

THE JORDAN TIMES

WEATHER, AMMAN



Today, November 18, 2016

18 c° / Mostly Clear

Home

Local

Region

World

Business

Sports

Features

Opinion

Letters

Biz Club

What's On

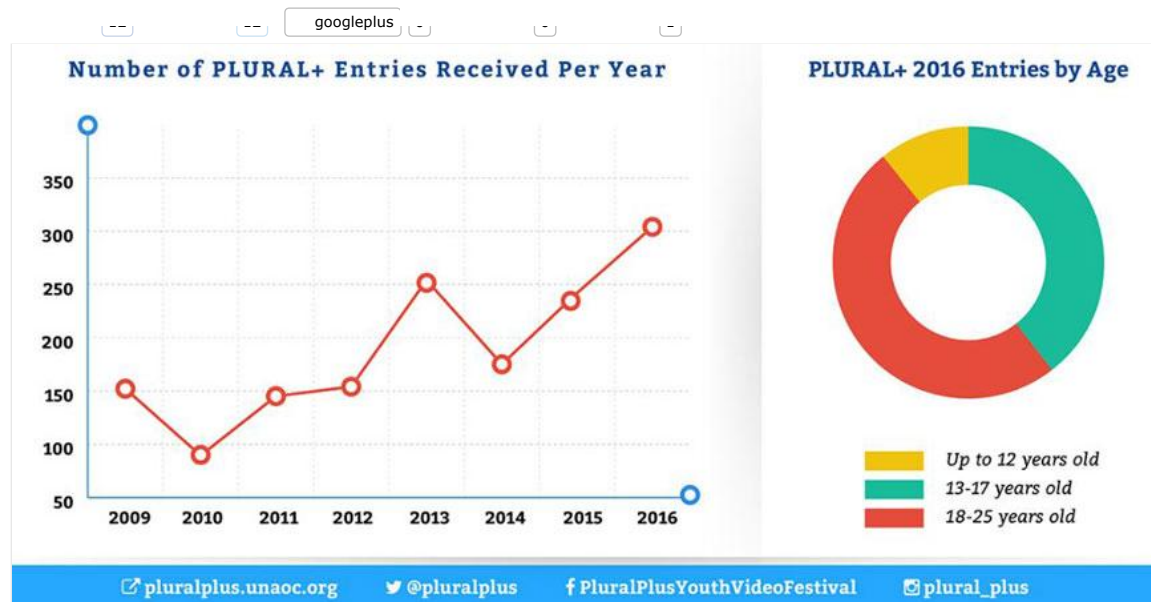


Home » Local » Jordanian, Syrian filmmakers tell local stories for youth festival

Jordanian, Syrian filmmakers tell local stories for youth festival

Screenings focus on 'migration, diversity and social inclusion'

By Muath Freij - Oct 19, 2016 - Last updated at Oct 19, 2016



AMMAN — Syrians living in Zaatari can tell the camp's stories better than outsiders, says refugee Khaldiah Ali, who has filmed a short documentary that has been screened internationally.

Ali, a 19-year-old who fled her home in Daraa, wanted to change negative perceptions towards Syrians living in the Zaatari Refugee Camp, 90km northeast of Jordan, and to show the residents' accomplishments and hardships.

Her 10-minute documentary, "Another kind of girl", was screened alongside other short films at Amman's Rainbow Theatre on Monday as part of the Plural+ Youth Video Festival.

"People believe that most Syrians there cannot read or write," says Ali, noting that in fact, residents of the camp, who number around 79,900, are very smart.

"For example, if a girl cannot read at school then she can read at her home and teach the children around her. Children, if they cannot play, they can create toys and entertain themselves," she claims, adding that her film had been shown in Germany and the US.

Filmmakers from outside Zaatari do not have the same insight into life in the camp as the refugees who live there, she notes.

"Films are the most effective way to send messages about the camp."

Jordi Torrent, media literacy education project manager at the UN Alliance of Civilisations (UNAOC), says the Amman screenings were part of the global Plural+ Youth Video Festival, which is a joint initiative of the UNAOC and the International Organisation for Migration.

"The festival focuses on three main issues: migration, diversity and social inclusion... We are in our eighth year and [the festival] invites young people up to 25 years old to send videos up to 5 minutes of length on these topics," he says in an interview with The Jordan Times ahead of the screenings.

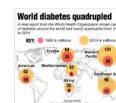
The festival helps empower young people and helps their voices be heard by policymakers who often talk about the youth, Torrent adds.

"In the media, most of the time we only hear about youth when it is crime, violence [or] sports entertainment, but very seldom do we hear about youth when they speak about serious issues."

Popular

Rated

Co



'46% of Jordanians who older are diabetic'

Nov 17, 2016



'Critical thinking, reading children against extremism'

Nov 17, 2016

From the CIA to the GFE

Nov 17, 2016



King opens development projects in Madaba

Nov 17, 2016

OPINION

Editorial

Another 'bill of horror'

Thursday 17 November 2016



Trump presidency fails in Mideast

Nov 17, 2016



The need to exercise professional politics

Nov 17, 2016



Perfect peace in Antioch

Nov 17, 2016



From the CIA to the GFE

Nov 17, 2016

"I thought to join forces with the Royal Film Commission because they have been supporting Plural +," Torrent notes.

This year's festival will open in New York on October 27, he adds.

"The way it works is that people hear about the festival through the support of social media and other partners, and this year we received over 300 videos from 40 countries. From Jordan we received three videos and two of them have received awards."

A short list is created, and an international jury selects 31 videos for screenings and awards, Torrent explains.

The UNAOC official sees a positive change in filmmaking among young people in recent years.

"One thing is that young people are getting better and better at making videos, because the tools are now very accessible compared to the past," he explains.

"The other thing, obviously we have this challenging moment that we are living [through] right now... not only in the region, but globally. So, young people are engaged in this discussion and they are engaged in ensuring that their voice is being heard."

Commenting on the quality of Jordanian films, Torrent says local filmmakers are highly skilled and that their work is very well-produced.

Wala Ahmed, another Jordanian filmmaker who attended her movie's screening, says her film depicts harassment, an experience she has had dealt with personally.

"I wanted to highlight the harassment issue so that all girls do not feel scared facing it and do not hide it and speak about it instead."

Ahmed says the Internet gave her the opportunity to express her ideas and to tackle reality in an artistic way.

"My movie was screened in the US, and I feel proud that I did something positive for the sake of Syria; I felt that I am a good element in society."

-- -- googleplus -- --

Rate

11 users have voted.



Related Articles

'European Film Festival focuses on young people to attract wider audience'

Sep 02, 2015

AMMAN — In its 27th iteration, the European Film Festival is focusing on children and young people to attract a wider audience to its screen



British director to bring film on child labour to Jordan

Oct 26, 2015

AMMAN — The sight of children working on the streets of Mumbai spurred British filmmaker Laila Khan into action, and she decided to document

Unique Saudi course puts women in vanguard of film study

Mar 27, 2016

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia — Officially it's not called "filmmaking" because public cinemas are banned in Saudi Arabia. But making movies is exact

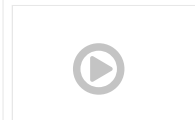
Newsletter

Get top stories and blog posts emailed to you

Enter your email

SUBSCRIBE

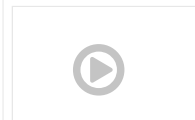
VIDEOS



High yield expected from date harvest as industry grows in Jordan



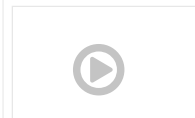
Arman resic express mixe over Tuesday



Stem cell centre ready to take off, lead, but hands already tied



Queen Rania collective glc response to r crisis during visit



Queen pays tribute to mothers of soldiers on Mother's Day, Karamah Battle anniversary



Spring and W



Add new comment

Your name

Comment *

CAPTCHA

This question is for testing whether or not you are a human visitor and to prevent automated spam submissions.

Math question *

5 + 3 =

Solve this simple math problem and enter the result. E.g. for 1+3, enter 4.

Save

THE JORDAN TIMES

The Jordan Times is an independent English-language daily published by the Jordan Press Foundationsince October 26, 1975. The Jordan Press Foundation is a shareholding company listed on the Amman Stock Exchange.

PAGES

About us
Contact Us
Advertise
What's On

SECTIONS

Local
Region
World
Bussiness
2015

Sports
Features
Opinion
Letters

CONTACT US

To send your articles , please email : editor@jordantimes.cc
call us : +962 6 5600-800
ext. 2392



Copyright © 2016 The Jordan News. All Rights Reserved.

