



Production Partner



Competition Partner



International Media Partner



Workshop Partner



Digital Media Partner



Organised by

INNOVATIVE FILM ACADEMY MENA FZ-LLC

Yas Creative Hub, Yas Island, Abu Dhabi



Mr. Saravana Prasad
Founder & Festival Director
Innovative Film Academy
& I-Film Festival, Abu Dhabi



MESSAGE

Cinema has always been more than storytelling — it is a powerful bridge between cultures, ideas, and generations. It is with this belief that we proudly present the 3rd Edition of the I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi, a platform envisioned to unite Arabic and Indian filmmakers, alongside global creative voices, in meaningful collaboration and co-creation.

The I-Film Festival was born from a simple yet powerful aspiration: to strengthen the cinematic ecosystem across Asia and the Middle East, foster regional and global partnerships, and encourage the exchange of culture, knowledge, and technology through the universal language of cinema. Each edition has brought us closer to this vision, and this year marks a significant milestone as we take a step beyond training into active production and global collaboration.

At Innovative Film Academy (IFA), Abu Dhabi, we believe the future of cinema lies in nurturing young, passionate storytellers and empowering them with real-world exposure, mentorship, and opportunity. Over the years, IFA has trained and guided hundreds of aspiring filmmakers. By 2025, IFA has trained over 300 aspiring filmmakers, and with renewed commitment, we aim to develop 1,000+ filmmakers by 2026. This journey is made possible by the unwavering commitment of the Creative Media Authority (CMA), ADVETI, Abu Dhabi University, and our network of institutional and academic partners, along with over a hundred accomplished industry professionals. Together, we continue to shape a new generation of creative talent ready to contribute meaningfully to the global film landscape.

This year marks an important milestone as we take a step beyond training into active production. Through a strategic production partnership with Media Mania, led by Mr. Roland Daou, our young talents have actively contributed to the creation of the short film “A Place You Call Home” and the music video “Safest Light”, both premiering on the opening day of the 3rd I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi. These productions reflect our philosophy of “learning by doing” and embody the spirit of mentorship, innovation, and cultural synergy that define the I-Film Festival.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners, trainers, associates, and every creative mind who has believed in this vision and walked alongside us on this journey. Your trust and support have been instrumental in building a platform where stories transcend borders and cinema emerges as a powerful medium of unity and innovation.

I wish all participants, filmmakers, and audiences an inspiring and memorable festival experience. May these three days spark collaborations, ignite ideas, and celebrate the timeless magic of cinema.



(Saravana Prasad)



Launch of 3rd I-Film Festival



27th January 2026 Yas Creative Hub, Yas island, Abu Dhabi

The 3rd I Film Festival Abu Dhabi brings together an eminent lineup of international film, media, and creative industry leaders, including **Saravana Prasad**, Founder & Festival Director; **Roland Daou**, Producer, Director, Actor and Founder of Media Mania; **Mansoor Al Feeli**, Actor; **Nayla Al Khaja**, Screenwriter, Director and Producer; **Jitendra Vaidhya**, President of IPF; **Ashraf Sarhan**, Actor, Producer and Artistic Director of the Sharm El Sheikh Film Festival and Port Said Film Festival; **Rajiv Shah**, President of IBPG; **Bassam Dayani**, Distribution Manager and Marketing Expert at Plot Pictures; **Dr. Ghassan Frache**, Senior Academic Leader at ADVETI; **Bilal Dayani**, CFO of Eagle Films; **Hesham Suleman**, Producer; and **Rosie Seldon**, CEO of Digital Qube, collectively contributing their vast global experience to strengthen the festival's vision of fostering cinematic excellence, cross-cultural collaboration, and innovation in the film and media industry.



Glimpses of Launch of 3rd I Film Festival 2026





Media Coverage Report

Launch of 3rd I-Film Festival - 27th January 2026

The press conference of the 3rd Edition I-Film Festival achieved exceptional all-media exposure, reaching an estimated audience of over **167 million** people across regional, Arab and International platforms. Coverage included leading print and digital newspapers, major television networks, and high-impact social media channels, highlighting the festival's growing global influence.

Print Media Coverage



Local Media in the Emirates





Opening Films

at 3rd I-Film Festival

Baab



Directed by *Nayla Al Khaja* & Music score by *A.R. Rahman*

Baab is a psychological horror drama directed by Emirati filmmaker **Nayla Al Khaja**, with an evocative score by **A. R. Rahman**. A dark, sensory-driven film, it explores the intimate violence of grief and the fragile boundary between illusion and reality. The story follows Wahida, a woman haunted by the sudden death of her twin sister and afflicted by tinnitus, as she descends through depression, anger, and bargaining. As her grief deepens, reality begins to fracture, blurring the line between the living and the dead. Premiered at the Cairo International Film Festival 2025, **Baab** is a haunting exploration of loss and perception..

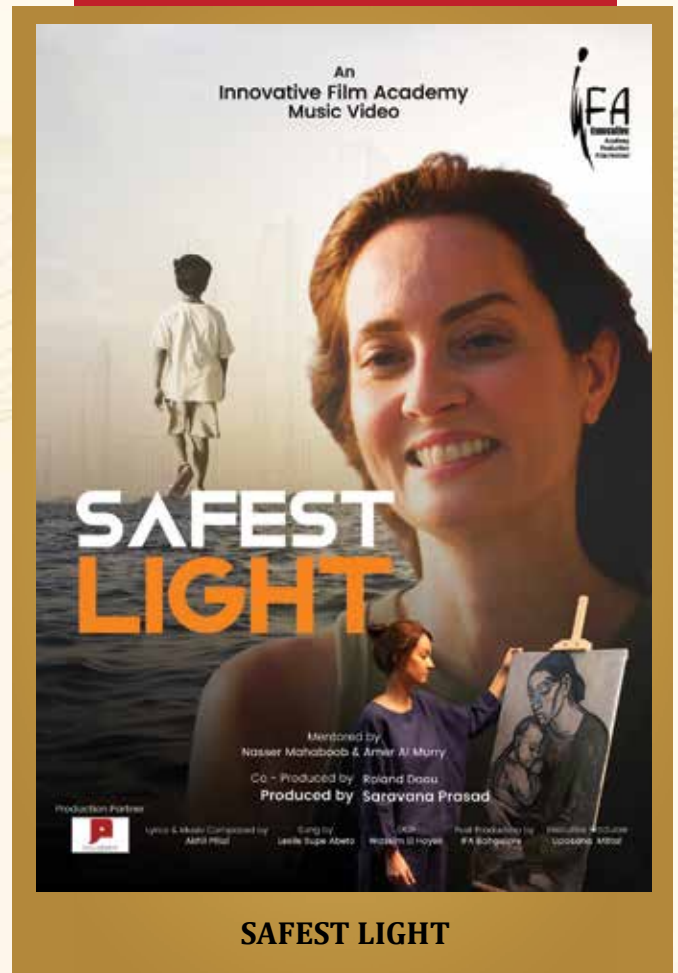




Premiering at

3rd I-Film Festival

Opening Day



10th April 2026

YAS Creative Hub, Abu Dhabi



SONY®



CREATIVE MINDS
CONTENT

ON SPOT CHALLENGE

Create • Capture • Upload • Instantly

Apply @ ifilmfestivaluae.com

- Live On Spot Challenge at the 3rd I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi
- High-energy, real-time content creation inside the festival premises
- 6 exclusive film sets available to shoot from
- Create under real-time pressure
- Complete creative freedom for participants
- Focus on thinking fast, shooting smart, and instant storytelling
- A true test of speed, creativity, and adaptability

SONY®



STILL STORIES PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

- Frames of the World – a photography challenge at the 3rd I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi
- Open to Students, Amateurs, and Professionals
- Capture nature, culture, people, filmmaking moments, and Abu Dhabi's beauty
- Selected works exhibited at the festival
- Winners honored at the Closing Ceremony
- A gateway to global recognition and creative exposure

Apply @ ifilmfestivaluae.com

CAMERA TECHNIQUE WORKSHOP

Day 2 : 11th April 2026, 11:00 AM -1:00 PM

Day 3 : 12th April 2026, 11:00 AM -1:00 PM



CONDUCTED BY

Tim Matthews

Saad Alkharouf

Roland Daou

Crispin Dominic

Joseph Al Kadamani



SONY



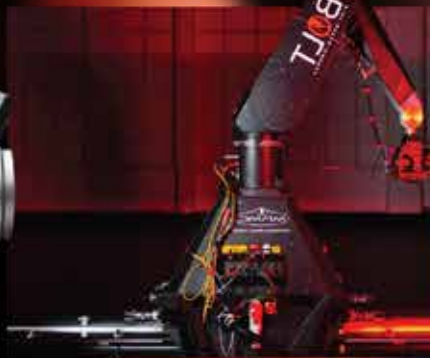
ACTIONFILMZ

DUBAI • ABU DHABI • SAUDI ARABIA



Cinema Ecosystem Workshop – Conducted by Tim Matthews, Sony Ambassador. This workshop will emphasize on the Sony ecosystem and its utilization into various aspects of filmmaking.

CineAlta Workshop – Conducted by Saad Alkharouf, Film Director. This workshop will explore the advantages of using Sony's CineAlta range of cameras for Feature Films or Advertising projects.



Focused on practical learning, complete Hands-on experience

Designed for students, aspiring filmmakers, cinematographers, and content creators

Led by industry experts with real-world filmmaking experience

Direct exposure to industry-grade camera and equipments and film sets

Participate in an exciting on-spot challenge and showcase your storytelling.





SHORT FILM COMPETITION

@ 3RD I-FILM FESTIVAL

JURY

MANSOOR AL FEELI ROLAND DAOU ELHAM SHAHEIN RAVI KOTTARAKARA ABHAY SINHA

CATEGORIES

UAE

ARABIC

INTERNATIONAL



FEE :
100 AED

SUBMIT
NOW

visit :
ifilmfestivaluae.com

AI CONTENT CREATION COMPETITION

at 3rd I-Film Festival

Entry Fee: 100 AED

duration : 30 seconds - 180 seconds

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Last date of Submission 31st March, 2026

ifilmfestivaluae.com

Co-production - Film Funding - Collaborations

Ease of Filmmaking in Abu Dhabi

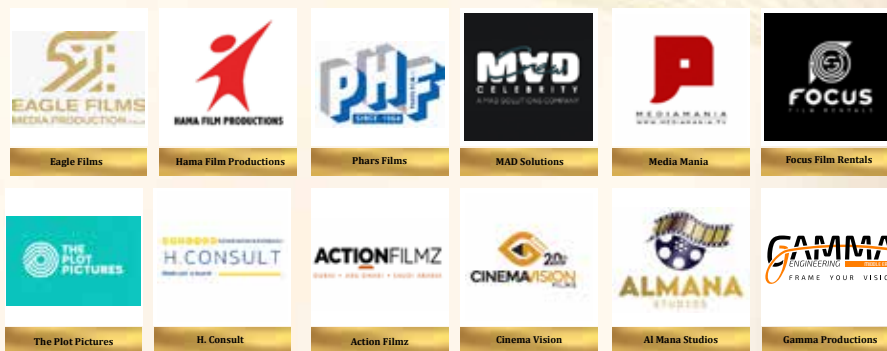
Subsidies | Incentives | Production Support
Post Production | Distribution

Indo-Arab Filmmakers

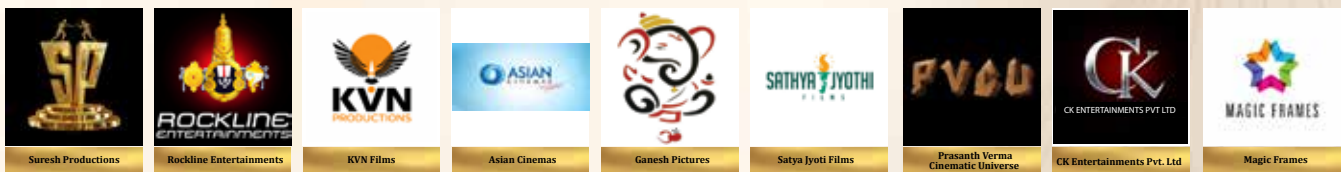
Feature Films | Short Films | Micro Drama | Vertical Content

Speakers, Panel Discussions & Round Table

UAE Production Houses



Indian Production Houses



Associations & Film Bodies



Technologies | Technicians | Talent

Training Tomorrow's Film Professionals: Balancing Technology, Craft & Creativity



Industry - Academia collaboration - Upskilling & Talent Development

Exploring how emerging technologies are reshaping skills, roles, and career pathways for film technicians and creatives.

Speakers, Panel Discussions & Round Table

Indo-Arab, Co-Production, Collaboration, Film Funding & Incentives

Case Studies on Egyptian Cinema

Talent Development & Skilling in Film & Creative Media

The Future of Film Distribution in a Borderless World:
New Markets, New Audiences, New Strategies

Reimagining Media & Filmmaking in the Age of AI
Changing Ecosystems, Evolving Approaches & Technology-Driven Storytelling

Education Partners



Abu Dhabi Vocational
Education and Training Institute



Abu Dhabi University



MESC



Guest of Honour

Mansoor Al Feeli
Actor

Head of Jury for Short Film Competition

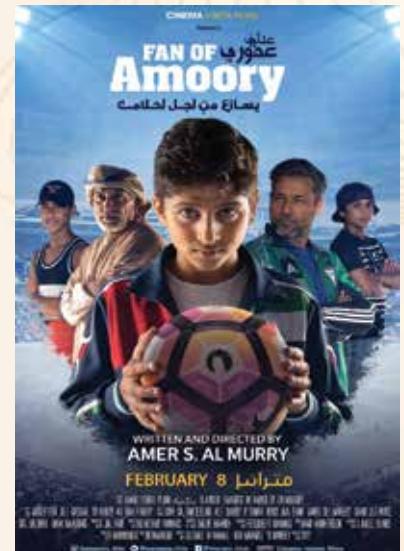


Mansoor Al Feeli is one of the most prominent and enduring figures in the Emirati film and television industry, with a career spanning over four decades across theatre, television, and cinema. He rose to prominence through powerful performances in popular UAE television dramas such as *Marmar Zamany* and *Awdat Al Faris*, which established him as a household name. In cinema, he has played key roles in widely recognized films including *Hub Malki* (Royal Love), *Leban Muthleg*, and *Do' Damis* (Light of Darkness), contributing significantly to the growth of Emirati storytelling on screen. His career reached an international milestone with his appearance in the **Bollywood blockbuster Dishoom** (2016), where he played a senior police officer, marking a rare crossover for an Emirati actor into mainstream Indian cinema. Known for his versatility, screen presence, and commitment to local cinema, Mansoor Al Feeli continues to be a defining force behind many of the UAE's most impactful and commercially successful screen productions.

Masterclass on Filmmaking on 11th April 2026



- Pioneer of Emirati Screen Arts
- Television Icon and Household Name
- Contributor to Emirati Cinema's Growth
- International Recognition and Legacy





Guest of Honour

Elham Shahein

Actor



Elham Shahein is one of the most powerful and enduring icons of **Egyptian** and **Arab cinema**, whose illustrious career spans more than **four decades** and reflects the evolution of contemporary Arabic storytelling. Celebrated for her fearless choice of roles and emotionally layered performances, she has consistently portrayed strong, complex women while addressing bold social themes with remarkable depth and authenticity. Her body of work includes some of the most influential and commercially successful films in Arab cinema, such as **“Fawziya’s Secret Recipe”** Al-Aar (The Shame), El-Hareef (The Hustler), Yawm Helw... Yawm Mor (A Sweet Day... A Bitter Day), Al-Gareema (The Crime), Hekayat El-Omr Kollo (The Story of a Lifetime), and Al-Ragol Al-Thani (The Other Man). Through these landmark films, Elham Shahein has earned widespread critical acclaim, numerous prestigious awards, and an unwavering connection with audiences across generations, firmly establishing her legacy as a trailblazer and cultural force in Arab cinema.

Panel discussion with Elham Shahein, celebrating Egypt as the Country of Honour; this distinguished panel brings together influential voices of Egyptian cinema to reflect on Egypt’s unparalleled contribution to Arab storytelling and cinematic identity.



- Star of influential landmark films Arab cinema
- Recipient of numerous prestigious regional international awards
- Fearless performer portraying complex powerful female characters
- Panel celebrates Egypt's enduring contribution Arab storytelling





Guest of Honour

Saifee Rupawala
CEO & Director, Lulu Retail



Message

It is a pleasure to be associated with the I-Film Festival once again. Having attended the previous edition, I witnessed the festival's energy and its role in bringing young creative voices together. I strongly believe in nurturing emerging talent, and supporting the festival's competitions is my way of encouraging the next generation of filmmakers. Initiatives like these create meaningful opportunities for youth, and I truly appreciate the festival's commitment to creative growth.

Saifee Rupawala is a distinguished leader in the global retail industry and the CEO of LuLu Retail, one of the Middle East's most influential retail groups. Under his leadership, LuLu operates **240+ hypermarkets and outlets** across GCC countries, serving millions with innovation, quality, and community-driven values. He has been instrumental in driving LuLu's regional growth and operational excellence, culminating in the company's landmark **\$1.72 billion IPO on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange in 2024**, one of the UAE's largest recent listings. Beyond business, Mr. Rupawala supports professional and community initiatives as a board member of the **Indian Business & Professional Group (Abu Dhabi)** and a steering committee member of the **Indian Professional Business Council (Dubai)**.

at the 2nd edition of I-Film Festival 2025





Best Director & Actor

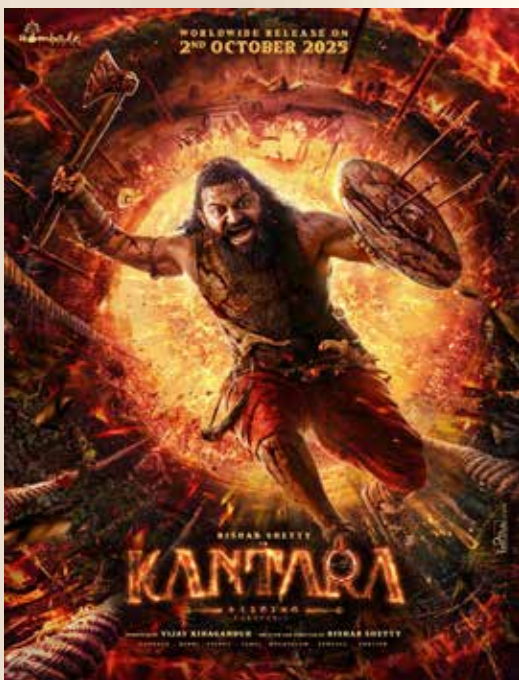
Rishab Shetty



From Folk Roots to Kantara: Rishab Shetty's Journey of Cinema

A visionary filmmaker blending folklore, youth, realism, and social themes into powerful, critically acclaimed cinema.

Building on the extraordinary **global success** of its predecessor, **Kantara: A Legend – Chapter 1**, released on October 2, 2025, has firmly established itself as one of the highest-grossing Indian films of the year, amassing over **₹7,850 crore** worldwide and more than **₹7,620 crore** in India, emerging as the country's top domestic grosser of 2025 despite strong late-year competition from Dhurandhar. Backed by Hombale Films with an ambitious production budget of approximately **₹7,125 crore** an exponential leap from the original film's **₹716 crore** the film functions as an epic prequel, transporting audiences nearly 1,500 years into the past to the Kadamba era of coastal Karnataka. While the first film was rooted in the 19th and 20th centuries, this chapter unfolds as a mythic origin story, laying the spiritual and cultural foundations of the Kantara universe. **Rishab Shetty** stars as Berme, a fierce and inquisitive tribal leader whose destiny positions him as a vital conduit between the human world and the divine. Set against a richly imagined pre-colonial landscape, the narrative centers on a sacred spice garden within the Kantara forest and the escalating conflict between indigenous tribes and the Bangra kingdom, ruled by King Rajashekara and his arrogant son, Prince Kulashekara. The film further deepens its mythological core by exploring the divine origins of Panjurli and Guliga Daiva, revealing how these powerful deities first emerged as guardians of the land, faith, and people, thereby anchoring the spiritual legacy that defines the Kantara saga.



- Record-breaking global and domestic success
- Epic prequel set Kadamba era
- Rishab Shetty as Berme leader
- Origins of Panjurli Guliga deities





Special Guest



Samantha Ruth Prabhu

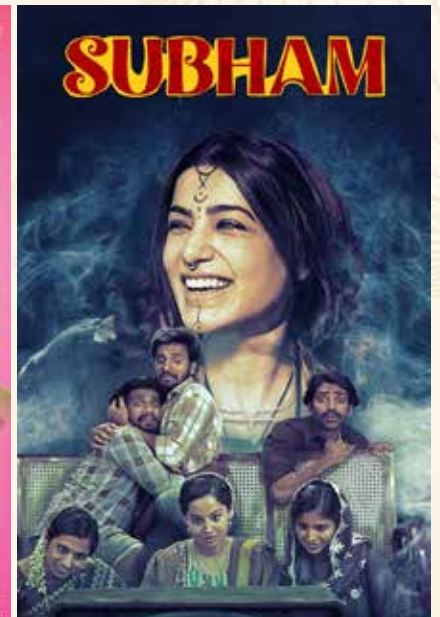
Actress, Women Entrepreneur & Producer



International Women Achiever in Cinema

Celebrating Two decades in the Indian Film Industry

Samantha Ruth Prabhu made a remarkable acting debut with the Telugu romantic classic *Ye Maaya Chesave*, earning the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut – South and announcing her arrival as a formidable talent. She soon created history by becoming the second actress to win both the Filmfare Award for Best Actress – Tamil and Best Actress – Telugu in the same year for *Neethaane En Ponvasantham* and *Eega*. Over the years, Samantha established herself as one of South Indian cinema's most bankable and versatile stars, delivering standout performances in major blockbusters such as *Dookudu*, *Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu*, *Attarintiki Daredi*, *Kaththi*, *Theri*, *24*, *Mersal*, and *Rangasthalam*, while also excelling in content-driven films including *A Aa*, *Mahanati*, *Oh! Baby*, *Super Deluxe*, and *Majili*. Expanding her presence to digital platforms, she received widespread acclaim for *The Family Man*, winning the Filmfare OTT Award, and later made a strong comeback with *Citadel: Honey Bunny*. Beyond acting, she is the founder of the Pratyusha Support charitable trust and has ventured into production with *Subham*, with *Maa Inti Bangaaram* marking her next step as a producer, underscoring her evolution as a multifaceted force in Indian cinema.





Special Guest

Prasanth Varma
Indian Film Director & Screenwriter



Prasanth Varma is an acclaimed Indian film director and screenwriter renowned for redefining Telugu cinema through innovative, genre-bending storytelling. Known for exploring sci-fi, crime, horror, and mythology, he consistently avoids repetition, focusing on fresh, high-concept narratives. Varma began his career with short films such as *A Silent Melody* (2014) and *Dialogue in the Dark* (2017) before gaining major recognition with *Awe!* (2018), produced by Nani and winner of the National Award for Best Special Effects. His subsequent films *Kalki* (2019) and *Zombie Reddy* (2021) further showcased his versatility. **Hanu-Man** (2024) became a landmark success, blending mythology with a modern superhero ethos and launching the Prasanth Varma Cinematic Universe (PVCU). Influenced by Christopher Nolan and Singeetam Srinivasa Rao, Varma is celebrated for delivering culturally rooted, VFX-driven cinema on constrained budgets, earning **National** and **SIIMA awards**, and continuing to expand his ambitious superhero universe.

Honouring Prasanth Varma for his cinematic excellence & visionary direction in HanuMan at the 3rd I-Film Festival 2026



- Believe originality creates lasting cinematic universes
- Limitations inspire creativity not compromise vision
- Respect roots while embracing innovation and technology
- Dream boldly and challenge conventional storytelling boundaries





Festival Ambassador

Ms. Khushbu Sundar

Actor, Film Producer, Businesswomen & Politician



Ms. Khushbu Sundar, an acclaimed Indian actor, producer, and cultural icon, returns as the **Festival Ambassador** for the **3rd I-Film Festival** Abu Dhabi, marking her distinguished presence for all three editions of the festival. With a celebrated career spanning over four decades and more than 200 films across multiple Indian languages, Khushbu has earned widespread recognition as one of Indian cinema's most influential and versatile personalities. Beyond her illustrious acting journey, she has produced acclaimed content, served as a respected television host, and emerged as a compelling **public leader** and advocate for **women's empowerment**.

Her continued association with the **I-Film Festival** reflects not only the festival's commitment to artistic excellence but also its vision of fostering meaningful cultural connections between India, the UAE, and the global creative community. As Festival Ambassador, Khushbu plays a pivotal role in championing emerging talent, amplifying regional storytelling, and nurturing cross-border collaborations. Her leadership elevates the festival's mission of shaping cinema that travels beyond borders — cinema driven by **craft, cultural depth, and global resonance**.



- Iconic Indian Actor & Producer
- Cultural Bridge Between India & UAE
- Champion of Women in Cinema
- Global Advocate for Creative Collaboration





Guest of Honour

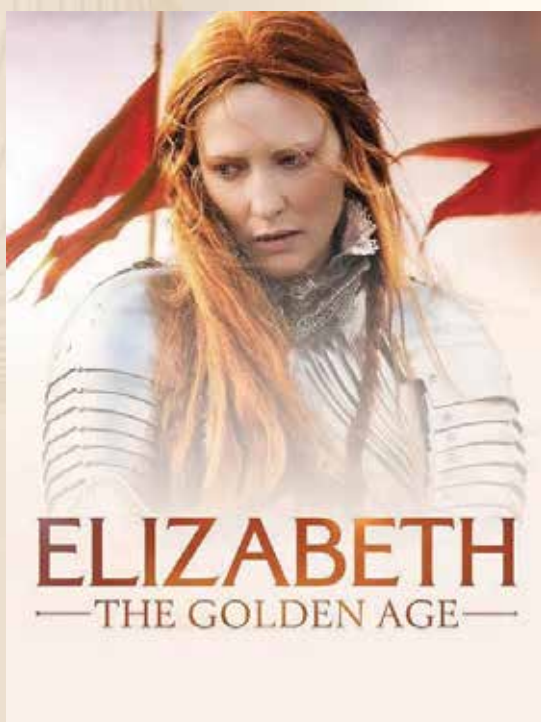
Shekhar Kapur
Indian Film Director, Actor & Producer



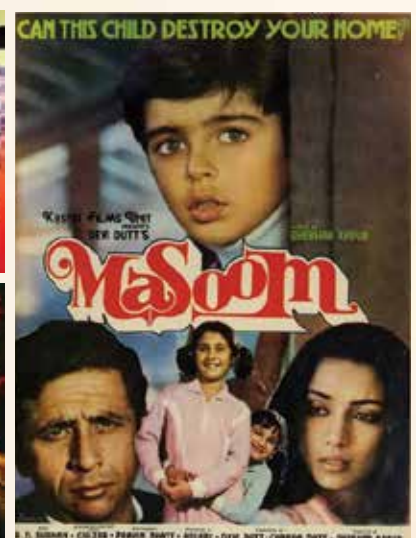
Shekhar Kapur, one of India's most acclaimed filmmakers and a true global cinematic visionary, joins the **3rd I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi** as the esteemed **Guest of Honour**. With a distinguished career spanning over four decades, he has shaped world cinema through powerful storytelling and artistic innovation. A recipient of the **Padma Bhushan**, a **BAFTA Award**, a **National Film Award**, a **National Board of Review Award**, and multiple **Filmfare Awards**, Kapur stands among the most honoured filmmakers of his time.

He made a striking directorial debut with **Masoom**, followed by the cult classic **Mr. India**, and gained international acclaim with **Bandit Queen**, screened at **Cannes and Edinburgh**. His global breakthrough, **Elizabeth**, earned seven Academy Award nominations, leading to **The Four Feathers** and the Golden Globe-nominated **Elizabeth: The Golden Age**.

As **Guest of Honour**, **Shekhar Kapur** brings unparalleled artistic insight and global perspective to the festival. His legacy continues to inspire filmmakers worldwide, and his presence elevates the **3rd I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi** as a celebration of cinema that transcends cultures and connects audiences across the world.



- Padma Bhushan Laureate & Internationally Acclaimed Filmmaker
- Creator of Iconic Films Across India & the World
- BAFTA & National Award-Winning Director
- Visionary Storyteller Shaping Global Cinema





Eagle Films Middle East

Participating Partner



Guest of Honour



Jamal Sannan

CEO & Founder Eagle Films Middle East

Jammal Sannan, Founder & CEO of Eagle Films ME, a visionary who reshaped the Middle East entertainment industry by bridging Hollywood and the Arab world. His leadership has elevated Eagle Films into a powerhouse of global distribution and premium Arabic production.

Eagle Films ME is a leading media production and distribution company in the Middle East, known for producing high-quality Arabic films, TV series, and original content while also distributing major international titles across the region. Over the years, the company has brought blockbuster hits such as *The Hunger Games*, *The Expendables*, *Saw*, *Has Fallen*, *Mechanic*, and many others to audiences across the Middle East, cementing its position as a leading distributor. At the same time, Eagle Films ME produces popular Arabic-language films and TV series with production standards on par with global studios. Through this dual role distributing international blockbuster franchises and creating strong regional content Eagle Films ME continues to shape the entertainment landscape in the region, offering diverse cinematic experiences for different audiences

Special Guest and Esteemed Speaker

Panel Discussion on **The Future of Film Distribution in a Borderless World: New Markets, New Audiences, New Strategies**

As the film industry shifts toward a borderless global marketplace, this panel examines the future of distribution through emerging markets, evolving audience behaviour, and innovative cross-platform strategies. With his extensive operational expertise and deep understanding of regional and international content ecosystems, Mr. Bilal Dayani brings invaluable insight into how distributors and creators can navigate this transformation. His perspective will help illuminate the new opportunities, partnerships, and strategic pathways shaping the next chapter of global film circulation.



Mr. Bilal Dayani

Chief Operating Officer - Eagle Films Middle East





Media Mania Production Partner



Roland Daou
*Film Producer, Director, Actor & Founder of
Media Mania FZ LLC*

Media Mania Productions UAE is a dynamic, full-service production house that has played a significant role in elevating the region's film and television standards since its establishment in 2009. Renowned for its ability to deliver cinematic-quality drama series, high-profile live broadcasts, and visually striking content, the company has built a strong and trusted reputation across the Middle East. Their extensive body of work includes celebrated television dramas, major government ceremonies, cultural and heritage festivals, international sports tournaments, corporate brand films, award shows, and large-scale concerts featuring global artists. With a highly skilled team and state-of-the-art resources—ranging from multi-camera production and OB van operations to aerial drone cinematography, live streaming infrastructure, studio services, and advanced post-production—Media Mania offers seamless, end-to-end production solutions for projects of any scale. Their commitment to creative excellence, technical precision, and innovative storytelling has made them a preferred partner for leading broadcasters, government institutions, and global brands, solidifying their status as one of the UAE's most versatile, reliable, and forward-thinking production companies.





MAD Solutions

Special Guest & Esteemed Speaker



Alaa Karkouti

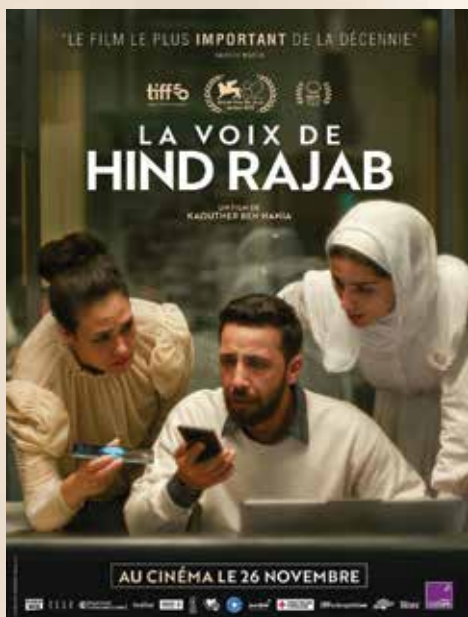
Co-Founder & Managing Partner, MAD Solutions
Co-Founder, Arab Cinema Center

Mr. Alaa Karkouti is one of the most influential voices shaping contemporary Arab cinema on the global stage. As the Co-Founder and Managing Partner of **MAD Solutions**, the leading film sales, distribution, and marketing company in the Arab world, he has played a pivotal role in positioning Arab films at major international festivals, markets, and award platforms.

With a deep understanding of international sales strategies, festival positioning, and cross-border collaborations, Alaa has been instrumental in connecting Arab filmmakers with global audiences, distributors, and institutions. Through **MAD Solutions** and the **Arab Cinema Center**, he has helped build a unified platform that represents Arab cinema at major global forums such as Cannes, Berlinale, Venice, and Toronto, while advocating for sustainable industry growth across the region.

Renowned for his strategic insight and industry leadership, Alaa continues to influence how Arab stories are developed, financed, marketed, and distributed worldwide — making him a key catalyst in the evolution of global Arab cinema.

ARAB CO-PRODUCTIONS IN A GLOBAL ERA Building Stories, Markets & Partnerships Across Borders Industry Panel | Business Conclave





The Plot Pictures

Industry Partner



Pratixa Shah

Co-Founder of The Plot Pictures

The Plot Pictures is a Dubai-based independent film studio dedicated to creating bold, original storytelling from the MENAT region for global audiences. Focused on the development, production, and distribution of scripted and unscripted long-form content, the studio places authenticity, creative integrity, and cinematic excellence at the core of its work. By championing hyper-local narratives rooted in regional culture, history, and contemporary realities, The Plot Pictures ensures these stories resonate internationally while meeting global production standards. Committed to nurturing original intellectual property, the studio collaborates closely with both emerging and established filmmakers, writers, and creators, fostering a supportive and filmmaker-driven creative environment. Through strategic partnerships and a clear emphasis on distinctive voices, The Plot Pictures acts as a bridge between regional storytellers and the global film and streaming landscape. With a vision to elevate underrepresented perspectives and push creative boundaries, the studio positions itself as a dynamic and influential force in contemporary independent cinema from the MENAT region.



- Original MENAT narratives developed for global audiences
- Champions authentic hyper-local voices with global appeal
- Collaborates with emerging and established creative talents
- Bridges regional storytelling with global cinema platforms





Action Filmz

Industry Partner

ACTIONFILMZ
DUBAI • ABU DHABI • SAUDI ARABIA



Crispin Dominic
CEO & Owner Action Filmz

Crispin Dominic is a respected entrepreneur who has shaped the Middle East's creative industry for over **30** years, most notably as the founder of **Action Filmz Productions LLC**, one of the region's leading production service companies. His journey began in Dubai under the mentorship of renowned photographer Faramaz Beheshti, where he developed a deep understanding of visual storytelling, eventually becoming a Director of Photography and Director. Identifying a need for complete production support, he established Action Filmz in 2004, now recognized for state-of-the-art equipment, professional crews, advanced studios, cranes, lighting solutions, and seamless production services. The company has supported major international projects such as **Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning Part 2, Kandahar, HOBA, and numerous campaigns** for global brands and celebrity talent. Recently, Crispin co-produced **Sarkeet**, showcased at the **International Film Festival of India**, and **City of Life 2: Continuum**, highlighting his dedication to global-quality filmmaking and regional storytelling. His expansion into Saudi Arabia further reflects his vision for regional growth and emerging market development. Beyond production, Crispin founded Ocean Kids Institute in 2011 and 11-11 AV Rentals in 2018, extending his entrepreneurial reach into creative education and event technology. His ongoing development of a 50,000 sq. ft. creative facility in Dubai's Al Quoz Creative Zone stands as a major milestone, aimed at empowering freelancers, nurturing talent, and supporting the GCC's rapidly evolving media ecosystem. Through consistent innovation, industry recognition, and investment in infrastructure, Crispin continues to influence and elevate the future of filmmaking and creative expression in the region.

Feature Films Worked On :





Gamma
Production, Studio, Engineering
Industry Partner & Speaker



Joseph Al Kadamani
Chairman, Gamma Productions

Gamma Production Services Abu Dhabi, Gamma Studios Dubai and Gamma Engineering Dubai together represent the Middle East’s most **comprehensive and pioneering film equipment and production services network**. Widely regarded as a cornerstone of the region’s film and production industry, Gamma Engineering Dubai is the **largest privately held film equipment rental company** in the Middle East, backed by over 40 years of expertise defined by **innovation, reliability, and benchmark-setting operational standards**. Established by Mr. Joseph Al Kadamani, the company began its journey in Lebanon as a discothèque and cassette recording enterprise, acquiring its first video camera and lighting equipment in 1983. The launch of its first Middle East branch in Dubai in 1996 marked a significant milestone in its expansion. Today, operating across the UAE, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia, the Gamma network supports up to **30 productions daily**, offering **cutting-edge equipment, highly skilled professional crews, advanced studio facilities, robust logistics, and 24/7 technical support** — positioning itself as the trusted partner for film, television, and commercial productions throughout the region.





Special Guest & Speaker

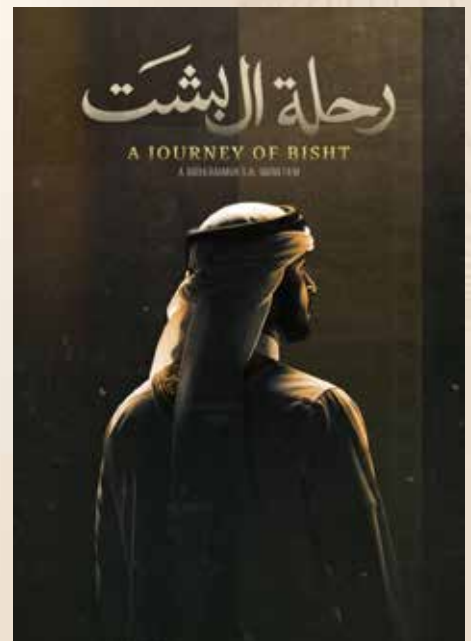
Abdulrahman Al-Mana
Founder & Film Director



Al Mana Film Studios, Qatar

Al Mana Film Studios is a Qatari film studio part of Media City Qatar. The studio specializes in film development, production, and international co-productions, with a **strong focus on cultural storytelling and cross-border collaboration.** Logistic partnered with leading entities such as **Visit Qatar and received support from the Doha Film Institute (DFI).** Our work focuses on building regional and international bridges through cinema while nurturing emerging talent.

Abdulrahman Al Mana is a **Qatari film director and filmmaker** known for his socially driven storytelling and impactful visual language. He gained international recognition after being named **one of the top three directors at the Athens International Film Festival** for his film "Commitment Is an Action, Not a Word", selected from hundreds of competing projects worldwide. His work focuses on **human and social themes**, using cinema as a **tool for awareness and positive changes.**





Special Guest



Prajay Kamat
CTO & Co-Founder



MergeXR, United Kingdom

Prajay Kamat is a technologist, filmmaker, and entrepreneur specialising in **extended reality (XR)** and **virtual production**. As Founder and CTO of MergeXR Studios in the United Kingdom, he leads innovative workflows combining **real-time CGI, motion capture, and LED XR stages** to deliver visually compelling and cost-efficient film and media productions. He is currently expanding virtual production operations into Dubai in partnership with Gamma Engineering, establishing a **state-of-the-art LED studio** powered by Sony Verona panels to **serve the Middle East's growing film industry**. Prajay has also contributed to high-end productions, including implementing **advanced 6 DoF motion based systems** and **automated DMX lighting** for an upcoming Netflix project. His work spans immersive entertainment, interactive technologies, and cutting-edge cinematic innovation.





Visionary Leader

Mr. Ahmed Golchin
Founder & Chairman, Phars Film



Visionary Leader Award – Celebrating the Father of Middle East Cinema
Boldly acknowledges his historic role in the industry.

Ahmad Golchin is the Founder and Chairman of **Phars Film** and is widely regarded as the **Father of Middle East Cinema**. He has been honoured multiple times by the UAE Government and the Film Industry for his pioneering contributions. From humble beginnings as a publisher, he later moved to the UAE in 1963, where he began building what would become the region's largest and most successful film distribution network. Over the years, Mr. Golchin established major entities such as **Gulf Film LLC**, **Grand/Novo Cinemas**, Star Cinemas and several other cinema ventures across the GCC. His influence extends across various sectors including worldwide film distribution, cinema exhibition, film production, hospitality, property development, and property management.

Phars Film today acquires and distributes motion pictures across Hollywood, Bollywood, and South Indian cinema. The company independently manages the distribution and exhibition of the majority of films released from these markets into the Middle East. With unmatched distribution reach and strong industry partnerships, Phars Film handles over 250 titles annually, making it the largest film distribution and exhibition network in the region. It remains the only company holding a dominant market share in both Hollywood and Bollywood releases across the Middle East.



1st I - Film Festival



2nd I - Film Festival



International Media & Cultural Exchange Partner



TV BRICS



Mr. Eugene Mishin

Head of the South Asia & Middle East Department at TV BRICS

Moderator - Panel Discussion :

Cinema as a tool for Cultural diplomacy & The role of International media platforms In shaping cultural narratives

Mr. Eugene Mishin, Head of the South Asia and Middle East Department at **TV BRICS International Media Network**, plays a key role in **strengthening international media cooperation** and **cultural exchange across diverse regions**. He works closely with media organizations and cultural institutions to promote dialogue, collaboration, and cross-border storytelling among BRICS and BRICS+ nations, **emphasizing the power of cinema and media** as tools for cultural connection.

TV BRICS is an **International media network representing the BRICS and BRICS+ countries**. Founded in 2006 at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum, it originally brought together Brazil, Russia, India, and China, with South Africa joining in 2011. The alliance expanded on 1 January 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. TV BRICS delivers multilingual news, documentaries, and cultural content that showcase the creative, social, and economic life of emerging economies, fostering intercultural understanding and **global creative** in alignment with the vision of the **3rd I-Film Festival**.





VELS
GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS & COMPANIES

Special Guest



Ishari. K Ganesh
Founder of VELS Group of Institutions & Companies

Ishari. K Ganesh is the founder, Chairman, and Chancellor of **Vels University in Chennai, India**, and a prominent **producer in Tamil cinema** with a remarkable **track record of blockbuster films**. As a prominent figure in the industry, he made a remarkable impact in 2019 by releasing five commercially successful films. He produced Vendhu Thanindhathu Kaadu, starring STR and directed by Gautham Vasudev Menon, which was widely appreciated. Among his recent hits are Devi 2, featuring Tamannaah and Prabhudeva, which became a massive success, and LKG, Comali, and Enai Noki Paayum Thotta, starring Dhanush and directed by Gautham Menon. His upcoming projects include Genie, Singapore Saloon, The Life of Muthu, Kutty Story, Stalin: Andharivadu, and Seeru, continuing his legacy of producing films that captivate audiences.



- Prominent Indian film producer with decades experience
- Consistent creator of critically acclaimed blockbusters
- Producer of landmark films shaping modern cinema
- Upcoming projects reinforce legacy in Indian cinema

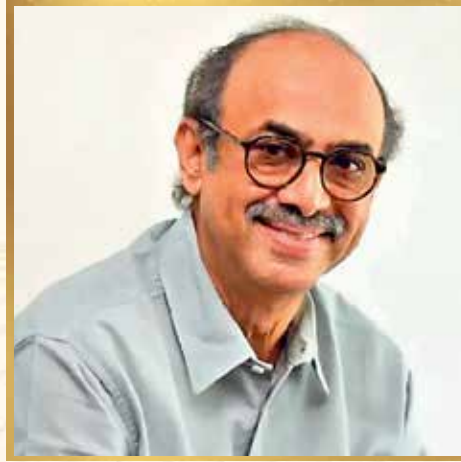




Special Guest

Daggubati Suresh Babu

Indian Film Producer, Studio Owner



President of the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce (TFCC)

Daggubati Suresh Babu is a distinguished Indian film producer, Studio Owner, Exhibitor and Distributor. Suresh Productions is one of **India's most influential and longest-running film studios**, founded in 1964 by his father, the legendary filmmaker **Padmabhushan D. Ramanaidu**. Suresh Babu has played a pivotal role in expanding this iconic legacy, seamlessly blending strategic vision with creative leadership to shape modern Telugu cinema. Suresh Productions has produced over **150 films across 13 Indian languages** and evolved into an integrated ecosystem spanning production, distribution, exhibition, and studio services. His acclaimed body of work includes landmark films such as *Bobbili Raja*, *Drushyam*, and *Gopala Gopala*, alongside the development of **Ramanaidu Studios** in Hyderabad, the **Ramanaidu Film School** dedicated to nurturing future filmmakers, and **Ramanaidu Film City** in Visakhapatnam overlooking the Bay of Bengal. Together, these institutions reflect a visionary commitment to cinema, education, and world-class infrastructure—cementing the Ramanaidu family's enduring impact on Indian and Telugu cinema.



Ramanaidu Film City, Visakhapatnam



Ramanaidu Studios & Film School, Hyderabad



Sathyajyothi Films

Special Guest



T. G. Thyagarajan

Founder of Sathya Jyothi Films & Producer

Sathyajyothi Films, led by veteran producer **T. G. Thyagarajan**, is one of Tamil cinema's most esteemed and influential production houses, known for its unwavering commitment to strong storytelling, cinematic scale, and consistent **box-office success**. Under his leadership, the banner has delivered some of the most defining films of contemporary Tamil cinema, the critically acclaimed neo-noir thriller **Vikram Vedha**, along with notable productions such as **Maaran**. Renowned for collaborating with leading filmmakers and stars, Sathyajyothi Films continues its legacy with a powerful and ambitious slate of upcoming projects, including the highly anticipated action thriller **Vivegam**, the franchise continuation **Thalaivan Thalaivii** and the large-scale period action spectacle **Captain Miller**, reaffirming the banner's stature as a driving force in Indian cinema.

- Prominent Indian film producer with decades experience
- Consistent creator of critically acclaimed blockbusters
- Producer of landmark films shaping modern cinema
- Upcoming projects reinforce legacy in Indian cinema





Asian Cinemas

Special Guest

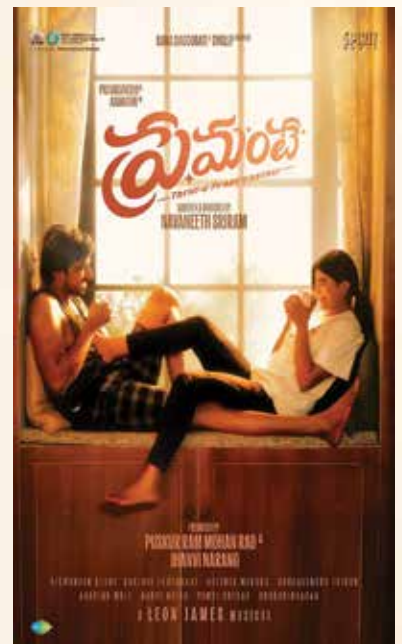


Suneil Narang

Producer & Distributor

Asian Cinemas, led by prominent producer and distributor **Suneil Narang**, is one of South India's most influential cinema enterprises, renowned for its deep-rooted expertise in film distribution, exhibition, and large-scale productions. A key force behind some of Indian cinema's most historic box-office successes, Asian Cinemas has played a pivotal role in the theatrical triumph of landmark films such as **Kuberaa**, the globally celebrated epics **Ghost**. With a robust market presence, sharp audience insight, and a reputation for delivering culturally impactful cinema at scale, Asian Cinemas continues to expand its footprint through a strong slate of upcoming high-profile pan-Indian and regional projects, reaffirming its position as a driving force in shaping the future of Indian theatrical cinema.

- Influential South Indian cinema enterprise and distributor
- Key force behind historic Indian boxoffice successes
- Strong expertise in distribution exhibition production scale
- Driving force shaping future Indian theatrical cinema





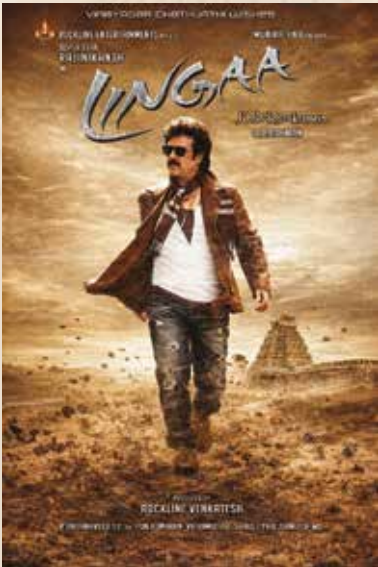
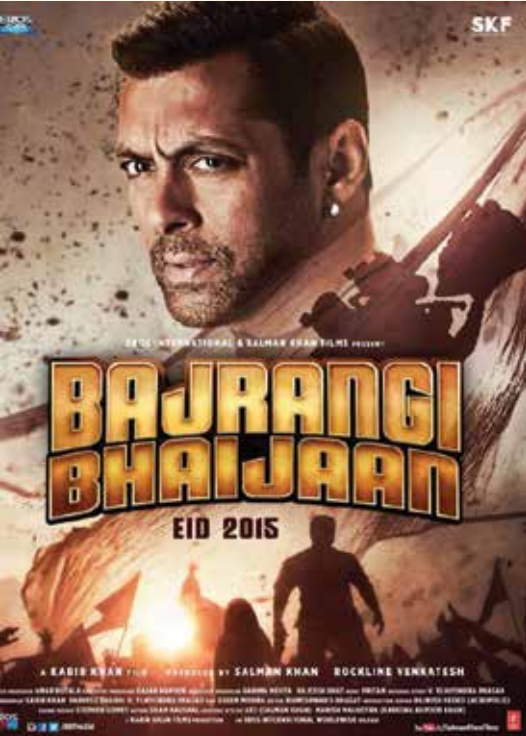
Rockline Entertainments Special Guest



Rockline Venkatesh
Film Producer & Actor

Rockline Venkatesh is a renowned Indian film producer, actor, and distributor, and the **founder of Rockline Entertainments**, a leading production and distribution company based in Bengaluru. He has made a significant impact across Kannada, Tamil, and Hindi cinema through his commitment to quality storytelling and large-scale productions. Under his leadership, Rockline Entertainments has produced and distributed several commercially successful and critically acclaimed films, earning national recognition with the **National Film Award-winning blockbuster Bajrangi Bhaijaan**. Known for his strong industry insight and market reach, Rockline Venkatesh has played a key role in bringing culturally impactful cinema to diverse audiences. The banner is respected for its collaborations with top filmmakers, actors, and technicians, and for supporting emerging talent within the industry. While there is no formal careers portal, Rockline Entertainments remains actively connected to the film community through professional networks and social media, continuing to influence and shape the evolving landscape of Indian cinema.

- Prominent Indian film producer, actor, distributor
- Active across Kannada, Tamil, Hindi cinema industries
- Known for large scale quality storytelling excellence
- Strong industry insight market reach collaborations nationwide



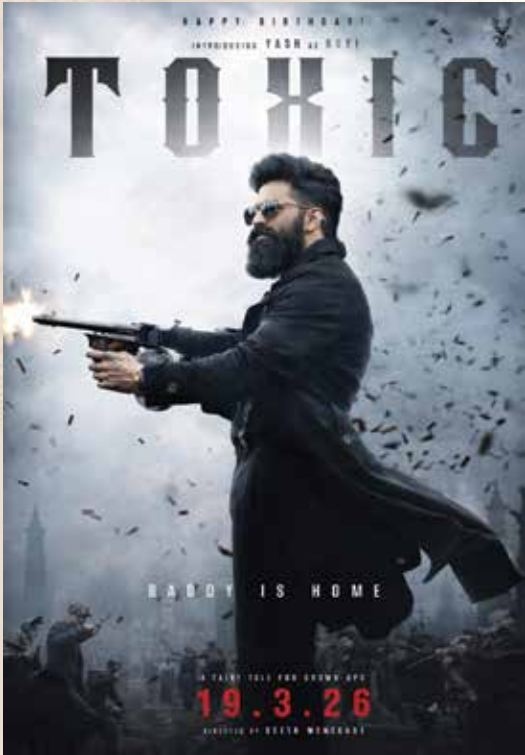


KVN Productions Special Guest



Venkat K. Narayana
Film producer

Mr. Venkat K. Narayana (KVN) is the **Chairman of KVN Group**, a diversified conglomerate spanning real estate and film & entertainment, driven by capital discipline, creative judgment, and long-term vision. With over 25 years of leadership experience in capital-intensive industries, he is a highly accomplished professional and the former CEO of Prestige Group, where he successfully led IPOs, private equity investments, M&A initiatives, and large-scale business expansion. In 2020, he founded KVN Productions, which has rapidly emerged as a leading Indian film production and distribution company, with over eight films currently in production across multiple languages, featuring some of India's biggest stars including Rocking Star Yash, Thalapathy Vijay, Akshay Kumar, and Chiranjeevi, and a strong **legacy of distributing over 25 blockbuster films**. In 2024, he established KVN Properties, executing over six million square feet of residential projects. A committed philanthropist, his KVN Foundation played a vital role during COVID-19 through the 'Feed My City' campaign, delivering large-scale humanitarian relief.



- 25+ years leadership across capital-intensive industries globally
- Former CEO Prestige Group, led IPOs successfully
- Founded KVN Properties, large-scale residential developments nationwide
- Produced and distributed films with top stars





Magic Frames Special Guest



Listin Stephen
Film Producer and Distributor

Listin Stephen is a pioneering South Indian film producer and distributor, widely recognized as the founder of the acclaimed production house **Magic Frames**. He is credited with ushering in the transformative “**New Gen**” movement in Malayalam cinema with his debut production *Traffic* (2011), followed by the **National Award-winning** *Ustad Hotel*, which cemented his reputation for content-driven yet commercially successful cinema. Expanding beyond Malayalam, Listin has made a strong impact in Tamil and Hindi industries, producing successful films including Dhanush’s *Maari*. He currently serves as the President of the Film Distributors Association of Kerala, holding a key leadership role in shaping the region’s film trade. Celebrated for his long-standing creative collaboration with actor Prithviraj Sukumaran, he has delivered major blockbusters such as *Jana Gana Mana* and *Kaduva*. Known for his witty, outspoken public persona, Listin Stephen consistently transforms innovative, small-budget concepts into large-scale commercial successes.

- Pioneering South Indian producer and distributor leader
- Launched Malayalam New Gen cinema movement successfully
- President of Film Distributors Association Kerala today
- Creative partner of Prithviraj Sukumaran blockbusters creator





Special Guest & Master Class

Kabir Khan
Indian Film Director

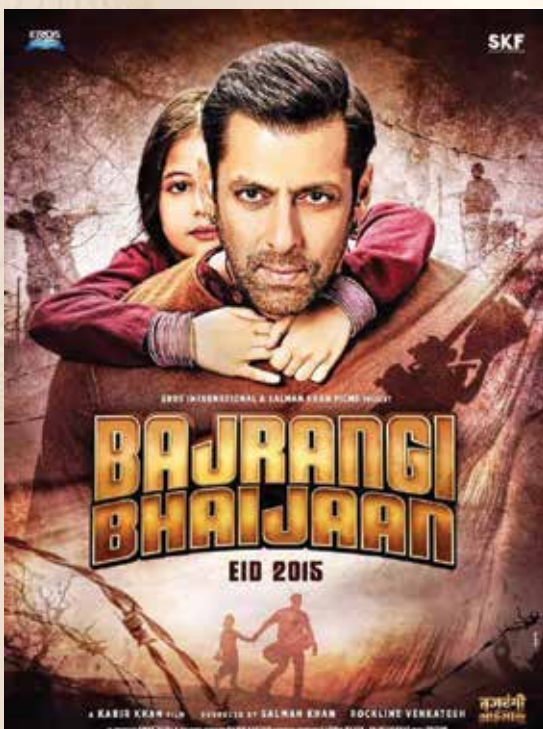


“From Real Events to Cinema: Transforming True Stories into Blockbusters”

A deep dive into adapting real-life incidents (Bajrangi Bhaijaan, 83, Phantom) into compelling screen experiences.

Kabir Khan, one of India's most influential contemporary filmmakers, joins the **3rd I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi** as a **Special Guest** and Masterclass Speaker. Known for his ability to merge large-scale storytelling with deep emotional resonance, Kabir has crafted some of the most successful and widely loved films in modern Indian cinema. With a strong foundation in documentary filmmaking and real-world narratives, he brings authenticity, humanity, and global appeal to every project he creates.

From his acclaimed directorial debut **Kabul Express** to the blockbuster phenomenon **Bajrangi Bhaijaan** and the widely celebrated sports epic **83**, Kabir's work has left a defining mark on Indian and international audiences. A recipient of a **National Film Award** and multiple global accolades, his films have garnered both commercial success and critical acclaim. His presence at the festival reflects a commitment to inspiring emerging storytellers and highlighting the power of cinema to transcend cultures and borders.



- Master of Emotion-Driven Blockbusters
- Creator of Globally Loved Stories
- National Award-Winning Filmmaker
- Specialist in Real-Event Cinematic Adaptations





50 Years of legendary Actor

Mohan Babu
Indian Actor & Film Producer



Manchu Bhakthavatsalam Naidu, popularly known as **Mohan Babu**, is a celebrated **Indian actor, producer, and educationist**, renowned for his immense contribution to **Telugu cinema**. An alumnus of the Madras Film Institute, he has acted in over **500 films**, portraying powerful lead, supporting, and character roles that have left a lasting impact on **Indian cinema**.

Mohan Babu's performances have earned him prestigious accolades, including the **Filmfare Award for Best Actor** – Telugu for Pedarayudu (1995), a landmark multi-starrer featuring Rajinikanth, and the **CineMAA Award** for Best Supporting Actor for Yamadonga (2007). His illustrious career was further honored with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award – South and the Special Appreciation Award at the **South Indian International Movie Award** in 2017, marking forty years in cinema. In recognition of his artistic and educational contributions, he received the **Padma Shri in 2007** and an honorary doctorate from the **University of California, Berkeley**.

Beyond cinema, Mohan Babu is a visionary educator. He founded the Sree Vidyanikethan Educational Trust and established Sree Vidyanikethan Educational Institutions, which evolved into Mohan Babu University in Tirupati in 2022, where he serves as Chancellor. His life reflects an extraordinary blend of cinematic excellence and commitment to education.

- Extraordinary Cinematic Legacy
- Prestigious National & Film Honors
- Influential Producer & Industry Leader
- Visionary Educationist & Institution Builder





The Arab Republic of Egypt Country of Honour



Egyptian cinema stands as the oldest, most influential, and most prolific film industry in the **Middle East and Africa**, with a legacy spanning **more than a century**. Since the early 1900s, Egypt has shaped the **cultural identity** of the region through pioneering studios, legendary stars, and cinematic works that captured and redefined Arab social, political, and artistic narratives. Its **Golden Age**, from the 1940s to the 1960s, produced timeless dramas, comedies, and musicals that continue to inspire filmmakers worldwide and firmly established **Cairo** as the creative heart of **Arab cinema**. Today, Egyptian film thrives through **visionary new talents**, major infrastructure such as the **Egyptian Media Production City (EMPC)**, and strong institutional support from the **Egypt Film Commission**—attracting regional and international productions to its vibrant locations and **highly skilled crews**. With recent **box-office successes** like *Seeko Seeko*, *Project X*, *Al-Shater*, and *Darweesh*, Egypt continues to blend a **rich artistic heritage** with **dynamic commercial appeal**. As the **Country of Honour of the 3rd I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi**, we celebrate Egypt's enduring contribution to Arab storytelling—its **cultural resonance, creative innovation, and its profound impact** on generations of filmmakers across the region and the world.



Egyptian Steering Committee

The Arab Republic of Egypt

The Egyptian Steering Committee brings together some of Egypt's most respected creative voices, each representing a pillar of the nation's vibrant cinematic heritage. Tasked with strengthening cultural exchange, fostering industry partnerships, and shaping the festival's engagement with Egyptian cinema, the committee plays a pivotal role in bridging Abu Dhabi and Cairo's creative landscapes. Through their collective expertise—spanning direction, production, composition, and artistic leadership—they offer invaluable guidance that enriches the festival's vision and elevates its international collaborations. Their presence underscores Egypt's long-standing influence in Arab filmmaking and its continued commitment to nurturing future talent.



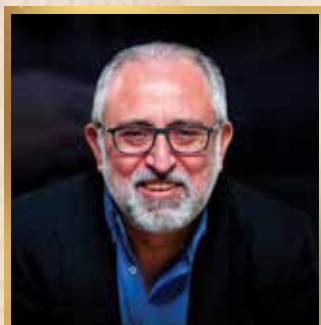
Magdy Ahmed Ali *Film Director, Actor & Screenwriter*

Magdy Ahmed Ali is one of Egypt's most acclaimed film directors, celebrated for his humanistic storytelling and bold engagement with social and political themes. His works—such as *A Girl's Secret*, *Birds of Darkness*, and the award-winning *Mawlana*—combine emotional depth with sharp societal insight. Known for his refined cinematic language and nuanced character portrayals, he has shaped modern Egyptian cinema with both artistry and courage. Today, he stands as a leading voice whose films resonate deeply with audiences across the Arab world.



Hisham Soliman *Film Producer*

Hisham Soliman is an Egyptian film producer with over 30 years of experience and the founder/CEO of Hama Film Productions, one of Cairo's leading companies with more than 300 projects. He has collaborated with acclaimed directors including Youssef Chahine, Atef El-Tayeb, and Yousry Nasrallah, and has held major industry roles such as Chairman of the DMC network and Production VP at United Media Services (UMS). Known for elevating production standards and expanding Egypt's cinematic presence, he has also contributed to major international productions filmed in Egypt, including *Malcolm X*, *Exodus: Gods and Kings*, and the BBC series *Egypt*.



Tamer Karawan *Music Composer*

Tamer is an accomplished composer known for his powerful music scores in Egyptian television dramas and thrillers, creating standout soundtracks for series such as *Taht Al Ard*, *Zat*, *Al Zawga Al Thanya*, *Faraon*, *Zai El Ward*, *Al Horoub*, and *Taraf Talet*. He continued building his reputation with acclaimed works like *Al Mowaten X*, *Women's Prison*, *Under Control*, *The Witch of the South*, *Seven Souls*, and the epic *Sunset Oasis*. Beyond composing, Tamer has also worked as an editor with the BBC and as a documentary director at Orbit Television Networks, with his projects featured both in and out of competition at the Cannes International Film Festival.



Wael Darwish Mohamed *CEO Focus Film Rentals*

Wael Darwish is an Egyptian Director of Photography and the founder of Focus Film Rentals, an online camera and equipment rental platform established in 2009 in Giza. Known for his technical expertise and eye for detail, Darwish built the platform to support filmmakers and photographers with easy access to professional gear across Egypt. His company provides everything from cameras and lenses to lighting, support systems, and drones, all with convenient online booking and free home delivery. As a DOP, Darwish blends creative vision with practical industry insight, making him a trusted figure in Egypt's production community.



Spain Participating Country

Guest of Honour



Mr. Juan -Manuel Guimerans

President, Spain Film commission, CEO, Valladolid Tourism



World-Class Film Ecosystem & Creative Infrastructure | European Powerhouse of Cinema & Storytelling | Hub for International Co-Productions | Gateway for Europe-Middle East Film Partnerships | Promoter of Cross-Border Talent Development | Champion of Cultural Exchange & Artistic Innovation

Spain joins the **3rd I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi** as a distinguished participating country, represented through the Spain Film Commission, bringing its vibrant cinematic legacy, world-class production ecosystem, and globally acclaimed storytelling to the festival platform. Renowned for its rich film culture, spectacular locations, and internationally recognized directors, Spain has been a driving force in both **European** and **global cinema**. Through this association, the festival celebrates Spain's creative excellence, encourages deeper collaboration between **Spanish and UAE filmmakers**, and highlights opportunities in co-productions, filming incentives, talent exchange, and international partnerships. Spain's participation reinforces the festival's mission of strengthening cross-cultural dialogue, showcasing diverse cinematic voices, and building meaningful creative pathways between **Europe, the Middle East, and Asia**.





Andalucía Participating Partner

Guest of Honour



Piluca Querol

*Director of the Andalucía Film Commission &
Vice-president of the Spain Film Commission*



Iconic Film Locations of Andalucía | Top-Tier Production Support Ecosystem | Home to Award-Winning Global Shoots | Cultural & Cinematic Hub of Southern Spain | Europe's Most Diverse Filming Destination | Strong Incentives & Production-Friendly Infrastructure

The **Andalucía Film Commission** joins the **3rd I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi** as a distinguished participating partner, representing one of Europe's most dynamic and visually captivating film destinations. With its world-renowned landscapes, historic architecture, and production-friendly infrastructure, Andalucía has become a **global hub for filmmakers** seeking diverse shooting opportunities—from cinematic coastlines and deserts to medieval towns and modern urban settings. Through this association, the Festival highlights Andalucía's robust co-production ecosystem, attractive filming incentives, and its commitment to nurturing international collaboration. The Andalucía Film Commission also brings forward exciting exchange programs for talent development, enabling emerging creators from the UAE, Middle East, India, and Asia to engage with Spain's creative industry through workshops, training pathways, and on-ground production experiences. This partnership reinforces the Festival's mission of fostering global creative ties, advancing film tourism, and opening meaningful avenues for cross-border storytelling and industry growth.





Abu Dhabi University

Education Partner



Abu Dhabi University (ADU), the largest private university in the UAE, is renowned for academic excellence, research, and student success. Founded in 2003, it ranks among the top three universities in the UAE, 89th in Asia, and top 200 globally. ADU is also first in the UAE for teaching excellence and ranks highly in research quality. With campuses in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, and Dubai, it offers diverse programs across multiple colleges.



DR. SREETHI NAIR

Dean of College of Arts, Education & Social Science, Abu Dhabi University

Esteemed SPEAKER

Panel Discussion on *Filmmaking in the MENA Region: Current Trends and Emerging Opportunities*

Dr. Sreethi Nair plays a pivotal role in shaping academic direction and advancing strategic goals. With a strong focus on expanding academic offerings, Dr. Sreethi aligns CAESS's initiatives with ADU's long-term objectives, particularly in boosting global visibility and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration in media studies, social sciences, and education. She is dedicated to student success, faculty development, and academic excellence.

Keynote SPEAKER

Curating & Moderating the Panel Discussions on *Cinematic Dependency and Cultural Sovereignty: Building Structures for Local Expression*

Dr. Wissam Mouawad is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Abu Dhabi University's College of Arts, Education and Social Sciences. He holds a PhD in Film Studies from Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and a Master's in Cultural Studies from Montpellier 3. His research centers on Lebanese cinema, its production and circulation. He has published widely on Arab cinema and is preparing a book on filmmaker Christian Ghazi, to be released in 2026.



DR WISSAM MOUAWAD

Associate Dean, CAESS, Abu Dhabi University



Abu Dhabi Vocational Education and Training Institute

Education Partner



معهد أبوظبي للتعليم والتدريب المهني
Abu Dhabi Vocational Education & Training Institute



Abu Dhabi Vocational Education and Training Institute (ADVETI) is a government initiative under ACTVET, established in 2007 to deliver industry-focused technical and vocational education across Abu Dhabi. Licensed by the Ministry of Higher Education, ADVETI offers accredited Certificate and Diploma programs across multiple disciplines, with strong industry collaboration to ensure graduates are job-ready and aligned with evolving workforce needs.



Dr. GHASSAN FRACHE

Senior Academic Leader | Vocational Education Strategist
ADVETI

Esteemed Keynote **SPEAKER**, Steering Committee Member Panel Discussion on *From Classroom to Set: Building Industry-Ready Talent for Film & Creative Media*

Dr. Ghassan Frache is a senior academic leader with over 26 years of experience in technical, vocational, and higher education. As Senior Academic Manager at ADVETI, he has led the UAE's transition to apprenticeship programs, developed industry-aligned curricula, and strengthened collaboration with private-sector partners, enhancing graduate employability and educational outcomes.

This panel will explore how vocational education, apprenticeship models, and industry-academia collaboration can equip young talent with practical, job-ready skills for careers in film, media, and the creative industries, bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world production.

Jury Member

The I-Film Festival hosts four exciting competitions—**Creative Minds Challenge: On-Spot Challenge**, **Still Stories: The Photography Challenge**, **Melody Makers: Music & Singing Challenge**, and **Rhythm Unleashed: The Dance Challenge**—celebrating creativity across visual, musical, and performing arts.

Ms. Eman Hussein is a Creative Media Production assessor and trainer at ADVETI with over 12 years of experience in filmmaking and media disciplines. She mentors and evaluates student projects across the full production cycle, ensuring professional standards and supporting student success in the media industry.



MS. EMAN HUSSEIN

Creative Media Production assessor and trainer
ADVETI

Producing Cinema That Travels: Craft, Vision & Global Reach

Masterclass by

Hesham Soliman

Film Producer

In this exclusive masterclass, veteran producer Hesham Soliman shares over 30 years of experience creating cinema that resonates across borders. Founder and CEO of Hama Film Productions, with more than 300 projects to his credit, he has collaborated with iconic Egyptian filmmakers such as Atef El-Tayeb and Youssef Chahine, and worked on international productions including Exodus: Gods and Kings. Drawing on decades of experience across Egyptian and global industries, Soliman offers practical insights into production strategy, creative leadership, and crafting films that succeed both creatively and commercially on the world stage.



Unlocking the MENA Market: Co-Production, Funding & Distribution

Masterclass with

Heba Korayem

Content Market & Distribution Specialist
Founder, H Consult



This masterclass is led by Heba Korayem, a leading MENA specialist in content markets, distribution strategy, and cross-regional partnerships. As founder of H Consult, she has facilitated over 200 channel-licensing deals and launched the region's first online Arabic content marketplace, significantly expanding the global reach of Arab content. She is also the creator and chair of the Co-Production Salon, connecting producers, platforms, broadcasters, and financiers at major regional media events. In this session, Heba will offer practical insights into financing models, rights negotiation, buyer expectations, and positioning projects for international distribution—providing essential guidance for filmmakers and producers navigating the evolving Arab media landscape.

Music Masterclass by

Tamer Karawan

Music Composer

The 3rd I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi proudly presents a signature Music Masterclass led by Tamer Karawan, one of Egypt's most respected composers. Since his debut with Yousri Nasrallah's El Madina in 1998, Karawan has shaped the sound of modern Arab cinema with acclaimed scores for films including Bab Al Shams, After the Battle, Fi Shaket Misr El Gadida, and Bel Alwan El Tabieia, as well as numerous award-winning documentaries and celebrated television series. In this exclusive session, Karawan will explore the art of composing for screen—revealing how music shapes emotion, atmosphere, and storytelling. His masterclass offers filmmakers and composers a rare opportunity to learn from a visionary who continues to define the sonic identity of contemporary Arab cinema.





Workshops

@3rd I- Film Festival

Hands-on Learning | Industry Mentorship | Future-Ready Skills

AI FILMMAKING WORKSHOP

Day 2: 11th APRIL 2026, 2:00 pm– 4:00 pm

Conducted by:

Innovative Film Academy. Mentored by: Jay B. Jamal

Explore the future of storytelling where creativity meets artificial intelligence. This session empowers creators to harness AI as a collaborative creative partner rather than a replacement, redefining modern filmmaking possibilities.

AI-assisted script development | Generative visuals & AI video tools | Prompt engineering for cinematic storytelling | AI tools for editing & sound | Voiceovers | Final Output



VFX, SPECIAL EFFECTS, ANIMATION & POST-PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

Day 3: 12th APRIL 2026, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Dive deep into the art of cinematic transformation. Designed especially to support participants of the ON SPOT Challenge, this session equips creators with essential post-production skills to refine, enhance, and elevate their content. Participants gain insight into how raw footage evolves into polished cinematic output, from edit suite to final screen.

Special effects | Animation workflows | editing techniques | Sound design | Colour correction & grading .





Grand Opening Ceremony



4:00 PM – Red Carpet Reception

- Welcome of Celebrities & Dignitaries
- Press Bytes & Media Interactions
- Podcast Coverage
- Photo Sessions
- On Spot Content Challenge
- Hi-Tea

6:30 pm Grand Opening Ceremony & Welcome Performance

7:00 pm Inaugural Address by Mr. Saravana Prasad, Festival Director & Founder

Keynote Address

Introduction of

Guest of Honour, Special Guests, Steering Committee, Associations, Film Personalities, Festival Partners.

Honouring **Mr. Mansoor Al Feeli** with Lifetime Achievement Award

Egypt - Country of Honour

Honouring **Ms. Elham Shahein** with Lifetime Achievement Award

Honouring of the Chief Guest & Address by the Chief Guest

Cultural Performances- Music & Dance

Festival Focus Address by Mr. Roland Daou, Production Partner, Media Mania on the Collaborations, Co-Productions & Talent Development

Festival Opening Film “BaaB”(Trailer), Honouring the Director, Ms. Nayla Khaja

Premiere of the First Short film “A Place U Call Home”, produced by IFA & Media Mania, supported by ADVETI & Abu Dhabi University.

Premiere of the First Music Video “Safest Light”, produced by IFA & Media Mania, supported by ADVETI & Abu Dhabi University.

Announcement of the first Feature Film “Old Buddies”, Indo-Arabic Co-Production produced by IFA, Media Mania & other Production Houses.

Other Film Launches

Announcing the Competitions & Jury Members

Mansoor Al Feeli Roland Daou Ravi Kottarakara Abhay Sinha

International Participation by SPAIN, ANDALUCIA,

Ms Piluca Querol VP, Spain Film Commission

Performances

Screening of the film ‘Baab’

Friday, 10th April 2026

DAY 1



DAY 2

Saturday, 11th April 2026

Business Conclave

@Town Hall, Community Hub, Yas Creative Hub

10:20 am - Entry of Delegates

11:00 am onwards - Business Conclave

Business Conclave Speakers

Mr. Al Murray - Founder, **CINEMA VISION**

Mr. Mansoor Al Daheri, Founder, **FILMGATE**

Mr. Mansoor Al Feeli, Actor

Mr. Nasser Mahaboob, Actor

Ms. Elham Shahein, Actor

Ms. Nayla Khaja, Director

Mr. Bilal Dayani - CEO, **EAGLE FILMS**

Mr. Prajay Kamat - CTO & Co-Founder, **MERGE XR, United Kingdom**

Mr. Roland Daou - Founder, **MEDIA MANIA**

Mr. Joseph Al Kadamani - Chairman, **GAMMA PRODUCTION, STUDIO, ENGINEERING**

Mr. Alaa Karkouti - Co-Founder, Managing Partner, **MAD SOLUTIONS**

Ms. Pratixa Shah - Co-Founder, **PLOT PICTURES**

Mr. Crispin Dominic - CEO & Owner **ACTION FILMZ**

Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Mana - Founder & Film Director, **ALMANA FILM STUDIOS, Qatar**

Mr. Ahmed Golchin - Founder & Chairman, **PHARS FILMS**

Ms. Heba Korayem - Founder, **H. CONSULT**

Mr. Eugene Mishin - Head of the South Asia & Middle East Department at TV BRICS, **TV BRICS**

Mr. Suresh Babu - President, **Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce**,
Owner, **SURESH PRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Ravi Kottarkara - President, **SOUTH INDIAN FILM CHAMBER** & Secretary, **FFI**

Mr. Abhay Sinha - President, **FILM FEDERATION OF INDIA**, VP, **FIAPF**, President, **IMPPA**

Mr. Magdy Ahmed Ali, Film Director, Actor & Screenwriter

Mr. Hesham Soliman, Film Producer

Mr. Tamer Karawan, Music Composer

Ms. Piluca Querol, Vice President, Spain Film Commission

Dr. Sreethi Nair, Dean of College of Arts, Education & Social Science, Abu Dhabi University

Dr. Ghassan, Senior Academic Leader | Vocational Education Strategist, **ADVETI**

Celebrity Interactions & Speakers' Honour

Networking Lunch

4:00 pm onwards - Film Federation India (FFI) Executive Committee Meeting
(On the chair of Abhay Sinha, President)

Creative Showcases

@ Amphitheatre, Main Stage

11:00 am - 1:00 pm **Camera Technique Workshop**
by IFA, Media Mania, Gamma Productions with SONY Cameras

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm **AI Filmmaking Workshop** by IFA, Mentored by Jay. B. Jamal

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm **Screening of ON SPOT Challenge & AI Content Videos** by participants

Cultural Program

Honouring Speakers, Guest of Honours & Special Guests

DAY 3

Sunday 12th April 2026

Panel Discussion

@Town Hall, Community Hub, Yas Creative Hub

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Panel Discussion on **Indo-Arab, Co-Production, Collaboration, Film Funding & Incentives**

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Panel Discussion on **Case Studies, Egyptian Cinema** by **Mr. Magdy Ahmed Ali, Mr. Hesham Soliman, Ms. Elham Shahein**

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Panel Discussion on **Talent Development in Film & Creative Media**

Workshop

@Amphitheatre, Main Stage

11:00 am - 1:00 pm **Camera Technique Workshop**
by IFA, Media Mania, Gamma Productions with SONY Cameras

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm **Workshop on VFX, Special Effects, Animation & Post Production**
(Sound, Edit, Colour Correction)

(Support for ON SPOT Challenge)

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm **Screening of ON SPOT Challenge & AI Content Videos by participants**

6 pm onwards **Closing Ceremony & Red Carpet Performance**

Introduction of Juries & Committee Members

Announcement of Winners of Short Film Competition, ON SPOT Challenge & Still Photography

Launch of New Feature Film

Awards & Recognitions

Closing Remarks



Red Carpet & Opening Ceremony

at 3rd I-Film Festival





Panel Discussions & Business Conclave

at 3rd I-Film Festival





Master Classes & Workshops

at 3rd I-Film Festival





Performance Partner

at 3rd I-Film Festival



LA MUSIQA A: The Joy of Learning Begins Here!
Located in Dubai Silicon Oasis, LA Musiqaa Performing and Fine Art Training Centre is a premier institute dedicated to nurturing aspiring musicians and artists. With expert training in Western vocals, piano, violin, guitar, drums, and music theory, they are committed to musical excellence and innovative teaching techniques. They breathe new life into iconic songs, creating an intimate yet electrifying atmosphere.



About House of Dance: Founded in 2022 by Shekhar, Jyoti & Ria, House of Dance is a creative platform, built on the belief that dance is not just a performing art but a powerful medium for confidence, discipline, and self-expression. Based out of Dubai Silicon Oasis, House of Dance specializes in Bollywood, Hip Hop, Jazz, Lyrical, Contemporary, Indian Semi-Classical, Bhangra and Bollyfitness dance forms.



Rise Center for Dance and Taekwondo is a vibrant studio located in Abu Dhabi, known for its community-oriented approach to dance and taekwondo training. The center focuses on cultivating personal excellence and achievement in a nurturing environment, making it a welcoming space for students of all ages. With an emphasis on joy and passion, the studio encourages personal growth and development in every participant.





The Dance Case Dubai: A local dance studio created for adults of all experience levels to begin, grow, and truly enjoy dancing. The studio believes that learning to dance should feel inspiring rather than intimidating. Whether someone has never danced before or is looking to refine existing skills, they will find a friendly and supportive environment guided by professional instructors.



Miracle Dance : a vibrant dance studio based in Abu Dhabi, dedicated to inspiring creativity, confidence, and joy through movement. The studio offers professional training for children, teens, and adults across a variety of styles including hip-hop, contemporary, Bollywood, freestyle, and fitness dance. With experienced instructors and a supportive environment, Miracle Dance welcomes both beginners and experienced dancers, helping each student grow at their own pace while enjoying the art of dance.



T.nt Dance Studio Dubai is a dynamic urban dance school based in JLT and Silicon Oasis, offering professional training in hip-hop, K-pop, jazz funk, breaking, popping, and other street styles for kids and adults. As the first overseas branch of T.nt Street Dance Club (founded in China, 2002), the studio carries a strong performance culture and its “trouble no trouble” philosophy—promoting creativity, confidence, and self-expression. With structured classes from beginner to advanced, experienced instructors, and regular stage and community performances across Dubai, T.nt has become a vibrant, multicultural hub for dancers to grow and connect.





Awards & Closing Ceremony

at 3rd I-Film Festival



Infrastructure & Equipment at IFA



Infrastructure: Supported by state-of-the-art studios and equipment, including classrooms with LED Screens, green mat Studio, in-house sets for practice, sound studio, Podcast Station & post-production lab that replicates professional production environments.



Shooting & Production Workshop



Acting & Direction Workshop and Post Production Workshop



AI Special Effects & Animation Workshop



Steering Committee



Amer Al Murry
Film Producer & Director
Founder of Al Ain International
Film Festival and
Cinema Vision Films



Mansoor Al Dhaeri
Film producer, Founder
FilmGate Productions



Roland Daou
Film Producer, Director,
Actor & Founder of Media
Mania FZ LLC



**Dr. Ghassan
Frache**
Senior Academic Leader |
Vocational Education Strategist
ADVETI



Abhay Sinha
President - Film Federation of India
President - Indian Motion
Pictures Producers' Association,
Vice President : FIAPP



C Kalyan
Chairman South Indian Film
Chamber of Commerce



Rajiv Shah
President - Indian Business &
Professional Group, Abu Dhabi
Group Chief Financial Officer
Immerso Group



Jitendra Vaidya
President - Indian People's
Forum (IPF), UAE



S. Venkatesh
Founder & Managing Partner
Audit, Tax & Advisory; Secretary
General
PIOCCI Gulf Chapter and
President, Friends of India



CA Krishnan N V
Chairman (ICAI)
The Institute of Chartered
Accountants of India Abu Dhabi



**Dr. (CA) Sahitya
Chaturvedi**
Secretary General
Indian Business & Professional
Council (IBPC) Dubai



Rosie Seldon
CEO Digital QUBE (UAE & GCC)

Team Behind



**Daej Jassem
Mohammad Rasool
Raisi**
Former personnel aide &
companion to his Highness
Crown Prince of Dubai



Nasser Mahaboob
President of South Indian
Artistes' Association, Actor,
Producer & Director



Adnan
Venture Capitalist



Rockline Venkatesh
Film Producer, Exhibitor Actor &
Distributor Founder, Rockline
Entertainments



Dr Ishari K Ganesh
Film Producer, Chairman VELS
Film International, Chairman of
VELS Group of Institutions



Ravi Kotharakara
President Film Federation of
India & South Indian Film
Camber of Commerce



R.K Selvamani
Film Director President, Film
Employees Federation of South
India



Upasana Mittal
CEO,
Innovative Group



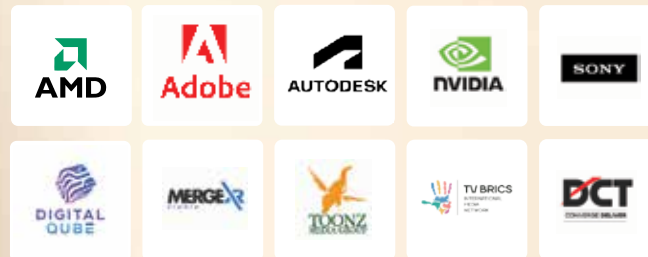
INNOVATIVE GROUP



Partners



Technology Associations



Participating Institutions



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