ELGOUNA
FILM
FESTIVAL

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EL GOUNA FILM FESTIVAL

Greetings!

It's our pleasure to welcome you in El Gouna Film Festival's Press Conference for the year 2017.

Today we present our inaugural edition's programme as confirmed on August 27, 2017.

Work on the programme is still in progress and we expect to announce the full line up of our programme by September 10, 2017.

We would like to thank all journalists & media representatives for their interest in covering the festival. We hope to see you in El Gouna and promise to offer a special variety of the most important film works and activities.

Festival Management

ABOUT
EL GOUNA FILM FESTIVAL (GFF)

GFF was established to underscore the role film plays in promoting cultural interaction, fostering an awareness of different cinematic voices through encouraging dialogue and building bridges of creative intellect. The goal is to generate opportunities for development and support for all contemporary forms of creative expression in the MENA region, especially between young generations from the Arab world and their international counterparts.

The festival will present a selection of the newest films from around the globe and host established and emerging filmmakers. The programme will include three competitive sections (Feature Narrative Competition, Feature Documentary Competition, and Short Films Competition), an Official Out of Competition selection, and a section devoted to special programmes. The festival will also give special attention to films with humanitarian content.

In parallel to the screenings, the festival will organize the CineGouna Platform, a creative and business hub designed to support Egyptian and Arab talents where a wide range of meetings will be organized between Arab and international directors, producers, and distributors with the aim of enhancing business opportunities for Arab cinema. In addition, round-tables, workshops, panels, and masterclasses will also be held as part of the event.

ABOUT
EL GOUNA

Conveniently located 25 kilometers north of Hurghada, and only a four-hour flight from Europe's major capitals, El Gouna is as much a town as a resort, with all the infrastructure of the former and amenities of the latter, including an array of hotels, restaurants, clubs and cafés. El Gouna is built on 10 km of beach with 17 spectacular hotels; a town of over 15,000 residents spread across islands and lagoons. In addition to the influx of visitors from around the world, over 20,000 Egyptian and international residents call El Gouna their home and provide the festival with a core audience. Known for the beauty of its natural setting, its architecture and landscaping and its commitment to operational efficiency and environmental sensitivity, El Gouna is well versed in the art of hospitality and event management.

OUR TEAM

FOUNDER
Naguib Sawiris

Executive Chairman - Orascom Telecom Media and Technology Holding
Chairman - Orascom TMT Investments S.à r.l.
Chairman of the Advisory Board - La Mancha Holding S.à r.l
Chairman – Euronews
Chairman - Gemini Development
Founder - Orascom Telecom Holding S.A.E.

Leadership Team

CEO OF THE FESTIVAL AND CO-FOUNDER OF EL GOUNA FILM FESTIVAL
Amr Mansi

COO, CO-FOUNDER EL GOUNA FILM FESTIVAL
Bushra Rozza

CFO OF THE ORGANIZING COMPANY OF GFF
Kamal Zadeh

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR
Intishal Al Timimi

PROGRAMMER AND CONSULTANTS
Amir Ramses
Teresa Cavina
Nicole Guillmet
Raman Chawla

GFF Programme
El Gouna Film Festival - Opening and Closing Films

El Gouna Film Festival - Opening Film

Sheikh Jackson

Amr Salama | Egypt | 2017 | Arabic | 93 mins.

On 25 June 2009 the news of Michael Jackson's death took the world by storm affecting many, especially an Islamic cleric whose nickname was "Jackson" during his school days. But, what does a preacher have in common with the King of Pop? More importantly, can he now go back to his normal life, or will his memories and relationships with his loved ones raise the most prominent question in his mind: is he the Sheikh, Jackson, or both?

El Gouna Film Festival - Closing Film

Human Flow

Ai Weiwei | Germany, USA | 2017 | English | 140 mins.

Filmed over the span of a year, Human Flow was shot by 25 film crews in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, France, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Palestine, Serbia, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand and Turkey. Ai Weiwei artfully captures the massive and shocking breadth of the global migration crisis in this epic film, which portrays the plight of today's 65 million forcibly displaced individuals – the highest number ever – forced out of their homes by war, famine and climate change on long, treacherous journeys in search of new lives.

Feature Narrative Competition

An International selection of feature-length narrative films.

The Awards

El Gouna Golden Star for a Narrative Film (Trophy, Certificate and US $50,000)

El Gouna Silver Star for Narrative Film (Trophy, Certificate and US $25,000)

El Gouna Bronze Star Narrative Film (Certificate, Trophy and U $ 15,000)

El Gouna Star for the Best Arab Narrative Film (Trophy, Certificate and US $20,000)

El Gouna Star for the Best Actor (Trophy and Certificate)

El Gouna Star for the Best Actress (Trophy and Certificate)

The Films

After the War (Dopo la Guerra)

Annarita Zambrano |France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland |2017 | French, Italian |92 mins.

Bologna, 2002. The opposition to the Labor Law explodes in universities. The murder of a judge reopens old political wounds between Italy and France. Marco, a former left-wing activist, sentenced for murder and exiled in France for 20 years, thanks to the Mitterrand doctrine, is accused of having ordered the attack. The Italian government requests his extradition. Forced to flee with Viola, his 16 year old daughter, his life will change forever, as well as his family's in Italy who has to pay for Marco's past faults.

Arrhythmia (Aritmiya)

Boris Khlebnikov |Russia |2017 | Russian |116 mins.

Oleg is a young gifted paramedic. His wife Katya works at the hospital emergency department. She loves Oleg, but is fed up with him caring more about patients than her. She tells him she wants a divorce. The new head of Oleg's EMA substation is a cold-hearted manager who's got new strict rules to implement. Oleg couldn't care less about the rules – he's got lives to save. The crisis at work coincides with the personal life crisis.

Corporate

Nicolas Silhol |France |2017 | French |95 mins.

Emilie is a bright young workaholic manager in Human Ressources, working for a huge French agro-food company. Ambitious and dedicated to her job, she is a good soldier, ready to put ruthless methods of management into practice to meet the higher-ups' requirements.

The Insult (L'insulte)

Ziad Doueiri |France, Lebanon | 2017 | Arabic | 110 mins.

While renovating the facade of a building in Beirut, Toni, a Lebanese Christian, and Yasser, a Palestinian refugee, clash over a silly plumbing issue. A shouting argument ensues and Yasser ends up insulting Toni. Hurt in his dignity, Toni decides to file a complaint. They are rapidly stuck in an infernal spiral. A long and highly publicised trial opens where Palestinians and Lebanese Christians settle their score.

No Bed of Roses (Doob)

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki |Bangladesh, India |2017 | Bengali, English |86 mins.

Successful movie director Javed Hasan finds himself in a midlife crisis, questioning whether marriage and career have demanded too much from him.

The Other Side of Hope

Aki Kaurismaki | Finland | 2017 | Arabic, English, Finnish, Swedish | 98 mins.

A restaurateur and former traveling salesman befriends a group of refugees newly arrived in Finland. The film consists of two stories that by chance intersect at the forty-minute mark. The first one is about Khaled, a young Syrian refugee who has lost virtually all of his family. Almost by accident, he drifts to Helsinki as a stowaway passenger on a collier to seek asylum without great hopes for his future life.

Photocopy

Tamer Ashry | Egypt | 2017 | Arabic | 90 mins.

Either you coexist or turn into a dinosaur !!

Scary Mother (Sashishi Deda)

Ana Urushadze | Georgia, Estonia | 2017 | Georgian | 107 mins.

A 50-year-old housewife, Manana, struggles with a dilemma: she has to choose between her family life and a love for writing she has repressed for years. When she finally decides to follow her passion, she is ready to sacrifice everything for it, mentally and physically.

Sheikh Jackson

Amr Salama | Egypt | 2017 | Arabic | 93 mins.

On 25 June 2009 the news of Michael Jackson's death took the world by storm affecting many, especially an Islamic cleric whose nickname was "Jackson" during his school days.

Son of Sofia (O Gios Tis Sofias)

Elina Psykou | Greece, Bulgaria, France | 2017 | Greek, Russian | 111 mins.

Athens, 2004 summer Olympic Games. 11-year-old Misha arrives from Russia to live with his mother, Sofia. What he doesn't know is that there is a father waiting for him there. While Greece is living the Olympic dream, Misha will get violently catapulted into the adult world.

The Third Murder (Sandome No Satsujin)

Kore-eda Hirokazu | Japan | 2017 | Japanese | 124 mins.

The Third Murder is the new film from internationally-acclaimed director Kore-eda Hirokazu - the powerfully moving story of a man struggling to find the truth while questioning his own faith in the law.

Volubilis

Faouzi Bensaïdi | Morocco, France | 2017 | Arabic | 106 mins.

Abdelkader is a security guard and Malika is a domestic employee. They just got married and are madly in love. Despite their financial difficulties, they dream of moving in together and of fully living their love. But one day, Abdelkader experiences a violent and humiliating incident that will turn their destiny upside down.

Feature Documentary Competition

An International selection of feature-length documentary films.

The Awards

El Gouna Golden Star for a Documentary Film (Trophy, Certificate and US $30,000)

El Gouna Silver Star for Documentary Film (Trophy, Certificate and US $15,000)

El Gouna Bronze Star Documentary Film (Certificate, Trophy and US $7,500)

El Gouna Star for the Best Arab Documentary Film (Trophy, Certificate and USD $10,000)

The cash award will be shared equally between the director and the main producer of the winning film.

The Films

Brimstone & Glory

Viktor Jakovleski | USA | 2017 | Spanish | 67 mins.

Set in the National Pyrotechnic Festival in Tultepec, Mexico, Brimstone & Glory is an immersive exploration of celebration, rituals, danger and the absolute beauty of fireworks.

I Am Not Your Negro

Raoul Peck | Belgium, France, Switzerland, USA | 2017 | English, French | 93 mins.

In June 1979 renowned US writer James Baldwin began work on his last, unfinished text 'Remember this House'. His personal memories of his three murdered civil rights friends Malcolm X, Medgar Evers and Martin Luther King and his reflections on his own painful experiences as a black American serve to re-write American history.

I Have a Picture "
Film No. 1001 In The Life Of The Oldest Extra In The World"
(Andy Sora " Film Rakam 1001 Fe Hayat Akdam Compars Fel Alam")

Mohamed Zedan | Egypt | 2017 | Arabic | 75 mins.

With the help of El Homossany, one of the oldest assistant directors in Egypt, Zedan, a young indie filmmaker, is making a documentary about Motawe Eweis, who has worked as an extra in about 1000 films in the Egyptian Cinema from the forties till now.

In Praise of Nothing

Boris Mitic, Andy Serkis | Serbia | 2017 | English | 78 mins.

A feelgood documentary about Nothing, in which Nothing, tired of being misunderstood, tries to defend its cause. Filmed worldwide by 100+ complementary DoPs, scored by cabaret grandmasters Pascal Comelade & The Tiger Lillies, narrated with delightfull irony by rockstar Iggy Pop.

Mrs. Fang

Wang Bing, Geneviève Sauvé | France, China, Germany | 2017 | Mandarin | 86 mins.

Fang Xiuying was a farmer born in Huzhou, Fujian in 1948. She suffered from Alzheimer's for the last eight years of her life. By 2015, her symptoms were already very advanced and her treatment in a convalescent home was ineffective, so it was discontinued in June 2016 and she returned home. The film follows her ordeal first in 2015, and then in 2016 during the last ten days of her life.

Of Sheep and Men (Des moutons et des hommes)

Karim Sayad, Thomas Morgan | Switzerland | 2017 | Arabic | 78 mins.

Algiers, Bab el Oued, 2016. Habib, 16, decided to train a ram for fighting and Samir, 42, tries to survive by selling sheep. As the Eid celebration approaches, Samir has the unique opportunity to maximize his profits. But for Habib, it's another story, will his ram become a champion ?

Plot 35 (Carré 35)

Eric Caravaca | France | 2017 | French | 67 mins.

"Plot 35 is a place that was never mentioned in my family; it is where my elder sister, who died aged three, is buried. The sister about whom I was told nothing, or nearly nothing, and of whom my parents had oddly never kept a single photograph. It was to make up for the missing images that I decided to make this film". - Eric Caravaca

Rue de la Victoire

Fréderique Cournoyer Lessard | Canada | 2017 | Arabic, French | 65 mins.

Rue de la Victoire is a documentary about hope, a representation of young people trying to rise above their social conditions. Mohamed Dhiaa Gharbi, a Tunisian circus artist, gradually reconstructs his identity and gains his independence.

Soufra

Thomas Morgan | USA, Lebanon, Singapore | 2017 | Arabic | 68 mins.

Soufra follows the unlikely and wildly inspirational story of intrepid social entrepreneur, Mariam Shaar – a generational refugee who has spent her entire life in the 65-year-old Burj El Barajneh refugee camp just south of Beirut, Lebanon.

"17"

Widad Shafakoj | Jordan | 2017 | Arabic | 73 mins.

"17" follows the Jordanian under-17 women's football team as they prepare for the FIFA under-17 women's world cup of Jordan 2016.

The Wild Frontier (L'Héroïque Lande, La Frontière Brûle)

Nicolas Klotz, Elisabeth Perceval | France | 2017 | French | 225 mins.

In the best style of "cinéma verité" The Wild Frontier (L'Héroïque Lande) tells how the camp of immigrants, in the outskirts of Calais, where lived nearly 7,800 people, will be demolished by 50% in Februrary 2016. How 4,000 expelled migrants from the south zone, will try to be reborn from ashes in the north zone. Before that the government decides to wreck the entire zone in October 2016 and to scatter these 11,000 residents, into the four corners of France.

Wonders of the Sea

Jean-Michel Cousteau | France | 2017 | English | 82 mins.

A unique digital 3D docu-fiction, Wonders of the Sea invites viewers to join Jean-Michel Cousteau and his children, Celine and Fabien, as they travel through the magnificent underwater world and marvel at its incredible bio-diversity.

Short Films Competition

An International selection of short-length fiction films.

The Awards

El Gouna Golden Star for Best Short Film (Trophy, Certificate and US $15,000)

El Gouna Silver Star for Short Film (Trophy, Certificate and US $7,500)

El Gouna Bronze Star for Short Film (Trophy, Certificate and US $4,000)

El Gouna Star for the Best Arab Short Film (Trophy, Certificate and US $5,000)

All prizes will be awarded to the Director of the winning film.

The Films

Baghdad Photographer (Baghdad Photographer)

|Iraq | 2017 | Arabic | 3 mins.

A deeply moving story about war, told through a series of family portrait photos that show one member less in each successive family portrait that is taken.

Cheers to the Newlyweds (Que vivan los novios!)

Monserrat Larqué |Mexico | 2017 | Spanish | 13 mins.

Armed with plenty of defiant optimism, this elderly woman prepares a birthday party, grapples with her husband and even rescues a wedding that is about not to happen.

A Gentle Night (Xiao Cheng Er Yue)

Qiu Yang |China | 2017 | Chinese | 15 mins.

In a nameless Chinese city, a mother with her daughter missing, refuses to go gentle into this good night.

Hiwa

Jacqueline Lentzou | Greece | 2017 | Filipino | 11 mins.

In Jay's dream, Athens' sun is so weak, you can look straight at it, without getting blind.

Impression

Joseph Simmons |United Kingdom | 2017 | English | 11 mins.

An entrepreneurial middle-eastern man, Reza, tries to get a large-scale business off the ground without financial support, as he works at a car wash to make ends meet. He has everything it takes to be successful; he just needs an opportunity to prove what he can become.

Inside the Wardrobe (Dans l'Armoire)

Sébastien Carfora | France |2017 | French | 28 mins.

In a world where appearence is more important than what's inside, Frank lost everything and now lives in the street. To survive and reintegrate into society, he can only count on his abilities to adapt, his incredible imagination, his suit and his closet...

Lalay-Balala

Ruslan Bratov | Russia | 2017 | Russian | 13 mins.

The grand constant flow of life.

Léo

Julian Alexander | United Kingdom | 2017 | English, French | 15 mins.

Léo accepts a job smuggling a refugee couple through France. However, Léo and the couple have separate ideas as to where they're supposed to be going.

Little Soldiers (Petits Soldats)

Julien Magnan | France | 2017 | French | 18 mins.

Childhood Friends, Louis and Polo are two young apprentice cooks in an inn in Normandie. In their free time they play paintball, a rather violent game. Louis dreams of going to Paris and Polo will do everything to prevent it.

Mama Bobo

Robin Andelfinger, Ibrahima Seydi | France, Belgium, Senegal | 2017 | French, Wolof | 17 mins.

Mama Bobo, an old woman, recollects her past every day, sitting as a bus stop in Dakar, Senegal. One day, the bus stop has disappeared.

My Festival (Mahragani)

Jaylan Auf | Egypt | 2017 | Arabic | 8 mins.

In Cairo's downtown theatre, Fathi's first day as a cinema usher is quite intimidating- eager to attend one of the blockbusters but in stead he is stuck 'chaperoning' 2 young lovers in the cinema. His film experience takes him in an expected journey

Nada

Adel Yehia | Egypt | 2017 | Arabic, Arabic Sign Language | 27 mins.

The film tells the story of a mute girl who works as a troupe dancer, she faces more problems when she meets the blind musician of the show.

Newton's Third Law (Kanoun Newton Althaleth)

Nour Alsoliman | Jordan, Syria, Egypt | 2017 | Arabic | 11 mins.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. A story of Ahmed, who like many, had no say in how his life unfolded until he eventually decided otherwise, but death was the only language he spoke.

Nightshade (Nachtschade)

Shady El-Hamus | Netherlands | 2017 | Dutch | 13 mins.

Tarik (11) helps his father Elias (35) to transport illegal immigrants into the Netherlands. When an accident occurs, Tarik gains the acknowledgment from his father he has yearned for, but at a high price - the loss of his own innocence.

Punchline

Christophe M. Saber | Switzerland | 2017 | French | 8 mins.

Two wannabe gangsters can't decide on the coolest thing to say before shooting Michel.

Red Crayon

Charlotte Carroll |United Kingdom | 2017 | Arabic | 7 mins.

An innocent child narrowly escapes destruction and death in Syria. What she leaves behind can never truly be left behind.

The Service (Le Service)

Geneviève Sauvé | Canada | 2017 | French | 9 mins.

While Sophie brings back a dress borrowed from her mother, she recalls and deconstructs their last conversation.

Official Selection Out of Competition

78/52

Alexandre O. Philippe | USA | 2017 | English | 91 mins.

An unprecedented look at the iconic shower scene in Alfred Hitchcock's PSYCHO, the 'Man behind the Curtain', and the screen murder that profoundly changed the course of world cinema.

The Brawler (Mukkabaaz)

Anurag Kashyap | India | 2017 | Hindi | 145 mins.

A lower caste boxer struggles to make his mark on the boxing world.

Closeness (Tesnota)

Kantemir Balagov | Russia | 2017 | Kabardian, Russian | 118 mins.

1998, Nalchik, the North Caucasus, Russia. 24-year-old Ilana works in her father's garage to help him make ends meet. One evening, her extended family and friends gather to celebrate the engagement of her younger brother David. Later that night, the young couple is kidnapped, and a ransom demand delivered...

Dabka

Brian Buckley | USA | 2017 | English | 117 mins.

In 2008, rookie journalist Jay Bahadur forms a half-baked plan to embed himself among the pirates of Somalia. He ultimately succeeds in providing the first close-up look into who these men are, how they live, and the forces that drive them.

Félicité

Alain Gomis | France, Germany, Senegal, Belgium, Lebanon | 2017 | Lingala | 123 mins.

Félicité is a proud, free-willed woman working as a singer in a bar in Kinshasa. Her life is thrown into turmoil when her 14 year-old son falls victim to an accident. To save him, she sets out on a breakneck race through the streets of electric Kinshasa - a world of music and dreams where she'll cross paths with Tabu...

The Florida Project

Sean Baker | UK | 2017 | English | 115 mins.

The Florida Project tells the story of a precocious six year-old and her rag-tag group of friends whose summer break is filled with childhood wonder, possibility and a sense of adventure while the adults around them struggle with hard times.

A Gentle Creature (Krotkaya)

Sergei Loznitsa | France, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands | 2017 | Russian | 143 mins.

A woman lives alone on the outskirts of a village in Russia. One day she receives a parcel she sent to her incarcerated husband, marked 'return to sender'. Shocked and confused, the woman has no choice but to travel to the prison in a remote region of the country in search of an explanation.

Loving Vincent

Hugh Welchman, Dorota Kobielalchman |United Kingdom, Poland |2017 | English |95 mins.

A animated feature film about the life and mysterious death of Vincent Van Gogh told bringing to life his most famous painting. A labour of love that took seven years to be made.

Manifesto

Julian Rosefeldt | Germany | 2017 | English | 95 mins.

Julian Rosefeldt's film Manifesto pays homage to the moving tradition and literary beauty of artistic manifestos, ultimately questioning the role of the artist in society today.

Mark Felt: The Man Who Brought Down The White House

Peter Landesman | USA | 2017 | English | 100 mins.

The story of Mark Felt, who under the name "Deep Throat" helped journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein uncover the Watergate scandal in 1974.

Redoubtable

Michel Hazanavicius | France | 2017 | French, Italian | 107 mins.

Paris 1967. Jean-Luc Godard, the most renowned filmmaker of his generation, is shooting La Chinoise with the woman he loves, Anne Wiazemsky, 20 years his junior. Happy, in love, magnetic, they marry. But the film's reception unleashes a profound self-examination in Jean-Luc.

The Square

Ruben Ostlund |Sweden, Germany, France, Denmark | 2017 | Danish, English, Swedish | 142 mins.

Christian is the respected curator of a contemporary art museum, a divorced but devoted father of two who drives an electric car and supports good causes. His next show is "The Square", an installation which invites passersby to altruism, reminding them of their role as responsible fellow human beings.

Tad, the Lost Explorer, and the Secret of King Midas (Tadeo Jones 2: El Secreto Del Rey Midas)

David Alonso, Enrique Gato Borregán | Spain | 2017 | English, Spanish | 127 mins.

Tad travels to Las Vegas to see his friend Sara's latest discovery: a papyrus that proves the existence of King Midas, who turned everything he touched into gold thanks to the power of a magical necklace. But the happy encounter between Tad and Sara is disrupted when the evil Jack Rackham steals the papyrus and kidnaps Sara to force her to find the necklace, a source of infinite wealth.

CineGouna Platform

CineGouna Platform is a creative and business hub established with the aim of nurturing and supporting the most promising talents of Egyptian and Arab cinema.

Representatives of some of the most prestigious film festivals (Venice, Rotterdam, Sundance, Toronto, Karlovy Vary…) as well as distributors and film sales agents and distributors from major international companies)Wild Bunch, Memento, Fortissimo, among others), as well as major television channels and network representatives (Eagle Films, Falcon Films, Four Star Films, MBC, Rotana, OSN, among others) have accepted our invitation to attend and participate in the various activities that are being planned at CineGouna Platform's first edition.

We hope to bring together under the same roof some of the finest industry experts and the best of upcoming Arab film projects, thereby connecting the Arab region film industry with their counterparts in the international film industry.

The platform will incubate two initiatives; CineGouna Springboard and CineGouna Bridge.

CineGouna Springboard

CineGouna Springboard is the business side of CineGouna Platform. It will offer a unique opportunity designed to find creative and financial support for Arab film directors and producers with films in development or in post-production.

Our call for projects has received more than 50 applications from 8 countries of the Arab world were received. A rigorous selection process to choose the most innovative, promising, and serious projects is nearing completion. and we hope to select 16 promising projects (narrative and documentary) from the region.

The selected projects will be presented to our invited industry delegates from Festival Programmers, Fund Directors, potential international Co-Producers, Distributors, Sales Agents, and Buyers from a variety of media venues; all with the goal of finding international collaboration, co-financing, and coproduction of the films.

Additionally, filmmakers will work with expert mentors for their feedback that will provide a unique opportunity to evaluate and enhance the international potential of their work and find co-production partners. All chosen projects will benefit from the mentorship that they will receive from stalwarts such as Mamoun Hassan, former Head of Production at the British Film Institute, Head and Dean of Editing at the International Film School (San Antonio De Los Banos) in Cuba, among many other positions and consultations on some of the most important films in the past 40 years and working as the managing director of the National Film Finance Corporation in the UK.

In addition, a jury composed of industry experts will choose the winner of the CineGouna Platform grant of US $ 20,000, to the best film project. Additional cash awards to other films selected by the Jury will be provided thanks to our CineGouna Platform partners: New Century Films, Mentor Arabia, Film Factory Productions, and Aroma.

CineGouna Bridge

CineGouna Bridge is our platform for dialogue among different international cinematic voices and will serve as a link between filmmakers from the Arab world and their international counterparts, presenting round-tables, workshops, and masterclasses. It will also include special panel discussions with the experts and key players in the film industry, covering a wide range of subjects such as conventional and innovative platforms for distribution, new co-production possibilities and international collaborations.

Renowned masters of their crafts have been invited to deliver a masterclasses such as:

From Struggle to Success: On Cinema Production

A master class with Andrea Iervolino

Andrea Iervolino, Producer, winner of the Best Producer Award at the Venice International Film Festival in its 71st edition, together with Al Pacino and Barry Levinson. In 2016, he was also awarded Best Producer of the Italian Contemporary Film Festival among many other recognitions.

The Path of the Screenwriter

A conversation with Jeff Stockwell and Richard Tanne.

Jeff Stockwell's (Screenwriter) credits inlciude The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys, produced by and starring Jodie Foster; Wilder Days, (a telefilm nominated for the WGA Award for Best Original Long Form TV); Disney's beloved Bridge To Terabithia; and the just-released indie The Ottoman Lieutenant. Jeff has written many independent and studio projects, now in various stages of development

Richard Tanne is the recipient of the New Jersey Governor's Award for Excellence in Arts Education for playwriting. Tanne's feature writing and directing debut, Southside With You, premiered in the Dramatic Competition section of the 2016 Sundance Film Festival where it received widespread critical acclaim and was acquired by Miramax and Roadside Attractions.

CineGouna Platform, also will host parallel activities in collaborations with our strategic partners:

Regional Conference for Arab Independent Cinema (RCAIC)

In recent years, Arab Independent Cinema has taken new shapes and forms. Despite their similarities, each Arab country faces different challenges when it comes to developing its own cinematic language and in each country, new ways are being found to overcome them. The Regional Conference for Arab independent Cinema (RCAIC) has been created to bring together film industry professionals from the Arab world in a three-day conference tackling topics related to the production, distribution, and exhibition of independent Arab cinema. Aiming to create a space for healthy dialogue and exchange, the RCAIC is an opportunity for its participants to share experiences, challenges, and solutions that would benefit the Arab film industry as a whole. The RCAIC program starts with a reception to welcome all its guests on the evening of the 24th of Sep. The program sessions will begin from the 25th of Sep. early morning and to be finished by the 27th of Sep. with a gathering dinner for the program participant. The format of this program is interactive and will be reshaping with its guests' inputs and consultation during the three-days event. The RCAIC is a program which is organized and managed by Fig Leaf Studios, Zawya, with the support of DEDI and IMS.

AFS Screenwriting Workshop

The American Film Showcase partners with the CineGouna Platform to work on a five-day screenwriting workshop with Arab writers working on their first or second feature narrative film. AFS brings award-winning contemporary American documentary and independent narrative films to audiences around the world, offering a view of American society and culture as seen by independent filmmakers. Funded by a grant from the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and produced by the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts (SCA), the Showcase highlights the value of film in fostering understanding and cooperation, dialogue and debate. For more information visit www.americanfilmshowcase.com.

FACTS AND FIGURES GFF 2017

Note: Facts and Figures mentioned below relate only to films confirmed as on 28 August 2017

Feature Films

Selected Feature Films (all sections)	40
Narrative Features (all sections)	22
Animated Features	2
Documentary Features (all sections)	16
Narrative Features in Competition	12
Documentary Features in Competition	13
Premieres	3 World Premieres, 1 International Premier
Countries represented	34
Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, United Kingdom, USA.	

Short Films

Selected Short Films	17
Narrative Shorts in Competition	17
Premieres	9 World Premieres, 2 International Premieres
Countries represented	15
Belgium, China, Egypt, France, Greece, Iraq, Jordan, Mexico, Netherlands, Russia, Senegal, Switzerland, Syria, United Kingdom.	