

## Algeria

After having had its hours of glory in the 60s and 80s, the Algerian film industry spent a long time in the wilderness. This crisis led to the closure of the majority of the 424 cinemas that were active in 1962, but it also led to the liquidation of the government corporations in charge of film production. For several years now, Algerian cinema, boosted by public aid and the contribution of filmmakers and producers living in Europe, seems to be picking up. Ten cinemas have recently been renovated and opened to their public and multiplexes are in construction. In spite of the terrible damage caused by pirating, there is new hope for Algerian film industry. Film production is continuing its slow progression in terms of volume which since 2003 has remained around six films per year. New talents have emerged. 2007 was an exceptional year with the production of twenty feature films. The greatest success is undoubtedly “Mascarades” directed by the very young Lyes Salem, while the talent of Abdelkrim Bahloul has been confirmed with his latest feature film “Voyage d’Alger”, both films were selected by the Film Festival of Carthage in 2008. Moreover, international recognition, with the official selection by the prestigious Venice Film Festival (2008) of Tariq Teguia’s second feature film “Gabbla”.

**Population:** 34.373.000 (estimation 2008)

**GDP in billions of USD (estimates):** 116 (2007), 127 (2008)

**Currency/rate of exchange:**

Algerian dinar (DZD): 1 euro = 97.100 DZD

Sources: INED, FMI – World Economic Outlook Database, inforEuro (july 2008)

**Public funds available for the cinema:**

200 million DZD in 2007 (approximately 2.1 M€)

Source: Algerian Ministry of Culture

**PRODUCTION**

**Number of production companies:** 21

**Number of films produced per year:**

24 feature-length films in 2006/7 (an average of 12 per year) and 20 short films for the same period

Number of co-productions per year: an average of 8 in the last three years

**Average budget of a film:**

35 m DZD (360.453€) for a feature-length film, 10 m DZD (102.987€) for a short film, 15 m DZD (154.480€) for a television film

*Source: Algerian Ministry of Culture*

**FILM LABORATORIES**

The 35m/m laboratories inherited from the State-run film sector are currently under the control of the public broadcaster and are out of order.

**TRAINING**

3 training institutions:

- ISMAS (Institut supérieur des métiers des arts et du spectacle) Bordj El Kifan - Algiers
- Institut de l'audiovisuel d'Ouled Fayet – Algiers (Ministry of Professional Training)
- The in-house training institute at ENTV (Algerian Television), Boulevard Mohamed V, Central Algiers

**CO-PRODUCTION AGREEMENTS**

France, Italy, Syria, Arab Maghreb Union

**MAIN FESTIVALS**

**Arab Film Festival of Oran 2008**

President: H. Habib Chaouaki

**FCNAFA**

(Festival Culturel National Annuel du Film Amazigh)

[www.filmazigh.org](http://www.filmazigh.org)

**The Bejaïa Film Workshops**

organised every year under the aegis of Project'heurts  
[projectheurts@yahoo.fr](mailto:projectheurts@yahoo.fr)

**MAIN PRIZES OBTAINED**

**Golden Palm of the Cannes Film Festival 1975**

for "La Chronique des années de Braise"  
 by Mohamed Lakhdar Hamina

**Prize for the best first film at Cannes**

for "Omar Gatlato" by Merzak Allaouache

**The Critics' Prize at the Venice Film Festival in 1981**

for "La Nouba des Femmes du mont Chenoua" by Mrs Assia Djebar

## **DISTRIBUTION, EXHIBITION**

- Number of cinemas theatres: 21 equipped and functioning in 35m/m, 61 functioning with DVD video and 106 shut down but equipped with 35m/m. In 1962, Algeria had 424 cinema theatres 58 of which were in the capital Algiers. In 2009, a multiplex with 7 theatres will be operational and several others are planned.
- Number of European films screened in cinemas: 50%
- Number of US films screened in cinemas: 40%
- Number of other films screened in cinemas: 10%
- Number of spectators: approximately 200 000 admissions
- Number of distributors: 5
- Best box-office takings: “Casino Royale” close to 2 000 000 DZD (20 600€)
- Cost of an admission, approximately 0.9€ (tickets at 50, 80, 100 and 150 DZD)
- Cost of a one-hour connection to the Internet: 80 DZD (0.82€)

## MEDIA

### Specialised Reviews

ASARU CINEMA

### Television

3 public channels - no private channels.

The percentage of viewers of satellite channels is estimated at 80%, half of which view French channels

Broadcast languages: Arab, French and Berber

Number of national films broadcast on TV:  
20 (broadcasts and repeats)

### Radio

4 public stations on the national network  
+ 20 stations on local and regional FM

6 web radios Radio Dzaïr and a multi-station package sunvibzAlgérie (Djaam, Kaïna Radio, Wahraï, Chaabi FM and Staifi)

Broadcast languages: Arab, French and Berber



"Men's Affair"  
Dir: Amine Kais,

Prod: Djennane Safia & Amine Kais