

7th edition

living together
through the 7th art



LEBANESE
FILM FESTIVAL
IN CANADA

22 → 25 sept. 2023

VANCOUVER

Rachid Karami International Fair — Tripoli



lffcanada.com



• about

The Lebanese film Festival in Canada (LFFC) is one of the first film festivals in the world dedicated to showcasing Lebanese films. Since its founding in 2017, LFFC has helped promote the Lebanese film industry beyond its borders.

The festival features films, discussions, workshops, interviews, and one-on-one meetings with filmmakers from Lebanon, Canada and around the world. The LFFC, held annually in five major Canadian cities, has become the ultimate gathering of original storytellers, artists and audiences seeking new cultural perspectives. The LFFC provides an opportunity for filmmakers, distributors, actors, critics and anyone interested in the film industry to attend screenings and discuss current developments in the field. The annual program includes feature-length dramas and documentaries, short films, as well as daily conversations and panel discussions. Since the first edition of the event, some of the films released during the festival have received critical acclaim and reached new audiences in North America.

• objectives

Our goal is to highlight Lebanese cinema, celebrate it internationally and bridge the distance between cultures. The LFFC strives to support independent artists, and fosters ongoing communication with filmmakers, producers, writers, and the many professionals active in the industry. We collaborate with various communities and educational institutions in Canada and are always looking to expand our network.

Financé par le
gouvernement
du Canada

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada 



• vision

LFFC aims to create a more engaged, informed, and connected world, while encouraging artistic innovation and cultural endeavours.

• mission

The history and spirit of a nation are reflected in its culture through art. One such art form is storytelling through film, whose accessibility and versatility allow it to open the door to artistic exchange, cooperation and understanding. Over the years, the festival has remained true to its founding objective: to draw attention to and raise the profile of Lebanese Cinema and films, with the aim of celebrating them and contributing to their development in Lebanon and the world. We have created a platform for professionals and amateurs to exchange ideas, express thoughts on artistic innovations, get inspired and share their love for cinema.

The festival welcomes local and international filmmakers, actors, performers, media personalities, film & media students, educators, academics, etc. While maintaining a strong connection to its past, the festival is willing to embrace new and original concepts. Over the past 5 years, it has evolved while seeking to preserve its core values: celebrating film, discovering new talent, and bringing together professionals from around the world. The LFFC is a dynamic event that evolves and adapts with each edition in the hope of being a reflection of its time.

HAY-LOVE HADCHITI

Director & Founder of LFFC
— Lebanese Film Festival in Canada



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 7th edition of the Lebanese Film Festival in Canada!

We are thrilled to be back for 2023, and we have an amazing lineup of films for you to enjoy. Our team has worked hard to select the very best feature films, documentaries, and over 30 short films across a variety of categories. We are also excited to have some special guests joining us from Lebanon. They are big names in the cinema and theatre industry, and we can't wait for you to meet them!

At LFFC, our goal is to showcase the finest examples of Lebanese cinema to Canadian audiences and encourage cross-cultural exchange. Driven by our love of art and dialogue, we are honored to be the leading destination for Lebanese cinema in Canada. Our program features a diverse range of offerings, including film screenings, workshops, panel discussions, special events, round tables, industry talks, and opportunities to connect with filmmakers from Lebanon, Canada, and beyond. We believe that these activities will foster greater understanding and appreciation for the unique voices and perspectives represented in Lebanese cinema. For the past six years, we have remained committed to promoting intercultural conversations and shining a light on the new generation of Lebanese cinema and culture. This year's edition is no different, and we look forward to creating a more engaged, informed, and connected world.

On behalf of our team, we warmly welcome you to the 7th edition of the LFFC.

Enjoy the festival!

DR. NICK KAHWAJI

H.Consul of Lebanon in Vancouver, BC



I'm proud to welcome you to the second full edition of the LFFC in Vancouver. This year, the festival brings you an exciting lineup of new films, spanning various subjects and featuring a diverse array. It's mission, however, remains constant: to showcase and promote Lebanese culture through the captivating world of cinema and media. Cinema has the power to bridge cultures and foster understanding, and the LFFC serves as a unique platform for this purpose. As you explore the festival carefully curated selection of films, you'll be immersed in the richness and complexity of Lebanese culture, exploring themes ranging from family and identity to history and resilience. Join the LFFC for a cinematic journey that transcends borders and celebrates the beauty of Lebanese culture. We are delighted to invite the film festival's Team to join us in Victoria (our Capital city) on Sunday September 24 to celebrate 135y of Lebanese emigration to BC.

On that day, There will be the inauguration of the Lebanese Emigration plaza, the unveiling the Lebanese Emigrant statue and Phoenician Artefacts.

Dr Nick Kahwaji,
H. Consul of Lebanon in Vancouver, BC



HONORARY CONSULATE OF LEBANON
VANCOUVER BC.

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SFU
WOODWARD'S
CULTURAL PROGRAMS

SFU
BUREAU DES AFFAIRES
FRANCOPHONES ET
FRANCOPHILES (BAAF)

New Dimension of the Universe independent film distributor focused on bringing the best of international and local cinema to Canadian audiences.



NEW DIMENSION was founded in 2016 and since then, the company has built a reputation as an innovative and distinct brand. The independent distributor has developed long-lasting relationships with filmmakers, industry professionals, exhibitors, retailers, and we aim to do more. Our pride is to build a strong relationship on an international and local level in the industry and uniquely customize our distribution strategies for each film such as lately “El Hayba” “C-Section” “His Only Son” and more to come.

As well NDU produces, and promotes films, documentaries, music videos, festivals, musical, theatrical, and events each year across Canada and the United States. We invest in the development and promotion of national and international filmmakers and artists. NDU's dynamic team develops custom concepts for all events, associations, and corporate clients, large and small.

NEW DIMENSION OF THE UNIVERSE is the exclusive organizer of the Lebanese Film Festival in Canada which takes place in five Canadian Cities, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver, and Halifax.

We are well connected to local, national, and international markets. From comedians to musicians to professional artists, we adapt to different occasions and groups of all sizes throughout our network of contacts. We provide services that meet the needs of our clients, and we offer an experience that our clients and their customers will never forget.

NEW DIMENSION OF THE UNIVERSE is proud to be a Canadian company. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram for exclusive content, contests, and information.



Beirut Film Society
مجتمع بيروت السينمائي

• identity

Beirut Film Society is a Non-for-Profit Lebanese organization situated in Beirut, working since 2007 on promoting responsible filmmaking

• vision

- To make Lebanon the hub of the Arab film industry in the Middle East, under the title of Film Friendly Lebanon.
- To become the association of choice for national and international players in the Lebanese film industry.
- To be the main provider of high level, personalized support to Lebanese artists and filmmakers.
- To anticipate the evolving needs of the film sector in Lebanon and develop the necessary programs to meet long-term objectives.
- To strengthen freedom of expression in arts and develop social understanding to accepting others, free choice, and rejecting censorship.

• mission

The Beirut Film Society strives to present film culture as a tool for human rights and ethics education, and to disseminate Lebanese culture through film whenever and wherever possible. Our mission is to improve the film industry, to strengthen and support talent and creativity, to reinforce the concept of responsible cinema and, above all, to assume its social responsibility in Lebanon, in the Arab world and beyond. BFS aims to shape the future of the film industry, by presenting Lebanon as a diverse filming location, and by providing data on filming personnel, and other necessary filming logistics, to international companies and filmmakers to help them produce high quality audiovisual and cinematic content.

• programmed by

• values

The Beirut Film Society's core values span three main branches:

1. Our responsibility to society and external stakeholders is governed by protective values such as: Freedom of expression, freedom of choice, gender equality, diversity, peace, justice, and respect for all human rights.
2. Our internal practices are focused on fostering innovation, leadership development, shared governance, and excellence.
3. BFS governance and internal policies are based on transparency, integrity, and accountability.

• objectives

As part of our mission, BFS strives to achieve the following sustainable development goals: SDG 4 Quality Education, SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 8 Good Jobs and Economic Growth, SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG 16 Peace and Justice, SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals. As part of BFS' goals, we promote Cinema for a Cause and Responsible Filmmaking and strive to raise awareness of social issues through film, such as Gender Equality, Women Causes, Children's Rights, and Peace Building, by organizing cinema activities, such as film screenings, training sessions, seminars, workshops, and networking events. Furthermore, BFS serves as a networking hub between Lebanese and international filmmakers, film associations, and other organizations working in the film industry. By programming films for international festivals and organizing special programs, it has gained international recognition by bringing together local and international filmmakers who share the same mission and goals. We believe that cinema and audio-visual media have the power to make a difference; we want to teach young people, in Lebanon and in rural societies, how they can use these tools to express themselves and improve their lives.

• our programs



BEIRUT
INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN FILM
FESTIVAL



• contact us

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@BeirutFilmSociety
Beirutfilmsociety.org

af

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af
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Vancouver

Le Théâtre
OF VANCOUVER

Take your seats, s'il vous plaît

Be a part of this vibrant new gathering place
BY NAMING ONE OF OUR SEATS

Faites partie de ce nouvel espace culturel
EN NOMMANT L'UN DE NOS SIÈGES

alliancefrancaise.ca



• about

UTG Digital Media (UTG) of Ottawa, Ontario designs and manufactures its own innovative indoor and outdoor digital signage solutions. UTG specializes in three different lines of digital signage solutions: Indoor and outdoor LCD digital displays, indoor and outdoor LED signs, touch screens and video walls.

UTG creatively designs its digital products to meet the customer's specifications and budget. UTG's digital signage solutions are suitable for a variety of markets including government, municipal, transportation, education, healthcare, restaurants, commercial and retail applications and more. Its founder and owner Alan Wehbe is a 40under40 award winner and Business Owner of the Year 2022. Alan has been running his company providing digital signage solutions worldwide for 18 years. UTG has also won several awards and holds an international digital signage award for unique projects in Las Vegas, Toronto and Quebec to name a few. Partner of LFFCanada for 5 consecutive years, the UTG team is a strong supporter of Lebanese cinema and actively participates in the festival's initiatives.

HAY-LOVE HADCHITI

Director & Founder of LFFC — Lebanese Film Festival in Canada

Hay-Love Hadchiti is the founder and director of the Lebanese Film Festival in Canada and in the USA.



Bridging countries and cultures through cinema, the LFFC was launched in North America in 2017 and have since toured 5 cities, showcased more than 320 short and feature films, and catered to more than 9000 people of all ages every year. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Cinema, Television and Radio, started her career in the television and film industry, working with independent production houses in Lebanon and the Middle East. For over a decade, she directed and produced television programs such as sitcoms, live shows, special events, drama series and documentaries. She then worked in the tourism industry for sixteen years, before going back to her first love: movie production. She obtained a certification from the Production Assistant Bootcamp in Los Angeles and enrolled in a special training session at the Disney Institution. Her expertise has led her to become a partner in New Dimension of the Universe, a company that promotes international artists, produces, and manages events in North America. With a background in music and as a former choir member, she is the director of the CSM choir. Over the few past years, Hay-Love organized and participated in workshops and seminars about the Lebanese cinema industry. She is currently working on a special cultural exchange project between Lebanese and Canadian students/artists. Putting her various skills to serve as a volunteer in cultural events and organizations such as the Salvation Army, the YMCA, The Canadian Liver Foundation and the Parkinson Foundation, Hay-Love also served as a jury member at several film festivals and is a member of the Women Helping Empower Women (WHEW) board of advisors, and a Formula 1 race fan.

SAM LAHOUD

Co-Founder and Programmer

**A scriptwriter, a director,
a producer, a script consultant,
and a lecturer in Film, Theater
and Media.**



He started his career in Film and Theater in 1994, and since then he has written, directed and produced Theater Plays, Films and Documentaries, which received many national and international recognitions and awards; and his first feature film Waynon (Void) was the Lebanese official submission for the Academy Awards 2015 (Oscars) for Best Foreign Language Film. Listed in the Arab Cinema Center Magazine – Cannes Edition, for 3 years (2018, 2019, 2022) among the 101 personalities that matter in the Arab Cinema; Sam is active in cross-cultural productions, and is permanently working on different film projects. Sam is the Founding Chair of Beirut Film Society a Non for Profit association that promotes for responsible filmmaking in Lebanon and the Arab World. He is the Founding Director of Beirut International Women Film Festival. Founder, Director of Beirut Shorts International Film Festival, winner of the 2015 Social Economic Award for Youth Empowerment. Founder, Director of Beirut International Children and Family Film Festival. Founder, Program Director of the Lebanese Film Festival in Canada. Founder, Director of Cinema for Peace Summer Camp Film Festival. Short Films Curator for the HFFPA Award & Scholarship for Asian Middle East Countries. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in Media and Film at Notre Dame University – Louaize, where he served as Founding Director of Communications from 2014 until 2017, Chairperson of the Department of Media Studies from 2012 until 2014, and founded and headed the Division of Audio Visual Arts from 2006 until 2012. Sam is a PhD candidate in Media Studies at Saint Joseph University – Beirut; he holds a MA in Media Studies — Electronic Journalism and Public Relations from NDU, a MA in Scriptwriting from NDU.

GILBERT SAKR

Co-Founder and Artistic Director

Gilbert Sakr is an architectural technician and, for over 20 years, president of Techniplan Inc., an architectural firm that provides turnkey projects and construction services to clients.

Coming from a multidisciplinary artistic background, Gilbert merges architectural studies with music and film. He was one of the founding members of the NDU Choir in Lebanon and continues to be actively involved in the choir's activities in Canada; he was conductor of the Crescendo and Les petits chanteurs de Saint Maron choirs from 2007 to 2011. As a member of the board of directors of the Montreal Lebanese Festival from 2008 to 2018, Gilbert handles responsibilities related to logistics, marketing, and sponsorship. Gilbert is a managing partner of Nouvelle Dimension de l'Univers and contributes to all its events and initiatives.



PATRICIA CHAMOUN

Director, Business Development and Legal Affairs

Me. Patricia Chamoun holds a Bachelor of Civil Law degree and a Juris Doctorate in Common Law from the University of Ottawa.

She has also completed studies in political science and economics, with a specialization in public affairs. She began her career as a lawyer in an Ottawa/Gatineau law firm, before moving to France to work for a renowned international law firm. She returned to Montreal where she founded her own firm in 2010. Ms. Chamoun and her firm represent small and medium-sized businesses, particularly in the fields of commerce, real estate, construction, and technology. In recent years, due to her passion for the arts, music, and film, Me Chamoun has developed an expertise in the field of entertainment law. Me Chamoun is a member of the Laval Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIL) and the Canadian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She also sits on various boards of directors, including the Jean-Marc Paquette Foundation and the Charles-Perreault Elementary School. She is a director and member of the executive committee of the Caisse Desjardins Centre de l'Est de Laval.



ALAN WEHBE

Director of Digital Development and Marketing

**Alan Wehbe,
a Canadian-Lebanese
entrepreneur, is the
Founder and Chief
Executive Officer of
UTG Digital Media (UTG).**



Mr. Alan Wehbe is an accomplished executive with expertise in engineering, operations, profit and loss management, product development, and sales for digital signs both domestically and internationally. Born in 1984 in Jdita, Lebanon, Mr. Wehbe moved to Canada in 2000. Having an early passion for computers and design, he graduated from Algonquin College in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada in Applied Arts and Technology with a diploma in Interactive Multimedia. Shortly after graduating in 2004, he started his own digital signage company (UTG) in Ottawa. One of his most notable achievements was the creation of a ground-breaking technology (software and hardware) for all-in-one digital signage. Several years later, his company grew successfully and what started as a one-man show ended with Alan engineering, designing, and managing over 200 employees in 3 international offices. With full responsibility for bottom line drivers including forecasting, global product management and software development processes, Alan manages his own manufacturing operations and strategic marketing direction. He also oversees all operations related to manufacturing, installing, and servicing various infrastructure systems. Wehbe has won several national and international awards including 40Under40, multiple international Digital Signage Awards (DSA) and nominations, Best of Canada's Sign Industry Awards, Business Owner of the Year, Entrepreneur of the Year, to name a few. In addition, he has also been recognized for his exceptional community involvement both locally and internationally, building and maintaining personal relationships with clients and employees. Wehbe, whose company has partnered with the Lebanese Film Festival in Canada since 2017, recently joined the festival's board as director for digital development and marketing. Today, UTG Digital Media is an international digital signage company that is recognized as one of the leading digital signage companies in the world.



ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME

🕒 90min 🎬 Lara Saba

From fame to faith: Can Hady's spiritual journey lead him to land the role of a life-time? All Roads Lead to Rome follows the famous actor's transformative retreat with four nuns and a young woman in Wadi Qannoubin (a world heritage listed village in Northern Lebanon) as he prepares for his decisive casting as the young pope. Will he make it to the audition in time?

📅 Sept. 23, 2023 → 7pm

📍  149 West Hastings St. Vancouver, BC V6B 1H4

MOTHER VALLEY

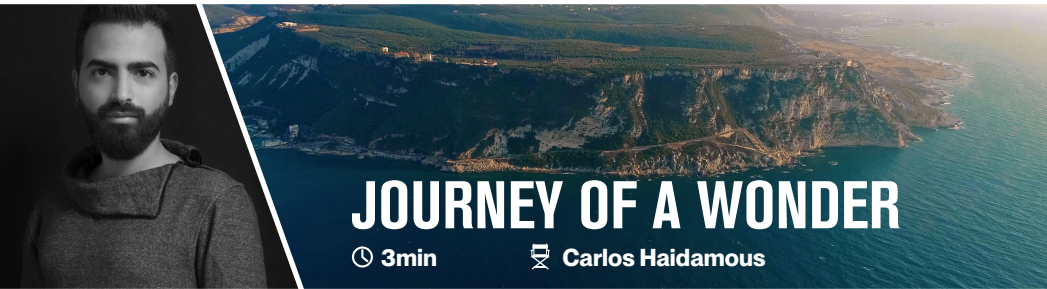
🕒 82min 🎬 Carlos Chahine

Lebanon, 1958. A civil war rages. A young mother and model wife, Layla, spends the summer with her family in a remote village in the Christian mountains. It's wedding season but her two younger sisters, Eva and Nada, have no desire to follow in Layla's footsteps by accepting an arranged marriage organized by their father, a broke feudal aristocrat. This summer, an encounter with a French guy and his mother opens Layla's eyes on her condition as a woman living in a patriarchal society, where female fates are decided by men, fathers, husbands, and even sons. For the first time ever, Layla suddenly stifles.

📅 Sept. 24, 2023 → 7pm

📍  149 West Hastings St. Vancouver, BC V6B 1H4

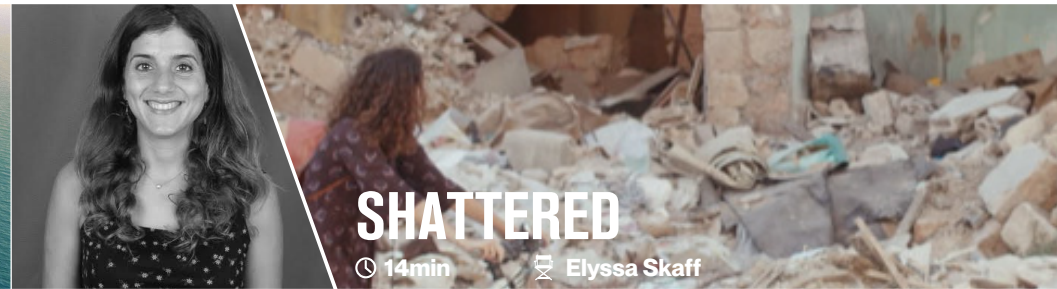





JOURNEY OF A WONDER

 3min  Carlos Haidamous

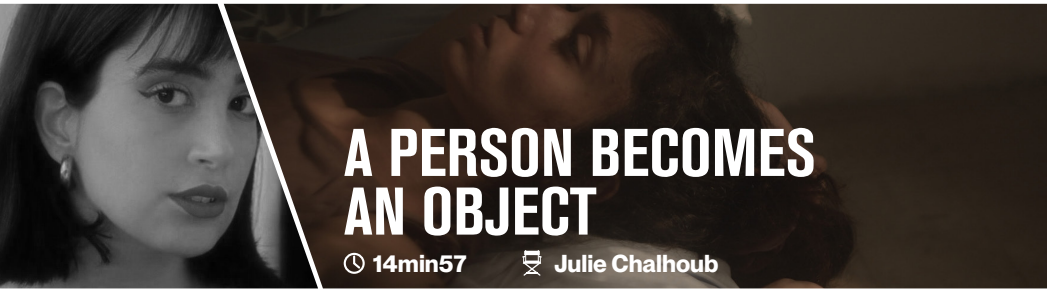
A combination of aerial shots contributes to redeeming people's perceptions of Lebanon by showing the country's most beautiful gems.



SHATTERED

 14min  Elyssa Skaff

When everything is repaired from the outside, what do we do about the broken parts inside? This is the story of Yasmine. She often takes refuge in her imagination. After the Beirut explosion happens though, her coping mechanism does not work so well anymore...



A PERSON BECOMES AN OBJECT

 14min57  Julie Chalhoub

After a long time of caring for her ailing father, a young woman fights her emotions and the numbness that comes with impending loss. As her father's death looms closer, she spirals in her own way.



DOIGTS DE FÉE

 22min24  Slim Kortas

"Doigts de fée" is a documentary that tells the journey of my son, who, despite his differences, was able to grow, face challenges, and fulfill himself. It portrays the son whom I accompanied, transitioning from a feeling of helplessness to pride and fascination.



UN POUR HUIT

 11min13  Lynn Tawilé

After a big battle with cancer, Carine has only one solution to save her life: organ transplant. In a country where everyone is born a donor, transplantation was a lifesaving answer. But if this French scenario was placed in a Lebanese setting, would Carine have had the chance to tell us her story?



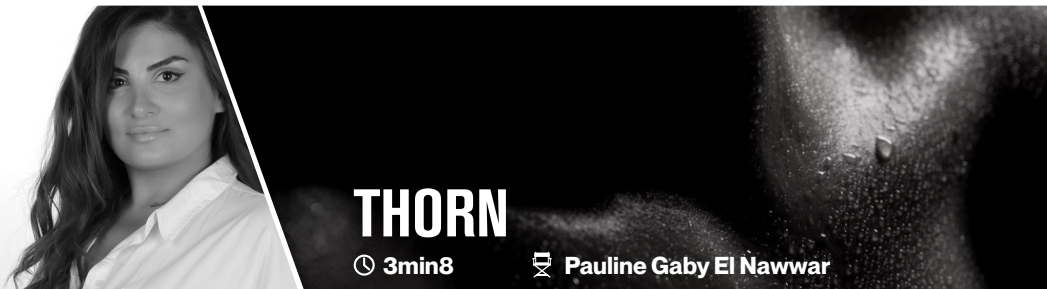
LEILA & THE CIGARETTE

 15min8  Leah Manasseh

In 2011, Leah decided to go to Lebanon to film with her grandmother. Two weeks after the shoot, her grandmother died of metastatic lung cancer. It took her 12 years to get the courage to revisit their last conversations. Through memories and poems she draws the portrait of her grandmother in homage to her unique character.



A series of unfortunate events reshape the life of Ingrid for the past 25 years. However, in 2022 she ends up discovering their hidden miraculous cause in her visual self-portrait.



Not all that glitters is gold.. When a sinner longs for the innocence in him, despite the liberation of the body, the soul remains shackled in search of itself. Resisting the pain becomes a pleasure!



discussion

RDV CINEMA — THE IMPACT OF FILMS & CINEMA

with

Sabine Kahwaji

Friday ↔ Sept. 22 2023 @5:30pm

149 West Hastings St. Vancouver, BC V6B 1H4

Nour AIMoujabber

Vanessa Issa

Bianca Buchholtz

conversation • talk

LEBANESE IMMIGRATION — THE STORY OF HOPE

with

Hiam Abou Chedid

Sunday ↔ Sept. 24 2023 @4pm

zoom

moderated by

Cyril

virtual round-table

THE VOICE OF YOUNG LEBANESE WOMEN IN LEBANESE CINEMA

Monday ↔ Sept. 25 2023 @4pm

zoom

Mounia Akl

Myriam el-Hage

Sarah Kaskas

THANK YOU

for your dedication, commitment
& enthusiasm!



Robine Nachar
Program Coordinator



Christiane Kareh
Festival Coordinator



Doris Saba
Program Coordinator —
Lebanon



**Oleigue Freghali
Daccache**
Coordinator



Nedjma Ziarati
Coordinator Social Media



Christelle Kheir
Operations



• special thanks

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 NEW DIMENSION
OF THE UNIVERSE



Beirut Film Society
مركز بيروت السينمائي

 **UTG Digital Media**
advanced digital signage solutions