



PRESS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANNES MAKERS, A NEW INITIATIVE DEVELOPPED BY THE MARCHÉ DU FILM, PARTNERS WITH THE RED SEA LABS & THE RED SEA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

THE RED SEA PARTNERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW PROGRAM AIMED AT THE NEXT GENERATION OF FILM INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS IN INTERNATIONAL SALES

Paris – 4 May 2023 – The **Marché du Film – Festival de Cannes** is pleased to announce a new partnership with the **Red Sea Labs** and the **Red Sea Film Festival** for the inaugural edition of the **Cannes Makers** program, running from **22 to 24 May 2023** in Cannes.

This new three-day program will host a new generation of professionals and provide them with personalized coaching, networking opportunities and professional skills development with a special focus on the international sales process.

Eight participants were selected from over 250 applications from 65 countries, including Greece, Germany, Nepal, France, Ukraine and Morocco.

In partnership with the **Red Sea Labs** and the **Red Sea Film International Film Festival**, three additional participants from Saudi Arabia will be integrated into the program: **Raghad Bajbaa** and **Shahd Abonamai** from Saudi Arabia and **Marwan Elshafie**, a Saudi resident from Egypt. These filmmakers were selected by Red Sea Labs, a platform established by the Red Sea Film Foundation to provide comprehensive support to filmmakers in realizing their creative vision and bringing their projects to life from inception to production.

Following Cannes, all 11 participants will reunite for a second session of Cannes Makers as part of the Red Sea Labs program to be held at the Red Sea Film International Film Festival (30 November – 9 December 2023). This program extension in Jeddah will continue to focus on international sales, but with a special emphasis on the Middle East.

Mohammed Al Turki, CEO of the Red Sea Film Foundation, said, “We are delighted to partner with the Marché du Film, one of the largest and most respected film markets in the world. The Cannes Makers program supports the Red Sea’s objectives to support, promote and celebrate a new generation of storytellers and further strengthen our ties within the industry as we rapidly evolve. I’m proud to see filmmakers from Saudi Arabia included in the selection, this is the perfect platform for them to develop and collaborate with filmmakers and industry professionals from around the world.”

MEET THE 3 NEW PARTICIPANTS FROM SAUDI ARABIA

Three young professionals from Saud Arabia will join Cannes Makers in Cannes:

Shahad Abonamai – Saudi Arabia
Raghad Bajbaa – Saudi Arabia
Marwan Elshafie – Saudi Arabia, Egypt



... in addition to the 8 participants already announced:

Eyva Cibrelis-Octaville – France
Angel Lama - Nepal
Darya Levchenko – Ukraine
Clemens Meyer – Germany
Alphonse Morain – France
Noa Nwande – France
Mamoun Scally – Morocco
Errika Zacharopoulou - Greece

This new partnership between Cannes Makers, Red Sea Labs and the Red Sea International Film Festival aims to foster the next generation of film industry professionals and help strengthen international collaboration and ties with the film industry.

About Marché du Film – Festival de Cannes

The Marché du Film, the business wing of the Festival de Cannes, is the largest international gathering of professionals in the film industry. As the key stepping stone in the creation, production and distribution of films around the world, the Marché is proud to bring together over 12,500 industry professionals (including producers, distributors, festival representatives, film institutions, buyers and financiers) from over 120 countries to meet, share ideas & projects and make deals in one unique setting.

Website: www.marchedufilm.com

About Red Sea Labs

The Red Sea Labs is a platform for filmmakers, writers and industry professionals, offering various programs, workshops and masterclasses, to help them realize their vision and projects from inception to production. The Red Sea Labs is running its 10 months feature film development program, The Lodge for the 4th year in partnership with TorinoFilmLab, and sponsored this year by Film Alula. The Shortfilm Klinik in cooperation with the Goethe-Institute, and Filmakademie, targeting promising filmmakers and scriptwriters from Saudi, Germany and GCC. For further press information: labs@redseafilmfest.com

About Red Sea International Film Festival

Red Sea International Film Festival provides a platform for Arab filmmakers and industry professionals from around the world to connect, host feature and short film competitions, and present a series of events, masterclasses, and workshops to support emerging talent. Running alongside the Festival is the Red Sea Souk, the Festival's industry market, designed for global exchange and partnerships between the international and Saudi film industries. The four-day market will offer a packed program of curated events to foster co-production, international distribution, and new business opportunities. The Souk offers unbeatable access to the new vibrant Saudi scene, as well as the best of the Arab market through pitching sessions, one-on-one meetings, screenings, industry talks, and networking events. For further press information: media@redseafilmfest.com
