



SHORT FILMS 'A FILM SCHOOL IN MOSUL' SELECTED FOR 49TH FILM FEST GENT

Seven short films created by students from the Iraqi city of Mosul are among the official selection of the 49th [Film Fest Gent](#) (Ghent, Belgium). The films are the result of the first phase of the project [A Film School in Mosul](#), set up by the Institute of Fine Arts in Mosul and the Belgian city theatre NTGent with the support of UNESCO.

In the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, still bearing the scars of war, the creation of a film department at the Institute of Fine Arts began in August 2021, a project in collaboration with NTGent and with the support of UNESCO. The project is a part of the *Revive the Spirit of Mosul* programme of UNESCO funded by the European Union.

As a first step, a Belgian-Iraqi team of film teachers launched a training course for 20 students, boys and girls from Mosul. In five stages, they learned to write a script, handle a camera, direct, edit the footage and present the result: nine short films, of which seven will be shown in cinema for the first time on the 16th October, as part of the official selection of the 49th Film Fest Gent.

Artistic director of NTGent Milo Rau travelled to Kurdistan and northern Iraq for the first time in the summer of 2016, for the production *Empire*. At that time, Mosul was not liberated, but Rau and his team were already establishing relationships with producers and artists in Erbil and other cities in the region. When Mosul was liberated, the team returned. Between autumn 2018 and spring 2019, the Institute and NTGent collaborated on the performance *Orestes in Mosul*, which toured the world, creating awareness of the needs of artists in northern Iraq.

Another two years later, a new, more structural collaboration started: the creation of a Film Lab in Mosul, with the selection of the short films for Film Fest Gent as a new milestone. **On the 19th of November, the short films will also be shown during the [Arab Film Festival](#) in Zürich, Switzerland.**

Meanwhile, the project is still ongoing. The technical equipment used for the first series of workshops remained on site and is being put to full use by the students. Plans for a new series of workshops, to train a second wave of aspiring filmmakers, are in the making. And to reinforce the local cultural scene in a sustainable way, the first-ever Mosul Short Film Festival is also on the table: a three-day festival featuring a selection of short films from Iraq and neighbouring countries.

"Helping set up a film school in Mosul may seem an extraordinary step for a European theatre house," Milo Rau said earlier. "And in a way it is. But for NTGent, sustainability is a very important value. We want to leave something behind in the places we visit. In this case: new cultural opportunities in a devastated city."

➤ **DOWNLOAD THE [PRESS PHOTOS](#) OR THE [PRESS FILE](#)**

➤ **PRESS LINKS:**

"IN TOTAL, FILM FEST GENT IS PROGRAMMING 116 FEATURE FILMS AND SOME 40 SHORT FILMS: SEVEN OF THESE WERE MADE IN THE IRAQI CITY OF MOSUL AS PART OF A PRGRAMME SET UP BY NTGENT DIRECTOR MILO RAU."

--- [DE MORGEN \(BE\)](#), 23/09/22

"THE SHORT FILM COMPETITION IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT, ACCORDING TO THE ORGANISATION OF FILM FEST GENT... WE ARE PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE PROJECT IN COLLABORATION WITH NTGENT HOUSE DIRECTOR MILO RAU: 'A FILM SCHOOL IN MOSUL'"

--- [HET LAATSTE NIEUWS \(BE\)](#), 23/09/22

- ✓ AFP report - À Mossoul, ravagée par la guerre, la jeunesse irakienne fait son cinéma – ([FR video](#) / [FR tekst](#) / [ENG tekst](#)) – 05/01/22
- ✓ [Eine Filmschule für Mossul – Milo Rau über das UNESCO-Projekt](#) – SWR.de (audio interview)
- ✓ [Waarom Milo Rau workshops organiseert in Irak](#) – De Standaard (BE) - 18/09/2021

OVERVIEW SHORT FILMS:

- ✓ *Son of the River* - Anas Khalil (10')
- ✓ *Candies* - Mustafa Khaled (11')
- ✓ *Don't touch* - Ahmed Shamil (9')
- ✓ *The Step* - Mostafa Dergham (13')
- ✓ *The Other Face* - Tamara Jamal (6')
- ✓ *Eyes of Darkness* - Kawthar Ahmed (9')
- ✓ *AlFaslia* - Youssef Radwan (11')

PRACTICAL INFO SCREENING:

- ✓ 2022/10/16 – 6pm – Kinepolis 6 (Ghent)
- ✓ Arabic / English subtitles
- ✓ Tickets via [FILM FEST GENT](#)

WATCH THE TRAILER OF THE PROJECT

