



Organized by

Innovative Film Academy Mena FZ-LLC

Yas Creative Hub, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Message

The 3rd Edition of the I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi stands as a deeply fulfilling milestone, one that reflects not just the success of an event, but the coming together of a vision, a community, and a shared belief in the transformative power of cinema. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the **Creative Media Authority, Talent Development, Creative Lab**, and the **Abu Dhabi Film Commission** for believing in our vision and supporting us with unwavering encouragement. My sincere thanks to **twofour54** and to their exceptional team for providing an ideal creative environment at Yas Creative Hub.

It has been a privilege to collaborate with esteemed partners who contributed their time, energy, and expertise with wholehearted dedication. I extend my sincere appreciation to **Eagle Films, Action Filmz, Gamma Engineering, Plot Pictures**, and **Filmmaster**. Their presence and thought-provoking insights offered participants a deeper understanding of the industry. The exhibition of high-end cinema equipment and cameras tools used in major Hollywood productions, offered valuable exposure, especially for emerging filmmakers. My deepest appreciation goes to **Mr. Roland Daou**, Founder of **Media Mania** and our **Production Partner**. His commitment, along with a team of over 50 professionals, elevated the festival to an extraordinary level. From high-end production to live streaming using cutting-edge technology, their efforts ensured that every moment was beautifully captured, creating a timeless archive of this edition. Media Mania team stood as a pillar of strength throughout the journey, from preparation to execution.

It was an honour to celebrate cinematic excellence by presenting **Lifetime Achievement** recognition to the esteemed veteran filmmakers **Elham Shahin** and **Mansoor Al Feeli**, whose gracious presence added immense dignity and inspiration to the festival and we sincerely thank them for graciously accepting the same. I am particularly touched by the overwhelming response from **Emirati and Arabic filmmakers**, whose participation brought a sense of harmony, warmth, and community spirit to the festival. Their presence truly embodied the cultural soul of **Abu Dhabi**.

One of the most heart-warming highlights of this edition was the remarkable response to our competitions. Over **150+ filmmakers** submitted entries across the **Short Film Competition, AI Content Challenge**, and creative categories, placing their trust in the festival's integrity and vision. The Closing Ceremony was an emotional and unforgettable moment, as young filmmakers gathered with anticipation to witness their work on screen. Recognizing **12 outstanding winners** was just the beginning. We have, in essence, fostered a growing community of passionate storytellers. At IFA we remain committed to nurturing this talent and bridging them with production houses that have generously stepped forward to support this cause. Another remarkable achievement was the overwhelming participation in our workshops held across Day 2 and Day 3. Despite challenging weather conditions, we witnessed an exceptional turnout, with more than **500 + participants**. The sessions on **Camera Techniques** and **AI Filmmaking** reflected a strong appetite for learning and innovation. I extend my sincere thanks to **SONY** and their team, with the collaborative efforts of **Crispin & Anthony Alkadamani** for delivering these impactful sessions. I would also like to commend **Mr. Jay B. Jamal**, Head of IFA Abu Dhabi, for conducting an outstanding AI filmmaking workshop. I extend my sincere thanks to our incredible **Jury Members** for their dedication in watching every submission with care and for providing honest, fair, and insightful feedback that upheld the integrity of the festival. To my incredible team, especially **Ivan Khadir & Upasana Mittal** I extend my deepest appreciation. Their relentless dedication, belief in my vision, and ability to execute under challenging circumstances has been truly inspiring.

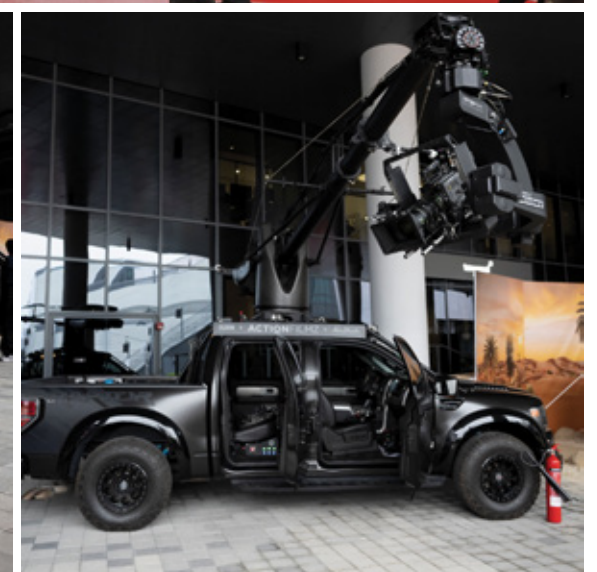
The festival received an exceptional response from the **media**, and I am grateful for the positive coverage across platforms. The digital reach extended into the millions, with festival moments resonating widely through videos, reels, and audience engagement, amplifying our impact far beyond the venue. Encouraged by this overwhelming support and heartfelt response, we now look forward with renewed energy and ambition. It gives me great pleasure to announce the **4th Edition of the I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi**, scheduled for **9th, 10th & 11th April 2027**, with greater scale, deeper collaborations, and even more opportunities for the global filmmaking community. This journey continues with more stories to tell, more voices to discover, and a stronger vision to shape the future of cinema.

With gratitude and determination,

Saravana Prasad
Founder & Festival Director
I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi









RED CARPET - 3rd I-Film Festival, Abu Dhabi















In Honour in Unity - The National Anthem of UAE





Opening address by **SARAVANA PRASAD**, Founder & Festival Director



3rd I-Film Festival, 10th 11th 12th April 2026



Launch of the Festival Book



Mansoor Al Feeli, Actor, UAE



Honouring with Life Time Achievement Award



Elham Shahin, Egyptian Actress

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Honouring with Life Time Achievement Award



Festival Focus by **ROLAND DAOU**, Founder, Media Mania



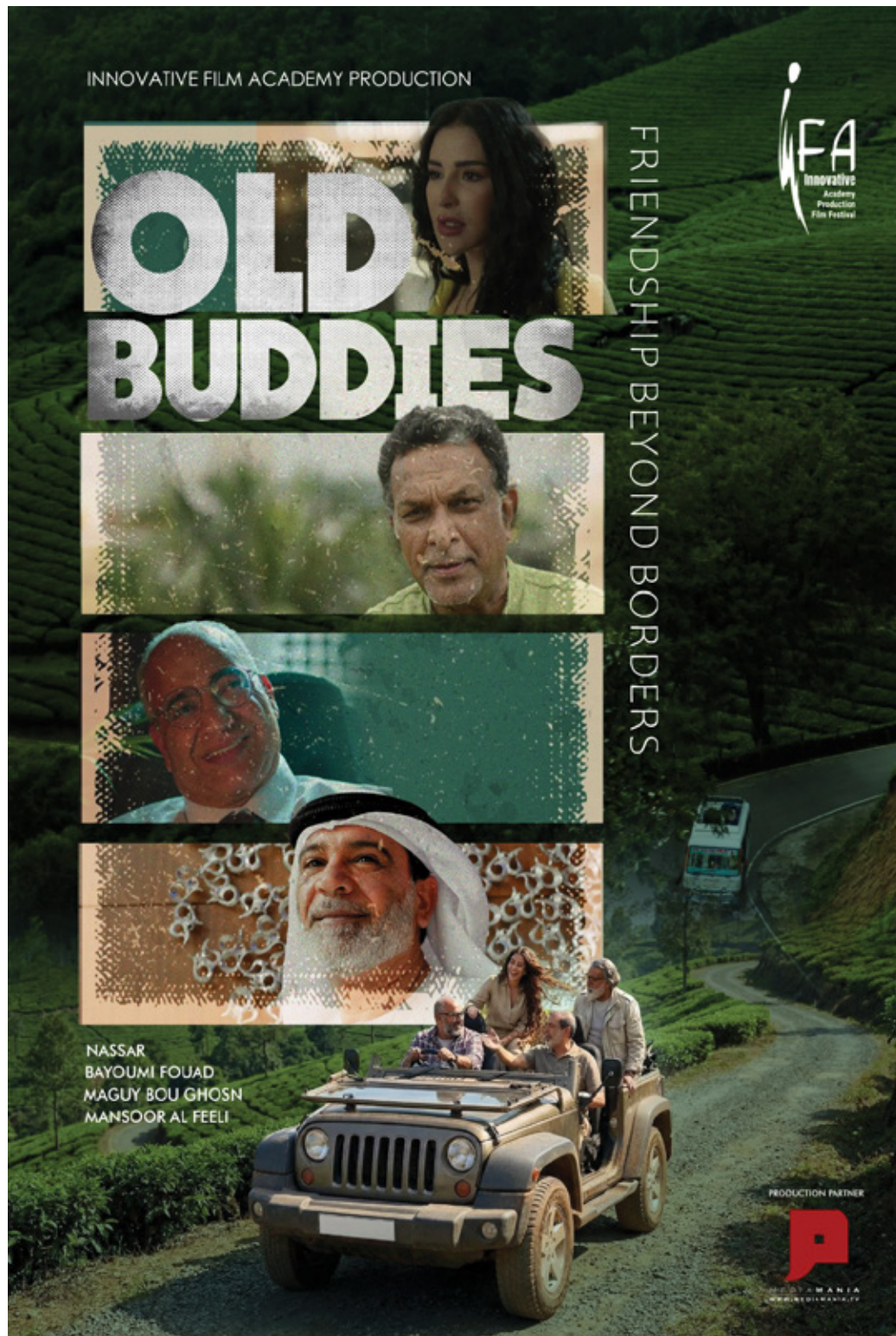
Media Mania Production Team



Innovative Film Academy's Industry Partners



Media Mania, Gamma Productions, Action Filmz, Eagle Films, The Plot Pictures, Filmmaster, Rockline Entertainment



SYNOPSIS

Genre: Drama / Adventure / Feel-Good Friendship Film

Setting: India (Wayanad, Mysore, Bangalore) & Abu Dhabi, UAE

Tone: Emotional, nostalgic, humorous, and uplifting

Themes: Friendship, forgiveness, aging, dreams, second chances

Old Buddies is a heartfelt story about friendship, dreams, and second chances that spans decades and continents. The film begins in the misty hills of Wayanad, Kerala, where Mr. Nasser celebrates his daughter's wedding. In a dramatic moment, three long-lost friends, an Emirati actor, a Lebanese businessman, and a famous Egyptian actress arrive unexpectedly, reuniting a friendship that had been broken for decades. After an emotional confrontation that finally brings forgiveness, memories take them back to the 1990s in Abu Dhabi, where they once shared a dream of building a film production company. But ambition, misunderstandings, and pride eventually tore them apart. Now reunited in their sixties, the friends impulsively set off on a nostalgic journey back to Abu Dhabi to relive their youth. While families and authorities panic over their mysterious disappearance, the four old friends rediscover laughter, freedom, and the bond they once lost, proving that true friendship can survive time, distance, and broken dreams.



Starring - Mansoor Al Feeli & Nasser Mahabooob



Innovative Film Academy announces - **OLD BUDDIES**, An Indo-Arabic Co-production



ANIMATED FEATURE FILM
By Innovative film Academy & Fifth Dimension

LOGLINE

A young camel with a twisted tail, and self-doubt gets lost far from home, and must discover if what makes him different can make him a champion. *Twist in the Tail* is a heartwarming tale of friendship, perseverance, and discovering one's true potential. It follows Ibil, a young camel born with a tail deformity, on his journey to find his place in the world, overcoming obstacles, forming deep bonds, and ultimately proving his worth in a camel race.



SYNOPSIS

Born into a legendary racing family, Ibil has speed, strength, and a powerful legacy—but his twisted tail fills him with self-doubt. After a reckless choice leads him into a deadly sandstorm, he is rescued by Baaz, a falcon who sees his true potential. Far from home and free from expectations, Ibil must decide who he wants to become. When the call to race returns, he faces his greatest challenge yet—will he rise to his destiny or run from it? *A Twist in the Tail* is a heartfelt adventure about courage, identity, and embracing what makes you different.





Premiere of the short film - **A PLACE YOU CALL HOME** & Music Video - **SAFEST LIGHT**



Camera Techniques Workshops by SONY



Mentors: Tim Matthews, SONY CineLine Ambassador & Saad Aldin Alkharouf, DOP | Crispin Dominic & Anthony Joseph Alkadamani



AI Filmmaking Workshop, Mentors: Jay. B. Jamal, Crispin Dominic





BUSINESS CONCLAVE - 11th APRIL 2026





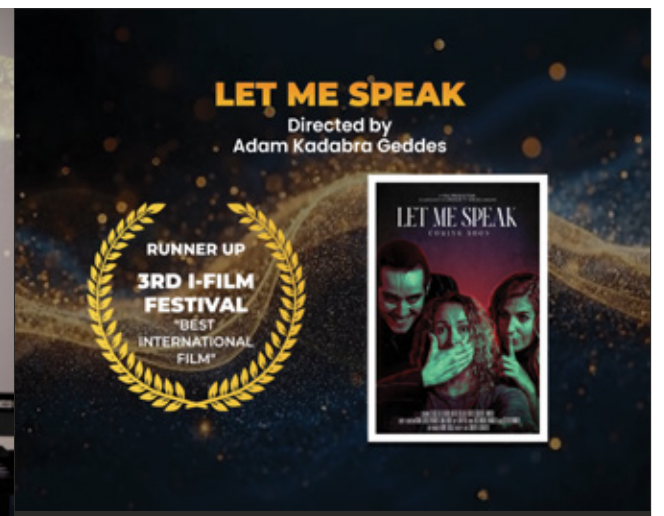


PODCAST - 11th APRIL 2026

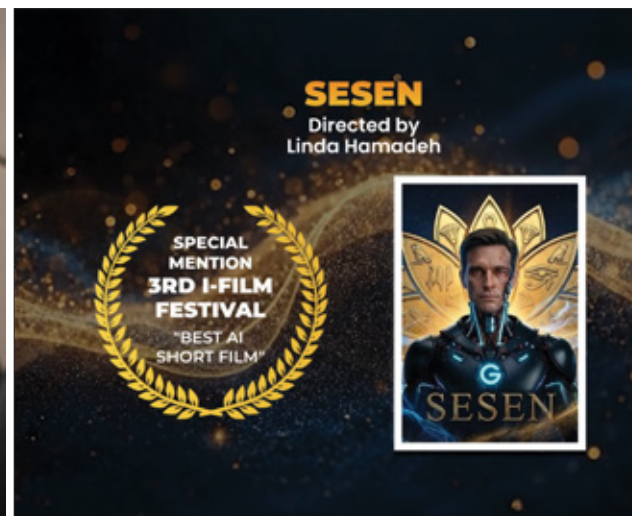




Closing Day Award Ceremony for Short Films & AI Content Competitions





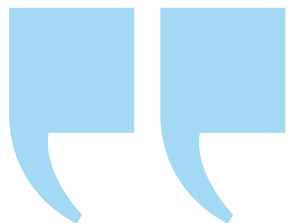




H.E Dr. Arusha Cooray, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to UAE







It was a pleasure to attend the I-Film Awards ceremony and to witness the remarkable talent, creativity, and cultural expression showcased by filmmakers from across the region. The event highlighted the power of cinema in connecting communities, relating stories with authenticity, and inspiring new generations of artists. I extend my warm congratulations to the Founder and Festival Director of I-Film Academy, all the nominees and award recipients. I look forward to continued collaboration that strengthens cultural exchange and celebrates artistic excellence.

- H.E DR. ARUSHA COORAY

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to UAE

It was a joy and a privilege to be part of the 3rd I-Film Festival in Abu Dhabi. The passion, creativity, and warm spirit of everyone involved made it a truly memorable experience, and it was inspiring to witness such a strong sense of community throughout the event. I look forward to seeing how this wonderful platform continues to grow, inspire, and bring people together through the power of film. Thank you once again for your kind invitation and for your continued efforts to support the creative community—I look forward to many more opportunities to collaborate in the future.

- SAAD ALDIN ALKHARIUF

DOP, Sony

It was a privilege to be part of the 3rd Edition of the I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi 2026. I sincerely thank Mr. Saravana Prasad and Ms. Upasana Mittal for the invitation and for creating such a meaningful platform during challenging times.

The festival beautifully reflects the spirit of connection, bringing together creative minds to celebrate and promote cinema. Having attended all three days, I truly appreciate the dedication, energy, and vision invested in building a space that inspires, educates, and connects the industry.

At Action Filmz, we are committed to nurturing emerging talent by offering access to professional cinema equipment, real on-set experience, and internship opportunities that bridge learning with practice. We are also pleased to collaborate with Innovative Film Academy and look forward to producing two short films with students in the near future—supporting the next generation of filmmakers. I wish the festival continued success and look forward to its growth as a global cinematic platform.

- CRISPIN DOMINIC

CEO & Owner, Action Filmz Productions LLC

Collectives like the I-Film Festival serve as an important reminder that there is a rising wave of young talent ready to be discovered and celebrated. When this energy is combined with the strong network of partners the festival has brought together, it creates something truly impactful—an environment where authentic regional stories and diverse voices gain the visibility and momentum they deserve. Being aligned with this journey is genuinely exciting for us, as it goes beyond simple participation. It's about contributing to a larger shift in the industry and playing a role in driving the growth and evolution of filmmaking across the region.

- PRATIXA SHAH

Co - Founder of The Plot Pictures

It was an honour to be part of the I-Film Festival in Abu Dhabi, a platform that truly celebrates creativity and global storytelling. Connecting with such a diverse group of talented filmmakers and industry leaders was both inspiring and deeply rewarding, creating space for meaningful conversations and the exchange of ideas. The festival beautifully highlighted the power of cinema to unite voices from different cultures and perspectives, reinforcing the importance of authentic storytelling. We look forward to building on these connections, fostering new collaborations, and continuing to bring impactful and engaging cinema to audiences across the region and beyond.

- GAGANPREET SINGH

CEO, Film Master Media Distribution LLC

I was glad to attend the I-Film Festival on behalf of Eagle Films Middle East. The festival was well-organized and truly inspiring, offering a valuable opportunity to engage with, learn from, and connect with an incredible community of creative professionals. It was a motivating experience that brought together passionate individuals from across the industry in a meaningful way. We also sincerely appreciate the recognition extended by the I-Film Festival to Eagle Films which made the experience even more special.

- BILAL DAYANI

CEO Eagle Films

It was a real privilege to speak at the 3rd Annual I-Film Festival and to connect with so many driven and passionate creative professionals, all eager to learn, exchange ideas, and continue refining their craft. The energy and openness in the room made for genuinely engaging conversations and meaningful connections. Having been in the region for over 13 years, it was especially rewarding to be invited to share insights and contribute to such a thoughtfully curated and impactful event. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity and for the valuable discussions and relationships that came out of it.

- TIM MATTHEWS

SONY Ambassador, Cinematographer & Filmmaking Coach

It was a great pleasure to contribute to the 3rd I-Film Festival in partnership with IFA as a production partner. It was truly inspiring to see young and passionate filmmakers courageously pursuing their dreams and pushing creative boundaries within the world of filmmaking. I especially value witnessing a community come together in such a meaningful way—supporting one another's ambitions while nurturing and uplifting emerging talent. Thank you to everyone involved for making it such a memorable experience, and I look forward to seeing you all again at the next festival.

- ROLAND DAOU

Founder, Media Mania Productions

It was a pleasure to be part of the third edition of the I-Film Festival 2026 and to connect with such a diverse and passionate film community. The festival offered a dynamic platform that brought together Emirati, Arab, and Indian voices, with a strong focus on collaboration and fresh storytelling. What stood out most was the energy of the young filmmakers, along with the thoughtful effort to give them meaningful opportunities to learn, showcase their work, and build valuable industry connections. Grateful to have been part of it, and be a part of its growth

- BASSAM DAYANI

Distribution Manager & Marketing Expert - The Plot Pictures

It was a true honor to participate in the Abu Dhabi Film Festival and to be recognized for our continued support of the film industry. Being part of an initiative that celebrates resilience, creativity, and human expression carries deep meaning for us. Through our workshops with students, we had the privilege not only to share knowledge, but to connect with a new generation of storytellers and individuals whose passion and voices will shape the future of this industry.

We stand proud to support a message so powerfully championed by the festival: that even in the face of challenges, the will of life endures, and creativity continues to rise, inspire, and unite us all especially in our beloved country the UAE!

- ANTHONY AL KADAMANI

CEO Gamma Productions



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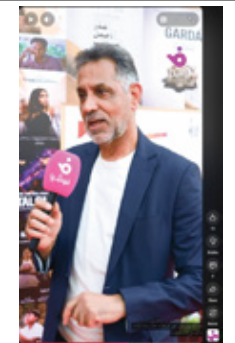
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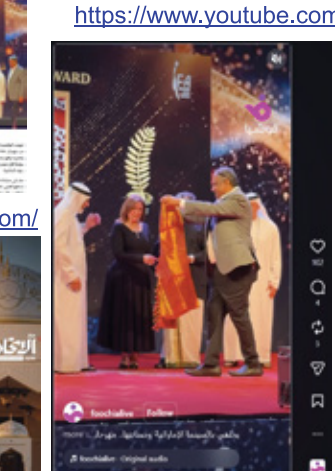
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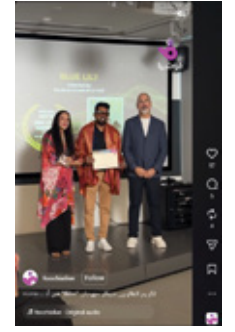
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IFA ROADMAP

Our vision is to build a sustainable ecosystem that nurtures talent, empowers creation, and unlocks global collaboration.

The
FUTURE
BUILDING
A CREATIVE
ECOSYSTEM



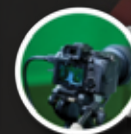
Talent Development



Collaboration & co-production



Production Services



Content Creation



Film Festival

> COLLABORATION

Strengthening Global Industry Alliances



EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

Enabling knowledge exchange and seamless industry-academia integration



ABU DHABI VOCATIONAL
EDUCATION & TRAINING



SORBONNE UNIVERSITY



ABU DHABI UNIVERSITY



AL AIN UNIVERSITY



MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT
SKILL COUNCIL



SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

FILM PRODUCTION & CONTENT CREATION

- Feature Films
- Digital Formats
- Vertical Videos
- Ad Films
- OTT Content
- Micro Content
- Corporate AVs
- Documentaries

01

Strategic Gateway

Represents IFA as the entry point connecting Indian & international productions to Abu Dhabi.

02

Seamless Production

Highlights ease of logistics, services, and execution handled by IFA.

03

Subsidy Optimization

Focuses on the unique model of reinvesting government incentives to enhance production value.

**PRODUCTION
SERVICES
AND
BENEFITS IN
ABU DHABI**



9 10 11
APRIL 2027

I-FILM FESTIVAL

A GLOBAL STAGE
FOR
TALENT &
COLLABORATION

The **4th Edition of the I-Film Festival Abu Dhabi**, set for **9th, 10th & 11th April 2027** at Abu Dhabi, is envisioned as a powerful convergence of a global creative ecosystem—where storytellers, innovators, industry leaders, and emerging talent come together to shape the future of cinema. With a focused commitment to fostering co-productions, advancing technology-driven storytelling, and strengthening cross-cultural collaborations, the festival will expand its role as a dynamic platform for creative exchange and industry growth. Elevated in scale and ambition, the upcoming edition aims to inspire new narratives, unlock opportunities, and position Abu Dhabi at the forefront of the global filmmaking landscape.



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Innovative
Academy
Production
Film Festival

Innovative Film Academy Mena FZ-LLC

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