

Press Release

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Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon choose directors Leyla Bouzid, Gaya Jiji and Ida Panahandeh as recipients of the young talent 'Women in Motion' Award

∞ **As part of the second edition of the 'Women in Motion' programme, and on the occasion of the 'Presidential Dinner' held on Sunday 15 May 2016, Kering and the Festival de Cannes will honour Tunisian director Leyla Bouzid, Syrian director Gaya Jiji, Iranian writer and director Ida Panahandeh, up-and-coming talents in the film industry.**

Chosen by the Academy Award winner American actor Geena Davis and the Academy Award and BAFTA Award winner American actor Susan Sarandon, all three directors will receive financial support for an ongoing film project.

As recipients of the 2016 'Women in Motion' Award, Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon were offered to choose women filmmakers among a shortlist of talents identified throughout 2015 to be awarded the 2016 young talents 'Women in Motion' award.

On May 15th, during Cannes 'Presidential Dinner', hosted by Pierre Lescure, Thierry Frémaux and François-Henri Pinault, two 'Women in Motion' Awards will be presented to Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon for their outstanding contribution to the film industry and women's cause, and three young talent 'Women in Motion' Awards will be presented to directors Leyla Bouzid, Gaya Jiji and Ida Panahandeh.

In 2015, the 'Women in Motion' Awards were given to actress, producer and committed philanthropist Jane Fonda and to independent producer, Megan Ellison to celebrate her promising and remarkable career.

The dinner will be presented by the renowned French chef, Anne-Sophie Pic, the only 3-starred woman in France, known for her seek for complex flavour combinations and powerful tastes.

Photos and videos available on womeninmotion.com

Leyla Bouzid

Leyla Bouzid grew up in Tunis, where she was born in 1984. She moved to Paris in 2003 to study French literature at La Sorbonne and then joined the renown La Fémis Film School, in the Directing specialty. She directed SOUBRESAULTS, her film project for La Fémis in Tunis, a few months before the revolution. She then chose to shoot ZAKARIA in the south of France with amateur comedians. Both shorts were acclaimed at film festivals.

In 2015, she directed A PEINE J'OUVRE LES YEUX, her first feature film. Shot in Tunis, the film received two Awards at the Venice Film Festival, Venice Days section. Since then, the film has received over 20 awards in film festivals around the globe: Toronto, Dubai, Pusan, Rotterdam, Carthage, Namur, Tribeca, San Francisco... In theaters, A PEINE J'OUVRE LES YEUX was very well received by the critics and audience alike.

Gaya Jiji

Gaya Jiji is a Syrian filmmaker. Born in Damas in 1979, Jiji lives and works in Paris. She holds a Masters Degree in Cinema from the Saint-Denis, Paris 8 University. Gaya Jiji has directed three shorts. The most recent one, MATIN, MIDI, SOIR...ET MATIN (19', 2011), has been nominated at numerous film festivals worldwide such as the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia,



in Tokyo, the Doha Tribeca Film Festival or the Arabic Film Festival in Rotterdam. Since 2012, Gaya Jiji has been working on the scenario of her first feature film, *MON TISSU PREFERE*. The project was part of La Fabrique des Cinémas du Monde at the 2014 Festival de Cannes, Dubai Film Connexion, at Dubai Film Festival in 2015, Meetings on the Bridge, at Istanbul Film Festival in 2016. It is also part of the 69th Festival de Cannes "Atelier Cinéfondation". *MON TISSU PREFERE* has received support from the Amiens Film Festival Development Program in 2013 and more recently from the CNC's Aide aux cinémas du monde, in July 2015.

Ida Panahandeh

Ida Panahandeh is an Iranian film director. In 1999, she wrote and directed her first short film *THE TRAIN STATION*. In 2004, she wrote and directed *TAXONOMY*, screened at the 9th Tehran International Short Film Festival in National Competition. In 2005, she won the prize of the Best Short Film in 10th Tehran International Short Film Festival for *THOSE HANDS*, also screened at Vienna Independent Shorts. In 2009, she participated in Berlinale Talent Campus. In 2012, she wrote and directed *THE LOST HONOR OF MR. SADEGHI* (TV Movie), and won Best Film script (with Arsalan Amiri) from the First Tehran Video Film Festival. In 2015, Panahandeh wrote and directed *NAHID*, and won five prizes among Prize of the Promising Future at Cannes Film Festival (Un Certain Regard). The same year, she was nominated for Golden Camera Prize and Un Certain Regard Award at Cannes Film Festival.

**Follow the official hashtag
#WomenInMotion #Cannes2016**

**More information:
[The 'Women in Motion' Mediaroom](#)**

About 'Women in Motion'

The aim of the 'Women in Motion' programme is to stimulate discussion and encourage reflection on the place of women in the film industry, both on and off the screen. Launched in May 2015 as part of the partnership between Kering and the Festival de Cannes, 'Women in Motion' is now an integral part of the Festival's official programme. The programme features two fundamental components: the Talks, which are a series of open interviews with one or several guests, which take place throughout the duration of the Festival, to create a platform for considering and exchanging views on the multi-faceted issue of women in the film industry; and the 'Women in Motion' Awards, presented each year to an iconic figure and to one or several up-and-coming talents at the Festival de Cannes "Presidential Dinner".

About Kering

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