ARAB DOCUMENTARY FILM PROGRAM 2011

AFAC | The Arab Fund For Arts and Culture
Sundance Institute | Documentary

AFAC is an Arab-based, independent Arab initiative launched in 2007 to provide direct funding to projects in cinema, visual arts, performing arts, literature, music, and research across the Arab world and globally facilitating cultural exchange.

www.arabculturefund.org
Since 2007, the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC) has awarded grants to more than 75 film projects of all kinds through open calls for proposals and special programs under three programs:

1. General Cinema Fund for the development, production and post-production of full-length and short-length documentaries, animation, experimental, and feature films (annual call).
2. ADFP - The Arab Documentary Film Program supports feature-length documentaries with a focus on the Sundance Institute. The third call for proposals opens in early 2012
3. Special Cinema Programs - Programs such as Crossroads that address the current context in the Arab world and support filmmakers in various genres throughout the region.

PROGRAMS

ADFP GRANTEES 2011

PRODUCTION AND POST-PRODUCTION

The Runner
Saeed Taji Farouky, Palestine
The Runner provides a portrait of a hero at the end of his endurance. It is an exploration of what drives us to take risks, and make sacrifices, in such a country. It is a love story that is virtually unknown. It is a film about the burden of being a hero. It is told through the story of a 28-year-old distance runner - Salah Ahmed - whose journey transformed him from an athlete into the symbol of a hero.

The Man Inside
Karin Goupy, Egypt/France/Kuwait
The Man Inside is a feature documentary portrait of an absent father, set inside a hotel room, on the tops of earth. A man enters the room. He leaves only indirect indications of his presence: the noise he makes when he’s walking, waking up, going to bed or taking a shower. He is reading letters from his father, an Egyptian citizen, exiled in Kuwait City, letters that often went unanswered.

My Love Awaits me by the Sea
Maia Darvesh, Jordan
A woman embarks on her journey from Jordan back to Palestine to find her imaginary lover, Hasan, a decapitated poet and illustrator. Through his fantasy world she discovers the remnants of hope in characters living under occupation. This film is a personal account of displacement, taking the filmmaker on a impossible first journey back to her country of origin. Along the way, she meets characters, searching for Hasan in every one of them: characters that don’t conform to the prevailing stereotypes of Palestinian characters and young men, in order to survive under despising conditions.

74
Ania Rafiel and Reza Rafiel, Lebanon
74 is a feature documentary that showcases a student rebellion in Beirut in the 1970s as seen through the eyes of present-day young activist activists. Based on archival documents and extensive rehearsals with a group of seven activists, the film documents the thoughts and the spirit of young Lebanese militants through group re-enactments of the events of the 1974 BAKW as well as the ongoing histories of the personalities involved in filming them, in order to understand the relation between film and history, image and reality, where a Маиолио screen offers an exploration through flashbacks of the practices of the Palestinian revolutionary filmmakers in their relations with the various underground networks of militant cinemas around the world.

Off Frame
Shoufani, the director’s father. Shoufani is a documentary about the fall of the PLO from the hands of the poor to build beautiful and fancy houses for the rich. After only two years of cutting stones, the deadly disease of silicosis invades these young men’s lungs.

Journey of Migration
Hind Shoufani, Palestine
Journey of Migration is a podcast-murder multi-format documentary about the fall of the PLO as seen through the personal life of Elias Shoufani, the director's father. Shoufani is a historian, an erstwhile farmer, an academic author of over 22 books, a former member of the Revolutionary Federation Council, a widower, an Arab-Israeli specialist, an underground military trainer and a father to two girls. The film explores a unique Palestinian story through dramatic personal testimonies and exile families, from the 1948 Nakka to Shoufani’s deserted resignation from Fatah in 1992, to the unexpected hope inspired by the Arab Spring.

Deadly Business
Zidan El-Kheyver, Algeria
Deadly Business rather than deadly unemployment is the choice made by youth in Thal, Batna, a province at the edge of the Algerian desert, where rampant poverty and unemployment is gnawed by the national government. Here stones are cut and polished by the hands of the poor to build beautiful and fancy houses for the rich. After only two years of cutting stones, the deadly disease of silicosis invades these young men’s lungs.

SCRIPT AND DEVELOPMENT

Cairo-Ar-rehabat
Ali Al-Kharsh, Libya
This documentary is a two dimensional journey into the unknown history and geography of Libya. The geographical plane follows the director on his journey back to Libya after 11 years of exile in France. The film explores the personal story of an artist who had to leave after the Gaddafi’s revolution, army officers who participated in Gaddafi’s revolution 40 years ago, and others who fled the war including the director’s father who kept silent after his escape to Egypt and never shared his story with his new family. It is now and for the first time after 25 years of silence, that he reveals the story to his son. The film is also an inner journey where the director reconciles his past and reconciles with a past he had neither understood nor accepted.

Raise Your Head
Hala Galal, Egypt
In light of current events, many questions arise about the Egyptian revolution: what does Egypt want? Egypt’s future seems to be prompted by a 30-day tumult? Under the Surface explores an unseen revolution that had been stirring beneath the calm surface and which contributed to the shaping of the revolutionary spirit of the 25th of January movement. The film portrays three underground worlds: hip-hop artists, the Ultras, and graffiti artists. The groups differ in their concepts, motives and dynamics, but share a common trait: they all work against the mainstream, whether in effect or by intention.

Raise Your Head
Yasmin El Arbi
You are a Proud Egyptian
Hala Gaal, Egypt
This documentary tackles the present by investigating the corruption of the public health system and questioning future challenges, in light of the urgent need to rebuild Cairo’s infrastructure.