BROKEN KEYS WINS AUDIENCE AWARD AT THE
ARABIAN SIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL

Washington, DC, June 17, 2021 – The 2021 *Arabian Sights* Audience Award was presented to **Broken Keys** (Lebanon), by director Jimmy Keyrouz, a moving film about a struggling musician in war-torn Syria. **Broken Keys** was Lebanon's submission for Best International Feature Film category at this year's Academy Awards.

A total of six films were presented in this year's festival. In addition to **Broken Keys**, the following films were featured:

- **200 Meters** (Palestine), directed by Ameed Neyfeh, is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Best Actor Award (Ali Suliman), the Cinema for Humanity Prize, the FIPRESCI Int'l Critics Prize, and the Variety Middle East and North African Region Talent Award at the El Gouna Film Festival.

- **Captains of Zaatari** (Egypt), by first-time director Ali El Arabi, is a tender and beautifully shot documentary about two Syrian teenagers with a passion for soccer.

- **Gaza Mon Amour** (Palestine), directed by Tarzan Nasser and Arab Nasser, was the Toronto International Film Festival breakout Palestinian film, featuring powerhouse actress Hiam Abbass.

- **Red Soil** (France), an environmental thriller by Algerian director Farid Bentoumi. Bentoumi was also the recipient of the *Arabian Sights* Jury Award in 2016 for his film **Good Luck Algeria**.

- **Skies of Lebanon** (France) is the directorial debut of French-Lebanese filmmaker Chloé Mazlo. She creatively weaved in colorful, stop-motion animation in her touching romantic drama.

The 26th Annual *Arabian Sights Film Festival* was presented completely online, June 4 – 13, in conjunction with the Washington, DC International Film Festival (Filmfest DC), Washington's longest-running film festival. Total festival viewers reached approximately 14,000.

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