

**32<sup>nd</sup>** MEDFILM  
FESTIVAL

ISTITUTO  
*italiano*  
di CULTURA  
NEW YORK

ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE  
686 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK

# Med Film Festival in New York

16-18 APRIL 2026





# MedFilm Festival in New York

IS AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY

**Associazione Methexis Onlus**

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE

**Italian Cultural Institute in New York**

WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE

**Consulate General of Italy in New York**

ASSOCIATION METHEXIS ONLUS

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and Artistic Director*

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ITALIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE  
IN NEW YORK

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**Special thanks to Gianluca Abbate** for the realization  
of the official poster and visual of MedFilm Festival in New York 2026.

New York, home to the United Nations and a metropolis where communities from all over the world co-exist—with over 700 languages spoken—represents, like the Mediterranean, a space for dialogue, exchange, and cultural enrichment.

In this context, Italy plays a central role, both due to its geographical location and its strategic vision. The arrival of the MedFilm Festival in New York thus strengthens the cultural bridge between Italy and the United States and confirms the value of cinema as a tool for mutual understanding and dialogue among peoples.

**Claudio Pagliara**

*Director of the Italian Cultural Institute in New York*

The first edition of MedFilm Festival in New York is an event that offers a space for viewing and discussion of Mediterranean cinema and cultures. Founded in 1995 in Rome, MedFilm aims to foster lasting interest in Mediterranean culture and art through a wide variety of narrative styles and approaches. This first step in New York is a "best of" selection of films from our previous editions, bringing with it a unique program, always rooted in contemporary concerns.

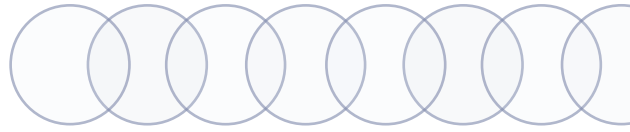
Our goal is to promote the work of established and emerging artists, showcasing the diversity and richness of our culture. This celebration of creativity is more than a simple presentation—it is an invitation to exchange, and dialogue around Mediterranean identity, the strength of diversity, and the meaning of solidarity. Join us and discover how cinema unites the Mediterranean and the entire world.

Enjoy!

**Ginella Vocca**

*MedFilm Festival Founder and Artistic Director*

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**Italian Cultural Institute**  
686 Park Ave, New York, NY

**April 16, 2026**

**4:30 PM** SHORT FILMS

**Fallen Houses** (Case cadute)

by Gianluca Abbate (Italy, 2024, 16')

**The Voice of Others** (La Voix des autres)

by Fatima Kaci (France, 2023, 30')

**6:00 PM** FEATURE FILM

**Burning Days** (Kurak Günler)

by Emin Alper

(Turkey / France / Germany / Netherlands / Greece  
/ Croatia, 2022, 104')

All films are in original version with English subtitles

## April 17, 2026

### 4:30 PM SHORT FILMS

#### **Remains** (Restare)

by Fabio Bobbio (Italy, 2025, 20')

#### **Warsha**

by Dania Bdeir (Lebanon / France, 2022, 16')

### 6:00 PM FEATURE FILM

#### **My Father's Diaries** (I diari di mio padre)

by Ado Hasanović (Italy / France, 2023, 83')

> *Q&A w/ the director after the screening*

## April 18, 2026

### 3:30 PM SHORT FILMS

#### **The First Times** (Le prime volte)

by Giulia Cosentino and Perla Sardella (Italy, 2025, 16')

#### **On the Edge** (Aal Hafa)

by Sahar El Echi (Tunisia, 2024, 17')

### 4:30 PM FEATURE FILM

#### **The Last Queen** (La dernière reine)

by Damien Ounouri and Adila Bendimerad

(Algeria / France / Saudi Arabia / Qatar / Taiwan, 2022, 110')



**Med  
Film  
Festival**  
in New York

**Feature Films**



# Burning Days

> TURKEY, FRANCE, GERMANY, NETHERLANDS, GREECE, CROATIA | 2022 | 130' | O.V. TURKISH

**Writer and Director:** Emin Alper

**Director of Photography:**

Christos Karamanis

**Editors:** Özcan Vardar, Eytan İpeker

**Sound:** Kreşimir Rodic

**Music:** Stefan Will

**Art Director:** Ceyda Yüceer

**Costume Designer:** Öykü Ersoy

**Cast:** Selahattin Paşalı, Ekin Koç, Erol Babaoğlu, Erdem Şenocak, Selin Yeninci

**Producers:** Nadir Öperli, Kerem Çatay

**Co-producers:** Fatih Sakız, Laurent Lavolé, Viola Fügen, Michael Weber, Stienette Bosklopper, Maarten Swart, Yorgos Tsourgiannis, Anita Juka

**Associate Producers:** İrem Akbal, Maya Scherr-Willson

**Production:** Ay Yapım, Liman Film

**Co-production:** Zola Yapım, Gloria Films, Match Factory Productions, Circe Films, Horsefly Productions, 4 Films

**International Sales:** The Match Factory

## SYNOPSIS

Emre, a young and dedicated prosecutor, is newly appointed to a small town hit by a water crisis and political scandals. After an initial welcome, he experiences an increasing number of tense interactions and is reluctantly dragged into local politics. When Emre forms a bond with the owner of the local newspaper pressure escalates under heated rumours.

## DIRECTOR: Emin Alper

Emin Alper was born in 1974 in Ermenek, Karaman. Trained in economics and history at Bogazici University-Istanbul, Alper holds a PhD in Turkish Modern History. His first feature, *Beyond the Hill* (2012), received numerous awards including the Caligari Film Prize at Berlinale Forum and Best Film at Asia Pacific Awards and was selected in Competition at MedFilm. His second feature *Frenzy* (2015) premiered at 72nd Venice Film Festival's in Competition and received Jury Special Prize. His third feature *A Tale of Three Sisters* (2019) premiered at Berlin Film Festival's main Competition, and received many awards in several festivals including MedFilm. *Burning Days* received Jury Special Prize at MedFilm 2022. His latest feature film, *Salvation* (2026), had its world premiere at Berlin Film Festival's main Competition. Aside from his filmmaking career, Alper works as the artistic programmer of the Istanbul Cinematheque since February 2021.



# My Father's Diaries

> ITALY, FRANCE | 2024 | 97' | O.V. BOSNIAN, ENGLISH

**Director:** Ado Hasanović

**Writers:** Ado Hasanović,  
Armando Maria Trotta, Anna Zagaglia

**Director of Photography:**

Ado Hasanović

**Editors:** Esmeralda Calabria,  
Elisabetta Abrami, Desideria Rayner

**Sound:** Daniele Viti, Matteo Bendinelli,  
Antonio Giannantonio

**Music:** Iosonouncane

**Producers:** Carlo Degli Esposti,  
Nicola Serra, Antonio Badalamenti

**Production:** Palomar,  
Mediawan Rights

**International Sales:**

Mediawan

## SYNOPSIS

A deep family taboo is shattered when director Ado Hasanović discovers the pages of his father's diary and the images recorded by the latter in the midst of the Bosnian war. By retracing his father's steps in the lead-up to the Srebrenica massacre, this monument to memory reveals, through the prism of one family, the wounds and undimmed pride of an entire people.

## DIRECTOR: Ado Hasanović

Bosnian-Italian filmmaker Ado Hasanović was born in 1986 in Srebrenica, present-day Bosnia and Herzegovina, and is based in Rome. He graduated in Directing from the Sarajevo Film Academy and the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome. Since 2015, he has been the artistic director of the festival Passaggi d'Autore: Intrecci Mediterranei in Sardinia. In 2024, he founded the Silver Frame Film Festival in Srebrenica. *My Father's Diaries* premiered at Visions du Réel and was selected in Competition at MedFilm, where it won the Best Euro-Mediterranean Co-production award.



# The Last Queen

> ALGERIA, FRANCE, SAUDI ARABIA, QATAR, TAIWAN | 2022 | 110'  
O.V. ALGERIAN ARABIC & BERBER, CORSICAN, SERBO-CROATIAN

## Writers and Directors:

Adila Bendimerad, Damien Ounouri

**Director of Photography:** Shadi Chaaban

**Editors:** Matthieu Laclau, Yann-Shan Tsai

**Sound:** Amine Teggarr

**Music:** Evugueni & Sacha Galperine

**Art Director & Set Designer:**

Feriel Gasmi Issiakhem

**Costume Designer:** Jean Marc Mireté

**VFX:** Film Tailor Studio, Moonshine Animation, Apache Picture

**Cast:** Adila Bendimerad, Dali Benssalah, Tahar Zaoui, Imen Noel, Nadia Tereszkiwicz

**Producers:** Adila Bendimerad, Patrick Sobelman

**Co-producers:** Roger Huang, Justine O.

**Production:** Taj Intaj, Agat Films

**Co-production:** Orange Studio, Centre Algérien de Développement du Cinéma – CADC, Birth, 2 Horloges Productions, Sofinergie 5, Yi Tiao Long Bao International Entertainment Co., Taiwan Creative Content Agency, The Red Sea Film Foundation

**International Sales:** The Party Film Sales

## SYNOPSIS

Algeria, 1516. The pirate Aroudj Barbarossa frees Algiers from the tyranny of the Spanish and seizes power over the kingdom. Rumor has it he murdered King Salim Toumi despite their alliance. Against all odds, one woman will stand up to him: Queen Zaphira. Between history and legend, this woman's journey tells of a struggle, of personal and political turmoil endured for the sake of Algiers.

## DIRECTORS: Adila Bendimerad and Damien Ounouri

Adila Bendimerad is an Algiers-based actress, screenwriter, director, and producer. In 2011, she founded the company Taj Intaj to promote emerging Algerian talent. Known for her acting roles in films like *The Repentant* and *Normal*, she achieved global acclaim by producing the César-nominated *The Days Before*. She also co-directed, co-wrote, and starred as Queen Zaphira in the feature film *The Last Queen*.

Damien Ounouri is an Algerian director based in Algiers, combining formal cinema theory with self-taught filmmaking skills. He gained international recognition with his documentary *Fidai* (co-produced by Jia Zhang-Ke), which premiered at TIFF, and his film *Kindil El Bahr*, selected for Cannes Directors' Fortnight. Alongside directing, he teaches cinema workshops and serves as an associate producer for Taj Intaj.



**Med  
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in New York

Short Films



# Fallen Houses

> ITALIA | 2025 | 16' | O.V. ITALIAN, FRENCH, UKRAINIAN

**Director:** Gianluca Abbate

**Writers:** Gianluca Abbate, Daniela De Francesco

**Director of Photography:** Fabio Paolucci

**Editors:** Maria Fantastica Valmori, Gianluca Abbate

**Music:** Dimos Vryzas, Adelmo Petrucci

**Sound Designer:** Valeria Miracapillo

**Choreographers:** Elisabetta Consonni, Miguel Antonio Rojas

**Performers:** Masako Matsushita, Marta Ciappina, Olimpia Fortuni, Raymond Ogbogbo, Miguel Antonio, Lorenzo Sogna (Lorenzo Veglia)

**Voices:** Federico De Luca, Diabi Dijbril, Prykhnenko Jacqueline Mala

**Producer:** Claudio Esposito

**Creative Producers:**

Antonio La Camera, Rosario Minervini, Claudio Esposito

**Production:** The Piranesi Experience, in collaboration with AAMOD, BASE

**International Sales:** Cattive Produzioni

## SYNOPSIS

A personal account of the 1980 Irpinia earthquake, narrated by a father to his son, becomes a universal paradigm for those forced to leave their homes. People are intrinsically connected to places which, in turn, hold the memories of those who have lived there.

## DIRECTOR: Gianluca Abbate

Gianluca Abbate is an artist and director of experimental films based in Roma, born in 1980. In 2016, he won a Nastro d'Argento and in 2015 best short film at the Torino Film Festival. In 2020 he was awarded the Efebo d'Oro for New Languages and the Goethe Film Award at the Zebra Poetry Film Festival in Berlin. His films have been screened at the Ann Arbor festival in the United States, at the MAXXI in Rome, MMOMA - Museum of Contemporary Art in Moscow, Museum of Modern Art in Istanbul, MOCA Hiroshima, Palais de Tokyo and broadcast on ARTE France. He has given lectures at the Civic School of Cinema in Milan, led Rome, the Academy of Fine Arts in Frosinone and currently teaches at the NABA in Rome.



# Remains

> ITALY | 2025 | 20' | O.V. ITALIAN

**Director:** Fabio Bobbio

**Writers:** Fabio Bobbio, Zelia Zbogor

**Director of Photography:** Bruno Raciti

**Editor:** Enrico Giovannone

**Music:** Deriansky, Paolo Spaccamonti, Sierra Moreno

**Production Designer:** Raffaella CuvIELLO

**Sound Designers:** Manuel Paradiso, Tommaso Barbaro, Massimo Mariani

**Costume Designers:** Sara Giovene, Patrizia Tirino

**Cast:** Zackari Delmas, Yile Yara Vianello

**Producers:** Chiara Andrich, Andrea Mura, Enrico Cannizzo, Valerio Valente, Enrico Giovannone, Matteo Tortone

**Production:** Ginko Film, Filmine, Malfè Film

**International Sales:** ShortsFit

## SYNOPSIS

On her last day at the diner, Sara prepares to leave the city. Denis watches her, trying to hold on to what they both fear losing. In a crystallised, suspended landscape, their goodbye reveals the depth of their bond and the poignant intensity of severance.

## DIRECTOR: Fabio Bobbio

Fabio Bobbio (1980) is an author, director, and editor. His first feature film as director, *I cormorani* (2016), was screened at Visions du Réel and at several international festivals. It was nominated for the Nastro d'Argento in 2017 and won the Doc It Award for Best Production; chosen as Best Film della Critica by SNCCI, it was distributed in cinemas in Italy and Spain. As an editor, Bobbio has collaborated with production companies and directors in Italy, Spain, Argentina, Uruguay, and France, participating in several international festivals such as Locarno, Roma, Rotterdam, Torino, and Montreal. *Restare* premiered at Venice Film Festival's SIC and was screened in Competition at MedFilm. He is currently working on *I fuochi*, his second feature film.



# The Voice of Others

> FRANCE | 2023 | 30' | O.V. FRENCH, SUDANESE ARABIC, SYRIAN ARABIC

**Director:** Fatima Kaci

**Writers:** Fatima Kaci, Pablo Léridon

**Director of Photography:** Étienne Mommessin

**Editors:** Ugo Simon, Emily Curtis

**Music:** Aniss Belkadi

**Costume Designer:** Manon Chapuis

**Sound Design & Mixing:** Anna Devillaire

**Cast:** Gabrielle Henot, Marie Lemarchand, Helmi Dridi, Kamel Boudjemil, Anna Karina Lombardi

**Producer:** Léna Bapt

**Production:** La Fémis

**International Sales:** Sayonara Film

## SYNOPSIS

Rim is a Tunisian interpreter working in France on asylum procedures. Every day, she translates the stories of exiled men and women, whose voices raise questions about her own history.

## DIRECTOR: Fatima Kaci

Fatima Kaci is a French screenwriter and director who attended La Fémis in Paris. She wrote and directed the short documentary film *The Cemetery* (2021) and the short film *Spare Parts* (2022). *The Voice of Others* was selected for the La Cinef section at the Festival de Cannes in 2023, where Kaci received the Lights on Women Award from Kate Winslet, who chaired the Jury, and won the Methexis Award as Best Short Film at MedFilm. Kaci is currently working on her first feature film.



# Warsha

> LEBANON, FRANCE | 2022 | 16' | O.V. SYRIAN ARABIC

## Writer and Director:

Dania Bdeir

**Directors of Photography:** Shadi Chaaban

**Editor:** Ali J. Dalloul

**Music:** Hello Psychaleppo

## Production Designers:

Perrine Villemur, Rita Chaghoury

**Sound Designers:** Régis Diebold, Mathieu Z'Graggen

**Cast:** Khansa

**Producers:** Coralie Dias, Pierre Sarraf, Carine Ruszniewski

**Production:** Inter Spinax Film, Né à Beyrouth Films, GoGoGo Films

**International Sales:** Zen Movie, Square Eyes

## SYNOPSIS

Mohammad is a crane operator working in Beirut. One morning he volunteers to take on one of the tallest and notoriously most dangerous cranes in Lebanon. Away from everyone's eyes, he is able to live out his secret passion and find freedom.

## DIRECTOR: Dania Bdeir

Dania Bdeir is a Lebanese award-winning writer and director. She's a member of the Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective, has a BA in Graphic Design from the American University of Beirut and an MFA in directing from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where she received a full scholarship in her third year. In 2019, Dania was selected as a Berlinale Talent and participated in its Short Film Station with *Warsha*, winner of Best International Short Film - Fiction award at Sundance and Methexis Award as Best Short Film at MedFilm. Dania is currently based in Dubai and is developing her first feature film *Pigeon Wars*, which was selected for the 2018-2019 Torino Film Lab x DFI Hezaya Screenwriting lab, the 2021 Cine Qua Non Storylines lab and the 2021 Nostos Screenwriting Retreat.



# The First Times

> ITALY, SPAIN | 2025 | 16' | O.V. ITALIAN

## Writers and Directors:

Giulia Cosentino, Perla Sardella

**Directors of Photography:** Giulia Cosentino, Perla Sardella, Luciana Castellina, Valentini, De Abbondi

**Editors:** Ainhoa Andraka, Davide Minotti, Perla Sardella

**Sound:** Marzia Cordò

**Music:** Sapore

**Cast:** Emma Beonio Brocchieri, Sveva Romana Candelletta

**Producers:** Margot Mecca, Matteo Tortone

**Co-Producers:** Ainhoa Andraka, Zuri Goikoetxea

**Production:** Malfé Film

**Co-production:** Doxa Producciones

**International Sales:** Lights On

## SYNOPSIS

Emilia and Caterina write letters to each other revisiting their adolescent memories and earliest experiences at a boarding school in the 1950s. Did they choose the lives they truly wanted, or only those that they dared to imagine?

## DIRECTORS: Giulia Cosentino and Perla Sardella

Giulia Cosentino is a director, screenwriter, and researcher from Catania. Educated at Roma Tre, Sorbonne Nouvelle, and Pompeu Fabra, she collaborated on major films like *Martin Eden* and *Io capitano*. She directed the shorts *He and I* (premiered at Torino Film Festival) and *Why Are You Running Away?*. In 2022, she won the Premio Solinas for best feature script. Based between Rome and Palermo, she works as a filmmaker and teaches archive re-use at Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia.

Perla Sardella is editor and documentarist. She graduated in Cinema and Multimedia Arts at the Brera Academy of Fine Arts, in Milan. *Comfort Zone* (2015), her first short film, was presented at the Torino Film Festival. *Prendere la parola* (2019) won the first prize in the Perspectives category at the Filmmaker Festival in Milan. *Le grand viveur* (2020) was selected in competition at Visions du Réel. Her documentary *Portuali* (2025) screened at MedFilm.



# On the Edge

> TUNISIA | 2024 | 17' | O.V. TUNISIAN ARABIC

## Writer and Director:

Sahar El Echi

## Director of Photography:

Farouk Laaridh

**Editor:** Seif Allah Ben Othman

**Sound:** Moez El Cheikh, Yazid Chabbi

**Music:** Titouan Gramain

**Art Director:** Abdelaziz Ben Gueyd  
Hassin

**Cast:** Meriem Sayah,  
Mohammed Hassin Grayaa,  
Aymen Mejri

**Producers:** Ibtissem Labidi,  
Sarra Abidi

## Production and Sales:

Synergy Productions

## SYNOPSIS

Mounira sells fricassees in a used car market, a resolutely masculine place. She has an ambiguous relationship with two men, between desire, seduction and her deep need to assert her place in this world. Mounira tries to sublimate her life as best she can to escape the harsh daily life of this hostile environment.

## DIRECTOR: Sahar El Echi

Tunisian visual artist, filmmaker and researcher Sahar El Echi had obtained her masters diploma in Visual Design at the Higher Institute of Fine Arts of Tunis and her PHD in Film Studies at ESAC. She directed three short Films, *Mutation* (2016), *Entre-Deux* (2018) and *On the Edge*, which were selected in international festivals (MedFilm, Malmö Arab FF, Berlin Inframed FF, Beirut IFF, International Film Festival of Video Art of Casablanca). She makes use of different mediums including cinema, photography and video art. She also exhibits her work in many art galleries. Sahar was selected in international programs, The Documentary Film Methods for film at the Danish Film School in Copenhagen, The Beirut - Locarno Industry Academy International, as part of the Berlinale Talents.





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