

Tunisia

The Tunisian film industry has illustrated itself especially during recent decades with the shooting of super-productions in its studios and natural locations. In spite of a funding support system that is rather favourable and in the absence of a strong public pole, national production does not truly benefit from this god-send and seems to have trouble wrapping up its budgets. However, there is no lack of creativity. This has enabled films such as “Halfaouine” by Ferid Boughedir, “The Silence of the Palace” by Moufida Tlatli or more recently, “Making Off” by Nouri Bouzid, to enjoy great critical and box-office success. Unfortunately, the number of cinema theatres has constantly declined, down to 17 in the last few years. Pirating of films, including via pay channels such as Canal + has finally ruined the exhibition circuit. Production is maintaining with difficulty a pace of three feature-length films per year, with a pursuit of the sensational that has caused a lot of ink to flow.

Population: 10 440 000 inhabitants (2008 estimate, INED)

GDP in billions of USD (estimates): 33.7 (2007), 36.8 (2008)

Currency/rate of exchange:

Tunisian dinar (TND) 1€ = 1.8338 TND (DT)

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

Public funds available for the cinema:

The State gives on average a subsidy of 500.000 TND (273.660 €) for each film produced.

PRODUCTION

Number of production companies:

approximately 500, but only twenty are really active.

Number of films produced per year:

between 4 and 25 feature-length films and 30 short films on average

In 2007: 3 feature-length films and 9 short films

In 2008: 2 feature-length films to this day "The Accident" by Rachid Ferchiou, a co-production between Tunisia, CCM Morocco and the support of the Ministry of Culture and of ERTT-ANPA, and "Ouled Lenine", an 81-minute documentary by Nadia EL FANI. The release of "Cinecittà" by Ibrahim Letaief is scheduled in November 2008

Number of co-productions per year:

3 on average

Average budget of a film:

2m TND (1.1m€).

FILM LABORATORIES

Only one, Tarak ben Ammar's LPC in Gammarth which has been entirely renovated.

There are also a dozen ultra-modern sound and image post-production units (Avid, Protools, etc.) that are completely computerised

CO-PRODUCTION AGREEMENTS

Belgium, France, Italy, the Government of Quebec, the Arab Maghreb Union

MAIN FESTIVALS

Carthago Cinema Days (JCC)
held in Tunis on even years

International Festival of Carthage

International Festival of Hammamet

Documentary Film Festival "Doc à Tunis"
1st edition in April 2006

Festival d'Ulysse Films Internationaux, Jerba

Spring Festival of Popular Art, Music, Dance & Film, Sousse

Karraka Festival, of music, theatre, dance and cinema, La Goulette

Festival of Historical and Mythological films, Jerba

Sources: Africultures, Africiné, Wikipedia

MAIN PRIZES OBTAINED

"Ouled Lenine"

has been selected by several festivals: Vues d'Afrique in Montreal, Canada, Doc à Tunis (April 2008), FIPATEL 2008, BIARRITZ, France

TRAINING

2 public schools: ISAC and ISAMM (Institut Supérieur des Multimédias de La Mannouba – Mannouba Institute for Higher Multimedia Studies)

3 private schools:

- ESAC, Ecole Supérieure de l’audiovisuel et du cinéma de Gammarth (Gammarth School of Higher Audiovisual and Film Studies)
- EAD Ecole d’Art et de Décoration (School of Decorative Arts) created in 1993, 3 years of training, approximately 25 students per year
- EDAC Ecole des Arts et du cinéma (Arts and Film School).

DISTRIBUTION, EXHIBITION

- Number of cinema theatres or screens: 17 screens. Multiplex announced but no precise plans.
- Number of US films screened in cinemas: approximately 8
- Number of other films screened in cinemas: approximately 14
- Number of admissions: never communicated, but it is constantly declining
- Number of distributors: 6
- Best box-office takings: 500.000 DT (272 660€) for the Tunisian film “Hal-faouine” by Ferid Boughedir (1990)
- Cost of an admission: 1.80 TND (0.98€)
- Cost of a one-hour connection to the Internet: 2 TND (1.09€)

MEDIA

Television

2 national channels: TV7 and Canal 21
the public youth channel.

2 private channels, Hannibal and Ness-
ma TV (created by the Karoui brothers
in 2007)

Number of satellite dishes: Between 600
000 and a million, according to different
versions.

Broadcasting hours: 24/24

Broadcast languages: Arabic, French

Number of national films broadcast on TV:
a hundred films produced in Tunisia
have been broadcast since Independ-
ence by Tunisian television

Radio

9 stations: 7 public + 2 private (with the
highest audience ratings).



"VHS Kahloucha (Tarzan des Arabes)"
Dir: Nejib Belkhadi,
Prod: Propaganda, Imed Marzouk.

Supported by Euromed Audiovisual II
Euromed Cinemas.