

## Speakers



**Charbel Aad** is a Lebanese multidisciplinary artist, specializing in films, videos, theater and music. He graduated from Saint-Joseph University Beirut with a degree in audiovisual arts. Since then, he has participated in various projects both in Lebanon and abroad. In parallel, he works as a freelance project manager in the civic and humanitarian sectors.

**Ahmed Abdel Mohsen** was born in Switzerland in 1974. He studied media and journalism at the Faculty of Art, South Valley University in Egypt, and film directing at F+F Zurich, Switzerland, school of art and media design, where he also worked after his graduation. As a director and producer he realizes various fiction and documentary films. Ahmed Abdel Mohsen is the founder of Swiss Initiative – Culture Projects, Zurich, Karmakol International Festival, Sudan, and FEKRA Cultural Center, Aswan, Egypt, and Co-Founder of Donkeyshot Filmproduction Zurich. Filmography: *Rahim* (2004), *Away to God* (2005), *Fragments of Paradise* (2006) *In between* (2008), *Laisser-passer* (2009), *SIRA – Songs of the Crescent Moon* (2011), *NDOX* (2012), *Laila, Hala und Karima – A Year in Revolutionary Cairo* (2012), *Tit for Tat* (2014), *Comédie Humaine – An Encounter between Art and Architecture* (2015), *Imam* (2017) *El Nas Fe Belady* (2020), *Sukar, Almaz & MAHATAH – Side Stories from Main Stations* (2021), *Searching for Tarab* (2022).

**Fifi Abou Dib**, journalist and author, lives and works in Beirut. In 1986, she joined L'Orient-le Jour (a French-speaking Lebanese daily newspaper) where she has been writing the weekly column *Impression* since 2000. She became fashion editor of the newspaper and literary critic for the monthly L'Orient littéraire. Between 2009 and 2019, Fifi Abou Dib was also editor-in-chief of the bimonthly magazine L'Officiel-Levant.

**Muriel Aboulrouss** is a Lebanese award-winning cinematographer, she is the first woman to actually work as a cinematographer in the Arab World. She shot: *Stray Bullet* a drama from the 70's by Georges Hashem, it won Best Cinematography at Namur Film Festival and Best Arab Film at Dubai Film Festival in 2010. *Teta Alf Marra* by Mahmoud Kaabour, it won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at Doha Tribeca Film Festival, Docs Box Damascus festival in 2010-2011 and in London International Film Festival. *The shower*, a short film by Michel Kamoun, won Best

Cinematography at the Arab Screen International Awards. *Falafel*, a feature film by Michel Kamoun, won Best Film at Namur Film Festival in 2006. Her numerous cinematography credits include award winning documentaries as well: *The Oil Spill*, *Lesson in History*, *Mercedes* and *Ya Omri* all directed by Hady Zaccak. As a teacher and lecturer she created and led Cine-Jam the film lab since 2012. Now she is working with 10 filmmakers on a new workshop entitled *Ana Beirut* a series of 10-12 episodes to be conducted and filmed every year. In 2014, she debuted as a director with *Zyara – the documentary series*, produced by her own humanitarian arts association Home of Cine-Jam, which she set up together with Denise Jabbour. *Zyara* has won 45 international awards so far and a new season of 12 episodes to be produced every year.

**Alain Andrea** is a Doctor of Pharmacy who graduated from the University of Saint Joseph in Beirut. He specializes in molecular genetics research and is the author of several scientific publications on immuno-oncology and gene therapy. Dr. Andrea who is a piano player at the National Conservatory of Music in Lebanon has developed his critical thinking in the arts and music; he is a music critic and journalist in the French-speaking Lebanese press, and is known for more than a hundred articles featured in Lebanon or abroad.

**Vincent Cartuyvels** is a Belgian art historian, teacher and lecturer. He was a secondary school teacher at ENSAV La Cambre, at the Victor Horta architectural institute. Co-founder of the aggregation and professor of propaedeutics at La Cambre, and honorary director of the ESA LE 75 high school of the arts (Brussels). President of the CCAP (commission consultative des arts plastiques de la FWB) from 2003 to 2009. He is an active member of Culture & Democracy, in the “culture and education” unit. As such, it provides training in image pedagogy (arts and media) intended for adult teachers and mediators within the framework of educational and cultural institutions.

**Zeina Daccache** is a Lebanese actress, theatre and film director and drama therapist. She worked for the TV as an actress from 2003 to 2015. She is the founder and Executive Director of Catharsis - Lebanese Center for Drama Therapy and works as drama therapist in different settings (prisons, rehabilitation centers, etc...). Her work amended several laws in Lebanon. She is recipient of many awards given for her distinguished contributions to the field of social initiatives and services.

**Nathalie David** is scriptwriter, editor & director; born in France in 1963, she lives between Hamburg and Berlin. Studied Fine Art at the Villa Arson in Nice and the HfbK Hamburg. Institut des Hautes Études IHE Ponthus Hultén in Paris and visual communication in Hamburg. She is a recipient of the Hamburg-Stipend. In 2003/2004 she received a one-year fellowship at the Potsdam-Babelsberg HFF, Berlin. As an artist, she thinks in terms of various media – in particular film. Her works include documentaries on art, radio dramas, photography and drawings. Filmography: *The Seven Seasons* (2003), *Gaudere in Barcelona* (2004), *Paula Modersohn-Becker, ein Atemzug* (2007), *Cosmos Runge, the Dawn of Romanticism* (2010), *GEGO, Gertrud Louise Goldschmidt* (2013), *Villa Flora, its Collectors, its Artists* (2015), *This Photographer is called Leonore Mau* (2016), *L'Onde du Midi* (2020) & *Harald Naegeli, the Zurich Sprayer* (2021).

**Roberto Deidier** (Rome, 1965) is a poet and an essayist. He is a Full Professor of Italian Literature at the University of Palermo. For Sellerio he published *Le forme del tempo. Miti, fiabe, immagini di Italo Calvino*. [*The forms of time. Myths, fairy tales, images by Italo Calvino*] (2004), *Le parole nascoste. Le carte ritrovate di Sandro Penna* [*The hidden words. The rediscovered cards by Sandro Penna*] (2008), *Il lampo e la notte. Per una poetica del moderno* [*The lightning and the night. For a poetics of the modern*] (2012); for Marsilio, he publishes *Persefone. Variazioni sul mito* [*Persephone. Variations on the myth*] (2010) and for Donzelli *Kore, la ragazza ineffabile. Un mito tra passato e presente* [*Kore, the ineffable girl. A myth between past and present*] (2018). He has edited works and correspondence by authors such as Montale, Saba, Sicari, Manganelli, Bellezza and Sandro Penna, who entered the Mondadori “Meridian” series in 2017. For the same series, he translated the poems of John Keats (2019). With Raffaele Manica he curates *Il viaggiatore insonne* [*The sleepless traveler*], an annual notebook of studies on Sandro Penna.

**Sandra Gysi** was born in Switzerland in 1969. She holds a Master of Arts in social anthropology, film science and German literature at University of Zurich. Since 1995, she regularly sojourns in Egypt, Sudan etc., and studies of the Arab language. As a film director and producer she realizes various documentaries and fictions in Switzerland, Egypt, India and Sudan. She further works as project manager and realized several exhibitions with artists from Switzerland, Africa and the Arab World. She is co-founder of Swiss Initiative – Culture Projects, Zurich, and FEKRA Cultural Center, Aswan/Egypt, along with Donkeyshot Filmproduction Zurich. Filmography: *Break-up under the Morning Star, a Festival at the Dani in West Papua*

(2003), *Away to God & Salah Hassouna, an Egyptian Artist* (2005), *Madson Junior – Kinderstar in Afrika* (2007), *Rithaa – Ein Jenseitsreigen II* (2010), *SIRA – Songs of the Crescent Moon* (2011), *NDOX* (2012), *Laila, Hala und Karima – A Year in Revolutionary Cairo* (2012), *Sira: an ancient Epos, interpreted in a modern Way & Comédie Humaine – An Encounter between Art and Architecture* (2015), *INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MEET on Nonviolence and Peace* (2017), *Artist* (2018), *The Factory, Paintings by Fathi Aff & MAHATAH – Side Stories from Main Stations* (2021), *Searching for Tarab* (2022).



*Harald Naegeli – The Zurich Sprayer, Nathalie David, 2022, 97', VO/s-t. Fr.*

**Hala Habache** was born in Beirut. In 2016, she moved to Paris to study literature. Passionate about cinema and research, she aspires to pursue her university career with a Doctorate in Cinematography Studies. She also writes poetry and has an interest in screenwriting.

**Rabih Haddad** is a Lebanese author, university professor and communication consultant. He teaches “Cinema and Politics” and “The Memory of War” at Saint Joseph University of Beirut – USJ and “History of Cinematographic Genre” at Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts – ALBA. He hosts many film clubs. Rabih holds a Master’s Degree in Modern Literature from Saint Joseph University, an Audio-Visual Director’s Degree from the Conservatoire du Cinéma français and a Degree in Art History from the École du Louvre in Paris.

**Houda Kassatly**, born in Beirut in 1960, graduated with a DEA in Philosophy from the University of Paris I Pantheon - Sorbonne in 1984. In 1987, she completed a doctoral thesis in Ethnology and Comparative Sociology at the University of Paris X - Nanterre. Her training in ethnology sharpens her eye on social traditions, architectural heritage, environment and day to day life. This training goes hand in hand with photography, which she has been practicing and perfecting since her teens, making her the first female artist-photographer in Lebanon. In 1987, the photo library (phototèque) of the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris acquired a hundred of her photographs. In 1992 the Institut du Monde Arabe hosted her first personal exhibition. Since then, Houda Kassatly's photographic works have been regularly exhibited in galleries and art centers in Beirut and Europe.

**May El Koussa** is a film Historian, Assistant Professor, and Director of Studies at the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA, University of Balamand). She holds a BFA in Visual Arts from the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), a M.A. in Cinema Studies and a PhD in Arts Sciences from the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne (France). She is a member of the research lab ACTE (Arts, Création, Théorie, Esthétique) – Paris I. Her research focuses on European, Mediterranean and Lebanese cinemas, as well as the aesthetics of erasure and the aesthetics of tears in cinema. More recently she's been working on Foucault's Heterotopia in Films.

**Sylvie Kürsten** has been working as documentary film director in the arts and culture since 2011. After the termination of her editorial traineeship at the Northern Public Broadcasting Station in 2008, she has repeatedly worked for cultural TV magazines such as ARD or ZDF, moderating various live events, creating podcasts and audio walks or conceptualizing musical projects. Her first documentary was *Art & Crime, Smuggling*, a 2015 & 45-minute film narrating the story of the Venus of Morgantina, one of the greatest art scandals of the 20th century. Since then she has been working on more than 8 films. Among them *Rivalry in Music – Schönberg vs. Stravinsky* and very recently *Tamara de Lempicka, the Queen of Art Déco*.

**Denise Jabbour** is a Lebanese creative producer. She started her career as agency producer at TBWA/RAAD Dubai – United Arab Emirates, handling print, radio, and TVC. She worked with Batoota Films and the BBC trust fund on Arabic web-drama series: *Shankaboot* won Reflet d'Or for best web-series at the Geneva International Film Festival in 2010, and the International Emmy Award in Cannes 2011; *Fasateen* won The Grand Prix Du Jury at Marseille Film Festival. In 2014, she created and produced *Zyara - the documentary series*, as the first creation of her humanitarian arts association Home of Cine-Jam, which she set up together with Muriel Aboulrouss. Zyara won 45 international awards so far and a new season of 12 episodes is being produced every year. Currently she is running the MENA Media fund for Visionaire Media as the head of production and development in the Middle East. 2020 projects include: *Confessions of a Runner*, *Daughters of Darkness*, *Confessions from the War* and *Project Soar*.

**Abdul-Halim Jabr** is an architect/urban design consultant. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture from American University of Beirut (AUB), and a Master's degree in Urban Studies and Housing from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He was a faculty member of the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik and at the American University of Beirut. Jabr works actively on issues of urban design and governance in Greater Beirut, specifically in relation to the environment, old neighborhoods, and public places. Between March 2014 and November 2016, he served as an advisor to the Ministry of Culture with regard to heritage buildings in Beirut and was part of the team that drafted the new law for the protection of heritage. Since 2020, he has been a founding member of Beirut Heritage Initiative, a coalition of heritage NGOs actively protecting and restoring impacted homes and clusters in Gemmaizeh, Karantina and Mar Mikhael.

**Paul Magnette** is a professor of political science at the Free University of Brussels, and a member of the Royal Academy of Belgium. Passionate about Pasolini for more than thirty years, he devoted to him his bachelor's thesis, published in 1994 under the title "Pasolini, political passion", and devoted several articles and conferences to the work of the Italian poet and filmmaker. He entered politics fifteen years ago. He was appointed Minister several times and is today mayor of Charleroi and President of the Socialist Party in Belgium.

**Norman Malone** discovered, at age 5, he was a natural at the piano. Tragically, when he turned 10, his father attacked him with a hammer to the head, leaving him paralyzed on his right side. Undaunted, he began a lifelong quest to reclaim his place at the piano – mastering some of the most difficult music ever written for left hand alone – and never telling anyone of his deepening virtuosity. In 2015, at age 78, Malone revealed his story to the Chicago Tribune, prompting belated invitations to perform across America. Nearly 70 years after his tragic attack, Malone launches a much-delayed, triumphant concert career.

**Mai Masri** is a Palestinian filmmaker who grew up in Beirut. She studied film at San Francisco State University (USA) and directed several award-winning films that have been screened worldwide. She founded Nour Productions in 1995 with her late husband, filmmaker Jean Chamoun. Her films have received over 90 international awards including the Asia Pacific Screen Award in Australia (2007), the Mipdoc Trailblazer Award in Cannes, France (2011) and the El Gouna Film Festival Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019. Her debut feature film, *3000 Nights* (2015) was premiered at Toronto International

Film Festival and won 28 awards. Her films include: *Under the Rubble* (1983), *Wildflowers* (1986), *War Generation – Beirut* (1989), *Children of Fire* (1990), *Suspended Dreams* (1992), *Hanan Ashrawi: Woman of Her Time* (1995), *Children of Shatila* (1998), *Frontiers of Dreams and Fears* (2001), *Beirut Diaries* (2006), *33 Days* (2007), and *Beirut: Eye of the Storm* (2021).

**Yves Michaud** is a French philosopher and art critic. He has taught philosophy in many French and foreign universities (Paris-Sorbonne, Rouen, Montpellier, Edinburgh, Sao Paulo, UC Berkeley, etc.). Art critic since the late 1970s, he was called upon to run the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris from 1989 to 1996. He wrote about many artists - Viallat, Mitchell, Jaffe, Riopelle, Francis, Clément, etc., etc., etc., etc. - and published several books about philosophy of art. In 2023, he will publish an anthology of Etel Adnan's poetry, a collection of her poems between 1949 and 2010, in the Poetry collection of Gallimard, and an essay about Etel Adnan's thought, poetry and painting with the same publisher.

**Alice Mogabgab** has been the artistic director of the Beirut Art Film Festival since 2015. After studying art history at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, she returned to Lebanon in 1991 where she offered introductory courses in the history of art at the Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts (ALBA). In 1994, she opened her contemporary art gallery in Beirut and became passionate about the artists of today. In 2018, she inaugurated a second space in Brussels.



**Pierre-Paul Puljiz** is a Belgian director, producer and author. After studying Art History, he began his career as a music editor, before turning to audiovisual production in the 90s, more specifically the production of documentary films, then feature films. As a producer, he regularly supports the work of directors such as Larry Clark, Jonathan Caouette, Jean-Michel Vecchiet, Albert Maysles, Jonas Mekas... but also as a director, he is particularly interested in "Art & Culture" subjects stressing contemporary art, independent cinema, fashion and photography. For more than fifteen years he has been digging up the New York underground of the last 50 years. Today it is more on the side of Mexico City that his passions and research lead him.

**Gordon Quinn** is the artistic director and founder of Kartemquin Films. He was the executive producer of the Oscar-nominated documentaries *Edith and Eddie*, *Abacus: Small Enough to Jail* and *Minding the Gap*. Quinn is the executive producer on more than 50 documentaries spanning more than 5 decades. Recently he directed *For the Left Hand*, *Prisoner of Her Past*, *A Good Man* and *63 Boycott*, the latter of which was shortlisted for an Oscar nomination. Quinn helped create the "Documentary Filmmakers' Statement of Best Practices in Fair Use" and often speaks on public media, fair use and documentary ethics.

**Howard Reich** is the Emmy Award-winning writer-producer of three documentary films and the author of six books. He holds two honorary doctorate degrees; covered music for the Chicago Tribune from 1978-2021; and served on the jury for the Pulitzer Prize in Music four times, including the first time a jazz composition won (Wynton Marsalis' "Blood on the Fields" in 1997).

**Joseph Rustom** is a conservation architect and Associate Professor of Urban Studies at Saint Joseph University of Beirut. He holds a doctoral degree in urban planning from the Brandenburg University of Technology in Germany and master's degrees in architecture, architectural heritage preservation, and urban archaeology. He was research fellow of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Forum Transregional Studies – Berlin, and the German Research Foundation (DFG). After holding the position of Director of Studies at the Académie libanaise des beaux-arts (ALBA) for ten years, he will head the Oriental Library of the Saint Joseph University starting January 2023.

**Christian Taoutel** is the director of the history department at USJ. He is also the director of the USJ archives and the curator of the Jesuit Archives of the Near East. Author and co-author of several books on the history of Lebanon, he has also received numerous international distinctions.

**Jean-Philippe Theyskens** is an art historian and guide-lecturer; he has been working since 1997 within the cultural mediation team of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, and gives courses in the history of modern art in an art academy in Brussels. He leads guided visits and lectures in Belgium and Europe.

**Giona Tuccini** is of Florentine training. Former full professor of Italian literature at the University of Cape Town where he headed the Italian section of the Faculty of Humanities, he now teaches modern and contemporary Italian literature at the "Aldo Moro" University of Bari. In addition to having dealt with mysticism, with particular attention to medieval religious literature, the Christian Renaissance and early twentieth-century spiritual culture, he devoted himself to the study of the work of Pier Paolo Pasolini and Enrico Pea. His bibliography includes the volumes *The Vespasian and the wedding dress. Physiognomies and tasks of poetry in the work of Pier Paolo Pasolini* (Udine 2003), *Searching spirits. Mysticism and sanctity in Boine and Papini* (Urbino 2007), *Voice of silence, light on the path. Yet other mystical pages between Italy and Spain* (Urbino 2008), *Bernardino da Siena. Short stories, anecdotes, vulgar speeches* (Genoa 2009), *Girolamo Savonarola. Rime* (Genoa 2015), *Nostalgia for the abyss. The novels of Enrico Pea from the 1930s* (Rome 2020) and, more recently, *Worthy of Heaven. Plebeian humanism and the poetics of sacrifice in Pasolini's "Accattone"* (Rome 2021).

**Lama Tyan**, interior designer, came to the opera house out of passion. Fascinated by this "total art", she offers since 2003 a program of listening and appreciation of lyrical art and organizes cultural trips since 2013. Passionate about music and art, keen on culture and languages, chorister for her pleasure, Lama created OperaTrotter in order to share her passion.

**Ghada Waked**. After studying Fine Arts in Photography, Art History and Economics, Ghada Waked founded BIB, *Beirut Biennial for the Image* and *Albedo Creative Platform* an interdisciplinary platform focusing on digital and new media, that she directs. She teaches currently at University of Balamand ALBA and at USJ ECAR. Her work and research revolve around the economics, the image theory and the interrelation of art and urban space in a perspective of critical reflection.

**Hady Zaccak** is a Lebanese award-winning filmmaker and a professor-researcher at IESAV film School, Saint-Joseph University, Beirut. He is the author of more than 20 socio-political documentaries about Lebanon and the Arab world. His selective filmography includes: *Ya Omri/104 wrinkles* (2017) (Jury Award Malmo Arab Film Festival, Sweden, 2017), *Kamal Joumlatt, Witness and Martyr* (2015) (Francophone Trophy for the best documentary 2016), *Marcedes* (2011)

(FIPRESCI Award (the International Federation of Film Critics)-Dubai International Film Festival 2011), *A History Lesson* (2009) (1<sup>st</sup> prize Arab Film Festival-Rotterdam 2010), *The War of Peace* (2007), *Refugees for Life* (2006) ...

In addition to his films, Zaccak is the author of two books on cinema: *The Last Film Screening, a biography of Cilama Tripoli* (2021) and *Lebanese Cinema, an itinerary of a cinema heading towards the unknown (1929-1996)* (1997).

Hady Zaccak seeks through his work to document the traces of the past in the present and to preserve memory.

**Nanette Ziade Ritter** is a multifaceted journalist. She works the audiovisual and written press field, she is also a voice-over artist and translator. Today, she works for several media: Arab News, l'Orient-le Jour, Radio Liban 96.2 and Nostalgie where she tackles political, social and cultural topics.

**8<sup>th</sup> baff**  
BEIRUT ART FILM FESTIVAL

**2022**  
**8-18 NOV**  
ALBA - DEKOUANEH

DOCUMENTARIES  
LECTURES & PANELS  
BALLET FILMS & ARTS  
ENCOUNTERS

**Pasolini**  
Eskapist  
**Zürich Ballet**  
**Adnan** Botticelli  
Compagnie 7273  
**Zyara** Velasquez  
Basquiat  
**Margiela** Val Del Omar  
**Niemeyer**  
Van Gogh Ennio  
**Naegeli** Gaudi  
De Lempicka

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