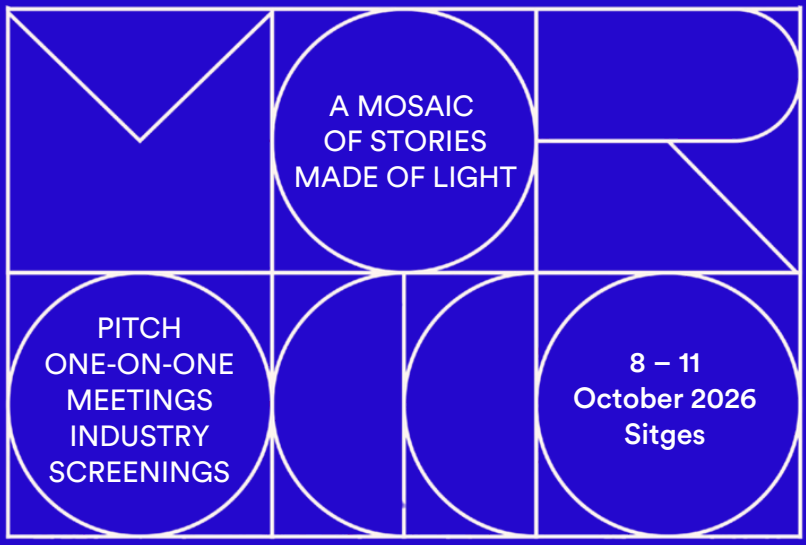
Focus Morocco

MOROCCAN DOCUMENTARY



MOROCCO

AT MEDIMED 2026

The Euro-Mediterranean Documentary Market & Pitching Forum · Sitges, 8–11 October 2026

Royaume du Maroc
Ministère de la Jeunesse, de la Culture et de la Communication

المملكة المغربية
وزارة الشباب والثقافة والتواصل

مركز السينمائي المغربي
Centre Cinématographique Marocain

MEDIMED

EDITORIAL

Moroccan cinema is being written today in the present. A present in flux, driven by diverse perspectives, unique narratives and a clear determination to tell the world's story from a Moroccan perspective.

Documentary holds a special place in this momentum. Moroccan filmmakers turn their cameras toward the real: territories, memories, communities and the shifts of a constantly evolving society. Their films question identities, give voice to those rarely heard, and open spaces for dialogue between the intimate and the universal.

This creative vitality is part of a robust, structured and rapidly expanding ecosystem. Talented and resourceful directors, committed producers, skilled technicians, broadcasters and institutions work together to support documentary projects from development to international distribution.

At MEDIMED, Morocco comes to Sitges with seven projects. Each of them reflects the richness of the Moroccan culture both rooted in Mediterranean cinema, attentive to the world and ready to build lasting partnerships.

For Morocco is both a land of stories and a hub of filmmaking. A place where imaginations converge, where collaborations are forged, and where every film adds to a shared narrative.

REDA BENJELLOUN
Director of the Moroccan Cinema Center (CCM)

AT A GLANCE

Seven Moroccan documentary projects pitching at MEDIMED 2026

9 FRIDAY

Spiritual Diaries

13:40

by Rim Mejdi
Director & producer

Hotel Calipolis, Sert Room

CO-PRODUCERS WANTED PITCH

9 FRIDAY

Karama

16:48

by Fatym Layachi
Producer
Younes Lazrak

Hotel Calipolis, Sert Room

PITCHING FORUM

10 SATURDAY

Ancient Bling

10:57

by Robin Bicknell
Producer
Hind Saïh

Hotel Calipolis, Sert Room

PITCHING FORUM

10 SATURDAY

The Mountain of Patience

11:30

by Sami Saif Sir El Khatim
Producers : Kenza Alioua, Sami Saif Sir El Khatim

Hotel Calipolis, Sert Room

PITCHING FORUM

AT A GLANCE

Seven Moroccan documentary projects pitching at MEDIMED 2026

10 SATURDAY

Flower of The Sands

12:00

by Jaouad Babili
Producer
Faiçal Benaghrou, Taoufik Charafdin

Hotel Antemare

ANTI PITCH

10 SATURDAY

Woman In The Sun

12:55

by Merieme Addou
Producers
Merieme Addou, Karim Aïtouna

Hotel Calipolis, Sert Room

PITCHING FORUM

ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

Inzerki The Silence of The Bees

by Noufissa Charaï
Producers
Noufissa Charaï, Stéphanie Lebrun

Hotel Calipolis, Arcos Room

SPEEDY PITCH

I. PITCHING FORUM

PITCHING FORUM

KARAMA
FATYM LAYACHI

SYNOPSIS

Karama follows several lives that, seen alongside one another, form a portrait of a generation. I was moved by the strength of the people I chose to follow. They are exuberant and eloquent. Nothing had prepared them to speak out, yet they do. These are ordinary lives shaped by concrete circumstances: studying, working, waiting, creating, getting involved. Politics is expressed through bodies, gestures and everyday choices as much as through ideas. They do not stand for an entire generation; they offer ways of getting to know it. The film seeks to get it right rather than cover everything. These are individual faces, individual lives. What is distinctive about each of them will reveal something of their shared experience. Their lives tell us about Morocco today, bringing into focus their relationship with the country, their sense of dignity and their hopes for the future.

DIRECTOR
Fatym Layachi

PRODUCER
Younes Lazrak

COUNTRIES
Morocco

LANGUAGE
Moroccan Darija

DURATION
90'

THEMES
Human interest

LOOKING FOR
Co-production in Europe, production funds.

CONTACT
Younes Lazrak
younes.lazrak@gmail.com

PROJECT HOLDERS

KARAMA

FATYM LAYACHI

DIRECTOR

Born in Casablanca, Fatym Layachi is a Moroccan filmmaker, writer and performer. Trained in literature and the arts between Morocco and France, notably at the Sorbonne and Cours Florent, she has developed a multidisciplinary practice at the intersection of cinema, theatre and documentary filmmaking. For ten years, she worked as a journalist and columnist for the Moroccan magazine *TelQuel*, grounding her work in field research and narrative observation that continue to inform her documentary approach. Over the past fifteen years, she has created stage works blending theatre, circus and music, presented across Morocco and France, including *Aux croisements* and *Massira*. Her work explores questions of identity, memory and transmission, often within a Mediterranean context.

YOUNES LAZRAK

PRODUCER

Younes Lazrak is a Moroccan producer, director and media entrepreneur based in Casablanca. He began his career as a journalist and television host, a graduate of the École Supérieure de Journalisme de Paris, before moving into film and digital production. In 2016, he co-founded JAWJAB, a creative studio and production company developing documentaries, fiction and digital content focused on social issues, youth culture and contemporary Moroccan society. He has produced several award-winning projects exploring gender equality, social justice and freedom of expression, often focusing on voices rarely heard in mainstream media. JAWJAB won the Samir Kassir Prize for Freedom of Expression in 2019 and the Grand Prix Tilila in 2023.

PITCHING FORUM

Friday, October 9 · 4:48 PM

PITCHERS

Younes Lazrak (Producer)
Fatym Layachi (Director)

MEDIMED
2026

WATCH THE TEASER →

PITCHING FORUM

ANCIENT BLING

Les bijoux à l'aube des sociétés humaines

ROBIN BICKNELL

SYNOPSIS

In the arid foothills of Morocco's Anti-Atlas Mountains, deep inside Bizmoune Cave, archaeologists led by Abdeljalil Bouzouggar (INSAP Rabat) and Steven Kuhn (University of Arizona) uncovered a discovery that is rewriting the story of our species: the oldest known jewelry ever found. Thirty-three tiny marine shell beads, deliberately perforated, stained with red ochre, and dated between 142,000 and 150,000 years ago. Transported far from the ancient shoreline and carefully modified by human hands, these shells are far more than decorative objects. They represent one of the earliest technological and cultural innovations that fundamentally transformed our brains, our societies, and ultimately what it means to be human. *Ancient Bling* follows the scientific investigation behind this extraordinary discovery.

DIRECTOR
Robin Bicknell

PRODUCER
Hind Saïh

COUNTRIES
Morocco, France & Canada

LANGUAGE
French, English, Arabic & German

DURATION
90' & 52'

THEMES
Culture, Knowledge & History

LOOKING FOR
Pre-sales, outside of France, Germany and Morocco.

PRODUCTION COMPANY
Bellota Films, 14 rue du Moulin Joly, 75011 Paris

CONTACT
Bellota Films
+33 1 83 62 22 33
production@bellotafilms.fr
bellotafilms.fr

PROJECT HOLDERS

ANCIENT BLING

ROBIN BICKNELL

DIRECTOR

Robin Bicknell is a documentary director and screenwriter based in Toronto, Canada. She specializes in high-end documentaries focusing on history, science, pop culture and human adventure. Among the major broadcasters she has worked with are the BBC, Channel 4, History, PBS, CBC, Discovery Channel, ARTE, France 5, ZDF, Science Channel, MTV, Channel 5, TLC, Discovery Health, Discovery ID, Canal Vie, A&E, Discovery Europe, Slice Network, W Network, Smithsonian Channel and Global Television.

HIND SAÏH

PRODUCER

Hind Saïh was born and raised in Morocco. She started her career in 1999 at Play Film, a Paris-based production and distribution company. In 2009, she founded Bellota Films to produce singular and ambitious films delivering a strong discourse on our society. Nine years later, she founded a second production company, Mamamia Films, in Casablanca, with the goal of showcasing the stories and reality of Morocco. Committed to promoting this heritage, Hind has chaired FIDADOC in Agadir, an international festival dedicated to documentary film, since 2014. The artistic quality of her films, co-produced between France and leading international partners (NHK, Discovery International Networks, ONF-NFB, CBC, SBS), has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards, including the Prix Italia, the Prix Europa, the Golden Chest, the Banff Rockie Award and the Best of INPUT. In 2025, Hind received the PROCIREP Award for Documentary Producers.

PITCHING FORUM

Saturday, October 10 · 10:57 AM

PITCHER

Hind Saïh (Producer)

MEDIMED 2026

WATCH THE TEASER →

PITCHING FORUM

THE MOUNTAIN OF PATIENCE

SAMI SAIF SIRELKHATIM

SYNOPSIS

Sami, a Moroccan-Sudanese filmmaker born in the Emirates, has always kept his distance from his father Saif—a man he both admired and feared, a master of Arabic calligraphy. At 79, as Saif's mind begins to fade, Sami races to capture his story. A 2022 visit to Sudan reveals the extraordinary man behind the austere patriarch. In 1971, as chief calligrapher at the Sudanese Ministry of Media, Saif risked his life by creating a revolutionary newspaper headline that sparked protests against dictator Jaafar al-Nimeiry. The people rose up and the tyrant fell. Three days later, al-Nimeiry reclaimed power and Saif was sentenced to death. He escaped hidden among goats on a ship to the Emirates, where he rebuilt his life.

In 2023, as war ravages Sudan, Saif finds himself on a boat once again, nearly five decades later. A refugee in Morocco, his relationship with calligraphy transforms—once a tool of revolution, it becomes his anchor against oblivion. Each lost name is rewritten until the strokes resurrect the memory. In Morocco, Sami finally discovers the complex man behind the intimidating figure of his childhood—a being shaped by trauma but carried by resilience.

DIRECTOR
Sami Saif Sirelkhatim

PRODUCERS
Kenza Alioua & Sami Saif Sirelkhatim

COUNTRIES
Morocco

LANGUAGE
Arabic (Moroccan & Sudanese dialects)

DURATION
100'

THEMES
Arts, History & Human rights

LOOKING FOR
Broadcasters, distributors and sales agents in the European and Asian territories.

PRODUCTION COMPANY
Pianky Pictures, Résidences Les Orchidées, 2nd floor, Immeuble NJ, Route Taddart, 1001 Casablanca

CONTACT
Pianky Pictures
+212 6 39 86 58 22
piankypictures@gmail.com
www.piankypictures.com

PROJECT HOLDERS

THE MOUNTAIN OF PATIENCE

SAMI SAIF SIR EL KHATIM

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Sami is a Moroccan filmmaker, producer and screenwriter of Moroccan-Sudanese heritage, born in the UAE and based in Morocco. Through his production company, Pianky Pictures, he develops auteur films that connect cultures while exploring stories rooted in Morocco, Africa and the Arab world. His filmography includes the upcoming short fiction Water for the Birds (2026), Naima's Movie (2022), screened at more than 35 international festivals and recipient of eight awards, and the short documentary The Other Side of Beauty (2024), presented in the official competition of the Carthage Film Festival and Encounters South Africa, and winner of three Best Documentary awards. He is currently developing his debut feature documentary, The Mountain of Patience, selected for the Fondation Tamayouz (TAP02) and Storyhouse (Dar El Hekayat) development programs, alongside several fiction and documentary projects. Sami is also part of the development and production team at Ali n' Productions / Les Films du Nouveau Monde, where he works on Moroccan and international feature film co-productions, documentaries and television series.

KENZA ALIOUA

PRODUCER

Kenza is an independent Moroccan producer with solid experience in production management on fiction projects and international co-productions. Her expertise covers managing shoots, budget oversight and artistic coordination. Selected for the Tamayouz TAP02 workshop, she developed a strategic vision for development and co-production with an international focus. She works to bridge constraints and creativity, connecting local talent with global market dynamics. She invests in projects with strong human and political resonance, with the goal of bringing forth singular voices. She views cinema as a space for transmission, memory and transformation, capable of resonating beyond borders.

PITCHING FORUM

Saturday, October 10 · 11:30 AM

PITCHER

Sami Saif Sirelkhatim (Director)

MEDIMED 2026

WATCH THE TEASER →

PITCHING FORUM

WOMAN IN THE SUN

Imraa fi Shams

MERIEME ADDOU

SYNOPSIS

Woman in the Sun follows the journey of Hafida, a divorced mother of three living in a small village 400 kilometers from Morocco's capital. The region is presented as one of the country's most productive agricultural zones. From a distance, it appears prosperous and modern. But the film moves behind this surface. Hafida lives in Adouz, a village hidden beyond the agricultural estates, reached only by dirt tracks crossing dry, cracked land and unfinished concrete houses. There is no electricity, only unstable solar power.

The landscape begins to transform: new infrastructures emerge on the horizon, little by little the takeover is moving closer toward the village. Little by little, the truth settles in: the village may disappear.

DIRECTOR
Merieme Addou

PRODUCERS
Merieme Addou (Iris Prod) & Karim Aïtouna (Haut les Mains Productions)

COUNTRIES
Morocco & France

LANGUAGE
Arabic

DURATION
80'

THEMES
Human interest

LOOKING FOR
Co-producer, distributor in Europe and North America.

CONTACT
Iris Prod — irisprod3@gmail.com
Haut les Mains Productions — karim@hautlesmainsproductions.fr
www.hautlesmainsproductions.fr

PROJECT HOLDERS

WOMAN IN THE SUN

MERIEME ADDOU

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Merieme Addou is a Moroccan filmmaker. She holds a degree in Law from Mohammed V University and a Master's degree in Documentary Film. She started working in the film industry as a freelance producer for a number of renowned media outlets. In 2014, Merieme co-directed the acclaimed documentary Pirates of Salé. Her skills as a director were showcased in her latest film, Suspended Wives, released in 2021.

KARIM AÏTOUNA

PRODUCER

A graduate in law, film studies and cultural management, Karim Aïtouna is a Moroccan producer working between France and Morocco with Haut les Mains Productions in Lyon and Waq Waq Studio in Tangier. His productions include:

2020 – Dans la maison by Karima Saïdi, presented at IDFA 2020

2020 – Gevar's Land by Qutaiba Barhamji, presented at IDFA 2020

2018 – Poisonous Roses by Ahmed Fawzi Saleh, premiered at IFFR Rotterdam, winner of more than 16 international awards and Egypt Oscar nominated for 2020

2017 – Controfigura by Rä di Martino, premiered at the 74th Venice International Film Festival

PITCHING FORUM

Saturday, October 10 · 12:55 PM

PITCHERS

Merieme Addou (Director & Producer)
Karim Aïtouna (Producer)

MEDIMED 2026

WATCH THE TEASER →

II. CO-PRODUCERS WANTED PITCH

CO-PRODUCERS WANTED PITCH

SPIRITUAL DIARIES

RIM MEJDI

SYNOPSIS

Spiritual Diaries is a road movie through Morocco, following a group of women from the same family on a journey to Fez and Meknes during the Mawlid. Through conversations, family archives and fragments of Morocco's recent history, the film traces their individual and collective spiritual journeys from the 1980s to today, revealing how generations have navigated faith, doubt, tradition, reform and the transformation of religious life.

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER
Rim Mejdi

COUNTRIES
Morocco & Qatar

LANGUAGE
Moroccan Darija

DURATION
70'

THEMES
Spirituality, Family, Coming of age & History

PRODUCTION COMPANY
Tifaw Films, 130, L'Oasis, Al Izdihar 1, 40100 Marrakesh

CONTACT
Tifaw Films
rimnaiir@gmail.com

PROJECT HOLDERS

SPIRITUAL DIARIES

RIM MEJDI

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Rim Mejdi is a Moroccan filmmaker, theatre director and curator. She pursues a dual career in cinema and curatorial practice, initiating and taking part in diverse projects such as exhibitions, visual and performing arts festivals, as well as short documentary and fiction films that she has directed. She is also the co-founder of the production company Tifaw Films, which supports emerging Moroccan filmmakers. In this capacity, she has produced Chebba by Yasmine Benabdallah, Fogman by Hicham Elladdaqi and Jayeen by Nabil Merrouch, and co-produced L'mina by Randa Maroufi.

From photography to performance to cinema, she maps intimacy, the body and its torments through an exploration of coming of age and the transitional moments of adolescence. She is equally interested in nature and in the urban and peri-urban spaces of Marrakech and its surroundings, approached as body-territories bearing the collective and memorial ruptures caused by capitalist hegemony as manifested through tourism, gentrification and extractivism.

CO-PRODUCERS WANTED PITCH

Friday, October 9 · 1:40 PM

PITCHER

Rim Mejdi (Director & Producer)

MEDIMED

2026

WATCH THE TEASER →

III. SPEEDY PITCH

SPEEDY PITCH

INZERKI – THE SILENCE OF THE BEES

Inzerki – Le silence des abeilles

NOUFISSA CHARAÏ

SYNOPSIS

Founded in 1850 in the High Atlas Mountains at an altitude of 1,000 meters, the Inzerki apiary (*Taddart Ugerram*, "The Apiary of the Saint") is recognized as the oldest and largest traditional collective apiary in the world. Built on steep earth-and-stone terraces, it once housed nearly 4,000 colonies. Today, after seven consecutive years of severe drought, the valley has fallen silent: out of eighty original families, only a handful of active beekeepers remain among empty reed cylinders (*ssilt*).

Brahim Chtoui, a 13th-generation master beekeeper and president of the local preservation association, refuses to surrender. Having returned to the village in his youth after experiencing city life, he knows in his heart that he made the right choice to come back to his land. He fights on every front—planting drought-resistant flora, lobbying authorities for irrigation dams, and defending ancestral craftsmanship. Yet his true struggle is intimate. His two older children (17 and 14) have already turned away, refusing to be bound to empty hives. Only six-year-old Soleiman still follows him. But Soleiman is a child of his time.

DIRECTOR
Noufissa Charaï

PRODUCERS
Stéphanie Lebrun & Noufissa Charaï

COUNTRIES
Morocco & France

LANGUAGE
Amazigh & Arabic

DURATION
90'

THEMES
Human interest

PRODUCTION COMPANIES
Hiya Productions, Fès, Morocco
Babel Doc, Paris, France

CONTACT
Hiya Productions —
ncharai@hiyaproductions.com
Babel Doc —
stephanie.lebrun@babel-doc.com

INZERKI – THE SILENCE OF THE BEES

NOUFISSA CHARAÏ

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Noufissa Charaï was born in Fès, Morocco. Her university studies took her to Paris, then to San Diego, California. A graduate in journalism and political science, she joined the newsroom of the international news channel France 24 in 2013, where she spent more than seven years covering international news, between reporting and programme production. In parallel, from 2015 to 2020, she was Paris correspondent for L'Observateur du Maroc et d'Afrique, writing long-form interviews with leading intellectuals and political figures.

Based in Morocco since 2020, she is now correspondent for BFMTV, having previously covered the country for TF1, and continues to collaborate with other French media. In 2022 she founded her production company, Hiya Productions ("She" in Arabic). In 2023 she co-led the launch of Brut Afrique as deputy editor-in-chief.

Femmes du péché (Women of Sin) is her first feature documentary. Co-produced with Babel Doc, the film is currently on the festival circuit ahead of broadcast on 2M, France 3, LCP and the BBC. At MEDIMED 2026, she presents her new project, Inzerki – The Silence of the Bees, once again co-produced with Babel Doc.

STÉPHANIE LEBRUN

PRODUCER

A journalist and director, Stéphanie Lebrun co-founded Babel Press and Babel Doc in 2007. Since then, she has directed and produced documentaries and long-form reports for French and international broadcasters, including France Télévisions, ARTE, LCP, TV5MONDE and several foreign channels (2M, Al Jazeera, CNA, Canal Brasil…). She supports films rooted in reality, often built around field investigations, personal journeys and political or social issues.

She notably produced Vertige de la chute / Ressaca, directed by Vincent Rimbaux and Patrizia Landi, winner of the 2020 International Emmy Award. She has also worked on several ambitious international co-productions, including:

- Silent House, selected at IDFA and Hot Docs in 2023;
- Politzek by Manon Loizeau and Ekaterina Mamontova, presented at the IDFA Forum and co-produced with Clin d'Œil Films, winner of the FIGRA Human Rights Award and the Producer's Award;
- Popel (The Secrets of the Prague Crematorium) by Oier Plaza, a European co-production selected at San Sebastián and FIPADOC, awarded at the Pessac International History Film Festival and named Best Documentary of 2025 by Días de Cine.

Stéphanie worked with Noufissa Charaï for four years to produce Femmes du péché, shot and directed in Morocco and co-produced with 2M, France Télévisions and LCP-AN.

SPEEDY PITCH

One-on-one meetings

PITCHERS

Noufissa Charaï (Director & Producer)

Stéphanie Lebrun (Producer)

MEDIMED 2026

WATCH THE TEASER →

IV. ANTI PITCH

ANTI PITCH

FLOWER OF THE SANDS
JAOUAD BABILI

SYNOPSIS

In the wake of the destruction of illegal fishing boats, Oumi Zahra, a woman in her fifties, steps into the heart of Lassarga, a coastal village near Dakhla, and opens a café. What seems like an ordinary act of survival quickly becomes an extraordinary catalyst. Her café, humble yet magnetic, becomes the epicenter of the village—a space where fishermen, cooks, and workers from all corners of the sea industry converge. The rhythms of this place, once dictated by the tides of tradition and gender, are disrupted by her presence. In a world ruled by men, Oumi Zahra is an anomaly—an act of resistance wrapped in kindness and simplicity. This café is more than just a gathering place; it's a cinematic stage where lives intersect, where gender roles are quietly confronted, and where a new community is born. Through her eyes, the village transforms into a living portrait of resilience, change, and the power of a single woman to rewrite the rules of her world.

DIRECTOR
Jaouad Babili

PRODUCER
Taoufik Charafdin
Faiçal Benaghrou

COUNTRIES
Morocco

LANGUAGE
Moroccan Arabic

DURATION
75'

THEMES
Human interest & Human rights

PRODUCTION COMPANY
Mades Vision, Lot Raha 436,
70000 Laayoune

CONTACT
Mades Vision
babili.jaouad@gmail.com

FLOWER OF THE SANDS

JAOUAD BABILI

DIRECTOR

After gaining extensive professional experience directing television documentaries and short films, Jaouad Babili made his feature-film debut with Laazib. The film marked an important milestone in his artistic career and received awards at several festivals in Morocco and abroad.

His second feature film, Flower of the Sands, is currently in development.

Whether working in documentary or fiction, his cinematic approach is distinguished by a poetic sensibility that brings visual and human depth to his work.

Specialized in documentary filmmaking, Jaouad works in Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa as a director and correspondent for several Arab television channels.

FAIÇAL BENAGHROU

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

After ten years of service in the Moroccan army, Faiçal Benaghrou founded his own production company, FilmsBeldi, in 2016, marking the beginning of his career as a Producer. FilmsBeldi is committed to independent cinema that amplifies marginalized voices and explores human struggles. The company supports emerging auteur films and self-taught filmmakers.

His career began in 2016 with the fiction short "Alter Ego" selected for the Stockholm and Sofia International Film Festival. Followed by "Ales", In 2018, was broadcasted in RAITV and available on Amazon Prime USA & UK, gained international recognition, screening at over 50 festivals, including the Durban International Film Festival, winning multiple awards. The company strengthened its international presence with "Exodus" (2019), co-produced with Safran Films, selected at Clermont-Ferrand and the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

Faiçal Benaghrou has participated in several workshops and training programs, like EURODOCMED, IDFAcademy, Producers Lab by Doha Film Institut and Panafrican Production Programme by OIF, ESAV & Canal+University, Tamayouz TAP03, Global Media Maker & LA Film Independent, where he continues to expand his network and develop his skills.

ANTI PITCH

Saturday, October 10 · 12:00 PM

PITCHERS

Jaouad Babili (Director)

Faiçal Benaghrou (Producer)

MEDIMED 2026

WATCH THE ROUGH CUT →