



MDOC confirms attendance of Iraqi director **Maythem Ridha** and launches candidacy for film poster competition

The dates have been set for MDOC - Melgaço International Documentary Film Festival 2023. The Minho festival returns between July 31st and August 6th and announces today the first confirmed international presence: **Maythem Ridha**. The Iraqi filmmaker and photographer will give a masterclass on his experience in film and photography projects in the Middle East and North Africa, in sometimes hostile environments. Showing excerpts from his various film and photography projects, **Ridha** will also share notes on the cinematographic language he has been developing at the intersection between documentary and fiction. The masterclass will take place on the 4th of August, at 10:00 am, at Casa da Cultura de Melgaço.

Maythem Ridha spent his formative years in Iraq before fleeing with his family into exile. As a filmmaker he has seen his films being selected for festivals around the world. *Ali and His Miracle Sheep*, his latest film, had its world premiere at Sheffield Doc Fest 2021, winning Best Film. As a photographer, his work has been published and exhibited in several solo shows and joint exhibitions. Winner of the *Al Hambra Award for Excellence in the Arts*, Maythem works on a wide range of international projects, in addition to coordinating workshops and masterclasses in film and photography.

Also announced today is the deadline for receiving applications for the **Jean-Loup Passek Prize** for best film poster. The registration of posters for the contest is free and can be done until June 30th. The prize will be awarded to the designer of an original poster created to promote a documentary, animation or fiction, short, medium or feature film, with Portuguese or Galician production. The jury evaluating the candidates is composed of: the multidisciplinary artist **Mafalda Salgueiro**, the illustrator and teacher **Marta Madureira** and the director, producer and film critic **Simone Saibene**.

More information and regulation at www.mdocfestival.pt

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