

Palestinian Authority

The situation of the film sector in the occupied territories is strange: in spite of having no means, of being dependent on foreign aid and not having an exhibition network (the only cinema in activity is in Ramallah), the Palestinian film industry remains surprisingly dynamic. The 45 TV channels that exist in the territories are proof of the Palestinians' fondness for audiovisual works. Evidence of this is to be found in the impressive list of works awarded prizes in prestigious festivals such as Cannes or the Golden Globe Award. Among these are films such as "Paradise Now", "Divine Intervention", "Rania's Wedding" or films by Michel Khleifi. In 2007, a Palestinian-American co-production, "Driving to Zizigland" by Nicole Ballivian also enjoyed considerable international recognition. In 2008, "The Salt of the Earth" by Annemarie Jacir represented Palestine at the Cannes Film Festival.

Population: 4 147 000 inhabitants (West Bank and Gaza) (2008 estimate)

GDP: 4 150 000 US

Currency/rate of exchange:

the Israeli shekel (ILS) in the Gaza Strip (1€ = 5.3301 ILS) and the Jordanian dinar in the West Bank

Public funds available for the cinema:

The Ministry of Culture has access to 150 000€, half of which is intended to cover the expenses of the Ministry, the rest is divided between different projects. In addition a Palestinian Cultural Fund exists within the framework of a 3-year agreement between the Palestinian Ministry of Culture and Norway. It subsidises cultural activities, including film, through the Palestinian Ministry of Culture. It is due to end in 2008, its extension is currently under negotiation.

Sources: INED, French Embassy, Department of Cooperation and Cultural Action, General Consulate of France in Jerusalem, Shashat

PRODUCTION

Number of production companies:

4 (Dar Films Production, CineProd, Ustura Production and Shashat)

Number of films produced per year:

between 1 and 3

Number of co-productions per year:

between 1 and 3

Average budget of a film:

500.000€

FILM LABORATORIES

None

TRAINING

- The Institute of Modern Media in Ramallah (Film, Television, Journalism)
- The Media Institute in Birzeit
- The Documentary Film School in Bethlehem (created in 2006, the first class will graduate this year). 29 students divided between the 2 years, fifteen students per year).

CO-PRODUCTION AGREEMENTS

There are procedures for audiovisual cooperation with production companies from countries such as Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the Netherlands, the United States and the United Kingdom.

MAIN FESTIVALS

Al Kasaba

International Film festival

MAIN PRIZES OBTAINED

“The Salt of the Sea”

by Anne-Marie Jacir, selected at Cannes in the “Certain Regard” category, 2008, and was also nominated by the Palestinian Ministry of Culture to represent Palestine at the Oscars.

“Paradise Now”

by Hany Abu-Assad, Prize for Best Foreign Film, Golden Globe Award, 2006.

“Divine Intervention”

by Elia Suleiman, Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival 2002

“Be Quiet”,

by Sameh Zoabi, , Best film by a Student Aspen Shortfest 2006, Bronze Award Dubai 2006, Short Film Grand Prize Brest 2005.

And many selections in festivals all around the world, eg: “Rana’s Wedding” by Hany Abu-Assad, International Critics’ Week (Cannes 2002), and Michel Khleifi’s movies “Wedding in Galilee” (Directors’ Fortnight, 1987), “Canticle of the Stones” (Un Certain Regard, Cannes, 1990), “Tale of Three Diamonds” (Directors’ Fortnight, 1996)

DISTRIBUTION, EXHIBITION

- Number of cinema theatres: 1 commercial cinema only, the El Kasaba in Ramallah. 5 cinemas equipped with projectors, in Nablus (at the National University of An-Najah, theatre built by Turki bin Talal), Gaza, Bethlehem, Jenin (renovated cinema) and at the Qattan Foundation; 4 in the French cultural centres.
- Number of European films screened in cinemas: not communicated
- Number of US films screened in cinemas: Not communicated
- Number of other films screened in cinemas: not communicated
- Number of admissions: 60000/year
- Number of distributors and contact details: None
- Best box-office takings: not communicated
- Cost of an admission: 30 ILS (5.63€)
- Cost of a one-hour connection to the Internet: 2€

MEDIA

Television

45 private and local channels + 1 national public channel (Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation).

95.3 % of homes are equipped with a TV set.

29% of viewers watch Palestinian TV channels.

80.4% of homes have access to satellite channels (essentially Arab).

Source: Palestinian Statistical Bureau.

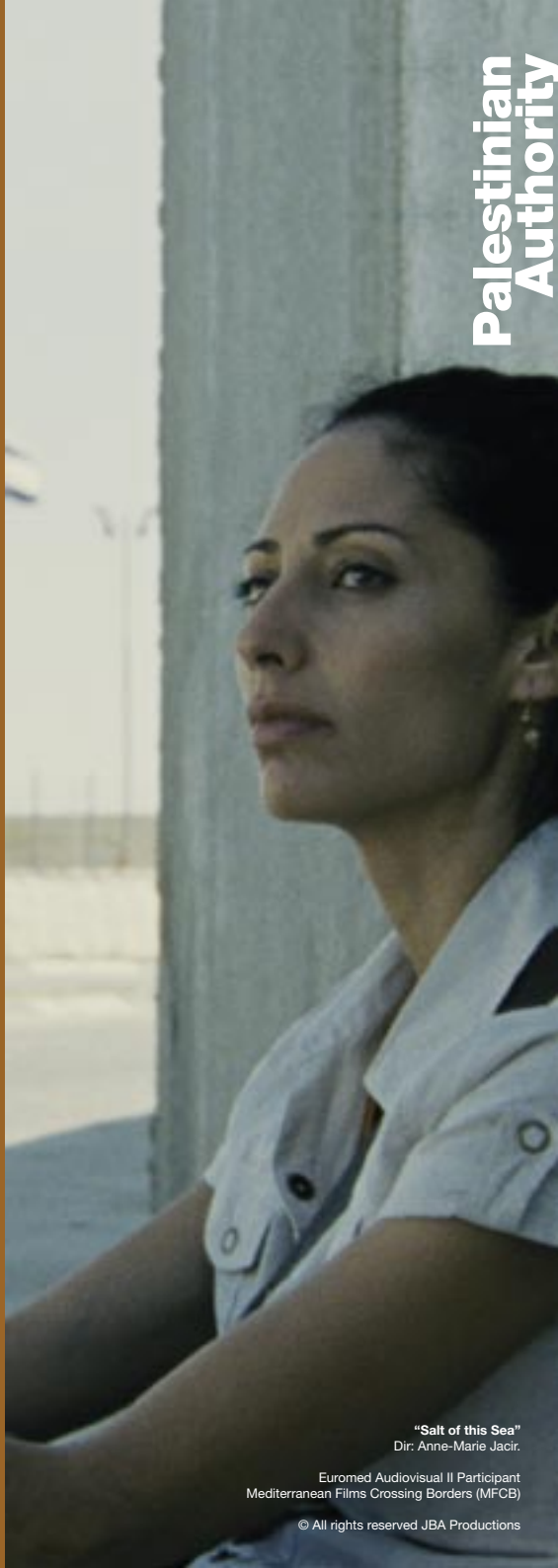
Broadcast languages: Arabic, English, Hebrew and French

Number of national films broadcast on TV:

1 serial in the autumn (in 12 episodes directed by Michel Khleifi).

Radio

45 radio stations



"Salt of this Sea"
Dir: Anne-Marie Jacir.

Euromed Audiovisual II Participant
Mediterranean Films Crossing Borders (MFCB)

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