



**The 18th edition of the Marrakech International Film Festival takes place from November 29 to December 7, 2019**

**MARRAKECH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS 2<sup>nd</sup> EDITION OF NEW INDUSTRY PLATFORM THE ATLAS WORKSHOPS, DECEMBER 3 TO 6**

**Rabat, November 19, 2019. Cinema from Africa and the Middle East has had a significant presence at the major international film festivals throughout 2019, echoing the growing interest of the international industry in the pool of talents emerging from the region. The Atlas Workshops have been designed to enable the Marrakech International Film Festival to accompany the emergence of a new generation of Moroccan, Arab, and African filmmakers, as well as to create an essential meeting place for the international industry.**

Introduced in 2018, the Atlas Workshops are a creative and professional platform that supports filmmakers, as well as a space for networking among international industry representatives and regional talents. For its second edition, **the Atlas Workshops supports 28 projects in development and films in post-production selected from among some 130 submissions.** The selected projects represent **13 Moroccan filmmakers and 14 countries** including certain territories that are rarely showcased on screens (Comoros, Djibouti, Mozambique, and Tanzania).

Teams from **ten projects in development and six films in post-production** will enjoy mentoring sessions from international industry professionals and compete for grants totalling MAD640,000 (€60,000). In parallel, the Atlas Workshops extends its programme with two new initiatives. **The Atlas Close-Ups** programme features six Moroccan projects, while the **Atlas Films Showcase** provides a first look at three films made by established filmmakers to festival programmers. The Atlas Workshops also showcases the documentary genre, welcoming four African documentary makers to participate in **Hot Docs – Blue Ice Group.**

In addition, the Atlas Workshops 2019 feature **round-table discussions** during which professionals will share their experiences and thoughts on African and Middle-Eastern cinema. In particular, this edition will **shed light on writing for genre cinema**, which is currently enjoying a resurgence in the Arab world and on the African continent. It will also explore the network model, welcoming 16 members of the **Network of Alternative Arab Screens.**

**Overt the course of four days, with the support of Netflix, the Atlas Workshops will welcome 270 international professionals to develop and support Moroccan, Arab and African films.**

## **ATLAS WORKSHOPS' SELECTION**

### PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT

- 1- **ASKHKAL** by Youssef Chebbi (Tunisia)
- 2- **COURA + OLEYE** by Iman Dijonne (Senegal)
- 3- **HEIRLOOM** by Larissa Sansour & Søren Lind (Palestine)
- 4- **IKIMANUKA – SEASONS OF THE WEARY** by Samuel Ishimwe (Rwanda)
- 5- **THE MOTHER OF ALL LIES** by Asmae El Moudir (Morocco) - *documentary*
- 6- **LES MEUTES** by Kamal Lazraq (Morocco)
- 7- **PERFUMED WITH MINT** by Hamdy Muhamed (Egypt)
- 8- **A SECOND FILM** by Tamer el Saïd (Egypt)
- 9- **SWEET ANNOYANCE** by Hiwot Admasu Getaneh (Ethiopia)
- 10- **ZAÏRIA** by Machérie Ekwa Bahango (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

### FILMS IN POST-PRODUCTION

- 1- **THE GRAVEDIGGER** by Khadar Ahmed (Djibouti)
- 2- **JOINT POSSESSION** by Leila Kilani (Morocco)
- 3- **MICA** by Ismaël Ferroukhi (Morocco)
- 4- **RED CARD** by Mohamed Said Ouma (Comoros) - *documentary*
- 5- **A TUG OF WAR (VUTA N'KUVUTE)** by Amil Schivji (Tanzania)
- 6- **ZANKA CONTACT** by Ismaël el Iraki (Morocco)

### ATLAS FILMS SHOWCASE

1. **ON THE WAY TO THE BILLION** by Dieudo Hamadi (Democratic Republic of the Congo) - *documentary*
2. **COLLAPSED WALL** by Hakim Belabbes (Morocco)
3. **OUR DARK 70S** by Ali Essafi (Morocco) - *documentary*

### ATLAS CLOSE-UPS

1. **ATTEINTE A LA PUDEUR** by Mohamed Bouhari (Morocco)
2. **LA CAMEL DRIVING SCHOOL** by Halima Ouardiri (Morocco)
3. **LE CHAMEAU MANQUANT** by Cheikh N'Diaye (Morocco)- *documentary*
4. **KHOURIBGA BLUES** by Andrea Parena and Omar Kamel (Morocco) - *documentary*
5. **LE MUR DE LA MORT** by Amine Sabir (Morocco)- *documentary*
6. **LA TEMPETE** by Sofia Alaoui (Morocco)

### HOT DOCS BLUE ICE DOCUMENTARY GROUP

1. **THE NIGHTS STILL SMELLS OF GUNPOWDER** by Inadelso Cossa (Mozambique) – *documentary*
2. **THE RADICAL** by Richard Finn Gregory (South Africa) - *documentary*
3. **ZINDER** by Aïcha Macky (Niger) - *documentary*

For more information

[www.festivalmarrakech.info](http://www.festivalmarrakech.info)