

ELGOUNA
FILM
FESTIVAL
2ND EDITION
مهرجان الجونة السينمائي

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PRESS BRIEFING

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Contents

<u>Greetings</u>	2
<u>About GFF</u>	2
<u>About El Gouna</u>	3
<u>Our Team</u>	4
<u>Interview with Festival Director</u>	5
<u>Feature Narrative Competition</u>	8
<u>Feature Documentary Competition</u>	11
<u>Short Film Competition</u>	14
<u>Cinema for Humanity Audience Award</u>	19
<u>Official Selection Out Of Competition</u>	20
<u>Special Presentations</u>	24
<u>International Advisory Board</u>	25
<u>Career Achievement Award</u>	26
<u>CineGouna Platform</u>	27
<u>CineGouna SpringBoard</u>	27
<u>CineGouna Bridge</u>	32
<u>GFF Press Accreditation</u>	34
<u>Facts & Figures</u>	36

Greetings!

We are happy to welcome you to the Press Conference of El Gouna Film Festival (GFF 2018).

In the following pages you will find the program of our forthcoming 2nd edition that looks even more exciting than last year.

Additional titles from the latest films that will premiere in the Fall festival will be added within the next few days and we will be happy to also update you on the latest activities that will round up our rich industry program. Stay tuned on our website!

We take this opportunity to thank all media representatives for their interest in covering this press conference. We are looking forward to seeing you in El Gouna, where an exciting lineup of films and industry activities awaits you.

El Gouna Film Festival Team

About El Gouna Film Festival

El Gouna Film Festival, one of the leading festivals in the MENA region, aims to showcase a wide variety of films for a passionate and knowledgeable audience; while fostering better communication between cultures through the art of filmmaking. Its goal is to connect filmmakers from the region with their international counterparts in the spirit of cooperation and cultural exchange. The festival is committed to the discovery of new voices and strives to be a catalyst for the development of cinema in the Arab world, particularly through its industry segment, CineGouna Platform. The 2nd edition of GFF will present a selection of the newest films from around the globe.

The festival's program consists of the three official competitions (Feature Narrative Competition, Feature Documentary Competition and Short Film Competition), the Official Selection Out Of Competition and Special Presentations. A total of about 80 films will screen at the festival, which will proudly be awarding 224.000 USD, along with certificates and trophies, to the winners of the competitive sections. Feature-length films with a humanitarian theme across any section will be eligible for GFF's special "Cinema for Humanity" audience award. In the context of the special presentation, iconic films from the past that continue to be cherished by film-loving audiences will be screened.

The festival will also be presenting the 2nd edition of the CineGouna Platform, an industry-oriented event created to support and empower Egyptian and Arab filmmakers, helping them find artistic and financial support among Arab and international professionals.

The CineGouna Platform presents program initiatives such as the CineGouna SpringBoard and the CineGouna Bridge that not only provide several financial awards, but also learning opportunities through filmmaking workshops, panel discussions, round tables and masterclasses with experts in the field of cinema.

This year, CineGouna Platform has doubled its prize money, offering a total of 150,000 USD for the winning projects in development and films in post-production. The prizes are funded by El Gouna Film Festival along with its sponsors and partners. With the exciting film screenings and activities planned for the 2nd edition of El Gouna Film Festival, it is certain to maintain its unique function as the meeting point for filmmakers, critics and audiences celebrating the art, craft and business of cinema.

About El Gouna

GFF's selection of El Gouna as its venue enables the festival to conveniently host and welcome more than a thousand guests and participants from all over the world. Just a four-hour flight from Europe's major capitals and easily accessed via the nearby Hurghada International Airport, El Gouna offers breathtaking scenery with pleasant weather. It 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. Built on a 10 km beach with 17 spectacular hotels, the town spreads 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, architecture and landscaping as well as its commitment to operational efficiency and environmental sensitivity; El Gouna is well versed in the art of hospitality.

Our Team

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Interview with Festival Director Intishal Al Timimi

"GFF was not created to take another festival's place, but simply to introduce a new aspect of good cultural and artistic content."

The 2nd edition of GFF is knocking doors! And below we are addressing all the frequently asked questions about what should be expected from the anticipated edition; in terms of events, honors, screenings and competitions, to the festival's director Mr. Intishal Al Timimi. This is what he told us.

Can we say that El Gouna Film Festival (GFF) is in competition with other Egyptian and Arab Festivals?

The relationship between GFF and other festivals is based on fair competition and mutual support. For instance I have a lot of friends from Cairo International Film Festival's (CIFF) management team and we have worked together before in other festivals. In my opinion, every festival has its unique strong points; and at the end of the day a healthy competition is for the common good of the organizers of the festivals, as well as the local, regional and international audience that attends them.

Whenever GFF's team was asked to support another festival, we have readily agreed – because once again, we need to support one another, not just compete. The success of one festival can only inspire the others. GFF was not created to take another festival's place, but simply to introduce a new aspect of good cultural and artistic content.

One of the highlights of the inaugural edition of GFF was its commitment to punctuality. Do you plan to continue with the same mindset during the 2nd edition?

We are committed to be punctual like any other first class festival. We owe it to our filmmakers and our audience.

Some say that the festival's huge budget is the main reason behind its massive success. What's your take on that?

Money alone doesn't create successful festivals. The best example for that is that of Abu Dhabi Film Festival whose first round was organized with three times the budget of its last one, yet the latter was its best. Filmmakers always prefer to have their premieres at international festivals like Cannes, Venice, Berlin, Toronto, Locarno and others, before screening them in the MENA region. At GFF, we welcome the participation of Egyptian and Arab films. However, the main problem here in the MENA region is the lack of funding; and support for films that are fit to participate in festivals. These filmmakers are looking for opportunities to screen, distribute and market their projects, in the hope of getting the chance to screen them internationally. Film festivals need a suitable budget to play their roles as supporters of cinematic talent.

Do you think that Dubai International Film Festival's (DIFF) sudden stop will act to the benefit of GFF?

Personally, I am one of its biggest fans and I wish it doesn't stop; particularly because it has been the biggest supporters of Arab cinema. Personally I think Egypt is one of most important countries in the Arab world with such a rich artistic history. And although El Gouna is not one of its central cities, it succeeded to turn heads during the first round of GFF; just like Cannes, Karlovy Vary, Sundance and Locarno, which became some of the biggest cities in their regions due to the continuous success of their film festivals.

Do you depend on foreign experts in the field?

The participation of foreign experts in film festivals is not new; it is a policy practiced by all big festivals.

In our inaugural round we only hired three foreign experts from Asia, Europe and USA. I believe this made a difference and now we can see that other festivals here are adopting the same approach.

How does the Egyptian Government support GFF?

The Egyptian Government supports GFF through the Festivals Committee and the National Centre of Cinema. We also receive help from the Red Sea Governorate and the Ministry of Tourism, and other government entities. The support extended is non-financial in nature, but highly valuable for us to conduct the festival.

How do you feel about *Yomeddine's* great success in Cannes, after it won the CineGouna Award in the inaugural round of GFF?

I am so proud that *Yomeddine* is part of the Official Competition of the 2nd edition of GFF, especially after representing Egypt at the Cannes Film Festival and winning the François Chalais prize – something that didn't happen in years, although it is A.B. Shawky's very first feature film. *Yomeddine* will have its MENA premiere in the 2nd edition of GFF, after winning an award in CineGouna SpringBoard during GFF's inaugural edition. In my opinion, one of the highlights of GFF's inaugural edition was its support for projects in development.

What should we expect this year from the CineGouna Platform?

For the 2nd edition of the CineGouna Platform, GFF has invited a number of leading regional and international experts in the field of cinema to participate in various activities.

Its project development and co-production lab CineGouna SpringBoard invited submissions of feature narrative and feature documentary projects from all over the Arab world and received 145 submissions. After meticulous reviewing of the submitted projects, our panel of experts selected 12 projects in development and 6 films in post-production. The selection process was not easy, as the submissions were of high quality. Through the activities of CineGouna Platform, the filmmakers and producers behind these selected projects will have the opportunity to meet potential co-producers, funding agencies, distributors and festival programmers, thus building a strong network in the film industry. They will also attend private meetings with experts and mentors who will guide them through the challenging processes of project development and post-production.

CineGouna Bridge, our forum for networking and sharing knowledge will present round tables, workshops, masterclasses and discussions with professionals and experts in film industry. Some of the most relevant social and political issues of our time – and the role cinema can play in regard to those issues – will be discussed. CineGouna Bridge will also cover some key questions such as the means and sources of film funding, and how cinema is evolving in the times of digital content. We will analyse the role of film in society while celebrating its glorious history.

What should we expect from the upcoming edition of GFF?

We have three tributes planned that include film screenings, exhibitions, panels and masterclasses. GFF will be celebrating Youssef Chahine's iconic career this year, to mark the 10th anniversary of his death. We will screen a restored version of his masterpiece *The Emigrant*, in the presence of some special guests. We are also planning some special events in his memory, including an exhibition where posters and collectibles from his films will be displayed. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of filmmaker Ingmar Bergman's birth, GFF will screen restored versions of his masterpieces *Persona* and *Wild Strawberries*. We will also host an exhibition which was held in several other countries before, presenting pictures, videos and posters that document some of his iconic works. The festival will screen two masterpieces of the legendary director Federico Fellini, in the name of his 25th death anniversary. In parallel with the screenings, we will host an exclusive discussion with Gianfranco Angelucci, who co-wrote the maestro's famous *Intervista* and spent more than 20 years in his company. He will be giving us some precious insights into Fellini's personal and professional life.

Tell us about the panels and materclasses we should wait for this year.

Our Cinema for Humanity programme focuses on two important topics: The stories of refugees in film – moderated by the Variety film critic Jay Weissberg with the attendance of Egyptian entrepreneur and adventurer Omar Samra; and the role of women in film – a panel moderated by the acclaimed Dora Bouchoucha, the first female Tunisian film producer.

Liz Shackleton Asia Editor, Screen International, will moderate a panel that explores alternative sources of funding and ways to build financing from several different avenues. We will also host a discussion about how the rise of digital has enabled filmmakers to access new means of financing, marketing and distribution. Two-time Academy Award winning director, writer and producer, Paul Haggis, will share in his masterclass some tips and tricks for writing and directing memorable stories for cinema. We are also partnering with The U.S. Embassy in Cairo and the American Film Showcase to host award-winning directors Keith Fulton and Lou Pepe in Egypt, for a special three-day workshop that focuses on story development and characterization for both feature and documentary films.

Feature Narrative Competition

The Awards

El Gouna Golden Star for Narrative Film	Trophy, Certificate and USD 50,000
El Gouna Silver Star for Narrative Film	Trophy, Certificate and USD 25,000
El Gouna Bronze Star for Narrative Film	Trophy, Certificate and USD 15,000
El Gouna Star for the Best Arab Narrative Film	Trophy, Certificate and USD 20,000
El Gouna Star for the Best Actor	Trophy and Certificate
El Gouna Star for the Best Actress	Trophy and Certificate

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

Cold War | Zimna Wojna

Pawel Pawlikowski | Poland, UK, France | 2018 | Polish, French | 84 min

Cold War is a passionate love story between a man and a woman of different backgrounds and temperaments, completely mismatched and yet fatefully condemned to each other. Set against the backdrop of the Cold War in Poland, Berlin, Yugoslavia and Paris in the 1950s; the film tells the story of a couple separated by politics, character flaws and unfortunate twists of fate – an impossible love story in impossible times.

The Day I Lost My Shadow | Endama Adaatou Zouli

Soudade Kaadan | Syria, Lebanon, France | 2018 | Arabic | 95 min

In a war-torn Syria, Sana searches for a place to buy a cooking gas cylinder. Along the way, she meets Jalal and his sister Reem, who are also looking for gas, and they agree to share a taxi. Fearing arrest, the driver abandons them in a small town after a checkpoint. There, Sana discovers that it is normal for people to lose their shadows as they lose something of themselves once they experience the war.

Dear Son | Weldi

Mohamed Ben Attia | Tunisia, Belgium, France | 2018 | Arabic | 105 min

Riadh is about to retire from his work as a forklift operator at the port of Tunis. The life he shares with his wife Nazli revolves around their only son Sami, who is preparing for his high school exams. The boy's repeated migraine attacks are a cause of much worry to his parents. But when he finally seems to be getting better, Sami suddenly disappears.

Divine Wind | Rih Rabbani

Merzak Allouache | Algeria, France | 2018 | Arabic | 96 min

The movie explores the troubled psychology of Amine, a reserved young man living in a small Saharan village where he spends most of his time reading the Koran and praying. He meets Nour, a strong, aggressive young woman, in a house near the city of Timimoun in the Algerian Sahara. They are supposed to launch an armed operation against an oil refinery; but things do not turn out quite as they expected.

The Harvesters | Die Stropers

Etienne Kallos | South Africa, France, Greece, Poland | 2018 | Afrikaans, English, Zulu | 105 min

South Africa is a free isolated stronghold to the Afrikaans white ethnic minority culture. In this conservative farming territory obsessed with strength and masculinity, Janno is different, secretive and emotionally frail. One day his fiercely religious mother brings home Pieter, a hardened street orphan she wants to save, and asks Janno to accept this stranger as his brother. The two boys start a fight for power, heritage and parental love.

History of Love | Zgodovina ljubezni

Sonja Prosenec | Slovenia, Italy, Norway | 2018 | English | 105 min

Seventeen-year-old Iva is trying to cope with the death of her mother who died in a car accident. Influenced by this deep personal loss and by the discovery that she didn't know everything about her mom, the girl slowly immerses herself in a strange, almost dreamlike world. The film received several development awards and premiered at the recently concluded Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, where it won the Grand Jury's Special Mention.

A Land Imagined

Siew Hua Yeo | Singapore, France, Netherlands | 2018 | Mandarin, English, Bengali | 95 min

After forming a virtual friendship with a mysterious gamer, Wang, a lonely construction worker from China, goes missing at a Singapore land reclamation site. Lok, a police investigator, has to uncover the truth. In order to find him, he follows his tracks into the Cyber Cafe where he used to hang out to meet his virtual friend.

The Man Who Surprised Everyone | Tchelovek Kotorij Udivil Vseh

Natalya Merkulova, Alexey Chupov | Russia, Estonia, France | 2018 | Russian | 100 min

Egor is a Siberian forest guard and a great family man, respected by his fellow villagers. He and his wife Natalia are expecting a second child. Unexpectedly, Egor finds out that he has terminal cancer and has only two months left to live. Left with no other choice, he attempts to completely change his identity in order to fool the oncoming death; just like Zhamba the Drake, the hero of a legendary ancient Siberian epic, did.

Ray & Liz

Richard Billingham | UK | 2018 | English | 108 min

Living on the outskirts of Birmingham and the margins of society, the Billingham family performs extreme rituals and breaks social taboos as they muddle through a life decided by factors beyond their control. Based on director and photographer Richard Billingham's memories; the film focuses on his parents Ray and Liz, their relationship and its impact on Richard and his younger brother Jason, as they grow up in a Black Country council house.

Screwdriver | Mafak

Bassam Jarbawi | Palestine, USA | 2018 | Arabic, Hebrew | 106 min

Young Ziad is the star of the refugee camp basketball team in Palestine. Seeking revenge for his best friend, he attempts to assassinate an Israeli settler but gets arrested. Fifteen years later, we follow a confused Ziad as he struggles to adjust to his chaotic new world. His mental state halts his advance in two potential love stories – with Salma, a close friend of his sister, and with Mina, a Palestinian-American shooting a documentary about Ziad.

Tumbbad

Rahi Anil Barve, Adesh Prasad | India, Sweden | 2018 | Hindi | 104 min

On the outskirts of a decrepit village called Tumbbad lives Vinayak, the stubborn conniving bastard son of the village lord, who is obsessed with a mythical ancestral treasure. He suspects the secret lies with his great-grandmother, a cursed witch. A meeting with her finally puts him face to face with the guardian of the treasure. What starts with a few gold coins quickly spirals into a reckless, perpetual yearning, spanning decades.

Yomeddine

A.B. Shawky | Egypt, USA, Austria | 2018 | Arabic | 97 min

Beshay, an Egyptian cured of leprosy but not the scars, lives in an aging leper colony in the middle of nowhere. After the death of his wife, he decides to leave the colony and embarks on a journey across Egypt, alongside his apprentice Obama, to find out why his father never kept his promise to return. This extraordinary debut film was selected for the Official Competition at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, where it won the François Chalais Prize.

Feature Documentary Competition

The Awards

El Gouna Golden Star for Documentary Film	Trophy, Certificate and USD 30,000
El Gouna Silver Star for Documentary Film	Trophy, Certificate and USD 15,000
El Gouna Bronze Star for Documentary Film	Trophy, Certificate and USD 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.

America

Claus Drexel | France | 2018 | English | 88 min

The movie unfolds in November 2016, when the United States was about to elect its new president. In Arizona, home of the modern cowboy and symbol of a civilization gone self-destructive, Drexel zooms in on folks living on the margins of society one month before and after the election of Donald Trump. The bruised sons and daughters of the American dream share their hopes and fears of what is yet to come.

Another Day of Life | Jeszcze Dzień Życia

Raúl de la Fuente, Damian Nenow | Poland, Spain | 2018 | English, Portuguese, Polish, Spanish | 86 min

Another Day Of Life is the gripping story of a three-month-long trip that renowned Polish reporter Ryszard Kapuściński took across an Angola ravaged by a war in which the front lines shifted like a kaleidoscope. Angola will change him forever: it was a reporter that left Poland, but it was a writer that returned. This feature animated film is based on Ryszard Kapuściński's book of the same name.

Dream Away | Alhelm Albaed

Marouan Omara, Johanna Domke | Egypt, Germany | 2018 | English, Arabic | 85 min

It hasn't been long since rich tourists from around the world stayed in the luxury hotels of Sharm El Sheikh. But the Arab Spring and the confusion of the post-revolutionary period quickly robbed the city of its charm as a go-to summer resort. Saturated with elements of surreal fiction, this documentary takes us to a shimmering city of ghosts to visit its last inhabitants - the employees who feverishly dream among the abandoned hotel suites.

Graves Without a Name | Les Tombeaux Sans Noms

Rithy Panh | France, Cambodia | 2018 | French | 115 min

A thirteen-year-old child, who lost most of his family under the Khmer Rouge, embarks on a search for their graves. After *The Missing Picture* (Un Certain Regard winner and Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Film) Rithy Panh continues his personal and spiritual exploration. While his film *S21: The Khmer Rouge Killing Machine* (François Chalais Prize winner at Cannes 2002) analyzed the mechanisms of the crime, *Graves Without a Name* searches for a path to peace.

McQueen

Ian Bonhôte, Peter Ettedgui | USA | 2018 | English | 111 min

McQueen tells the thrilling story of the inspired yet tormented fashion visionary Lee Alexander McQueen, from the start of his career as a tailor, to the launch of his eponymous line and his untimely death. Through recovered archives, exquisite visuals, and exclusive interviews with his closest friends and family; the biopic provides an in-depth account of his life and artistry.

Nossa Chape

Jeff Zimbalist, Michael Zimbalist | USA | 2018 | Portuguese | 101 min

Nossa Chape tells the unique story of Chapecoense – a football club from a remote Brazilian city that miraculously qualified for the final of the Copa Sudamericana – only to face destruction when the plane flying them to the game crashed, killing the entire team except for three players. How will those who remain alive handle the tragedy?

Of Fathers and Sons | An Alaabaa wa Alabnaa

Talal Derki | Syria, Germany, Lebanon | 2018 | Arabic | 99 min

Award-winning documentary filmmaker, Talal Derki, gains the trust of a radical Islamist family and films their daily life for over two years. His camera focuses mainly on the children, providing an extremely rare insight into what it means to grow up with a father whose only dream is to establish an Islamic Caliphate. Osama (13) and his brother Ayman (12) are in the center of the story. They both love and admire their father and obey his words.

Samouni Road | La Strada Dei Samouni

Stefano Savona | France, Italy | 2018 | Arabic | 126 min

In the rural outskirts of Gaza City, the Samouni family is about to celebrate a wedding. It is going to be the first celebration since the last bombing. The bride and the groom, their brothers and cousins have lost their parents, their houses and their olive trees. *Samouni Road* conveys a deep, multifaceted portrait of a family before, during and after the tragic event, through the recollections of these young survivors.

The Swing | Almargoha

Cyril Aris | Lebanon | 2018 | Arabic, French, Italian | 74 min

On the eve of his 90th birthday, life is hanging by a thread for Antoine as he anticipates the visit of his daughter who is on a journey in South America. His wife of 65 years, Viviane, also suffering from the aches of old age, endures an excruciating double sentencing: dealing with her daughter's tragic death, and concealing this unbearable truth from her husband - a truth that would inevitably end the last beats of his fragile heart.

What Comes Around | Al Gami'ya

Reem Saleh | Lebanon, Egypt, Greece, Slovenia | 2018 | Arabic | 79 min

In Rod El Farag, one of the poorest residential areas in Cairo, obtaining daily needs is a constant struggle; but the sense of community shared by the inhabitants helps them overcome their hardships through a social practice known as 'Al Gami'ya' (The Assembly). In this film, the assembly, situated under a train station, serves as a portal to penetrate the lives of five characters over a period of six years.

Short Film Competition

The Awards

El Gouna Golden Star for Short Film	Trophy, Certificate and USD 15,000
El Gouna Silver Star for Short Film	Trophy, Certificate and USD 7,500
El Gouna Bronze Star for Short Film	Trophy, Certificate and USD 4,000
El Gouna Star for the Best Arab Short Film	Trophy, Certificate and USD 5,000

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

Abdullah and Leilah | Abdullah wa Leilah

Ashtar Al Khirsan | Iraq, UK | 2018 | English, Arabic | 20 min

Haunted by memories of his childhood in Baghdad, Abdullah suffers from dementia and struggles to communicate with his British-born daughter Leilah. As his mind wavers between his past and his unfamiliar present, he no longer remembers the life he has lived in London for the past 60 years or the fluent English he has spoken. Leilah, who only speaks English, needs one last moment of connection with her father before she also fades from his memory.

All Inclusive

Corina Schwingruber Ilić | Switzerland | 2018 | No Dialogue | 10 min

A workout on the sun deck, a conga line in the dining hall, a photo shoot with the captain, or a beauty contest for all ages: fun around-the-clock is guaranteed on a cruise, while you float along with your hotel room. The sea-faring holiday fortresses have come into vogue and business is booming. In the towering ship's wake, we are left behind with a hoard of digital memories and a cloud of exhaust fumes on the horizon.

All These Creatures

Charles Williams | Australia | 2018 | English | 13 min

A 13-year-old boy takes a stroll down memory lane in an attempt to restore the image he has of his destructive father. He starts to pull apart the memories that led to his life's tragedy while coming to terms with his own fears about what sort of a man he will become. In parallel, he tries to deal with a mysterious infestation that crept into both his house and garden.

Calendar | Kalendar

Igor Poplauhina | Russia | 2018 | Russian | 28 min

At first glance she is just an ordinary woman. But every couple of months her normal life comes to a halt. Without her loved ones knowing, she goes on a long journey. She jumps from one type of transport to another, carefully covering up her tracks, building a web of lies during her phone conversations. What is on her mind and what is the purpose of this journey?

The Cord | Alhabl Alsirri

Al Laith Hajjo | Syria | 2018 | Arabic | 20 min

Nada goes into labor a month before expected. Her husband's car has been out of order and a sniper is preventing the midwife, who lives on the other side of the neighborhood, from helping them. Forced to deliver his baby in the trunk of his car, the husband decides to take revenge on the sniper in an unimaginable way.

Eva

Xheni Alushi | Switzerland | 2018 | Swiss-German | 15 min

Although she is a swimmer, Eva was unable to save her brother from nearly drowning at sea. He now lies in a coma and her cold relationship with her mother is not helping Eva's conscience either. She stumbles upon a mysterious puddle in her bathroom, which takes her to the depths of the sea. As her mother looks for Eva, she only finds a puddle of water that she starts to wipe away.

Eyebrows | Ma Tilash An Alhajib

Tamer Ashry | Egypt | 2018 | Arabic | 21 min

"What is the one thing you wish was not forbidden?" Aiesha posts the controversial question in a closed Facebook group for her burka-wearing peers. Aiesha, who is nicknamed among her peers as the "fair-eyed haori", meets her friend Sally at the mall shortly after the post. She hides more than her body and face under her burka; and during the seemingly ordinary shopping trip, she discovers that what she hates most about her life is right over her eyes.

Fait Divers

Léon Yersin | Switzerland | 2018 | French | 19 min

At dawn, Gregor is woken by the police knocking at his door. They have come to pick up the body of his next-door neighbor, who has been dead for two years without anybody noticing. Gregor tries to deal with his conscience, slowly changing as he becomes contaminated by this death which now haunts him. He gradually sinks into paranoia. When the night comes, there's no turning back.

Fork & Knife | Shokah we Sekina

Adam Abd El Ghaffar | Egypt | 2018 | Arabic | 15 min

Over what looks like a random conversation between two strangers who have just met; they reveal their secrets while tackling subjects of love, marriage and infidelity. They explore their reasons in a very intense dialogue, they accept one another's cruelty, sarcasm, and marriage advice; until they reach an unexpected choice to reveal the ugly truth and they leave just the way they met... as strangers.

The Gift | Le Cadeau

Latifa Doghri | Tunisia | 2018 | Arabic | 20 min

Myriam and Sabri are a young couple who have been married for one year. For their first wedding anniversary, Myriam, a conservative and veiled kindergarten teacher; decides to grant her husband Sabri, a taxi driver, a very strange gift by reconstructing her hymen and virginity one more time. Little does she know her naive and desperate gesture will paradoxically lead her to a very liberating awareness.

Guaxuma

Nara Normande | France, Brazil | 2018 | Portuguese | 14 min

Guaxuma is a riveting short film that uses sand-animation to evoke intimate childhood memories, friendship and shared dreams. It pays tribute to Tayra, with whom Nara Normande, the film's director, grew up. Nara moved to the city when she became a teenager; but she returns every now and then because the sea breeze brings her some happy memories as she recalls the good old days they spent together.

Hi I Need to Be Loved

Marnie Ellen, Hellen Hertzner | USA | 2018 | English | 11 min

"I am going to have you read from a collection of my spam emails," the director explains as she ushers actors from Craigslist one by one into an audition room. The actors and the director search together for the human voice within nonsensical and malicious emails. All is revealed to the viewer; film equipment litters the audition room floor, a cow pasture, a sunset, a strip club... is this poetry or malware?

Judgement

Raymund Ribay Gutierrez | Philippines | 2018 | Tagalog | 15 min

When life becomes unbearable after years of suffering from domestic violence by her husband Dante; Joy, a mother of a four-year-old girl, finally decides to stand up for herself by filing a case against him. When she is yet again humiliated during the police procedure, she comes to the conclusion that the system in her country shames women for being abused and discovers that this will be a difficult battle to win.

Labor

Cecilia Albertini | USA, Italy | 2018 | English | 13 min

Veronica is a single woman who was asked to be a surrogate mother for Carole's child. When Veronica is five months pregnant, her doctor notices something unusual during a routine ultrasound examination and decides to run more tests. They discover that the child Veronica carries for Carole may be at risk of a genetic disease, and she faces a harrowing dilemma when she is asked to abort the baby.

My Best Friend's Shoes | Rammat-Gammat

Ajitpal Singh | India | 2018 | Gujarati | 19 min

Two boys from different backgrounds bond over soccer. One is a better soccer player, the other is richer... their friendship will soon be tested because of a new pair of shoes. The film makes a strong case for the urgent need to embrace social inclusion and integration, so that prejudice and discrimination resulting from class division may finally be eradicated.

The Nephew | Le Neveu

Wilhelm Kuhn | UK, France | 2018 | French | 20 min

Burgundy, France, end of 1945. On the day of his 15th birthday, Louis receives a very special gift from his uncle Jules, who decides to take his nephew to his favorite brothel in an attempt to let him explore his new life as a grown-up man. Through the evening's bittersweet encounters, Louis discovers the adult world in all its complexity and cruelty.

The Night of Cesare | La Notte Di Cesare

Sergio Scavio | Italy | 2018 | Italian | 20 min

Cesare is an old and solitary man. One evening, his neighbor asks him to look after her son Kadim for the night. Eager to undertake the responsibility, Cesare takes good care of Kadim; also sharing with him pieces of his own past. As a delicate connection unfolds between the old man and his guest, the film sheds light on different aspects of the human condition.

Our Song to War

Juanita Onzaga | Colombia, Belgium | 2018 | Spanish | 14 min

Crocodile-men, a mystical river, children who like fishing and a war that is coming to an end, all share the same piece of Colombian land: the village of Bojaya. The villagers hold a strange belief and celebrate death with the "Novenario" ritual. All of that can be the beginning of a very long story in which spirits and people meet to discover what life has to offer after the war.

Sheikh's Watermelons | Les Pastèques du Cheikh

Kaouther Ben Hania | Tunisia, France | 2018 | Arabic | 22 min

Sheikh Taher is well-known for being a godly and respected imam among his people. One day, he agrees to pray for the soul of a woman he does not know. It doesn't occur to him that his act of piety will cause him a lot of trouble. Hamid, his young Machiavellian and ambitious underling, takes this situation as an opportunity to precipitate the spoliation of Taher's power.

Son of a Dancer | Ebn Alraqasa

Georges Hazim | Lebanon | 2018 | Arabic | 21 min

Majed, a 20-year-old man, is grieving the loss of his recently deceased mother. One day, he gets the shock of his life when he learns that she used to be a belly dancer. Torn between his relationship with his now-silent father, and Hanine, the woman who will help him overcome his grief; he takes a trip down memory lane in an attempt to discover the mysterious past of his mother.

Spring | Vesna

Nathalia Konchalovsky | Russia | 2018 | Russian | 23 min

Marina, a 50-year-old woman, arrives in Saint Petersburg for her daughter's birthday. Her daughter, Olya, isn't really happy with this surprise visit. Marina ends up spending the day alone. In the evening, when she returns to Olya's, she finds a big party going on. Feeling alone and out of place; she meets a young man, Artyom, and together they decide to escape from the celebration.

Strange Planet Theory | Teoria Sobre um Planeta Estranho

Marco Antônio Pereira | Brazil | 2018 | Portuguese | 14 min

In a visual metaphor about love, life, death and the sense of the day; the passion of a man for a woman is the symbol of nature and the mysteries of existence lost in our universe. Every human being brings a universe within. An unmarried couple lives in a garden. The two should be married; but instead they are faced by an incident that brings another meaning to their lives.

Tomatic

Christophe M. Saber | Switzerland, France | 2018 | French | 20 min

Three best friends – Jimmy, Samy and Sofi have the idea of a lifetime, or so they think. They decide to transform a chocolate vending machine into a cannabis-vending machine. Their master plan doesn't go as expected, so they get more creative with the idea... only to fail again: Also there is a dog in the film.

Cinema for Humanity Audience Award

The Awards

Audience Award for a film that exemplifies a humanitarian theme

Trophy, Certificate and USD 20,000

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

The Festival team will identify feature-length films with a humanitarian theme from any section. These films will be eligible for GFF's special "Cinema for Humanity" audience award.

Official Selection Out Of Competition

At War | En Guerre

Stéphane Brizé | France | 2018 | French | 113 min

Despite heavy financial sacrifices by the employees and record profits that year, the management of Perrin Industries decides to shut down their factory. Desperate to save their jobs, the 1100 employees, led by their spokesman Laurent Amédéo (played by Vincent Lindon – Best Actor Award, Cannes 2015 for Brizé's *The Measure of a Man*), are determined to fight this brutal decision – trying by any means to prevent their only source of livelihood from going under.

Dilili in Paris | Dilili à Paris

Michel Ocelot | France | 2018 | French | 94 min

Dilili, a young Kanak, gets caught up in a mystery plot that will take her through the upper reaches and lower depths of Paris. With the help of her friend, she investigates a spate of mysterious kidnappings of young girls that is plaguing La Belle Epoque in Paris. In the course of her investigation she encounters a series of characters, each of whom provides her with clues that will help her in her quest.

Dogman

Matteo Garrone | Italy, France | 2018 | Italian | 102 min

Marcello is a simple man who owns a dog parlor and dotes on his young daughter. Simone is an unhinged boxer, a bully fresh out of prison and looking for danger. Bound by loyalty, Marcello becomes Simone's sidekick in a spate of drug-fuelled robberies that terrorize their small town. When things spiral out of control, Marcello is jailed for a year away from his daughter. Having lost everything, he seeks revenge on Simone in a battle for honor.

The Freshmen | Première année

Thomas Lilti | France | 2018 | French | 92 min

After failing once and missing the last admission pass the second time; Antoine, who is about to take the preparation exam for medical school for the third time, is joined by Benjamin, who will make his first attempt. They soon realize that life as students is not going to be a walk in the park. In a fiercely competitive environment with days spent in classrooms and nights dedicated to revising rather than partying, the two will have to make compromises for their friendship and find balance for a tough life today and an easier life tomorrow.

The Guilty | Den Skyldige

Gustav Möller | Denmark | 2018 | Danish, English | 85 min

Alarm dispatcher and former police officer, Asger Holm, answers an emergency call from a kidnapped woman. When the call is suddenly disconnected, the search for the woman and her kidnapper begins. With the phone as his only tool, Asger enters a race against time to save the endangered woman. But soon he realizes that he is dealing with a crime that is far bigger than he first thought.

Gunshot | Eyar Nari

Karim El Shenawy | Egypt | 2018 | Arabic | 95 min

Amid deadly clashes with anti-riot forces, bodies start piling up in Cairo's morgue. While examining the cadaver of Alaa Abu Zayd, the forensic doctor notices something unusual. The doctor, who battles alcohol dependence and personal problems, writes a medical report that stirs up a media frenzy, inflaming public anger and accusations of political and ethical corruption. The mysterious incident connects the fates of the protagonists and changes their beliefs about the concept of truth.

Happy as Lazzaro | Lazzaro Felice

Alice Rohrwacher | Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France | 2018 | Italian | 125 min

Winner of the Best Screenplay Award at the Cannes Film Festival, *Happy as Lazzaro* is a magic-realist fable that presents a searing portrayal of class divisions. Set in an isolated village, it tells the story of the friendship between Lazzaro, a young peasant so good that he is often mistaken for simple-minded; and Tancredi, a young nobleman cursed by his imagination. Little does Lazzaro know that this life-altering friendship will take him on an unexpected journey.

The Heiresses | Las Herederas

Marcelo Martinessi | Paraguay, Germany, Brazil, Uruguay, France, Norway | 2018 | Spanish | 95 min

Chela and Chiquita are both descended from wealthy families. When their financial situation worsens, they start selling off their inherited possessions. But when their debts lead to Chiquita being imprisoned on fraud charges, Chela begins to provide a local taxi service to a group of wealthy elderly ladies. She finally begins to come out of her shell and engage with the world, embarking on her own personal, intimate revolution.

Kailash

Derek Doneen | USA | 2018 | English, Hindi | 92 min

"I didn't see why some people were 'born to work' at the cost of their childhood," states Kailash Satyarthi at the beginning of the film. With the help of a covert network of informants, Nobel Peace Prize winner Satyarthi and his team carry out daring raids to rescue and rehabilitate trafficked children who have been forced into slave labor. Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, Derek Doneen pulls us into Kailash's gripping pursuits and relentless energy to create the change he wants to see.

Mug | Twarz

Malgorzata Szumowska | Poland | 2018 | Polish | 91 min

Jacek loves heavy metal, his girlfriend and his dog. His family, his small hometown and his fellow parishioners all see him as an amusing freak. Jacek works at the construction site of what is supposed to become the tallest statue of Jesus in the world. When a severe accident disfigures him completely, all eyes turn to him as he undergoes the first facial transplant in the country.

The Old Man and the Gun

David Lowery | USA | 2018 | English | 93 min

At the age of 70, Forrest Tucker makes an audacious escape from San Quentin, conducting an unprecedented string of heists that confound authorities and enchant the public. Wrapped up in the pursuit are a detective, who becomes captivated with Forrest's commitment to his craft; and a woman who loves him in spite of his chosen profession.

A Paris Education | Mes Provinciales

Jean-Paul Civeyrac | France | 2018 | French | 136 min

Striving to be a great director, Etienne travels from his working-class home in Lyon to study cinema at the Sorbonne in Paris. He quickly falls in with two classmates: the cheerful and rather helpful Jean-Noël and the cocky, seductive Mathias who talks about movies all the time. But as they spend the year studying, they have to face friendship and love challenges as well as choosing their artistic battles.

Shoplifters | Manbiki Kazoku

Hirokazu Kore-eda | Japan | 2018 | Japanese | 121 min

After one of their shoplifting sessions, Osamu and his son come across a little girl in the freezing cold. At first reluctant to shelter the girl, Osamu's wife agrees to take care of her after learning of the hardships she faces. Although the family is poor, barely making enough money to survive through petty crimes, they seem to live happily together until an unforeseen incident reveals hidden secrets, testing the bonds that unite them. Winner of the Palme d'Or for Best Film at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival.

U – JULY 22 | Utøya 22 Juli

Erik Poppe | Norway | 2018 | Norwegian | 92 min

On July 22, 2011, more than 500 youths at a political summer camp on an island outside Oslo were attacked by a heavily armed right-wing extremist. The murderous assault claimed 69 lives. Director Erik Poppe reconstructs the gruesome events of that summer in the traumatic story told from the point of view of the victims.

Ulysse and Mona | Ulysse et Mona

Sébastien Betbeder | France | 2018 | French | 82 min

Ulysse is a fifty-five-year-old contemporary artist. Four years ago, he ran away from his family and put an end to his career. He now lives alone and is bored to death. Mona is a twenty-year-old student of Fine Arts. Her life as an artist couldn't be more uneventful between still life, nude drawing workshops and theory classes taught by geriatric teachers. All of a sudden, she decides to meet Ulysse.

The Wild Pear Tree | Ahlat Agaci

Nuri Bilge Ceylan | Turkey, Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Sweden | 2018 | Turkish | 188 min

An ambitious young graduate, Sinan, is passionate about literature and has always dreamed of becoming a writer and publishing his own book. After returning to his hometown with a diploma but no job; he pours his heart and soul into trying to collect the money he needs to publish his debut novel, a memoir about life in his village, but his father's debts catch up with him.

Winter Flies | Vsechno Bude

Olmo Omerzu | Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, France, Poland | 2018 | Czech | 85 min

The police interrogate 14-year-old Mára at the station after he is caught behind the wheel far across a country from where he lives. He and somewhat eccentric Heduš had set out for the frozen landscape down south to seek adventure; but the mischievous breeziness with which Mára gives his story, and his concealment of the details of the trip gradually strips his statement of credibility.

With the Wind | Le vent tourne

Bettina Oberli | Switzerland, France | 2018 | French | Russian, English | 88 min

A farm in the Jura Mountains, far away from the nearest village, is where Pauline and Alex's dream of a self-sufficient life in harmony with nature has come true. Now the couple wishes to become totally independent by producing their own power. The pragmatic and easy-going engineer Samuel visits them to oversee the construction of a wind turbine. Pauline feels immediately attracted to him and suddenly realizes how limited her life has been.

Special Presentations

8 ½ | Otto e Mezzo

Federico Fellini | Italy, France | 1963 | Italian | 138 min

The plot of Fellini's iconic masterpiece *8½* revolves around an Italian film director, Guido Anselmi, who is suffering from "director's block". He is supposed to be directing an ill-defined science fiction film but has lost interest amid artistic and marital difficulties. As Guido struggles half-heartedly to work on the film, a series of flashbacks and dreams merge with his memories and fantasies that are often interwoven with reality.

The Emigrant | Al Mohager

Youssef Chahine | Egypt, France | 1994 | Arabic | 129 min

Winner of the Horus Award (Cairo National Festival for Egyptian Cinema, 1995), *The Emigrant* is a fascinating story inspired by the biblical tale of Joseph. Its protagonist Ram dreams of learning agriculture in Egypt to save his tribe from famine. His jealous brothers throw him into the hold of a boat and abandon him, only to be sold as a slave in Egypt when the boat docks. But Ram's ambition opens the doors to the secret of the pharaohs; while his looks entice the fabulous priestess Simihit, the wife of the military leader Amihar, who has treated Ram like his own son.

Persona

Ingmar Bergman | Sweden | 1966 | Swedish | 85 min

During a performance, stage actress Elisabet Vogler stops speaking for a moment. The next day she withdraws completely into a mental and physical inertia. Her psychiatrist sends her to a beach house to rest. She is attended by Alma, a trained nurse who attempts to penetrate the silence by talking about herself. A warm friendship develops between the two women. More than 50 years after its premiere, Ingmar Bergman's enigmatic masterpiece still shines with a piercing intensity.

Roma

Federico Fellini | Italy, France | 1972 | Italian | 128 min

Travelogue, memoir, and outrageous cinematic spectacle converge in this kaleidoscopic valentine to the Eternal City, composed by one of its most iconic inhabitants. Leisurely one moment and breathless the next, this urban fantasia by Federico Fellini interweaves recollections of the director's young adulthood with an impressionistic portrait of contemporary Rome. *Roma* penetrates the myth and mystique of Italy's storied capital, a city Fellini called "the most wonderful movie set in the world."

Wild Strawberries | Smultronstället

Ingmar Bergman | Sweden | 1957 | Swedish | 93 min

Crotchety retired doctor Isak Borg travels from Stockholm to Lund, Sweden, with his pregnant and unhappy daughter-in-law, Marianne; in order to receive an honorary degree from his alma mater. The encounters along the way cause the elderly doctor to muse upon the pleasures and failures of his own life. *Wild Strawberries* remains Bergman's most successful film in terms of the number of awards it has received.

International Advisory Board

El Gouna Film Festival is deeply honoured that the stellar group of industry professionals listed below joined our advisory board last year. These individuals represent the pinnacle of professionalism and artistic achievement. El Gouna Film Festival is humbled by the trust they placed in our team and its passion since its inception. Their support continues to guide and inspire us as we strive to produce a unique festival experience of the highest quality.

Hiam Abbas, Actress, Writer, Film Director, Palestine

Tareq Ben Ammar, Producer, Distributor, Tunisia, France

Mohamed Malas, Film Director, Syria

Yousry Nasrallah, Film Director, Egypt

Atiq Rahimi, Author, Film Director, France, Afghanistan

Hend Sabry, Actress, Tunisia, Egypt

Abderrahmane Sissako, Film Director, Producer, Mauritania

Margarethe Von Trotta, Actress, Screenwriter, Film Director, Germany

Forest Whitaker, Actor, USA

Youssra, Actress, Egypt

Career Achievement Award

El Gouna Film Festival is proud to announce the recipients of the El Gouna Film Festival Career Achievement Award, 2018. The award is reserved for individuals whose work and commitment to cinema has left an indelible mark in the field of their work. The name of the 3rd honoree will be announced soon...

Daoud Abdel Sayed

After studying film directing at Egypt's Higher Institute of Cinema, Daoud Abdel Sayed began his film career as an assistant director for Youssef Chahine's *The Land* (1970). *The Vagabonds* (1995) established him as a pioneer of "New Realism" in Egyptian cinema, since then he has made a number of commercially successful and critically acclaimed films. Along with *The Land of Fear* (1999) that won the best Arab Film Award in Cairo International Film Festival, his films *Kit Kat* and *Messages from the Sea* are counted among the best Arab films. Daoud Abdel Sayed has held prestigious positions as a member of the Higher Film Festival Commission and the Higher Council of Culture in Egypt.

Dora Bouchoucha Fourati

Tunisian producer Dora Bouchoucha Fourati holds degrees in English Literature from the Sorbonne in Paris. She started her career in cinema as a translator of screenplays. The first woman in Tunisia to take on the role of a film producer, she founded Nomadis Images, a production company responsible for some of the best Tunisian films that have been screened in Berlin, Cannes and Venice. She also founded Sud Ecriture, a screenwriting workshop, and has since mentored over 200 filmmakers. Equally adept at handling film festivals, she headed the Carthage Film Festival in 2008, 2010 and 2014 and has been on the grand jury of the Berlinale. She was appointed president of the Fonds Sud Cinéma of the CNC in 2010; and president of the follow-up institution, Aide aux Cinemas du Monde, in 2014.

CineGouna Platform

A creative hub for minds and markets, the CineGouna Platform is a film industry-oriented event created with the objective of nurturing and strengthening promising Egyptian and Arab cinema projects and filmmakers and helping them find artistic and financial support. The CineGouna Platform presents the CineGouna Bridge and the CineGouna SpringBoard programmes that provide opportunities for sharing and learning.

For the 2nd edition of the CineGouna Platform, El Gouna Film Festival has invited a number of leading regional and international experts in the field of cinema to participate in its various activities. The participation of representatives of major international film festivals such as Sundance, Berlin, Tribeca, Cannes, Venice, Carthage and Cairo have already been confirmed. Some of the most important producers and distributors who represent regional and international companies, TV networks and film institutions, such as Arab Fund for Art and Culture, Hubert Bals Fund, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Norwegian Film Institute, American Film Showcase, Torino Film Lab, Vice Media, MBC and ART, will also attend the programmes and activities of the 2nd edition of the CineGouna SpringBoard and the CineGouna Bridge.

The programmes and activities of the CineGouna Platform will take place at the TU Berlin, El Gouna Campus from September 22 to 27, 2018.

CineGouna SpringBoard

CineGouna SpringBoard is a project development and co-production lab that provides opportunities to find creative and financial support for Arab film directors and producers.

Application was open for submissions of feature narrative and feature documentary projects in development as well as films in post-production.

For its 2nd edition, CineGouna SpringBoard received 145 submissions (101 projects in development and 44 films in post-production) from all parts of the Arab world.

A panel of experts reviewed the submissions and made a selection of 12 projects in development (9 narratives and 3 documentaries) and 6 films in post-production (3 narratives and 3 documentaries) on the basis of their content, artistic vision, and overall financial feasibility. The high quality of submissions made the selection process very challenging.

The final list of selected projects and their directors, representing 6 Arab countries (Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq) is as follows:

Projects in Development:

Barzakh, directed by Laila Abbas, Palestine. (Feature Narrative)

Curfew, directed by Elyes Baccar, Tunisia. (Feature Narrative)

Dead Dog, directed by Sarah Francis, Lebanon. (Feature Narrative)

Embodied Chorus, directed by Danielle Davie, Mohamed Sabbah, Lebanon. (Feature Documentary)

Fouledh, directed by Mehdi Hmili and Abdallah Chamek, Tunisia. (Feature Documentary)

Gaza DC, directed by Rashid Masharawi, Palestine. (Feature Narrative)

Hanging Gardens, directed by Ahmed Yassin Al Daradji, Iraq. (Feature Narrative)

Soad, directed by Ayten Amen, Egypt. (Feature Narrative)

The Doubt, directed by Ihab Jadallah, Palestine. (Feature Narrative)

The Man Who Sold His Skin, directed by Kaouther Ben Hania, Tunisia. (Feature Narrative)

Waiting for the Train, directed by Zeina Sfeir, Lebanon. (Feature Documentary)

Yam & I, directed by Nadine Salib, Lebanon. (Feature Narrative)

Films in Post-production:

1982, directed by Oualid Mouaness, Lebanon. (Feature Narrative)

Certified Mail, directed by Hisham Saqr, Egypt. (Feature Narrative)

Fataria, directed by Walid Tayaa, Tunisia. (Feature Narrative)

I Am a Script Girl, directed by Mina Nabil, Egypt. (Feature Documentary)

Off Khartoum Sides, directed by Marwa Zein, Sudan. (Feature Documentary)

Underdown, directed by Sara Kaskas, Lebanon. (Feature Documentary)

The selected film directors and their producers will present their projects and films to potential co-producers, funding agencies, distributors, sales agents and festival programmers to receive constructive feedback. In addition, private meetings are scheduled for the filmmakers with experts and mentors, to help them fine-tune their scripts or rough cuts with the aim of increasing their opportunities of regional and international cooperation.

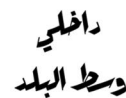
All selected projects in development and films in post-production will compete for awards that will be decided by a jury of industry experts. The best project in development and film in post-production will receive a CineGouna Platform Certificate and a cash prize of US \$15,000 each. Additional awards and cash prizes are presented through partnerships with local and regional institutions listed below:

A total prize money of more than US \$150,000 (more than double of the 1st edition awards) will be given away during the CineGouna Platform Awards Ceremony to be held at the Marina Theatre on September 27, 2018.

US \$15,000 from New Century Production

US \$10,000 from Arab Radio & Television (ART)

- US \$10,000 from Cedars Art Production
- US \$10,000 from Creative Media Ventures “Ebda3”
- US \$10,000 from iProductions
- US \$10,000 from Maqam Productions
- US \$10,000 from O3 Productions (MBC Group)
- US \$10,000 from Synergy Films
- US \$10,000 from the U.S. Embassy of Cairo
- US \$10,000 worth of post production services from The Cell Post Production
- US \$5,000 from Mentor Arabia
- US \$5,000 from Tayarah
- US \$5,000 from The Cell Post Productions
- Unlimited location shooting service for one Egyptian film from Dakhli West El Balad



CineGouna Bridge

CineGouna Bridge, a meeting point and a forum for dialogue between different cinematic voices, is ready to welcome its guests to its 2nd edition. Arab filmmakers and their international counterparts will engage in and share their perspectives on a wide range of topics related to the social and business aspects of cinema.

Its activities will include round tables, workshops, masterclasses and discussions with key industry professionals and experts.

Some of the current social and political issues, the role cinema can play to raise awareness and bring a positive change will be discussed. The CineGouna Bridge will also cover some key industry topics such as the means and sources of film funding and how cinema is evolving, or needs to evolve, in the times of digital content.

Below are some of the topics that will be discussed in the CineGouna Bridge programme this year, and some of the speakers in each panel discussion and masterclass. More panels and speakers will be announced soon.

Cinema For Humanity

Refugees and Their Stories Through Film

Over 65 million people around the world have been recently displaced to escape famine, climate change and war - can filmmakers, through their stories, ensure that we see those affected by exile as people rather than statistics? This discussion will look into the power of film and its impact on society for driving positive change on a global scale.

Confirmed Panelists:

- **Moderator: Jay Weissberg (USA)**

Film Critic at Variety

- **Omar Samra (Egypt)**

Entrepreneur, Adventurer, UN Goodwill Ambassador, Founder of Wild Guanabana and Marwa Fayed's Toy Run

- **Ragnhild Ek (Sweden)**

Entrepreneur, Communications Expert, Award-winning Film Producer and Political Scientist, Former Journalist, Member of UNHCR Egypt

Women's Empowerment Through Film

What is the role of film in creating and reinforcing women's social roles? How can media be used in support of the cause for gender equality and women's economic empowerment? Where do we go from here in light of the recent social media movements? These and other questions will form the basis for the presentation and discussion of the panel.

Confirmed Panelists:

• **Moderator: Dora Bouchoucha (Tunisia)**

First Female Tunisian Film Producer, Head of Carthage Film Festival in 2008, 2010 and 2014, Producer of several acclaimed movies that premiered at major festivals

• **Bina Paul (India)**

Faculty at the Film and Television Institute of India, Vice Chairperson of the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, Artistic Director of the International Film Festival of Kerala, Vice President of NETPAC

• **Atiq Rahimi (France, Afghanistan)**

Acclaimed Writer and Filmmaker, Winner of the French literary prize, Prix Goncourt for his book The Patience Stone.

• **Dr. Maya Morsy (Egypt)**

President of the National Council for Women, Winner of The Woman of the Decade in Public Life and Empowerment Award

Cinema Beyond The Set: Conversations With Industry Experts

Getting Creative About Getting Money

Film financing is one of the most challenging aspects of the filmmaking process. Without funding, even the greatest story will remain just a dream. This panel will explore alternative sources of funding and ways to build financing from several different avenues.

Confirmed Panelists:

- **Moderator: Liz Shackelton (UK)**
Asia Editor at Screen International
- **Bianca Taal (Netherlands)**
Curator of the Voices Section – IFFR, Member of the Hubert Bals Selection Committee, Former Co-head of Cinemart and Former Director of Programmes at Binger Film labs.
- **Alban De Menonville (Egypt)**
Co-founder of Bassita

Digital Content: From Creation To Monetization in cooperation with DigiSay (a media company based in Egypt)

The rise of digital enabled filmmakers to access new means of financing, marketing, and distribution. This discussion addresses the MENA region's readiness to embrace digital entertainment, and how producers approach the challenges of such strategy.

Confirmed Panelists:

- **Dominique Delport (France)**
Expert in Digital Content and Media, President of Vice Media
- **Ahmed Abbas (Egypt)**
CEO of DigiSay, an online and offline media agency, offering a wide range of services including Content Production and Distribution; Communications & PR; Research & Marketing Intelligence

A Duet With Fellini In Films And Dreams

A Conversation with **Gianfranco Angelucci**

Gianfranco Angelucci, a scriptwriter and director who worked alongside Federico Fellini for more than twenty years, will be giving some precious first-hand insight into the backstage stories of the great master's works, their meanings and messages, along with anecdotes about his personal life.

From Script To Screen

Masterclass by **Paul Haggis**

Two-time Academy Award winning director, writer and producer, Paul Haggis, will present some in-depth tips and tricks on writing and directing engaging memorable and exciting stories for cinema. He will also share his experiences and expertise on the craft of filmmaking.

American Film Showcase (AFS) Workshop

CineGouna platform is proudly partnering with The U.S. Embassy in Cairo and the American Film Showcase to host award-winning directors **Keith Fulton** and **Lou Pepe** in Egypt, for a special three-day workshop that focuses on story development and characterization for both feature and documentary films. The workshop is designed for emerging filmmakers with a developed concept that have not started production of their film.

PRESS ACCREDITATION

The Press Office of El Gouna Film Festival is accepting press accreditation requests from publishing journalists, photographers, TV reporters, TV crews, radio reporters, radio crews, online reporters, online crews, news agency correspondents and PR agents for the films being screened at the festival.

Submission of applications for Press Accreditation was opened on **August 6, 2018** and will close on **September 5, 2018**.

GUIDELINES FOR PRESS ACCREDITATION

The following supporting documents should be provided along with a duly completed application form.

- i. A letter from your editor/publisher, on official company letterhead, assigning the coverage of the festival to you. The letter must provide the following information:
 - a)Details of the planned editorial coverage.
 - b)The target audience of the publication you will be covering for.
 - c)The dates of publication or broadcast of the coverage.
- ii. At least two by-lined articles published within the last 6 weeks and a copy of the publication or a link to the story written and produced by the applicant along with date of publication or broadcast. (PDFs and links are both acceptable.)
- iii. A short CV.
- iv. A headshot for your press badge.

Only applications that are received with the requested documents will be processed.

Once the request is approved, a confirmation will be sent to the email address you provided while submitting your request.

The press office will acknowledge the receipt of your application. In case you do not hear from us within 10 days of submitting your request, please contact :

Ola El- Shafey, Head of the Press Office

Email: press@elgounafilmfestival.com

Mobile: 00201211644667/ 00201112235424

Important Notes:

1. No fees are required for the press accreditation.
2. The festival reserves the right to deny accreditation. Applicants of unsuccessful requests will be duly informed.
3. Only one representative will be accepted from each media outlet.
4. Accreditation is non-transferrable.

BENEFITS OF PRESS ACCREDITATION

- Access to the video library.
- Access to Press Conferences and Press Lounge.
- Up to three entry tickets daily, free of charge, to three different festival screenings, on first come first served basis.
- Up to two free daily tickets for industry events (panel discussions, masterclasses, etc.) Festival catalogue, festival guide.
- Access to promotional materials related to films and guests in the festival programme. Free entry to the media party.

For any clarification, please email us at press@elgounafilmfestival.com

Facts and Figures

Note: Facts and Figures mentioned below relate only to films confirmed as of 28 August 2018

Feature Films	
Selected Feature Films (All Sections)	45
Narrative Features (All Sections)	34
Animated Features	2
Documentary Features (All Sections)	11
Narrative Features in Competition	12
Documentary Features in Competition	10
Countries represented	38
Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Paraguay, Poland, Republic of Macedonia, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, Uruguay, USA	
Short Films	
Short Film Competition	23
Countries represented	15
Australia, Brazil, Belgium, Colombia, Egypt, France, Iraq, Italy, India, Lebanon, Philippines, Russia, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, United States, United Kingdom.	
Special Presentations	
	5
World Premieres	
	11
International Premieres	
	3