

لجنة أبوظبي للأفلام ABU DHABI FILM COMMISSION

October – November 2011 Newsletter

Abu Dhabi Film Commission at your service

The Abu Dhabi Film Commission supported more than 39 media teams, who came from around the world to cover the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The Film Commission's team provided 24 hour assistance with all filming permits and customs clearance, as well as advise on stock footage suppliers, local studios and general services to the broadcasters. This is the third year in a row in which Abu Dhabi Film Commission has been working to successfully assist international broadcasters covering Formula 1 in Abu Dhabi.

Our services include an online location library with a great variety of fantastic locations that have not been filmed. We also offer free online location permitting, a broad database of contacts of production companies, studios and equipment rentals, to better assist you with networking and finding the right people to bring your production together quickly.

We also act as liaison between the production and local community and assist them with any resources needed on set.

We look forward to supporting your next film in Abu Dhabi and making sure you have a great experience.

For more information visit

film.gov.ae

Abu Dhabi Film Commission Announces 2011 Shasha Grant Winner

Abu Dhabi Film Commission presented the 2011 Shasha Grant to Mahmoud Al Massad for the project Blessed Benefit "Inshalla Ista'fadet". The Shasha Grant, now in its fifth year, is the Film Commission's international \$100,000 screenwriting competition designed to showcase rising film talent from across the Middle East.

Mahmoud will receive a \$100,000 development grant and assistance from the Film Commission to try to secure production financing. He was chosen by a panel of international industry professionals from among six finalists.

The story is about a construction worker Ahmad, that gets tangled up in an unfortunate business deal, he is sentenced to four months in prison. On his way in, he meets professional fraudster Khaled, who is released after doing time for falsifying cheques. When Khaled ruins Ahmad's last hope to prove his innocence, Ahmad starts to realise life inside prison might not be free, but it may be better than the one he has outside.

Mahmoud is a Writer and Producer who has received international critical acclaim for his documentaries *Recycle* and *This is My Picture When I Was Dead*, both films were supported by the Sundance Institute. *Recycle* was awarded with the World Cinema Cinematography Award at Sundance 2008 and was screened at over 70 festivals. It was theatrically released in several European countries and sold to ITVS (USA). *This is My Picture When I Was Dead* (co-produced with ITVS, Dubai Film Connection Pitch Award) premiered at IDFA 2010, and won the Best Documentary Award at Dubai International Film Festival. Mahmoud attended the 2007 Sundance Director's Lab, and EAVE 2009.

The panel of judges this year included Michael Andreen, a Production Executive who has worked at Disney and Warner Brothers, Rita Dagher, Head of Acquisitions at Wild Bunch, Ali Jafaar, Executive Director of Independent Film Division at Quinta Communications, Producer Daniela Tully and Producer Mohammed Hefzy, Founder of Film Clinic in Egypt.

The six finalists were selected from a pool of feature-length scripts written in Arabic and English by filmmakers and scriptwriters from across the Middle East and other parts of the world.

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.

The Shasha Grant is an initiative by Abu Dhabi Film Commission that aims to support the development of Abu Dhabi as a regional production hub and to help Arab filmmakers tell their stories through film.



Call for Interns: Afam Oaseera (Short Films Production)

Abu Dhabi Film Commission is looking for enthusiastic interns to work on different short films sets in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The tasks will vary between filming behind the scenes, interviewing cast and crew, taking photos and editing footage. If you wish to volunteer.

please send us your CV to

communication@film.gov.ae

Emirati Director Khalid Al Mahmoud is a shortlist of 10 most influential in Arab film community

Award-winning Emirati Filmmaker Khalid Al Mahmoud was shortlisted among 10 Arab film personalities named "most influential in the Arab film community" by Screen International magazine.

The selection came as part of a detailed report, "Arab Film Opens Up," celebrating their contribution for 'making films that touched the minds and hearts of all spectators within a short time.'

Khalid's short film Sabeel was screened at Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale) in 2011, as part of the official competition and at the Locarno Film Festival. His participation marked the first short film from the GCC to compete at such prestigious international film festivals.

The other Arab personalities profiled in the report include: Saudi director, producer and actress Ahd Kamel; Palestinian director and producer Basil Khalil; Jordanian producer Rula Nasser; Jordanian director Zaid Abu Hamdan; Egyptian director Ayten Amin; Egyptian actress Arwa Gouda; Lebanese actress Darine Hamze; Syrian documentary maker Ammar Al-Beik; and Egyptian producer Wael Omar.



From our Locations Library: Al Gharbia (Western Region)

Covering 60,000 square kilometres, an astonishing 71% of Abu Dhabi's landmass, Al Gharbia offers filmmakers a diverse range of locations from ancient forts, uninterrupted desert landscape of the Empty Quarter, amazing coastline and the Oasis Citi's. Al Gharbia is home to some of the tallest dunes outside of the Sahara, the longest coastline in the UAE, a dazzling array of marine life, historical sites and a nature reserve of Arabian wildlife.

Al Gharbia has 7 main cities across the region Madinat Zayed, Mirfa, Liwa, Ghayathi, Sila, Ruwais and Dalma Island, and is close to the borders of Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

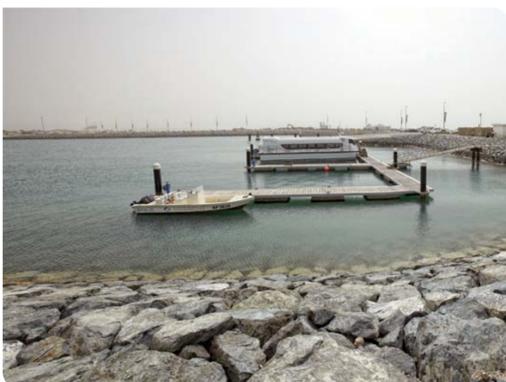
Each year it hosts Al Dhafra Camel Festival, The Liwa Date Festival the Tel Moreeb Dune festival, Car Rally Races and Adventure Challenges..

Please contact our locations department for filming permits on +921 2 401 2701 or send an email to

locations@film.gov.ae

Watch a video about Al Gharbia:

www.film.gov.ae



Abu Dhabi Film Commission supports F1 media teams

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Call Me Breakstein participates in Ambulante Documentary Film Festival

New Voices alumni Sameer Al Jabri's documentary Call Me Breakstein was selected for screening at Ambulante Documentary Film Festival, a traveling documentary film festival founded by Gael Garcia Bernal and Diego Luna that seeks to bring documentaries from all over the world to Mexican audiences. The documentary will be screened for the 2012 edition of the festival.

For more information visit

ambulante.com.mx



Image Nation Abu Dhabi and twofour54 launch Arab Film Studio

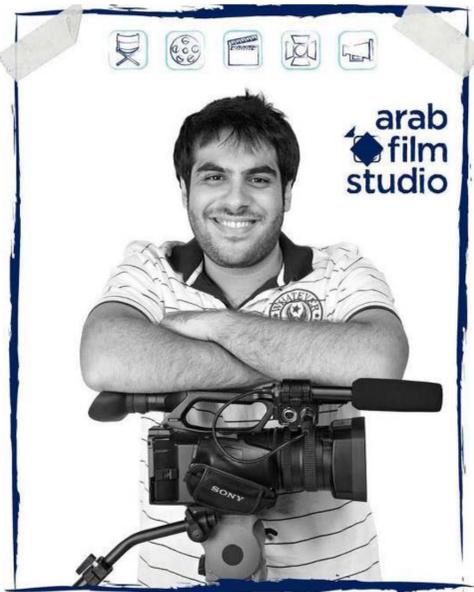
Image Nation Abu Dhabi and twofour54 Tadreeb announced the launch of Arab Film Studio Short Film Competition, a five-year commitment to help develop local film talent in the UAE and encourage growth in the film industry in the Arab region. Arab Film Studio will identify, train and foster budding Emirati filmmakers, providing them with the discipline and training needed for successful careers in the film industry.

The call of entries is now open for Emirati film students and young professionals interested in honing their skills and getting preparation needed to enter the film industry.

The competition winners will participate in rigorous courses covering all aspects of the filmmaking process. Designed and run in partnership with twofour54 Tadreeb, the courses will mirror every step of making films - from pitching, developing an idea, and writing the script, to budgeting, casting, and post-production. Certain challenges will be added to the workshops to keep the courses exciting and fun, with various validations to ensure participants are progressing.

Enter or find more information at

imagenationabudhabi.com/film-studio

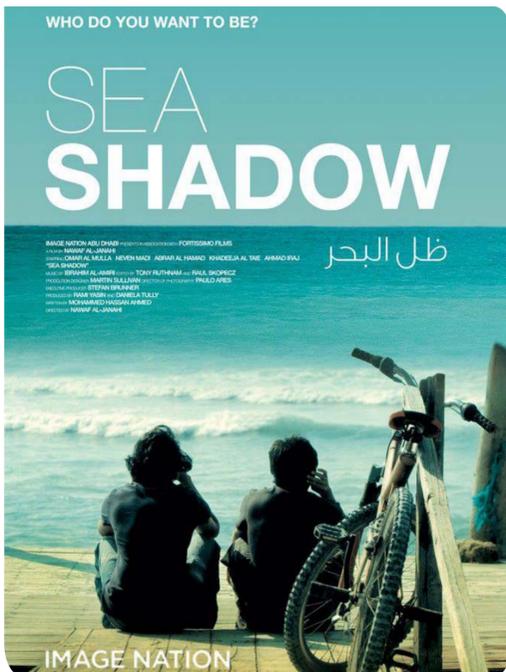


Emirati film Sea Shadow in cinemas across the UAE & GCC

The Emirati film Sea Shadow by acclaimed Emirati film director Nawaf Al-Janahi, which was developed and produced by Image Nation Abu Dhabi, is now in cinemas across UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain. The film was revealed to the world on a special premiere in Abu Dhabi during the Abu Dhabi Film Festival 2011.

For more information visit

www.seashadowmovie.com



Filed in Abu Dhabi in October & November

The Film Commission team supported different major projects and facilitated their location & production needs and provided the necessary permits and clearance while filming in Abu Dhabi. The productions that took place during the month of October and November were:

Keeping Up with the Kardashians Reality Show on ETV; Al Wathba Veolia Waste Water Company a documentary by e-motion Production Company; Security and Commodities Stock Market corporate video by MBC TV; Everything I do for you, a feature film from the Philippines and Coverage of the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix by the TF11 French News Channel.

Two major productions filmed in Abu Dhabi were released recently. The Malayalam film Oru Marubhoomi Kadha by Bollywood Director Priyadarshan, which was filmed in Abu Dhabi beginning of the year, is now in cinemas around India and a documentary film The Legend of Abu Dhabi was broadcasted on Taiwanese ETV Channel.

Watch Trailer Oru Marubhoomi Kadha:

film.gov.ae/trailer

Watch Trailer The Legend of Abu Dhabi:

youtube.com



for more information, please visit our website: www.film.gov.ae
we would like to receive your feedback: communication@film.gov.ae