



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

**THE MARRAKECH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES THE PRIZE WINNERS
OF THE 2nd EDITION OF ATLAS WORKSHOPS,
THE FESTIVAL'S NEW PROFESSIONAL PLATFORM
DEDICATED TO CINEMA FROM AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

Marrakech, 7 December, 2019. The Marrakech International Film Festival has completed the second edition of its Atlas Workshops, an industry programme dedicated to African and Middle Eastern cinema, which was launched in 2018 in partnership with Netflix.

Over the course of four days (3 to 6 December), the Atlas Workshops brought together 270 international professionals around 28 projects led by a new generation of Moroccan, Arab, and African filmmakers. Participants attended a series of round tables opened by French-Senegalese director Mati Diop. The discussions focussed on the writing of genre cinema in the Arab world as well as throughout the African continent.

A new initiative of the workshops, the **Atlas Film Showcase** unveiled the first images of new films by directors Hakim Belabbès, Ali Essafi, and Dieudo Hamadi to thirty festival directors and programmers from Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Locarno, Sundance, Karlovy Vary, El Gouna, IDFA, Nyon, and Cairo, among others. In parallel, six Moroccan projects participated in the new mentoring programme **Atlas Close-up**.

Further, **ten projects in development** and **six in post-production** films benefited from consultations with nineteen international professionals before they were presented as part of a **co-production market that generated more than 350 individual meetings**.

For this second edition, the Atlas Workshops distributed prizes with a total endowment of MAD640,000 (€60,000). The jury of the **Atlas Development Awards**, composed of Laïla Marrakchi (director, Morocco), Georges Schoucair (producer, Lebanon) and Juliette Schrameck (Managing director of MK2, France) awarded the prizes to the projects SWEET ANNOYANCE de Hiwot Admasu Getaneh (Ethiopia), THE ORIGINAL LIE by Asmae El Moudir (Morocco) and IKIMANUKA – SEASONS OF THE WEARY KIND by Samuel Ishimwe (Rwanda)

Presented for the first time, the **ARTEKINO Prize** from the Franco-German channel Arte was awarded to LES MEUTES by Kamal Lazraq (Morocco).

The jury of the **Atlas Post-Production Awards**, composed of Chiraz Latiri (former director of the CNCI, Tunisia), Claire Willats (acquisition and production, Netflix) and Oumar Sall (producer, Senegal), presented award to THE GRAVEDIGGER by Khadar Ahmed (Djibouti) and ZANKA CONTACT by Ismaël el Iraki (Morocco).

Finally, the **Network of Alternative Arab Screens (NAAS)** network of sixteen cinemas in Arabic-speaking countries held its general assembly during the workshops and awarded the NAAS Prize for film circulation to **THE GRAVEDIGGER** by Khadar Ahmed (Djibouti).

In two years, the Atlas Workshops have become an essential event for global film-industry professionals, and a laboratory for discovering the new talents of cinemas in the Arab world and on the African continent.

AWARDS OF THE SECOND EDITION OF THE ATLAS WORKSHOPS

ATLAS PRIZE FOR DEVELOPMENT – MAD110,000 (€10,000)
SWEET ANNOYANCE by Hiwot Admasu Getaneh (Ethiopia)
Produced by Mehret Mandefro (Ethiopia)

ATLAS PRIZE FOR DEVELOPMENT – MAD55,000 (€5,000)
THE ORIGINAL LIE by Asmae El Moudir (Morocco)
Produced by Insight Films (Morocco) and Hutong Prod (France)

ATLAS PRIZE FOR DEVELOPMENT – MAD55,000 (€5,000)
IKIMANUKA – SEASONS OF THE WEARY KIND by Samuel Ishimwe (Rwanda)
Produced by Imitana Productions (Rwanda) - Petit Chaos (France)

ARTEKINO INTERNATIONAL PRIZE – €6,000
LES MEUTES by Kamal Lazraq (Morocco)
Produced by Barney Production (France) and Mont Fleuri Production (Morocco)

ATLAS PRIZE FOR POST-PRODUCTION – MAD220,000 (€20,000)
THE GRAVEDIGGER by Khadar Ahmed (Djibouti)
produced by Bufo Ab (Finland) and Twenty Twenty Vision Filmproduktion (Germany)

ATLAS PRIZE FOR POST-PRODUCTION – MAD110,000 (€10,000)
ZANKA CONTACT by Ismaël el Iraki
produced by Saïd Hamich (Morocco/France)

NAAS PRIZE FOR FILM CIRCULATION – a \$3,000 grant allowing network member cinemas to invite the winning director to present screenings of their film and so facilitate the circulation of the work in Arabic-speaking countries –

THE GRAVEDIGGER by Khadar Ahmed (Djibouti)
produced by Bufo Ab (Finland) and Twenty Twenty Vision Filmproduktion (Germany)

For more information
www.festivalmarrakech.info