



**The 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the Marrakech International Film Festival  
November 24<sup>th</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

**THE MARRAKECH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
ANNOUNCES THE 25 PROJECTS AND FILMS SELECTED  
FOR THE 6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE ATLAS WORKSHOPS,  
TAKING PLACE FROM NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> TO 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

**Rabat, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. The Atlas Workshops will take place in Marrakech from November 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.** The industry platform of the Marrakech International Film Festival, which has come to play a key role in the region, has the mission of supporting the new generation of Moroccan, Arab, and African filmmakers by showcasing their projects internationally.

**For its 6<sup>th</sup> edition, the Atlas Workshops presents 16 projects in development and nine films in production or post-production from 11 countries, selected from among the 320 applications received from the Arab world and African continent. The growing number of applications demonstrates the strong artistic vitality in the region, as well as the appeal of the Atlas Workshops programme and the opportunities it offers.**

A reflection of the creativity of regional directors, this year's selection features a diverse range of film genres, from the horror film that marks Sandra Tabet's move into feature film directing with *Rabies* (Lebanon) to Hind Bensari's humanist documentary *Out of School* (Morocco) and the poetic dystopia of Adnane Baraka's new project, *We Don't Forget* (Morocco).

Among the participants are 11 female directors, four of whom are Moroccan, and 12 female producers.

This year's edition welcomes new talents with bold vision, including Leila Basma (Lebanon), whose short film premiered in competition at the Venice International Film Festival, and internationally acclaimed multidisciplinary artist Sammy Baloji (Democratic Republic of the Congo), whose current work is an adaptation of Pier Paolo Pasolini's final screenplay.

This edition of the Atlas Workshops also showcases new projects by filmmakers who have previously made names for themselves on the international scene, such as Youssef Chebbi and Erige Sehiri (Tunisia), both of whom have had work presented in the Directors' Fortnight at the Festival de Cannes, and Khadar Ayderus Ahmed (Somalia), whose film *The Gravedigger's Wife* won wide acclaim.

The Atlas Workshops will unveil the first images of several eagerly anticipated films, including Ala Eddine Slim's *Agora* (Tunisia); Mo Harawe's *The Village next to Paradise* (Somalia); *Motherhood* (Tunisia), by Meryam Joobeur, whose short film was nominated for an Academy Award; and *La Mer au loin*, Moroccan producer and director Saïd Hamich Benlarbi's promising feature, which was selected for the last edition of the workshops while it was in development.

The Atlas Film Showcase will see Moroccan filmmaker Hicham Lasri present extracts from his new, highly original film, *Happy Lovers*.

The teams of the 25 selected projects and films receive **high-quality, tailored support from consultants** with expertise in the areas of screenwriting, production, distribution, editing, and music, before participating in a **Co-Production Market attended by some 250 accredited international professionals**. Juries award **cash prizes totaling €126,000**, including the Artekino Prize.

The Atlas Workshops also presents a series of panels and discussions, including **a conversation with Oscar-nominated director Tarik Saleh** about his film *Boy From Heaven*, which was presented last year in the Official Competition at Festival de Cannes, and **a discussion of the importance of film archives and cinematheques** in preserving and sharing the region's cinematic heritage. Sofia Alaoui presents a **case study of her film Animalia (Morocco)** and the creative significance of special effects in contemporary cinema in Africa and the Middle East. In parallel, in the Atlas Station workspace, professionals will share their expertise on the development of **animated film projects**, the international context for distributing **short films** at festivals and **the art of pitching series** to platforms.

This year, **nine films, six of which are from Morocco, that have received previous support from the Atlas Workshops** when in development and/or post-production, **are presented in the programme of the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the Marrakech International Film Festival**: Sofia Alaoui's *Animalia* (Morocco); Lina Soualem's *Bye Bye Tiberias* (Palestine); Faouzi Bensaïdi's *Deserts* (Morocco); Luck Razanajaona's *Disco Afrika: A Malagasy Story* (Madagascar); Leïla Kilani's *Birdland* (Morocco); Kamal Lazraq's *Hounds* (Morocco); Asmae El Moudir's *The Mother of All Lies* (Morocco); Ismaël Ferroukhi's *Mica* (Morocco); and Boubacar Sangaré's *A Golden Life* (Burkina Faso).

# PROJECTS AND FILMS SELECTED FOR THE ATLAS WORKSHOPS

## PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

**AMNESIA** - Dima HAMDAN (*Palestine*) – 1<sup>st</sup> film

**PLAGUE** (FLÉAU) - Youssef CHEBBI (*Tunisia*) – 2<sup>nd</sup> film

**IL PADRE SELVAGGIO** - Sammy BALOJI (*Democratic Republic of the Congo*) – 1<sup>st</sup> film

**LA NUIT NOUS PROTÈGE** - Moumouni SANOU (*Burkina Faso*) – **Doc** – 2<sup>nd</sup> film

**THE PASSION OF ALINE** (LA PASSION D'ALINE) - Rokhaya Marieme BALDE (*Senegal*) – 1<sup>st</sup> film

**RABIES** (LA RAGE) - Sandra TABET (*Lebanon*) – 1<sup>st</sup> film

**WOLFMOTHER** (LES FILS DE LA LOUVE) - Ismaël EL IRAKI (*Morocco*) – 2<sup>nd</sup> film

**THUNDERING SMOKE** (MOSI-OA-TUNYA) - Khadar Ayderus AHMED (*Somalia*) – 2<sup>nd</sup> film

**RUNNING WITH BEASTS** - Leila BASMA (*Lebanon*) – 1<sup>st</sup> film

**HOLD TIME FOR ME** (SEGURA PARA MIM O TEMPO) - Fradique (*Angola*) – 2<sup>nd</sup> film

**THE CAMEL DRIVING SCHOOL** - Halima OUARDIRI (*Morocco*) – 1<sup>st</sup> film

**WE DON'T FORGET** - Adnane BARAKA (*Morocco*) – 2<sup>nd</sup> film

## ATLAS CLOSE-UPS

### (MOROCCAN PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT)

**ATLANTIC MIRAGE** (LA FIN DE L'ÉTÉ) - Hakim MAO (*Morocco*) – 1<sup>st</sup> film

**SHEHRAZADE'S BIRDS** (LES OISEAUX DE SHEHRAZADE) - Sofia EL KHYARI (*Morocco*) – 1<sup>st</sup> film

**OUT OF SCHOOL** - Hind BENSARI (*Morocco*) – **Doc** – 2<sup>nd</sup> film

**ROAD TRIP** - Linda QIBAA (*Morocco*) – **Doc** – 1<sup>st</sup> film

## FILMS IN PRODUCTION OR POST-PRODUCTION

**AGORA** - Ala Eddine SLIM (*Tunisia*) – 3<sup>rd</sup> film

**LA MER AU LOIN** - Saïd HAMICH BENLARBI (*Morocco*) – 1<sup>st</sup> film

**LE MAGMA** - Mia BENDRIMA (*Algeria*) – **Doc** – 1<sup>st</sup> film

**MARIE & JOLIE** - Erige SEHIRI (*Tunisia*) – Pre-Production – 3<sup>rd</sup> film

**MOTHERHOOD** - Meryam JOOBEUR (*Tunisia*) – 1<sup>st</sup> film

**PERFUMED WITH MINT** - Muhammed HAMDY (*Egypt*) – 1<sup>st</sup> film

**THE VILLAGE NEXT TO PARADISE** - Mo HARAWE (*Somalia*) – 1<sup>st</sup> film

## ATLAS FILM SHOWCASE (FILMS IN FINAL STAGES OF EDITING SEEKING FESTIVAL PREMIERES)

**DEMBA** - Mamadou DIA (*Senegal*)

**HAPPY LOVERS** - Hicham LASRI (*Morocco*)

**For more information, please visit**  
[atlasateliers.marrakech-festival.com](http://atlasateliers.marrakech-festival.com)