

# لجنة أبوظبي للأفلام ABU DHABI FILM COMMISSION

August - September 2011 **Newsletter**

## Finalists Announced for 2011 Shasha Grant

In September, the Film Commission unveiled the finalists for the 2011 Shasha Grant. The Shasha Grant, now in its fifth year is the Film Commission's international \$100,000 screenwriting competition whose winner is chosen by industry professionals from around the world.

The Film Commission solicited feature-length submissions both in Arabic and English from across the Middle East and other parts of the world. The winning filmmaker will receive a \$100,000 development grant and ADFC will assist the project to secure production financing.



## The 2011 Shasha Grant finalists are:

"3000 Nights" by Mai Masri – Palestine  
 "The Grave Digger" by Khadar Ahmed – Somalia  
 "Nothing Doing in Baghdad" by Maysoun Pachachi – UAE/Iraq  
 "Red Valentine" by Amin Matalqa – Jordan/USA  
 "Asmahan" by Ziad Hamzeh – Syria/USA  
 "Blessed Benefit" by Mahmoud Al Massad - Jordan

Last year's Shasha Grant was shared between two winners: Dima Hamdan (*The Kidnap*) and Kasem Kharsa (*Shelter*). The Film Commission has continued to work closely with Hamdan and Kharsa to see their projects through development and production.

## GCC Films at Malmo Arab Film Festival, Sweden

Fifteen films from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Yemen and Iraq were showcased at Malmo Arab Film Festival in Sweden. The list of films included shorts, features and documentaries, which were previously showcased at the Dubai-based Gulf Film Festival (GFF). Two UAE award-winning films were in competition for honors at Malmo, including Khalid Al Mahmood's *Sabeel* and Nujoom Al Ghanem's *Hamama*. Other UAE films in the GFF showcase included: Ali Mostafa's feature film *City of Life*, Moath Bin Hafez's *Constructing Dreams*, Naser Al Yaqoobi's *Mountain Sheik*, Elham Sharaf and Hind Al Hammadi's *Finding Mr. & Mrs. Right: Dubai Style*, and Jamal Salim's *Slow Death*.

For more information visit [www.malmoarabfilmfestival.se](http://www.malmoarabfilmfestival.se)



## Filmed in Abu Dhabi in August & September

The Film Commission team assisted different major projects and facilitated their location & production needs and provided the necessary permits and clearance while filming in Abu Dhabi. The production that took place during the month of August and September were a web series called *Classified* by the UAE filmmaker Ali Mustafa, *X Machines* by Discovery Channel – Documentary Series, *The Legend of Abu Dhabi* by ETTV – TV Report, *Earthrise* by Al Jazeera English – Documentary Series, *Poetry (One World)* by Hana Makki – Poetry Video, *Royal Caribbean* by Arabian Adventure – Commercial and a Czech TV Fam Trip - TV report. The different productions took place mainly in Abu Dhabi city using the iconic buildings and modern streets.



## From our Locations Library: Al Forsan International Sports Resort

Al Forsan International Sports Resort is the first of its kind in the Middle East, featuring a combination of world-class extreme and leisure sports and an outstanding range of dining and leisure facilities.

The Resort is located in Khalifa City and just 10 minutes away from the Abu Dhabi International Airport and 25mins from downtown.

Al Forsan can be a perfect filming location; it can occupy large film crews and equipment trucks. The electricity supply can easily be accessed for indoor filming, whereas for an outdoor filming an external generator must be used.

Please contact our Locations Department for filming permits on +971 2 4012703

or send an e-mail to

[locations@film.gov.ae](mailto:locations@film.gov.ae)



## Abu Dhabi Film Commission Supports the F1

Abu Dhabi Film Commission will once again support the annual Formula 1™ Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, which takes place from the 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> November. As in previous years, the Film Commission will assistance with all filming permits including those required for major international broadcasters. The Formula 1 race will take place at Yas Marina Circuit on Yas Island, which includes many luxurious hotels and spectacular shooting locations, such as the iconic Yas Hotel, a luxury marina yacht club, the Yas Island golf links and the Ferrari World indoor theme park.



## Sea Shadow Released in the UAE

Image Nation Abu Dhabi's first Emirati film production, *Sea Shadow*, will premiere in the UAE during the Abu Dhabi Film Festival 13-22 October 2011. The film was officially selected in New Horizons Competition and will have two official screenings.

The coming of age story, set in a small seaside neighborhood in Ras Al-Khaimah, follows 16 year-olds Mansoor and Kaltham as they struggle with traditions and conventions on their journey towards adulthood. The film is fully produced by Image Nation Abu Dhabi, and distributed in the Arab Region by Empire International, and internationally by Fortissimo Films. The production was shot and edited entirely in the UAE and serviced by local facility companies and post production houses.

For more information and tickets [www.abudhabifilmfestival.ae](http://www.abudhabifilmfestival.ae)

## Sea Shadow Related Links

The film's page on Nawaf Al-Janahi's website [www.nawafaljanahi.com/film/seashadow.html](http://www.nawafaljanahi.com/film/seashadow.html)  
 The film's page on IMDb [www.imdb.com/title/tt1663181](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1663181)



## Abu Dhabi Film Festival Announces 2011 Programme

The Abu Dhabi Film Festival (ADFF), now in it's fifth edition, has announced the 2011 festival programme, which includes more than 200 films representing 43 countries selected from more than 3,000 submissions worldwide. The festival opens on October 13 with the screening of the critically acclaimed Monsieur Lazhar and continues through October 22 with a selection of features, shorts and documentaries by established and emerging filmmakers.

For more information visit: [www.abudhabifilmfestival.ae](http://www.abudhabifilmfestival.ae)



## Emirates Film Competition Features New Voices Alumni

New Voices alumni Anna Ehtesham's documentary *Kingdom of Women* has been chosen for screening at the upcoming Abu Dhabi Film Festival (Oct 13-22 2011), within the Emirates Film Competition (EFC) category. This is her second consecutive year at the festival as her first documentary *Leap of Faith*, which she worked on during her training at the Abu Dhabi Film Commission New Voices Documentary Programme, was also screened at the festival last year.

*Kingdom of Women* is a short documentary about a women-only market 'Meena Bazar' in Karachi. It is a tribute to ordinary women in Pakistan caught in extraordinary circumstances. This film, which paints a different portrait of Pakistani women, also aims to give a positive picture of Pakistan, particularly Karachi, which has been in the news for the wrong reasons.

