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## Women's Cinema from Tangiers to Tehran

**22 February 2008 to 1 March 2008**

Women's Cinema from Tangiers to Tehran is a celebration of film by women and their representation in cinema from Morocco in the west to Iran in the east. It will be the first festival of its kind to offer audiences an opportunity to appreciate a vital aspect of international cinema, and to actively engage with an exciting and innovative selection of films

The festival showcases feature films and shorts to documentaries and a special programme of artists' films from twelve countries spanning North Africa to the Middle East, as well as the Diaspora in Europe and the US. Special preview screenings of festival favourites *Caramel* (Nadine Labaki) and the animated film *Persepolis*, with the voices of Chiara Mastroianni and Catherine Deneuve, will be presented. Premieres of new films such as the Egyptian *Cut and Paste* by up and coming director Hala Khalil will be screened along with rarely shown films like *Leila and the Wolves* (Heiny Srour) and *The House is Black* (Forough Farrokhzad). The festival will showcase work by auteurs who interrogate complex cultural questions, and directors will present their work and hold Question and Answer sessions. Confirmed guests are Moufi da Tlatli (director of *Silences of the Palace* and editor of *Sama – The Trace*) and the accomplished Algerian singer Souad Massi who will play a live acoustic set following a talk with Yamina Benguigui on Saturday 23 February.

In addition, a Film Symposium with writers and directors will afford plenty of opportunities for audiences and young filmmakers to learn and take inspiration. In the longer term we hope such exchanges will facilitate further meetings and strengthen relations between North African and Middle Eastern artists and their European counterparts.

As more North African and Middle Eastern directors gain international renown, the appetite for such underrepresented films has grown, but until now it has not been satisfied. This festival is both timely and necessary, and we invite you to participate in what should be a stimulating cultural experience.

Programme will be published nearer the time.

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