

Women's Cinema
from
Tangiers to Tehran

22 February - 1 March 2008, London
20 February - 2 March 2008, Cambridge





Support Programme for the Promotion of Films from the Arab Countries and Territories of the MEDA Region (2006-2008)

Within the framework of the Euromed Audiovisual Program of the European Union, the Med-Screen project aims to promote the cinema of the 8 Arab countries of the MEDA Region. The objective is to make these works more visible in the partner countries, and to increase their chances of being marketed. Med-Screen proposes the following actions:

- 1) Organizing "Arab Film Weeks" in movie theatres throughout the MEDA region, or in Europe, preferably in partnership with festivals or organizations.
- 2) Giving Arab films' right-holders the chance to be present in the main film markets in order to increase their chances of being purchased and commercially released.
- 3) Giving Arab films' DVD producers the means for better publicity, namely by buying more advertisement space and increasing the number of languages available on DVDs to make them accessible to a larger public.
- 4) Creating and distributing the "Making of" of Arab films in two formats: A short version to act as film promotion on the Internet, and a long version to be proposed to DVD producers as a bonus feature for the DVD release of the film.
- 5) Creating a website on Arab cinema, which will serve as a tool for professionals in the field.

Med-Screen joins with Parallax Media and the French Institute in London in 2008 to present nearly 20 recent Arab films in the framework of the "Women's Cinema from Tangiers to Tehran" film festival. We are glad this partnership will allow the public in the United Kingdom, especially in London and Cambridge, to discover new films originating from Mediterranean Arab countries. We hope that the visibility of these films through this festival will facilitate their commercial release in movie theatres in order to reach a larger public audience.



Women's Cinema from Tangiers to Tehran



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.

Screenings range from the groundbreaking short, *The House is Black* (Iran) by visionary poet and filmmaker Forough Farrokhzad, to the recent *Caramel* (Lebanon), *Persepolis* (France-Iran), and *Cut and Paste* (Egypt) featuring actress Hanan Turk. Premieres of the powerful *Hidden Faces* (Turkey) and the taboo breaking *Samira's Garden* (Morocco) will be presented. Classics such as *The Noubia* (Algeria) by auteur Assia Djebar will be screened and Moufida Tlatli will present her evocative *The Silences of the Palace* (Tunisia) followed by a master class at the London Film School. A special concert and talk with singer Souad Massi and director Yamina Benguigui will take place and a party will feature the best and latest sounds from Oran to Beirut via Istanbul and Cairo with special guest DJs.

A selection of artists' films by Mona Hatoum, Shirin Neshat, Zineb Sedira and others will be screened and a Film Symposium will be held. London based writer Hanan Al-Shaykh will hold a talk and an Arab classical concert will end the festival – *A Journey from Andalusia to Modern Times*. We invite you to participate in what promises to be an exciting and stimulating cultural experience.

James Neil & Suzy Gillett
Curators
Parallax Media & Institut français

www.tangierstehranfilm.org

Acknowledgements

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supported by



Arab Media Watch
for objective British coverage of Arab issues

Leighton House Museum



Cover Stills: *Caramel*. Inset: *Hidden Faces*, *Dunia*, *The Silences of the Palace*

Programme

Sama | The Trace *dir: Néjia Ben Mabrouk*



Ciné lumière Fri 22nd Feb 6.15pm
Cambridge Picturehouse Sat 1st March 2.30pm
Tunisia-Switzerland 1982-88. With Fatma Khémiri, Mouna Noureddine, Basma Tajin. 90 min. 12A

Sabra attempts to escape the restrictions of traditional family life in a poor industrial town in Southern Tunisia. She loves her nation and her culture but finds them suffocating. Néjia Ben Mabrouk explores this contradiction in her intelligent debut in which every angle, every camera move carries rigour and weight. Mixing present and past, the film features flashbacks to Sabra's childhood when, aged ten, she already rejects her culture's paternal hierarchy.
Winner, Caligari Film Prize, Berlin Film Festival 1989

Preceded by
One Evening in July *dir: Raja Amari*

Tunisia 2000. With Hend Sabri, Wassilia Baccar, Om Bayi. 26 min. 12A

Young Miriam confides in Saida, an old beautician in charge of making her up for her wedding day. Saida hopes Miriam might change her mind and avoid the fate of many who marry according to custom.
Winner, Best Short Film, African Film Festival Milan 2001



Caramel | Sukkar Banat *dir: Nadine Labaki*

Ciné lumière Fri 22nd Feb 8.45pm
Preview Screening + Q&A with Nadine Labaki.
Cambridge Picturehouse Sat 23rd Feb 5.00pm
Lebanon/France, 95 mins, 2007. With Nadine Labaki, Yasmine Al Masri, Joanna Moukarzel

Nadine Labaki's charming debut *Caramel* is centred in a Beirut beauty salon with four women. Layal doesn't want her fiancé to know she's not a virgin, Rima finds herself drawn to a female client, and salon regular Jamale is worried about getting old... Beautifully photographed in golden tones with excellent performances, *Caramel* paints a bittersweet portrait of a culture caught between the modern and the traditional and should continue to delight audiences
Winner, Sebastiane Award, San Sebastian Film Festival 2007
Courtesy of Momentum Pictures



medscreen

A Door to the Sky | Bab Al-Sama Maftouh *dir: Farida Ben Lyzaïd*

Ciné lumière Sat 23 Feb 2.00pm
Morocco 1989. With Zakia Tahri, Eva Saint Paul, Chaïbia Aadroul. 107 min. 12A
 Nadia travels to Fez to visit her dying father and during the visit she has a decisive meeting with a Muqaddima - a Sufi woman who recites religious verses. Nadia discovers she has Baraka, or healing power, and begins to seek a path in Sufi spirituality. But this leads her to question her perceived status as a Moroccan woman with a French identity. Beautifully photographed and with editing by Moufida Tlatli.

Preceded by

A Ball of Wool | La Pelote de Laine *dir: Fatma Zohra Zamoun*

France/Algeria 2006. With Fadila Belkebla, Mohammed Ourdache, Sofiane Ahsis. 14 min. 12A

In the early 70s, Mohamed returns to France from his native Algeria with his wife Fatiha and his two children. Mohamed goes to work as usual and locks the door behind him. Fatiha and the children are prisoners and find strange ways to communicate with the outside world.



medscreen

Immigrant Memories | Mémoires d'immigrés *dir: Yamina Benguigui*

Ciné lumière Sat 23rd Feb 4.00pm
Introduced by director Yamina Benguigui
Ritz Cinema, Tues 26th Feb 7.00pm
parts 1, 2, & 3 followed by Q&A by Zineb Sediar & Meriem Talbi in Ritz's Upstairs Café.
Cambridge Picturehouse Wed 20th Feb 2.30pm
France/Algeria 1997 Parts 1 & 2. 102 min. 15
 Few films make such a powerful impact on one's understanding of what constitutes the modern immigrant experience as does *Mémoires d'immigrés*. Yamina Benguigui's powerful and revelatory film is structured around a series of interviews with North African immigrants, with rare archive footage of French official policy towards its immigrant subjects and the conditions they had to endure. A compelling film and a cry to remember those who are so often forgotten, it will stay with viewers for a long time.



medscreen

Arab Cinematic and Musical Landscapes

A special talk with Souad Massi & Yamina Benguigui, followed by an acoustic set by Souad Massi

Institut français Sat 23rd Feb 6.30pm

Celebrating the new release of *Acoustic - The Best of Souad Massi* on Wrasse Records, singer Souad Massi will perform a special acoustic set. A leading light among Algerian artists, Massi has lived in Paris since 1999 but has always kept Algeria at the heart of both her music and life. Performing folk-rock rhythms, Massi is often compared to Joan Baez and Tracy Chapman, and sings in Arabic, French, English and Berber languages. Possessed with a sweet and sonorous voice, her evocative lyrics have transported many. Yamina Benguigui, renowned director of *Mémoires d'immigrés* and Souad Massi have often collaborated together (Massi composing the music for Benguigui's films). In this unique talk they will discuss their individual styles and approaches to the creative processes in film, music and writing.



Persepolis *dirs: Marjane Satrapi, Vincent Paronnaud*



Preview Screening

Ciné lumière Sat 23rd Feb 8.30pm

France 2007. With the voices of Chiara Mastroianni, Catherine Deneuve, Danielle Darrieux. 95 min. 12

The wonderful animated *Persepolis* charts the funny tale of a rebellious girl in Iran during the Islamic Revolution who outsmarts the "social guardians" and discovers punk. Marjane experiences the Iran/Iraq war, and is then sent to school in Austria where she feels a sense of social dislocation. Upon returning to Iran she marries and then makes a life changing decision...

Persepolis retains the look of the comic books with its stark black and white imagery, soft edges and fascinating and amusing observations of a young woman struggling with "existential" problems in an era of historical turmoil.

Courtesy of Optimum Releasing

Institut français Sat 23rd Feb 10.30pm

£5 party only, free entry & complimentary drink for ticket holders of *Persepolis* and/or Souad Massi concert.

Arabic Grooves Party

Arabic Grooves party featuring the best and latest sounds from Oran to Beirut via Istanbul and Cairo with special guest DJs.

The Silences of the Palace | Samt el Qasr *dir: Moufida Tlatli*

Ciné lumière Sun 24th Feb 2.00pm

+ Q&A with *dir* Moufida Tlatli & Malu Halasa.

Tunisia/France 1994. With Amel Hedhili, Najia Ouerghi, Henda Sabri. 127 min. 12A

Moufida Tlatli's magnificent debut focuses on a group of servant women confined in the palace of the country's last princes during the final days of French colonial rule. The film effectively conveys the oppressive opulence of the palace and the resilience of the servant women: the women are sensual, strong and full of humour. Fine performances, sumptuous mise-en-scene and haunting music, by Anouar Brahme, makes *Silences...* an exceptional work and one that lingers in the mind.



Leila and the Wolves | Liel wal Zi'ab *dir: Heiny Srour*

Ciné lumière Sun 24th Feb 5.00pm

Lebanon/UK/Belgium 1984. With Nabila Zietouni, Rafiq Ali Ahmed, Raja Neham. 93 mins. 12A

Leila and the Wolves draws on Arab oral tradition to explore the collective memory of women and their hidden role in the history of Lebanon and Palestine. Utilizing extraordinary imagery, the film offers a surreal depiction of a time traveler dressed in a white gown traveling through the ages bearing witness to momentous events: the division of Palestine, the role of women in the liberation movement. Poetic and audacious in form, Lebanese-Jewish director Heiny Srour's film was controversial on its release and remains a landmark film from the



Still image courtesy of the BFI

Preceded by

The House is Black | Khaneh Siah Ast *dir: Forough Farrokhzad*

Iran 1962. 22 min. 12A

An astounding cinematic masterpiece about a leper colony outside Tabriz and the lives of those tragically deformed. 'Forough Farrokhzad was one of the greatest contemporary poets' (Chris Marker) and *The House is Black* is among the most complete fusions between film and poetry ever filmed. Banned at the time, it remains a haunting, lyrical and deeply humanist vision: an ode to the resilience of those who still believe in life. Winner, Grand Prize, Oberhausen Film Festival 1963.



Film still courtesy of AFF and Ebrahim Golestan



Film restored by the ARCHIVES FRANÇAISES DU FILM in the Ministry of Culture's plan to save old films.



and
Passage dir: Shirin Neshat, Philip Glass



With the support of the Gladstone Gallery

Egypt 2006. With Hanan Turk, Shereef Mouneer, Fathi Abdel Wahab. 12 min. 12A

Philip Glass's orchestration rhythmically underscores the ritualized movements of the funerary preparations and procession that are the film's subjects. Neshat's panoramic landscape provides an epic backdrop to the actions of figures who move from the ritual to the elemental, giving rise to dust, sticks, stones and fire, which form a metaphoric circle of life, death, and the hope of renewal. Magical.

Still: Passage, 2001
Color video installation with soundtrack by Philip Glass
11:40, dimensions vary with installation © Shirin Neshat, 2001
Courtesy the artist and Gladstone Gallery, New York
Photo: Larry Barns

Cut and Paste | Qas Wa Lask dir: Hala Khalil

Ciné lumière Sun 24th Feb 8.00pm

Preview Screening+ Q&A with director Hala Khalil & writer Ahdaf Soueif.

Rich Mix Cinema Sat 1st March 8.00pm

Egypt 2006. With Hanan Turk, Shereef Mouneer, Fathi Abdel Wahab. 105 min. 12A

A beautiful comedy-drama set in the crowded streets of Cairo; *Cut and Paste* marks the journey of a young Egyptian woman in her attempt to get married. Her ultimate aim is to acquire a visa to immigrate to New Zealand in search of a better life. Hala Khalil's exposure of the lack of opportunities for ordinary Egyptians offers a sharp critique of the country, and is garnished with fine performances, crisp cinematography and signals the arrival of a new talent.

Winner, Best Arab Film, Cairo Film Festival 2006



medscreen

Journey to the Sun | Güneşe Yolculuk dir: Yesim Ustaoglu



Ciné Lumière Mon 25th Feb 8.30pm

Turkey/Neth/Germany 1999. With Nazmi Kirik, Newroz Baz, Mizgin Kapazan. 104 min. 15

Yesim Ustaoglu made this film after learning about Kurdish villages laid waste in southeastern Turkey and the ongoing campaign against Kurdish nationalists. Mehmet and Barzan meet in Istanbul and eke out a meagre existence. When Barzan is killed, Mehmet embarks on an epic journey across Turkey to return his body to his home village. The journey transforms into revelation as he passes through large swathes of the country. Shot in beautiful panoramic tones by Jacek Petrycki, it unveils the conditions of the region's inhabitants and their marginalised circumstances.

Winner, Blue Angel Prize, Berlin Film Festival 1999

Preceded by
Poyraz | Boreas-North Wind dir: Belma Bas



Turkey 2006. With Seyma Uzunlar, Sevinç Bas, Oktay Kaptan. 13 min. PG.

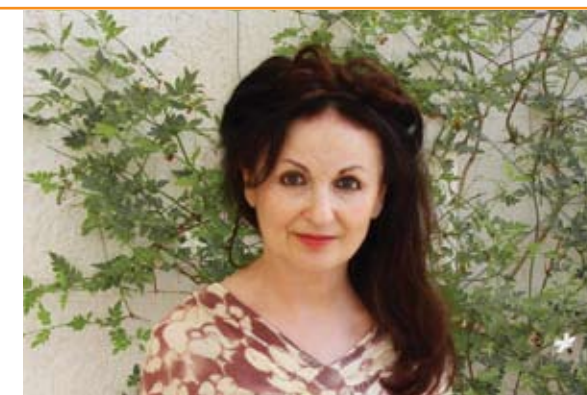
A lyrical film about a child who lives with elderly relatives in a remote old house in the mountains and observes the daily routine of rustic life glimpsing the mysteries of life and death. Winner, Jury Prize for Best Short, Antalya Film Festival 2006

A Season of Madness

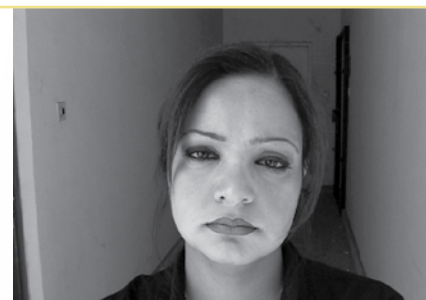
Literature Talk with Hanan Al-Shaykh
+ book signing.

Les Salons, Institut français
Mon 25th Feb 7.00pm

A talk with one of the leading Arab writers in the UK, Lebanese novelist Hanan Al-Shaykh will open a discussion around her short story *A Season of Madness*, which was made into a short film. Hanan will then talk about her beautifully written books *Only in London*, *Beirut Blues* and other work.



Baghdad Days dir: Hiba Bassem



Ritzy Cinema Monday 25th Feb 7.00pm

Q&A with Maysoon Pachachi. Director:
Independent Film School, Baghdad
Iraq/UK 2005. 35min. 15.

Hiba Bassem, a young woman from Kirkuk, returns to Baghdad after the US invasion of 2003 to finish her studies. The film is a diary of her year as she tries to find a place to live, looks for work, graduates from college, and struggles to come to terms with her position as a woman on her own.

and
Souha: Surviving Hell dir: Randa Chahal Sabbag



Lebanon 2001. 57 min. 15

After attempting to assassinate General Antoine Lahad, who had been collaborating with the Israeli Army in Southern Lebanon, Souha was thrown into the notorious Khiam prison where she served ten years and experienced a terrible ordeal, serving six years in solitary confinement. Freed in 1998, after an international campaign, Souha remains a survivor who shares her story with a sense of hope for the future - both her own and that of Lebanon.

"Moving... This is a Lebanon no journalist has shown us." - *The Guardian*

Samira's Garden | Samira Fi Adayaa dir: Latif Lahlou

UK Premiere

Ciné lumière Tues 26th Feb 6:30pm

Morocco 2007. With Sanaa Mouziane, Mohammed Khouyyi, Mohammed Majd. 96 min. 15

Samira, a young modern woman, is forced to confront her new (and much older) husband after discovering that he is sexually impotent. She tries to remedy the situation but is drawn to her husband's nephew, the shy Farouk. Shot against the picturesque Moroccan landscape, *Samira's Garden* is remarkable in the way it deftly breaks an important taboo within Arab cultures.

Winner, FIPRESCI Prize & Best Screenplay, Montreal Film Festival 2007



medscreen

**I Am the One Who Brings
The Flowers to her Grave** dir: Hala Abdallah Yacoub



Ciné lumière Tues 26th Feb 8.30pm

+ Q&A with director Hala Abdallah Yacoub.

Cambridge Picturehouse Sun 2nd March 2.30pm

Syria 2006. 110 min. 12A

A haunting film, part documentary, part travelogue and part personal diary, *I Am the One...* reflects on the life of an exile. It examines the history of Syria through its poetry and, most poignantly, interviews three Syrian exiles now living in France. *I Am the One...* is "A film like a puzzle in black and white, made up of journeys and returns that speak of prison and exile, the past and the present, love and death." (Hala Abdallah Yacoub)

Winner, Best Documentary, Venice Film Festival 2006

medscreen

Mahmud Darwish:
As the Land is the Language dir: Simon Bitton, Elias Sanbar

Médiathèque, Institut français

Tues 26th Feb 7.00pm

ArtsZone Wed 27th Feb 7.00pm

France/Israel/Palestine 1998. 60 min. 12A

Simone Bitton's portrait of Palestinian Mahmud Darwish charts a series of interviews with the great man who is more than just a committed poet. Darwish has become the poetic expression of his people's heritage, and the voice of their memory in the fig tree, the aroma of coffee, and the songs on the hilltop. He creates a new Andalusia, full of humanism, tolerance and eroticism - an Andalusia no longer a wanted place, nor a desired golden age, but a contemporary state of mind.



The Nouba of the Women of Mount Chenoua

| La Nouba Des Femmes Du Mont Chenoua dir: Assia Djebar



Ciné lumière Wed 27th Feb 6.30pm

Cambridge Picturehouse Fri 22nd Feb 5.00pm

Algeria 1978. With Noweir Sawsan, Mohamed Haymour. 115 min. 15

A classic film from the Maghreb, *La Nouba* is a slow meditation on history and memory, beautifully weaving together women's speech and their stories in five movements patterned on the Andalusian musical composition, the Nouba. Lila, an Algerian expatriate, returns to her country 15 years after independence. In comparing her own life with the lives and experiences of rural Algerians, she is able to put her past demons to rest and discover a new history - one written in the strength of generations of women.

Winner, Grand Prix de la Critique Internationale, Venice Film Festival 1979

Hidden Faces | Sakli Yuzler dir: Handan Ipekçi

UK Premiere

Ciné lumière Wed 27th Feb 8.45pm

+ Q&A by with dir Handan Ipekçi.

Turkey/Germany 2007. With Senay Aydin, Istar Gökseven, Berk Hakman. 127 min. 15

A searing and riveting portrait of a family's quest to kill their niece Zuhre in an 'Honour Killing' - their unrelenting pursuit of her gives rise to a powerful sense of urgency to this film. Director Handan Ipekçi creates mounting tension with the use of the film within a film structure, feeding chilling flashbacks into the narrative in a fascinating race against time.



Salad House | Salata Baladi *dir: Nadia Kamel*



medscreen

Ritzy Cinema Tues 27th Feb 7.00pm

Egypt/France/Switzerland 2007. 105 min. 15

When Nadia's nephew hears a sermon encouraging religious war, she decides to acquaint him with the history of his grandmother Maria. Using footage of visits by Maria to relatives in Italy, Israel and Palestine, Kamel recounts the story of a remarkable woman who is part Jewish, part Christian, part Muslim - a feminist, an Italian and Arab all wrapped in one. Her history expresses the tensions and disfigurements of a culture forced to accommodate the boundaries that politics artificially draws. A touching tale of tolerance and diversity.

The Kite | Le Cerf-Volant *dir: Randa Chahal Sabbag*

Ciné lumière Thu 28th Feb 6.30pm

Lebanon/France 2003. With Flavia Bechara, Ziad Rahbani, Randa Asmar. 80 min. 15

A beautifully shot story of love and defiance as a young Lebanese woman, Lamia, living near the tense Israeli-Lebanese border, quietly fights against her arranged marriage so that she can pursue her love for a Druze soldier on the Israeli side. Perceptive and restrained in tone, *The Kite* has been aptly described as a fairy tale for troubled times.

Winner, Silver Lion, Venice Film Festival 2003.



medscreen

Preceded by

Like Twenty Impossibles *dir: Annemarie Jacir*

Palestine/Israel 2003. With Reem Abu-Sbaih, Ismail Dabbagh, Raja'l Khateeb. 17 min. 12A

When a Palestinian film crew decides to avert a closed Israeli checkpoint by taking a remote side road, the political landscape unravels, and the passengers are slowly interrogated. Both a visual poem and a narrative on the mundane brutality of military occupation, it wryly questions artistic responsibility and the politics of filmmaking, while speaking to the fragmentation of a people.



medscreen

Dunia *dir: Jocelyne Saab*

Ciné lumière Thu 28th Feb 8.30pm

Egypt/France/Lebanon 2005. With Hanan Turk, Mohamed Mounir, Aida Riad. 112 min. 15

A student of Sufi poetry and classical belly dancing in Cairo, Dunia tries to become a professional dancer. At a contest she meets Beshir, an illustrious thinker and man of letters with whom she enjoys the pleasure of words in her research on ecstasy in Sufi poetry and of the body. However, Dunia soon discovers that it is just the first stage of a long and more complicated journey, as she must confront the deep-rooted traditions still practiced in Egypt. With sumptuous visuals and wonderful songs by Mohamed Mounir.



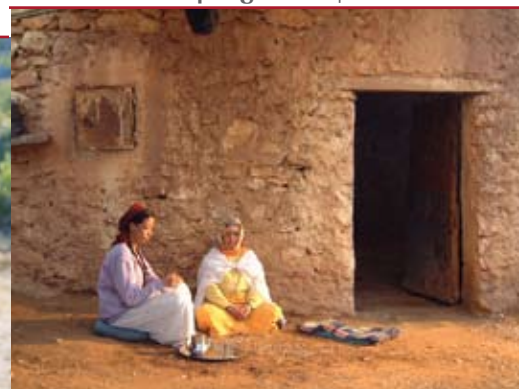
medscreen

The Sleeping Child | L'Enfant Endormi *dir: Yasmine Kassari*

Ritzy Cinema Thur 28th Feb 7.00pm

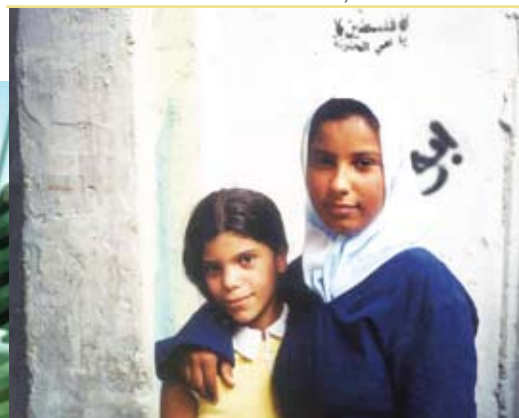
Morocco/Belgium 2004. With Rachida Brakni, Mounia Osfur, Nermine Elhaggar. 95 min. 15

Zeinab watches her husband leave the country to go in search of clandestine work in Europe the day after their wedding. While she is waiting for her husband to return, she lulls the foetus of her unborn child to sleep, a social practice widespread throughout the rural world of North Africa. Yasmine Kassari's beautifully shot debut is a moving and sensitive depiction of women's lives in rural Morocco and their quiet hopes, dreams and expectations.



medscreen

Bitter Water *dir: Maysoon Pachachi*



medscreen

Rich Mix Cinema Thur 28th Feb 7.00pm

+ Q&A with Dir Maysoon Pachachi & Karen Alexander.
Lebanon/UK 2002, col, 76 min, 12A.

A documentary about the inhabitants of Bourj Al Barajneh, a Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut established by the UN as a temporary solution to the Palestinian refugee crisis resulting from the creation of the state of Israel in 1948. 54 years and 4 generations later, the 20,000 people of Bourj Al Barajneh are still refugees facing life-long discrimination (legally prohibited from 73 jobs), unemployment and poverty. A film for our times and one that bears witness.

Artists' Films

Rich Mix Cinema Fri 29th Feb 7.00pm + Q&A with Zineb Sedira & Lilly Ladjevardi.



Dancing Fog, White Dunes, Flowing Sand, Red Tide, Red Ocean Star

Saphir

Saphir

Algeria/France/UK. 2006. Zineb Sedira. HD. 18 min. PG



A metaphor for both connection and separation: the lone figure of a man starting out to sea and a woman waiting in the Es Safir hotel.

Passage

United States/Iran 2001. Shirin Neshat & Philip Glass. 35mm. 12 min. 12A

See page 8 for details.

With the support of the Gladstone Gallery

Dahiet al Bareed | District of the Post Office

UK/Palestine 2002. Rosalind Nashashibi. 16mm. 6 min. 12A



One slow, hot afternoon in a neighbourhood built to be a utopian suburb for employees of the Palestinian Post Office.

Rosalind Nashashibi won Beck's Futures in 2003.

Brick Sellers of Kabul

Afghanistan/US 2006. Lida Abdul. 16mm transferred to video. 6 min. 12A

A hauntingly beautiful film portraying young boys lined up to sell bricks to a man in the middle of the desert.

Measures of Distance

UK 1988. Mona Hatoum. Video. 16 min. 15

Letters written to the artist from her mother in Beirut that speak of exile and displacement.

Still: Passage, 2001
Color video installation with
soundtrack by Philip Glass
11:40, dimensions vary with
installation © Shirin Neshat,
2001
Courtesy the artist and
Gladstone Gallery, New York
Photo: Larry Barns

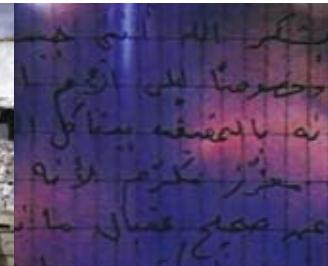
Dahiet al Bareed

Brick Sellers of Kabul

3494 Houses and 1 Fence

White House

Measures of Distance



White House

Afghanistan/US 2006. Lida Abdul. 16mm transferred to video. 5 min. 12A

The artist stands in a bleak landscape painting the ruins of a Kabul building.

Replay | Bis

Lebanon. 2002. Lamia Joreige. Video, 12A



Replay is concerned with rupture in time and place, with images appearing as reminiscences of the past.

3494 Houses and 1 Fence

Australia/Lebanon 2006. Mireille Astore and Fabian Astore. BetaSP. 12A



An assault on the senses using rapid montage of the idyllic and banal 'accessible outback' town of Broken Hill, Australia juxtaposed with Ain-Haj-Elias, Lebanon

Dancing Fog, White Dunes, Flowing Sand, Red Tide, Red Ocean Star

US/Neth/Iran/Qatar/Mozambique 2006. Lilly Ladjevardi & Kika Vliegthart. Video. U

A series of static frames of natural landscapes, each piece is a visual meditation of serenity. Foyer Projection

Nothing Will Happen (Eight normal Saturday's in Linz)

Palestine/US/Austria 2003. Emily Jacir. Video. 20 min. U



An oblique reference to that state where everything appears normalised and time and space become subsumed into a regular rhythmic pattern. Foyer Projection

The Magician

Morocco 2003. Yto Barrada. Video. 18 min PG



The Magician performs the simplest of tricks with a gravitas that contrasts almost comically with his unkempt disposition. Foyer Projection

For Young Audiences

A Stranger in Her Own City dir: Khadija Al-Salaami



Yemen 2005. Dir Khadija Al-Salaami. 29 min. 12A

A captivating hilarious film following 13-year-old Nejmia who flouts custom and refuses to wear a veil. Nejmia plays in the streets with boys, rides a bicycle, a scooter, and generally does whatever she likes. She is cursed, ridiculed, and threatened, but, is buoyed by a truly indomitable spirit she perseveres with incredible good humor and a sense of perspective.

and
The Lost Film dirs: Joana Hadjithomas, Khalil Joreige



+ Q&A with Leila Mroueh and Lawrence Joffe.

Yemen 2005. Dir Khadija Al-Salaami. 29 min. 12A

Investigating the disappearance of a print of their film *Around the Pink House*, Lebanese filmmakers Hadjithomas and Joreige open a window on the minimal role movies and photovs play in parts of the Arab world. On the trail of their print in Yemen, they try to discover who was interested enough in their film to steal it. Their conclusions are humorous and enlightening.

Inch'allah Dimanche

| Hopefully on Sunday dir Yamina Benguigui

+ Q&A with director Yamina Benguigui & Isabelle McNeill.

Cambridge Picturehouse Sun 24th Feb 5.00pm
France/Algeria 2001. With Fejria Deliba, Rabia Mokedem, Zinedine Soualem. 98 min. PG

Zouina is a woman who is torn from her home in Algeria and joins her husband in France with her three children and her abrupt mother-in-law Aicha. She finds herself imprisoned between a distant husband, who scorns her, a hostile mother-in-law and an uptight neighbour. Zouina befriends a cosmetics factory worker and begins to feel a sense of acceptance. Her curiosity and longing for experience and freedom drives Zouina to take secret excursions with her children on Sundays, and she comes to understand the difficulties of immigration, change, and adaptation.



Sat 1st March 5:00pm
Rich Mix Cinema

Arab Andalusia to the Modern Times

A unique collaboration between Al Kitab and special guest Houria Niati. Beginning with the Moorish musical achievements of Al-Andalus in 711; a selection of songs attributed to the great ninth century composer Ziryab Ibn Nafi followed by the Cantigas De Santa Maria attributed to King Alfonso X. Taking the audience through fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth century Arabic compositions. Finally, residing in diverse contemporary compositions by renowned composers including Bushra El -Turk, Tarek Younis and Elia Khoury.



Performers

Tala Tutunji: Piano
Houria Niati: Guest Vocalist
Alessia Mankovskaya: Vocalist
Basil Khoury: Violin
Laurenve Hill: Arabic Percussion

Concert

Sat 1st March 7.30pm
Leighton House

Call 07956 581 813 for tickets
alkitabconcert@gmail.com



Masterclass

with editor and director Moufida Tlatli
Mon 25th Feb 7.00pm **London Film School**

Moufida Tlatli is among the most accomplished Arab women directors of her generation having edited many feature films and directed three of her own, with such luminous works as *The Silences of the Palace* and *The Men of the Season (La saison des Hommes)*. Moufida will offer a rare masterclass on the art of editing.

Film Symposium

Sat 23rd Feb 10.30am **Institut français**

A one-day Film Symposium entitled 'The Representation of Women in Middle Eastern Cinema' will be held at the Institut français and co-hosted by the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World (CASAW), Edinburgh University.

Calendar

Wednesday 20th February

2.30pm Cambridge Picturehouse Mémoires d'immigrés, (parts 1&2) p5. £6, conc £5, memb £4.40

Friday 22nd February

5.00pm Cambridge Picturehouse The Noubba of the Women of Mount Chenoua p11
£6, conc £5, memb £4.40

6.15pm Ciné lumière One Evening in July + Sama, p4. £5, conc £4

8.45pm Ciné lumière Caramel, Preview Screening, p5. + Q&A with dir. Nadine Labaki
£10, conc £8

Saturday 23rd February

10.30am Les Salons, Institut français Film Symposium, p17. £3, conc £2

1.45pm Ciné lumière A Ball of Wool + A Door to the Sky, p5. £7, conc & memb £5

4.20pm Ciné lumière Mémoires d'immigrés (parts 1&2), p5. Introduced by
director Yamina Benguigui £7, conc & memb £5

6.30pm Ciné lumière Arab Cinematic and Musical Landscapes. p6. A special talk
with Souad Massi & Yamina Benguigui + acoustic set by
Souad Massi £7, conc £5; With Mémoires d'immigrés £9,
conc £7

8.30pm Ciné lumière Persepolis, Preview Screening, p6. £10 conc £8

10.30pm Ciné lumière Arab Grooves Party featuring special guest dj U-CEF, p6. £5
Party only, free & complimentary drinks for ticket holders of
Persepolis &/or Souad Massi concert

5.00pm Cambridge Picturehouse Caramel, p4. £7, conc £5, memb £5.40

Sunday 24th February

2.00pm Ciné lumière The Silences of the Palace + Q&A with Moufida Tlati, p7. £9,
conc £7

5.00pm Ciné lumière The House is Black + Passage + Leila & the Wolves, p7.
£7, conc & memb £5

8.00pm Ciné lumière Cut and Paste + Q&A with director Hala Khalil & writer
Ahdaf Soueif, p8. £7, conc & memb £5

5.00pm Cambridge Picturehouse Inch Allah' Dimanche + talk with Dir Yamina Benguigui, p11.

Monday 25th February

8.30pm Ciné lumière North Wind + Journey to the Sun, p8. £7, conc & memb £5

7.00pm Les Salons, Institut français Literature Talk, Hanan Al-Shaykh - A Season of Madness +
book signing, p9. £3, conc £2

7.00pm Ritzy Cinema Baghdad Days + Souha + Q&A with Maysoon Pachachi.
Director: Independent Film School, Baghdad, p9.
£8.50, conc £7.25, memb £6.50

7.00pm London Film School Masterclass on editing with Moufida Tlatli, p16. Free

Tuesday 26th February

6.30pm Ciné lumière Samira's Garden, p10. £7, conc & memb £5

7.00pm Ritzy Cinema Mémoires d'immigrés, (parts 1-3), p5. + Q&A with artist
Zineb Sedira & Meriem Talbi £8.50, conc £7.25, memb £6.50

7.30pm Médiathèque, Institut français Mahmud Darwish: As the Land is the Language, p11. £5, conc £3

8.30pm Ciné lumière I Am The One Who Brings Flowers To Her Grave
+ Q&A with Dir Hala Abdallah Yacoub, p10. £7, conc & memb £5

Wednesday 27th February

6.30pm Ciné lumière The Noubba of the Women of Mount Chenoua p11.
£7, conc & memb £5

6.30pm ArtsZone Mahmud Darwish: As the Land is the Language, p11.
£4 & conc £3

7.00pm Ritzy Cinema Salad House, p12. £8.50, conc £7.25, memb £6.50

8.45pm Ciné lumière Hidden Faces + Q&A by with Dir Handan Ipekçi, p11.
£7, conc & memb £5

Thursday 28th February

6.30pm Ciné lumière Like Twenty Impossibles + The Kite, p12. £7, conc & memb £5

7.00pm Rich Mix Cinema Bitter Water + Q&A with Dir Maysoon Pachachi, p13.
£7, conc £6 & £5.50

7.00pm Ritzy Cinema The Sleeping Child, p13. £8.50, conc £7.25, memb £6.50

8.30pm Ciné lumière Dunia, p13. £7, conc & memb £5

Friday 29th February

7.00pm Rich Mix Cinema Artists' Films: Saphir, Passage, Measures of Distance, Replay,
Dahiet al Bareed, 3494 Houses and One Fence,
The Magician, Nothing Will Happen, Brick Sellers of Kabul,
White House. Dancing Fog, White Dunes, Flowing Sand,
Red Tide, Red Ocean Star + Q&A with Zineb Sedira & Lilly
Ladjevardi, p15. £7, conc £6 & £5.50

Saturday 1st March

2.30pm Cambridge Picturehouse Sama, p4. £6, conc £5, memb £4.40

5.00pm Rich Mix Cinema Screening for young audiences: A Stranger in her Own City
+ The Lost Film + Q&A with Leila Mroueh & Lawrence Joffe,
p16. £7, conc £6 & £5.50

7.30pm Leighton House Al Khitab and special guests, p17. £25, £20

8.00pm Rich Mix Cinema Cut and Paste, p8. £7, conc £6 & £5.50

Sunday 2nd March

2.30pm Cambridge Picturehouse I Am The One Who Brings Flowers to her Grave, p10.
£6, conc £5, memb £4.40

Venues

Women's Cinema from Tangiers to Tehran

Ciné lumière, Institut français

17 Queensberry Place
London, SW7 2DT
tube: South Kensington, buses 14, 49
74, 345, C1
www.institut-francais.org.uk
e: box.office@ambafrance.org.uk
t: 020 7073 1350
Tickets: £7; concessions & members £5
Previews: £10; conc £8 or £9, conc £7
Souad Massi talk & acoustic concert: £7;
concessions & members £5
Party only £5, otherwise free with Persepolis
&/or Souad Massi concert
Video screenings £5, conc £4
Talks and Film Symposium £3, conc £2
Passport to Tangiers to Tehran: see your 5th
film for free.
Get a special pass at the box office.

Rich Mix Cultural Foundation

35 - 47 Bethnal Green Road
London, E1 6LA
tube: Liverpool Street, buses 8, 388, 26,
35 47, 48, 67, 78 149, 242, 243
www.richmix.org.uk
e: info@richmix.org.uk
t: 020 7613 7498
Tickets: £7.00; conc £6.00 & 5.50

Leighton House Museum

12 Holland Park Road
London W14 8LZ
tube: High Street Kensington,
buses 9,10,27,33,49, 328
www.rbkc.gov.uk/LeightonHouseMuseum
e: leightonhousemuseum@rbkc.gov.uk
t: 020 7602 3316
Tickets: £15 & £20

An exciting celebration of film and music
from North Africa to the Middle East with
feature films, documentaries, shorts, artists'
films and concerts.

London, 22 February – 1 March 2008
Cambridge, 20 February – 2 March 2008

www.tangierstehranfilm.org

Ritzy Cinema

Brixton Oval
Coldharbour Lane
London SW2 1JG
tube: Brixton, buses 2, 3, 35, 45, 109, 118,
133, 159, 196, 250, 322, 345 355
www.picturehouses.co.uk
e: ritzy@picturehouses.co.uk
t: 0871 704 2065
Tickets: £8.50, conc £7.25, Memb £6.50

London Film School

24 Shelton Street
London, WC2H 9UB, UK
tube: Covent Garden
Q&A Reservations: www.lfs.org.uk/qa
e: info@lfs.org.uk
t: 020 7836 9642

ArtsZone

54-56 Market Square
Edmonton Green
London, N9 0TZ
rail: Edmonton Green Station
www.enfieldartspartnership.org
e: mario@enfieldartspartnership.org
t: 020 8887 9500
Tickets: £4 conc £3

Cambridge Picturehouse

38-39 St Andrew's Street
Cambridge, CB2 3AR
Bus station 2 min; train station 15 min
www.picturehouses.co.uk
e: cambridge@picturehouses.co.uk
t: 0871 704 2050
Tickets: £7, Members £5.40, conc £5