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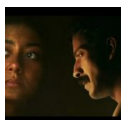
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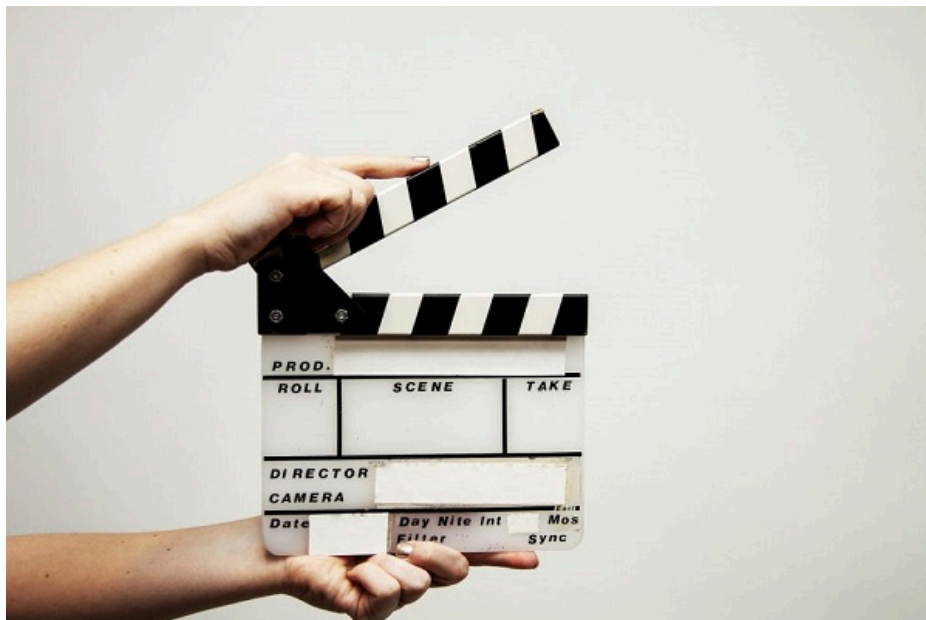
Saudi-backed 3SIX9 Studios debuts at Cannes 2024



by **Staff Reporter**

— May 28, 2024

in News, Film partnerships, Production



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3SIX9 Studios will collaborate with Saudi Arabian production company Yellow Camel Productions to launch its projects.

3SIX9 Studios has been launched at the Cannes Film Festival, committing to “bring Hollywood to the Kingdom” in a major effort to elevate Saudi

Arabia's film industry.

The new film and TV outfit is co-founded by four industry veterans: actor and producer Daya Fernández, who serves as CEO; Inga Vainshein Smith, former VP of Production at Paramount and now President of the studio; actor and producer Amaury Nolasco, known for his role in *Prison Break*; and Saudi businessman Sheikh Mohammed Youssef El Khereiji.

3SIX9 Studios unveiled four projects at Cannes, highlighting its ambitious slate. Leading the lineup is *Bunny Run*, an action comedy penned by Jayson Rothwell, set to begin filming in Saudi Arabia this fall. Another notable project, *Scotland Yank*, is described as a modern comedic take on Sherlock Holmes by Mitch Klebanoff, with plans to shoot in both Saudi Arabia and the United States. *Patrol*, an action-horror film drawing comparisons to *Predator*, was also announced.

The studio's TV project, *No Night So Long*, comes from director Ilya Naishuller and writer Will Stewart, although specific plot details remain under wraps.

To facilitate these productions, 3SIX9 Studios will partner with Yellow Camel Productions, a prominent Saudi production services company. This collaboration aims to broaden the diversity and scope of cinematic projects in Saudi Arabia, establishing the Kingdom as a significant player in the global film industry.

3SIX9 Studios also revealed plans to secure funding through strategic partnerships with various Saudi entities in finance, production, and business, ensuring robust support for its array of films and series.

Tags: featuredpost Cannes 2024 3SIX9 Studios Yellow Camel Productions
Daya Fernández Inga Vainshein Smith

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Red Sea Film Foundation announces theatrical release of 'Norah'



by **Staff Reporter**



June 1, 2024

in **News, Film partnerships**

Photo credit: TwentyOne Entertainment



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The film made history as the first Saudi feature ever to be screened in Cannes' Official Selection.

The Red Sea Film Foundation has announced that the Saudi film *Norah*, a film backed by the Red Sea Fund, will be released in Saudi and international theatres starting June 20.

Norah recently premiered in the Un Certain Regard section at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, marking the first time a Saudi film has been selected for the festival's official lineup.

The film was shot entirely in the historic city of AlUla in northwest Saudi Arabia. With 40% of the film crew consisting of Saudis, the production showcases the strong local support for the burgeoning Saudi film industry.

Norah had its international premiere at the third annual Red Sea International Film Festival in December, where it won the prestigious Film AlUla Award for Best Saudi Feature Film.

Set in Saudi Arabia in the 1990s, *Norah* is described as a moving narrative about the transformative power of art in inspiring and changing minds and hearts. Tawfik Alzaidi both penned and directed the film, making it the first Saudi Arabian feature entirely shot in the AlUla region of Saudi Arabia.

The film centres around its titular character, portrayed by Saudi newcomer Maria Bahrawi, an illiterate orphaned young woman trapped in a remote village facing an arranged marriage. Her encounter with Nader, an artist turned schoolteacher played by Saudi star Yaqoub Alfarhan, ignites a profound passion for art and a yearning for a life beyond the confines of her village.

Shot in AlUla, a vast expanse of Saudi desert and ancient city ruins, *Norah* received acclaim and financial support from the Saudi Film Commission's Daw Film Competition, an initiative launched in 2019 to nurture Saudi film talent and production.

Produced by Alzaidi and US producer Paul Miller, alongside Jordanian producer Sharif Majali, *Norah* represents a collaborative effort between Saudi production companies Black Sugar Pictures and Nebras Films.

Global rights to *Norah* were secured in December by TwentyOne Entertainment, a new Riyadh-based company launched by former Universal Pictures executive Paul Chesney, underscoring the film's international appeal and the growing recognition of Saudi talent in the global film industry.

Tags: Saudi films AlUla Film AlUla Red Sea Fund Red Sea Film Foundation Tawfik Alzaidi Norah TwentyOne Entertainment featuredpost

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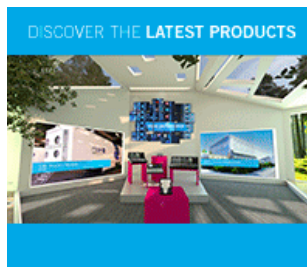
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