



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to
the Republic of Lebanon

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PRESS RELEASE

CLOSING OF THE EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL: AWARDS FOR THE LEBANESE STUDENTS BEST SHORT FILMS AND TRIBUTE TO MAHMOUD MABSOUT

On the occasion of the closing of the 18th European Film Festival, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon, Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst, awarded today the Prizes for the Lebanese Students Best Short Films to:

- Wassim Geagea, a graduate from Lebanese University, for his short film: "My Grandfather's Photo". Wassim Geagea will be invited to the European Film Festival Premiers Plans at Angers in France in 2012.
- Lea Lahoud, a graduate from Holy Spirit University Kaslik, for her short film: "Salt". Lea Abboud will be invited to the Krakov Film Festival in Poland in 2012.
- Samir Syriani, a graduate from Holy Spirit University Kaslik, for his short film: "To Baalbeck". Samir Syriani will be invited to the Oberhausen International Short Film Festival in Germany in 2012.

Twenty short films, presented by ten Lebanese audiovisual schools, were screened at the European Film Festival (Académie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts, American University of Technology, American University of Science and Technology, Lebanese American University, Notre Dame University, Université Al Kafaat, Université des Pères Antonins, Université Libanaise, Holy Spirit University Kaslik and Université Saint-Joseph).

The jury was composed of: Wojciech Gawrysiuk, First Secretary at the Embassy of Poland; Farid Majari, Director of Goethe Institut; Cynthia Kanaan, in charge of cinema at l'Institut français; Sana Khoury, journalist at *Al Akhbar*; and Rima Hammal from *Al An* Television.

The Festival also paid a tribute to the late famous Lebanese actor Mahmoud Mabsout, known as Fahmen, in the presence of Salah Tizani (Abu Salim) and Fahmen's son, Liqaa Mabsout. Extracts of the films in which Fahmen acted were screened, followed by the short film in which he played a leading role, *Beyrouth après rasage (After Shave)* of the Lebanese director Hany Tamba (César for the Best short film in 2006).

