



**The 18th edition of the Marrakech International Film Festival  
will be held from November 29 to December 7, 2019**

## **MARRAKECH PAYS TRIBUTE TO FOUR GREAT NAMES IN CINEMA, HAILING FROM FOUR CONTINENTS**

**Rabat, November 15, 2019. The Marrakech International Film Festival celebrates cinema's diversity and pays tribute to four great names in cinema from diverse backgrounds.**

American director, producer, actor and environmentalist Robert Redford has already confirmed his presence in Marrakech to receive the Festival's Etoile d'Or award in recognition of his prodigious career.

Three other great names in cinema will be celebrated at the Festival this year. Their careers and achievements are as varied as they are exceptional.

The Festival is honoured to welcome veteran French filmmaker Bertrand Tavernier who has directed some of the most celebrated films of contemporary French cinema. The Festival will also pay tribute to one of Moroccan cinema's shining stars, actor Mouna Fettou, whose outstanding career has spanned nearly three decades. For the first time in the Festival's history a tribute will be paid on the mythical Jemaa El Fna Square, where Bollywood icon Priyanka Chopra will receive a tribute before the people of Marrakech.

The Festival celebrates cinema's diversity through these four tributes.

Throughout his extraordinary career, Robert Redford has marked a profound influence on contemporary cinema, becoming one of its leading figures. His exceptional filmography includes some of world cinema's greatest classics. A committed actor, Redford is also a committed environmentalist and staunch supporter of independent cinema, founding the Sundance Institute in 1981.

***"It's an honor to be invited to Marrakech, to meet storytellers and artists who will be sharing their unique voices and points of view with others. I thank the Marrakech International Film Festival for this generous invitation" said Redford in an official statement.***

The Festival is honouring Bertrand Tavernier's exceptional career and a life dedicated to filmmaking. Tavernier was introduced to cinema at an early age, becoming passionately involved in film. Tavernier's works are some of the most important in French cinema (Le Juge et l'Assassin, Autour de Minuit and L'appât...). Filmmaker, auteur and producer, Tavernier is a major cinephile and has published a number of works on cinema. He is also President of Lyon's prestigious Institut Lumière.

***"I have indelible memories of Marrakech, so to return brings me immense joy. I look forward to seeing the country again, to showing my films, exchanging with the public, engaging with the students, meeting other filmmakers and Moroccan auteurs, men and women. Listening to them, and sharing this experience will be enriching for us all." says Tavernier of his upcoming participation in the 18th edition of the Marrakech International Film Festival.***

Another highlight of the 18th edition of the Marrakech International Film Festival is a tribute to Moroccan actor Mouna Fettou. An icon in the Kingdom, Mouna Fettou has marked Moroccan cinema with her charm, spontaneity and talent for the past three decades. Since her first major role in Un amour à Casablanca in 1992, she has made many notable film and television appearances playing mythical roles, shifting with ease from comedy to drama.

***"The Marrakech Film Festival and I have a long-standing love story... I have wonderful memories of being the Master of Ceremony in 2006. This year I am deeply moved to be receiving a tribute from this prestigious festival. What an honour it is to be given this recognition from peers in Morocco and abroad! My pride is only matched by my impatience to meet you all there," says Mouna Fettou in an official statement.***

Priyanka Chopra will feel at home in Marrakech. She is one of Indian cinema's most popular stars, and has a cult following in the ochre city. Bollywood cinema is hugely popular in Morocco and especially in Marrakech. Entire crowds sing and dance along to Indian films shown on the giant screen at Jemaa El Fna Square during the festival. Priyanka Chopra's tribute will take place on the mythical square before her adoring fans.

***"I am thrilled to be returning to Marrakech, after attending the Festival in 2012 for the Tribute to Hindi cinema" said Priyanka Chopra Jonas. "It is such an honor to be recognized this year with a tribute on Jemaa El Fna Square before the Moroccan public, who have always showed so much love and support throughout my career."***

For more information  
[www.festivalmarrakech.info](http://www.festivalmarrakech.info)

## BIOGRAPHIES



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### **ROBERT REDFORD** **Director / Producer / Actor / United States**

Throughout his extraordinary career, Robert Redford has marked a profound influence on contemporary cinema, becoming one of its leading figures.

A visionary entrepreneur, exceptional creator and artist, each of Robert Redford's filmmaking initiatives has met with success, whether as director, producer, actor or founder of the Sundance Institute and the Sundance Festival - the first festival showcasing independent cinema in the world.

Robert Redford is a staunch supporter of uncompromised creative expression, and a political activist who embraces the causes of environmentalism and conservationism as well as social responsibility.

Robert Redford initially rose to fame as an actor. He landed his first Broadway starring role in "Sunday in New York", followed by "Little Moon of Alban" and Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park", directed by Mike Nichols. His first movie role was in "War Hunt", then the reprisal of the Paul Bratter role in "Barefoot in the Park", which earned him praise from critics and the public alike.

In 1969, Robert Redford and Paul Newman teamed to star in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid". Directed by George Roy Hill, the film became an instant classic, firmly establishing Redford as one of Hollywood industry's top leading men. He reunited with Paul Newman and George Roy Hill for "The Sting", which went on to win seven Oscars®, including Best Picture, and earned Redford a Best Actor nomination.

Robert Redford has since built a prodigious acting career, working with such greats as Sydney Pollack (seven collaborations), Arthur Penn, Alan J. Pakula, Richard Attenborough, Barry Levinson, among others, starring in such notable films as "Jeremiah Johnson", "The Way We Were", "The Great Gatsby", "Three Days of the Condor", "The Great Waldo Pepper", "Brubaker", "A Bridge

Too Far", "The Natural", "Out of Africa", "Legal Eagles", "Sneakers", "Indecent Proposal", "Up Close and Personal", "Spy Game", "The Last Castle", "The Clearing", "An Unfinished Life", "All is Lost", "A Walk in the Woods", "Truth", "Pete's Dragon", "The Discovery", "Our Souls at Night", and "The Old Man and the Gun".

Redford has performed in many films produced by his own production company, Wildwood Enterprises, such as "Downhill Racer", "The Candidate", "The Electric Horseman", and "All the President's Men", which received seven Oscar® nominations including Best Picture.

Redford's directing career has proven equally fascinating and successful. His feature film directorial debut was "Ordinary People", for which he received the Directors Guild of America Award, the Golden Globe, and the Academy Award® for Best Director.

He went on to produce and direct "The Milagro Beanfield War", followed by "A River Runs Through It", for which he earned a Golden Globe nomination for Best Director. "Quiz Show" received dual Oscar nominations (Best Picture and Best Director) and a Golden Globe nomination for Best Director. He earned two Golden Globe nominations (Best Picture and Best Director) for "The Horse Whisperer". Among his other films as director and producer, are "The Legend of Bagger Vance", "Lions for Lambs", "The Conspirator" and "The Company You Keep".



**BERTRAND TAVERNIER**  
**Director/ Writer/ Producer / France**

Bertrand Tavernier was born in Lyon on April 25, 1941. After a childhood spent in Lyon, his parents moved to Paris where he still lives today. He remains very attached to Lyon. Tavernier has lived abroad while shooting his projects (Glasgow in his beloved Scotland, Senegal, Cambodia, Louisiana...) and loves to travel, especially in Greece.

Son of poet and writer René Tavernier, founder of the French resistance literary review Confluences during World War II, and Geneviève Dumond. Tavernier began his career as 4th assistant director on Pierre Melville's Léon Morin, Priest. Thanks to Melville he joined "Rome Paris Films" founded by Georges de Beauregard and Carlo Ponti. As their publicist, he promoted the films of Jean-Luc Godard, Agnès Varda, Claude Chabrol, Jacques Rozier, Pierre Schoendoerffer and Robert Hossein.

He later became an independent publicist, teaming up with Pierre Rissient. They only represented films they loved: From Claude Sautet to John Ford, Howard Hawks, Joseph Losey, Jean Renoir, Sam Peckinpah, Ida Lupino, Jean-Pierre Melville, José Giovanni and many blacklisted filmmakers and scriptwriters.

His first feature film, *The Clockmaker* (1974), was an adaptation of Simenon's work. Winner of the Louis Delluc Prize, the Silver Bear in Berlin and the Hugo at the Chicago Film Festival, the film was his first collaboration with Philippe Noiret, who would become his favourite actor.

His next film, *Let Joy Reign Supreme* (1975), was his first period drama. He received the César for Best Screenplay and the César for Best Director, while Jean Rochefort was awarded the César for Best Actor. Tavernier went on to alternate between period pieces and contemporary works.

*The Judge and the Assassin* (1976) based on a true story, starred Philip Noiret and Michel Galabru. This was Noiret's third collaboration with Tavernier and his first in the role of an unlikeable character. Michel Galabru for his part showed the full extent of his enormous talent winning the César for Best Actor.

Tavernier continued to explore societal issues with *Death Watch* (1980), a science fiction film that denounced reality television before it existed.

A fan of American culture, Tavernier adapted a Jim Thompson novel (*Coup de torchon*), transposing the action to colonial Africa. He then directed *Round Midnight*, his declaration of love for jazz.

Tavernier's historical reconstruction of *Beatrice*, a foray into the Hundred Years' War, won him the admiration of historians, critics and audiences. He went on to explore the First World War in *Life and Nothing But* (1989) and *Captain Conan* (1996), the Algerian conflict in the documentary *The Undeclared War and the German Occupation in Safe Conduct* (2003), which was also a reflection on filmmaking.

He explored family issues in *A Sunday in the Country*, which won the Best Director Award at the Cannes Film Festival in 1984, and *Daddy Nostalgia* in 1990.

In the 1990s, Bertrand Tavernier continued to explore societal issues: *L 627* realistically depicts the daily life of police officers fighting drug trafficking, while *It All Starts Today* is a tribute to embattled nursery school teachers in a depressed mining village in northern France. In 1995 he received the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin International Film Festival for *The Bait*, in which he showed the moral bankruptcy of a cruel and disillusioned youth fascinated by American culture.

Committed to protecting artists' rights, Tavernier was twice President of the SRF (French Directors' Society) and later Vice-President of the SACD (French Author's Society). He has long battled to preserve copyright laws and the right of filmmakers to have full control over their works. He is also actively involved in other causes: *Histoire de vies brisées*, a documentary co-directed with his son Nils, led to repeal a law that extradited foreigners if they had committed an offence. *Holy Lola* (2004), co-written with his daughter Tiffany, portrays a sensitive modern-day couple's journey into the world of adoption in Cambodia. Set in Hurricane Katrina ravaged

Louisiana and adapted from a James Lee Burke novel, *In the Electric Mist*, stars Tommy Lee Jones (Grand Prix at the International Thriller Film Festival of Beaune).

Tavernier's period costume drama *The Princess of Montpensier* is set in 16th century France. Selected in official competition at the Cannes Film Festival, the film stars Mélanie Thierry, Lambert Wilson, Gaspard Ulliel and Raphaël Personnaz.

His following film, *The French Minister* (2013) is a political satire starring Thierry Lhermitte, Niels Arestrup, Raphaël Personnaz and Anaïs Demoustier. The film won the Jury Prize for Best Screenplay at the San Sebastian International Film Festival.

In 2016, Bertrand Tavernier authored *Voyage à travers le cinéma français*, an impassioned documentary in which he explores the works of his favourite filmmakers ("from Becker to Renoir, from Melville to Sautet") sharing anecdotes and personal insights.

In 2004, The Film Foundation presented him with the John Huston Award in recognition of his work for artists' rights.

Bertrand Tavernier has two children: Nils and Tiffany.

He married Sarah Thibau in 2005.

President of the Institut Lumière in Lyon, he and Thierry Frémaux created the Festival Lumière ten years ago.

SACD Cinema Award

Sacem Award in 2019



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## **MOUNA FETTOU**

### **Actor / Morocco**

Born in Rabat, Mouna Fettou expressed an early interest in performing arts. She was a member of the school drama club in both elementary and high school. She went on to study drama at the Mohammed V National Theater in Rabat and then at Jack Waltzer's Actors Studio in Paris.

Her film career began in 1992 with Abdelkader Lagtaâ's *Un amour à Casablanca* in which she starred opposite Ahmed Naji. The film, hailed by critics, was ahead of its time and broke taboos, generating much controversy.

Mouna Fettou soon became one of the leading actors in Moroccan cinema. She is in great demand and continues to work with some of the most renowned directors.

In Mohammed Abderrahmnan Tazi's *A la recherche du mari de ma femme*, she portrays Hadj Benmoussa's (Bachir Skiredj) third wife, alongside iconic actors Amina Rachid and Naïma Lemcherki. Critically acclaimed, the film was a major success making Mouna Fettou a household name in Morocco.

In 1999, the actress played one of the main roles in Saâd Chraïbi's *Femmes... et femmes*. As one of Moroccan cinema's most emblematic films of the late 1990s, it portrays a group of girlfriends facing life's uncertainties. Fettou's performance was hailed by critics and the film was one of the year's biggest box office successes.

She went on to star in a diversity of popular films including *Jawhara*, *Deux femmes sur la route* and *L'orchestre des aveugles*. She has also had a very successful television career, appearing in a number of hit TV movies and series.

Her roles have marked the public, as well as national and international juries. She has been awarded numerous prizes and distinctions.

Mouna Fettou recently appeared alongside Sandrine Bonnaire in Gaël Morel's *Prendre le large*, premiering at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival; and in Faouzi Bensaidi's *Volubilis* which had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival in 2017 and won the Grand Prix at the Tangiers National Film Festival in 2018.



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## **PRIYANKA CHOPRA** **Actor, producer / India**

Priyanka Chopra Jonas is a multi-faceted talent, who is one of the most recognized personalities in the world. Chopra-Jonas was already a film and television star in her native India when she made her American TV acting debut, on ABC's hit drama *Quantico*. Playing the central role of Alex Parrish, she made history as the first Indian actor to star as the lead of a TV drama series. *Quantico* ran for three seasons and was licensed in 212 territories (excluding the U.S. and Canada), across 54 languages.

In January 2016, Chopra-Jonas won a People's Choice Award for her role in *Quantico*, in the category of Favorite Actress in a New Television Series, again making history as the first Indian actress to win a People's Choice Award and in 2017 won Favorite Actress in a TV Drama. In April 2016 she was featured on the cover of *Time* magazine's coveted Time 100 issue, named as one of the "Most Influential People" in the world, and recognized as one of Forbes 100 Most Powerful Women in 2018. Chopra- Jonas' foray into the entertainment industry began at the age of seventeen, when she won Miss India and went on to win Miss World the following year, a title that brought her international attention. With over 100 million social media followers, and growing by the day, Chopra-Jonas is committed to using her reach for good. She is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, and has been a National Goodwill Ambassador to India for 12 years. She is also a UN Foundation Girl Up Champion and is involved in a number of efforts to protect children's rights and promote the education of girls in India, including her namesake charity, The Priyanka Chopra Foundation for Health and Education. In addition to these roles over Chopra-Jonas' 20-year career, she has dedicated herself to fighting for inclusion and diversity – both topics she is passionate about. Chopra-Jonas is married to recording artist and actor Nick Jonas. The couple splits their time between New York, Los Angeles, and Mumbai.