc team who have provided us with this vital safe space. Heartfelt thanks to the friends who have pledged their support financially to enable the attendance and participation of the projects teams at Cannes Docs this year. Finally, we thank the filmmakers who keep believing in the power of storytelling, and their trust in the institute to bring their films and projects to the international platform of Cannes.

Jurors Statement

With the recent war on Gaza, Palestinian filmmakers are struggling to keep up the work they are doing. The war didn't only shake our humanity and lives, but it also had a significant impact on the film industry inside Palestine and in exile. The projects we read in the selection directly and indirectly reminded us of the Palestinian struggle from 1948 until now, the ongoing struggle of families forced to leave their country and settle in different countries with no means and no chance of returning, a personal and public archive that tells us that nothing changed since the Nakba.

We had the chance to view projects comprising different stories from Palestine and Palestinians. We had a chance to have a more humane and close look at the daily life of young men and women living under the occupation and how they try to revoke this reality.

All the presented projects are worth supporting. All the projects must be made, and all the projects need to be screened around the world.

Even though it is hard in the current war, we need to encourage filmmakers to document and make their films. The Palestine Film Institute delegation will help key industry people see beyond the image and the news. These films are our only chance to see the reality of Palestine and Palestinians.





Sheyma Buali

Sheyma Buali is a producer, arts journalist and film festival director working with arts, cinema and television from and about the Arabic-speaking region. She is Artistic Director of the London Palestine Film Festival. Most recently, she has been co-editor of BBC Arabic's art programme, Art for Life, looking at ways the arts explore our shared realities.



Soleil Gharbieh

Soleil joined the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture - AFAC as a Grants manager in 2017; she has managed both AFAC film programs, Documentary and Cinema, and the Music Program since then. Before joining AFAC, from 2014 to 2016, Soleil lived in Cairo, Egypt, for three years, where she became heavily involved in the local independent music scene, working with the Cairo Jazz Club Agency (CJC Agency). Through her role with AFAC, Soleil sat on different film funding panels and pitching forums in the region and abroad.



Nedin Mutic

Nedin has been working in film for the past 15 years. He is a Senior Adviser - talent, diversity and inclusion at the Norwegian Film Institute. He aspires to push and challenge the film industry to be more diverse, inclusive, sharing, caring, relevant & innovative.



Selected Projects

My Father's House

Directed by: Mahdi Fleifel

Produced by: Geoff Arbourne (Inside Out Films, UK)

Country of production: Palestine, Denmark

Synopsis:

Nine years after his father's death, the filmmaker Mahdi Fleifel returns from years of exile to the small town of Elsinore in Denmark where he grew up and begins a personal journey of reconciliation. My Father's House is a film about memory, exile, and a father and his son.

Director's profile:

Born in Dubai, Mahdi Fleifel lives and works between Denmark, England and Greece. A graduate of the UK's National Film & Television School, he studied Fiction directing under Stephen Frears and Pawel Pawlikowski. In 2010 he founded the company Nakba FilmWorks. Fleifel's critically acclaimed debut feature, A WORLD NOT OURS, premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and received over 30 awards, including the Berlinale Peace Prize and the Edinburgh, Yamagata and DOC:NYC Grand Jury Prizes. He was named Best New Nordic Voice at Nordisk Panorama and received the New Talent Award at CPH:DOX in 2013.

Producer's profile:

Geoff Arbourne is the Emmy award-winning producer and founder of Inside Out Films. An independent and enterprising production company built around a global community of filmmakers operating out of the U.K. and South Africa.

Runtime: 100'

Expected release: January, 2025

Production stage: Production

Budget: \$510 019 (19% in place)

Looking for: Buyers, Co-Producers, Gap Financing



Palestine Comedy Club

Directed by: Alaa Aaliabdallah "Regash"

Produced by: Charlotte Knowles (Tough Crowd, UK)

Country of production: Palestine, UK

Synopsis:

Palestine Comedy Club follows five Palestinian stand-up comedians who write and tour a stand-up comedy show exploring the unlikely, often dark humour that surrounds the complexity of Palestinian identity. What starts as a blending of comic traditions to encourage honest and open reflections through the shared enjoyment of laughter becomes an existential imperative to share common humanity.

Director's profile:

Regash (Alaa Aliabdallah) has worked as a photographer and filmmaker with many artists and organisations such as the Palestinian Circus School, Freedom Theatre, Stereo48 Dance Company, and Sarreyet Ramallah. Regash is an internationally recognised portrait and street photographer, with an online audience of over 20,000 people. He produces photography for international fashion brands and magazines. Palestine Comedy Club is Regash's debut feature documentary.

Producer's profile:

Charlotte Knowles is an award-winning TV and film producer. Her work has been featured on BBC, ITN, and Arte. Notable achievements include her term as CEO of the Independent Film Trust, where she oversaw the development and production of various critically acclaimed projects, including the award-winning, Scottish BAFTA and BIFA nominated documentary "Rebel Dykes." In 2022, Charlotte founded Tough Crowd Limited, a production company exploring narratives at the intersection of politics and pop-culture. Palestine Comedy Club is the first feature documentary to appear from Tough Crowd. Under the Tough Crowd banner, Charlotte also created the CreativeHQ App, a mobile app providing professional development and business coaching for creative media producers.

Runtime: 90'

Expected release: December, 2024

Budget: €261 740 (30% in place)

Looking for: Festivals, Sales Agents / Distributors, Buyers, Gap Financing



The Myth of Mahmoud

Directed by: Mayar Hamdan, Shaima Al-Tamimi

Produced by: Shaima Al-Tamimi (Y2P, Qatar)

Country of production: Palestine, Qatar, USA, Yemen, Kenya, Lebanon

Synopsis:

In this reflexive and creative documentary, Mayar picks up the camera to capture the intricate lives of her Palestinian family, who have resided in Doha for over 60 years. Against the backdrop of never-ending conflicts in their hometown, Gaza, the family's Doha home reflects their turmoil. The focal point is Mayar's mother, Amal, whose sense of displacement and grief are concealed beneath a veil of sarcasm.

Director's profile:

Mayar Hamdan, a Palestinian multi-platform writer, director, and producer, brings a distinctive design sensibility to her work, exploring MENA-centered themes like migration, displacement, generational trauma, and female-centered stories through the lens of color theory. With a background in art & technology from CalArts, film training & development via the Doha Film Institute, game writing for multiple indie studios in Barcelona, and as a Lead Narrative Designer for Saudi game studio Lunacy, she now serves as a story consultant for multiple AAA games and as a writer for a Saudi Netflix series in Development. Her diverse portfolio includes writing, directing, and producing projects like 'Beit Byoot' (2019), available on Sundance TV, 'Don't Get Too Comfortable' (2021), which premiered at the Venice International Film Festival, and Ibqi: A Visual EP, set to be released in 2024.

Producer's profile:

Shaima Al-Tamimi, a Yemeni-East African visual storyteller based in Qatar, uses her lived experiences to address social issues focusing on migration, healing, and sociocultural dynamics. A 2020 Photography and Social Justice Fellow at the Magnum Foundation, she created 'Don't Get Too Comfortable' (2021), which was nominated for the Orizzonti Award for Best Short Film at the Venice International Film Festival and showcased at over 35 festivals worldwide. Shaima is also on the board of YWT, an organization based in Yemen that focuses on providing opportunities in film mentorship and production to the youth of Yemen.

Runtime: 90' / 52' for TV

Expected release: February, 2027

Production stage: In-Production (55-60% shot)

Budget: \$120,000 (35-30% in place)

Looking for: Financing, Co-Production, Distributors, Buyers, Strategic Guidance



Unmaking of

Directed by: Bilal Alkhatib

Produced by: Bilal Alkhatib (Palestine), Ala' Abu Ghoush (Palestine), Tania El Khoury (Les Films de l'Altaï, France, Lebanon)

Country of production: Palestine, France, Lebanon

Synopsis:

Less than two weeks before shooting a movie by Cherine Dabis in the West Bank, a war break out in Gaza. For a week, the camera follows the studio crew, documenting the war's impact on the artists and showcasing their adaptation to tough decisions amid an intensely harsh reality.

Director's profile:

Bilal Alkhatib is a filmmaker from Palestine, holding a BA degree in Media and Tv. He started working in the film industry as a cinematographer and gaffer, He has written and directed several documentary and short films that participated in the international festivals, such as the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival. His recent film "Palestine 87" won numerous awards, Golden Tanit for Best Short Film at the Carthage Film Festival and Best Film at the Jerusalem Arab Film Festival. Bilal is also working on his first feature film and studying for a master's degree in cinema.

Producer's profile:

Ala' Abu Ghoush is a filmmaker from Jerusalem, He has worked as a production designer in numerous feature films that have received various international awards, In 2009 he moved to France, where he studied cinema at the ENSAV, He directed three short films: "Hammurabi," "Goldfish," and "Metro Gaza."

Tania El Khoury After filmmaking and psychology studies in Beirut, Tania moved to Paris in 2002 she finished a master's degree in cinema. In 2017, she founded the production company Khamsin Films in Beirut and in 2020 she founded the Paris-based production company Les Films de l'Altaï. She produced recently the latest feature fiction of filmmaker Ghassan Salhab, The River (International Competition, Locarno 2021), Sonia Ben Slama's newest feature documentary Machtat (International competition Visions du Réel, ACID Cannes 2023)

Runtime: 85'

Expected release: April, 2025

Production stage: Post-production

Budget: \$93 150 (41% in place)

Looking for: Co-producers, Gap Financing, Distributors



Consultants



Jihan Tahiri

Jihan is an Egyptian-French award-winning director, writer, visual artist, and producer. She is the General Director of the Berlin-based documentary support and capacity-building institution DOX BOX. In 2017, Tahiri was invited to join the Academy of Arts and Sciences (Oscars). Additionally, she is a mentor at the Documentary Campus in Germany and OuagaFilm Lab in Burkina Faso. Her recent work as a visual artist includes exhibitions in France, Germany, Norway, Mexico, and Poland. Tahiri started her career as a foreign correspondent covering Middle Eastern politics. In 1990, she began directing and producing documentaries for the BBC, PBS, and Arte. Her award-winning documentaries include "Nasser", which premiered in the official selection at Toronto International Film Festival and was the grand winner of the Africa Movie Academy Awards; and the Emmy-nominated "House of Saud". Her writings include: "Les Sept Vies de Yasser Arafat" and "Israel and the Arabs: the 50 Years War".



Raed Andoni

Raed is a Palestinian filmmaker, began his career in 1997 as a producer. He produced a number of films acclaimed in international festivals and markets. In 2006 he directed his first -60minute documentary IMPROVISATION which was screened in various international festivals and TV channels.

His feature FIX-ME premiered in the official competition at the Sundance Film Festival in 2010, was in the ACID selection at the Cannes festival 2011 and many other festivals and was released in theaters in France and Switzerland. Andoni's latest film GHOST HUNTING premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival 2017 and won the Glashütte Original Documentary Award and the people's choice award. GHOST HUNTING took part in over 150 festivals and won 20 prizes before it became Palestine's Official ticket to the OSCARS in 2019.



Elhum Shakerifar

Elhum is a producer, curator, poet and translator; she runs the London-based company Hakawati ('storyteller' in Arabic). Her credits include The Runner (2013, Saeed Taji Farouky), A Syrian Love Story (2015, Sean McAllister), Of Love & Law (2017, Hikaru Toda), Even When I Fall (2017, Sky Neal & Dara McLarnon) and Ayouni (2020, Yasmin Fedda); she is currently producing Ana Naomi de Sousa's debut feature with BBC Films. Elhum's award-winning productions have garnered her awards including a BAFTA nomination for Outstanding Debut (2016), a British Film Institute 'Vision Award' (2016) and the Women in Film & TV Factual Award (2017). As a film curator with particular focus on the SWANA region, she has worked with London Film Festival (21-2014), Shubbak – the festival of contemporary Arab culture (19-2015), BFI (Drama and Desire, the films of Youssef Chahine, 2023), Barbican (Poetry in Motion: Contemporary Iranian Cinema, 2019) and Art on the Underground. She has taught documentary at Freie Berlin, Goldsmiths, UCL as well as in Georgia, Lebanon, Egypt and Tunisia. Elhum is a member of APSA, and a voting BAFTA and AMPAS member.

PFI Team



Mohamed Jabaly

Mohamed is a Palestinian filmmaker and artist from Gaza City.

He won several Awards for his work, including Best Directing at IDFA for his latest film "Life is Beautiful – Al Haya Helwa", the Grand Prix Award at FIFDH, the International Competition Jury Award for Best Film at One World Festival and the Audience Award at Docville Belgium. His previous award-winning

documentary, "Ambulance", has been shown at some of the world's largest film festivals and has been broadcast globally. Mohamed has held workshops in filmmaking for young people and served on juries for several film festivals. Mohamed joined in co-founding Palestine Film Institute and he is the Producer of the Documentary Hub. Mohamed holds a BA from Nordland Film & Art College in Northern Norway and is currently pursuing his MA at the National Academy of Arts in Oslo while touring his new film.



Open Space

The company began its exceptional journey in the year 2023, where Hamza AbuAyyash, Ala Abbad, and Fidaa Al Amleh founded it.

Open Space is a dynamic and forward-thinking media production company specializing in the creation and distribution of captivating content across

various platforms. With a team of talented professionals and a passion for innovation, we are dedicated to delivering exceptional media experiences that engage, inspire, and entertain audiences around the world.

Eversince Open Space was founded, the company became the media partner for the PFI.

About PFI

Palestine Film Institute (PFI) is an independent Palestinian non-profit founded in 2019. The PFI was born out of a shared desire by Palestinian filmmakers to establish an inclusive organisation with a mission to develop, promote, and strengthen the artistic community and film industry in Palestine and in the diaspora as well as to preserve their cinema. PFI is currently run by a group of dedicated volunteers, most of whom are also filmmakers and producers.

This year's PFI Cannes showcase is supported by IDA and IMS



Donations can be made via PayPal to:

info@palestinefilmintstitute.org

or via bank transfer in Euro or USD to the account listed below, indicating “PFI Delegations support” in the reference.

PFI Bank Details:

Bank Name:	Triodos
Bank address:	Rue Haute, Hoogsstraat 1000 ,3/139 Bruxelles
Account Name:	Palestine Film Institute
IBAN:	BE6965 8154 5230 18
BIC:	TRIOBEBB



Cannes Docs 2024 Palestine Showcase



Get in touch with us at

info@palestinefilmnstitute.org

Thank you for your continued support for the struggle of
a free Palestine