

## Lebanon

In spite of largely unfavourable conditions, the Lebanese film industry continues to surprise with films of great quality, the latest examples being “Falafel” by Michel Kammoun, “Caramel” by Nadine Labaki and “Under the Bombs” by Philippe Aractingi. However, film production in Lebanon had declined greatly since the civil war in 1975. During the period that followed, the documentary supplanted fiction with the works of documentary filmmakers of considerable merit such as Mai Masri and Jean Chamoun. Political instability prevented the Lebanese film sector, which has no lack of talented, skilful people, to reclaim the leading position it used to occupy after Egypt. Among these talented people is film director Ziad Douiri, who is constantly travelling between Beirut and a number of European and American capitals, and does excellent co-productions. The absence of institutions, a public funding system that is greatly insufficient and a difficult situation for production companies pushes Lebanese filmmakers to produce under foreign banners.

**Population:** 4.142.000 (2008 estimate)

**GDP in billions of USD (estimates):** 23,646 (2007), 24,964 (2008)

**Currency/rate of exchange:**

Lebanese pound LBP, 1€ = 2374.01 LBP, 1 euro = 1.5748 USD

*Sources: INED, FMI – World Economic Outlook Database, inforEuro*

**Public funds available for the cinema:**

80.000 USD

## PRODUCTION

**Number of production companies:**10

**Number of films produced per year:**

an average of 4-5 feature films in 35mm, 60 documentaries, 15 -20 short films (especially in video)

**Number of co-productions per year:**

4/5 feature films

**Average budget of a film:** from 500.000 to 1.2 M USD (317.500 –762.000€) for feature films

## FILM LABORATORIES

A laboratory “The Gate” has 35mm and 16mm equipment (development of negatives only), equipment for digital and subtitling, 2 telecinemas in 16 and 35mm and a film restoration department.

## TRAINING

**Number of schools:**

5 including ALBA (Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts) specialised in production, and IESAV (Institut d’Études Scéniques Audiovisuelles et Cinématographiques – Institute for Stage Audiovisual and Film Studies)

**Number of students:**

approximately thirty in the first year for each institution

## CO-PRODUCTION AGREEMENTS

France (3 films per year)

## MAIN FESTIVALS

Born in Beirut Festival

Ayyam Beyrouth al cinemayyah

The European Film Festival

## MAIN PRIZES OBTAINED

IMA (Paris)

Césars

Cannes

Locarno

Venice

Marrakech

San Sebastian

## **DISTRIBUTION, EXHIBITION**

- Number of cinema theatres: fewer than 50 cinemas and 98 screens. Several multiplexes.
- Number of European films screened in cinemas: 15
- Number of US films screened in cinemas: 180
- Number of other films screened in cinemas: 10 (Arab and Indian)
- Number of admissions: 2.100.000 admissions
- Number of distributors: 13 (20 according to Ministry of Culture)
- Best box-office takings: "Titanic" (2002) – 437.000 admissions and for Lebanese films: "Ghannoujet Bayya" (2007) – 215.000 and "Bosta" (2006) – 118.000.
- Price of an admission: 6 USD or 9000 LBP (3.79€)
- Cost of a one-hour connection to the Internet: 1 USD or 1500 LBP (0.63€) (Figures for 2006, except for the number of cinemas and screens which are those for 2007)

## MEDIA

### Television

1 public channel + 9 (5 according to the Minister of Culture) private channels

Approximately 60% of viewers for satellite channels (several channels are satellite channels and some like MBC, LBC or Al Manar have a considerable international audience)

Broadcast languages: Arabic, French, English, Armenian

Number of national films broadcast on TV: between 2 and 3%

### Radio

2 public stations + 10 private stations



**"Promenade" (Making of)**  
Dir: Sabine el Chamaa.

Euromed Audiovisual II Participant  
Mediterranean Films Crossing Borders (MFCB)

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