

NDU STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL 2012

Speech of Fr. Walid Moussa, *President*

Your Excellency Minister Hassan Diab

Honorable Guests

Dear Friends

It is with great pride that I stand in front of you for the sixth time to celebrate the Opening of the NDU Student Film Festival. This Festival has become an event we all await and prepare so intensely for. Indeed, with high admiration we have been witnessing the development this venue has been making year after year and the success it has been achieving.

Year after year, we come to understand the importance and value of such an initiative:

- It provides in fact an opportunity for young talented students to show their creative work and at the same time learn significant tips from local and international professionals in the field of filmmaking.
- This initiative is as well a space where young producers are exposed to the public and “Future Oscar Recipients” are walking the first steps of the red carpet.
- Moreover, this Festival has a key role in connecting our young producers, first locally with each other, and second regionally and internationally with other young colleagues, that in addition to the connection provided with more experienced and professional producers.

In spite of all the challenges that are facing our country and all attempts to market a negative image of our nation, I still believe that our youth have the determination to overcome all obstacles, and enjoy the qualifications needed to shape a brilliant future. YOU, young producers, should always believe that you will make a difference through what you do, you are indeed responsible to market the truth about Lebanon, the country of culture and art, the country of *The Alphabet*.

On this occasion, I would like to welcome his Excellency, Dr. Hassan Diab, Minister of Education and Higher Education. We sincerely recognize all the efforts you are engaging, your Excellency, to enhance the educational system of our nation, and we deeply appreciate your presence among us today and your encouragement to this event.

I would like as well to welcome you all at NDU: Eminent professionals, students and professors:

- Thank you professionals for your time and input for the promotion of valuable filmmaking.
- Thank you students for accepting to share your talents and congratulations for the genuine work you are presenting.
- Thank you professors, and through you I thank your institutions, whose mission is to shape the creativity and values of your students.

On this evening, allow me distinguished guests to acknowledge Dr. Carol Kfoury, Former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at NDU, and Dr. Joe Ajami, Former Chair of the Department of Mass Communication. Your work and contribution for the initiation and progress of the NDU Student Film Festival have always been valuable and fundamental.

Moreover, I would like to always recognize Mr. George Chamchoum. You have always been a great supporter of this successful yearly event in Lebanon at NDU. Thank you.

My profound thankfulness and gratitude are to the Jury members, who throughout this coming week will dedicate themselves to the service of our students.

Last but not least, my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the organizers of this year's event: Dr. Mary-Angela Willis, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Mr. Sam Lahoud, Acting Chair of the Department of Mass Communication, and Mr. Nicolas Khabbaz, Head of the Division of Visual Arts, and all their team members.

Thank you all and welcome to NDU Student Film Festival.