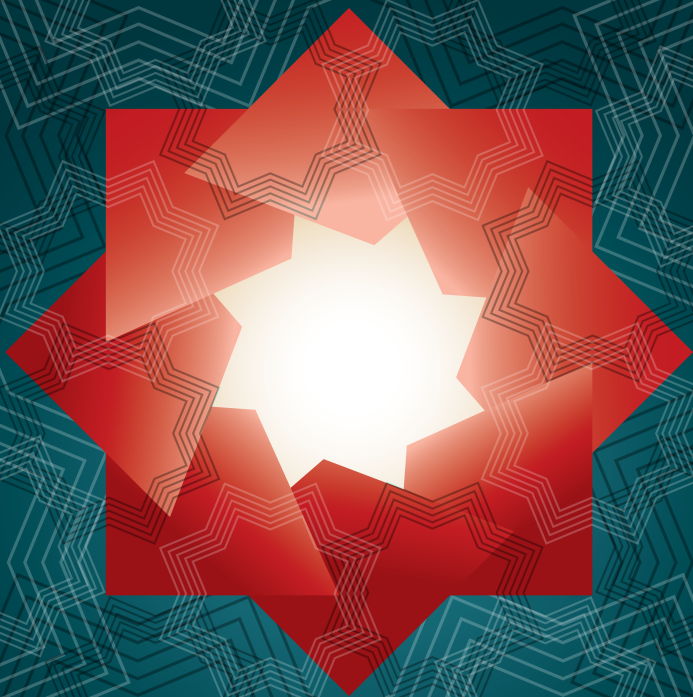


Mizna **مزنه**
presents



SIXTH TWIN CITIES

Arab Film Festival

About the Festival

MIZNA'S TWIN CITIES ARAB FILM FESTIVAL was conceived of in 2002 and was first presented in 2003. It has since run on an eighteen-month cycle, between autumn and spring seasons. It is the second longest standing Arab Film Festival in North America.

The festival aims to exhibit primarily films made by and about Arabs, but also about non-Arabs who live in the Arab world. With few exceptions, the festival screens Minnesota theatrical premieres. For Mizna, the festival serves as an opportunity to collaborate with a variety of Twin Cities organizations.

The festival also signifies Mizna's interest in celebrating artists whose work is Arab-themed by inviting filmmakers to attend screenings of their films and to engage audiences in related discussions.

Curator's Statement

AT TIMES IT IS A DELIGHT TO REEXAMINE ONE'S OWN WORDS. In my curator's statement for this very festival three years ago, I had lamented that the traded images of Arabs in the US film market would doubtfully gain in variety or complexity as a result of two domestically well reviewed films. Not that the breadth, depth, or sincerity of the depiction of Arabs have since drastically modified in US popular culture, merely that among films that have lately been made by Arabs and about Arabs many have been well received domestically and two accessible titles have achieved theatrical distribution—[Amreeka](#) and [Captain Abu Raed](#).

Perhaps I feel optimistic because among the sixty or so previewed films, made eligible by their not having been screened theatrically in Minnesota, so many impressed the planning committee for this edition of the festival: films whose artistic merit qualifies them for interest by cinephiles not determinedly aiming to consume Arab cinematic product. This edition's films impress despite their Arabness, not merely because of it.

Thanks are beyond due to members of the festival committee, to members of the Mizna board, to friends of Mizna's, and to all other enablers and supporters without whose endorsement and dedication this festival and its instrumental celebration of cinema by and about Arabs would not have materialized.

Mohannad Ghawanmeh

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Mohamed Adel Hegazi

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Leslie Karam

Steve Kelley

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Luna McIntyre

Beth Mercer-Taylor

Amanda Morgan

Constance Mosher

Katie Murphy

Tony Nicklow

Shawn O'Donnell

Nigel Parry

Songmixay Phanekham

Nadia Phelps

Valynne Preska

Harjinder Rana

Fouad Sakallah

Khalid Samman

Marco Schisano

Dean Schlaak

Alex Abu Shanab

Cassandra Shore

Fouzi Slisi

Tim Smith

Teng Thao (Tango)

Ahmed Tharwat

Corbin M. Treacy

Anne Q. Ulseth

Majdi Wadi

Saed Wadi

Sameh Wadi

Stephanie Watts

Deborah Wentworth

OPENING >>>>>> THURSDAY, MARCH 11TH, 2010 -- 7:00PM



GARBAGE DREAMS

EGYPT

DOCUMENTARY

RECYCLING

DEVELOPMENT

Garbage Dreams follows three teenage boys born into the trash trade and growing up in the world's largest garbage village, on the outskirts of Cairo. It is home to 60,000 *Zabbaleen*, Arabic for "garbage people." Far ahead of any modern "green" initiatives, the *Zabbaleen* survive by recycling 80% of the garbage they collect. Faced with the globalization of their trade, each of the teenage boys is forced to make choices that will impact his future and the survival of his community.

Mai Iskander DIRECTOR

Mai Iskander is a producer, director, and cinematographer based in New York. *Garbage Dreams* is Mai's directorial debut. As a cinematographer, she had the privilege of working with the legendary Albert Maysles on the documentary *Profiles of a Peacemaker*. Mai recently returned from Chad, where she worked with Academy Award nominee Edet Belzberg on her documentary *Watchers of the Sky*.

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

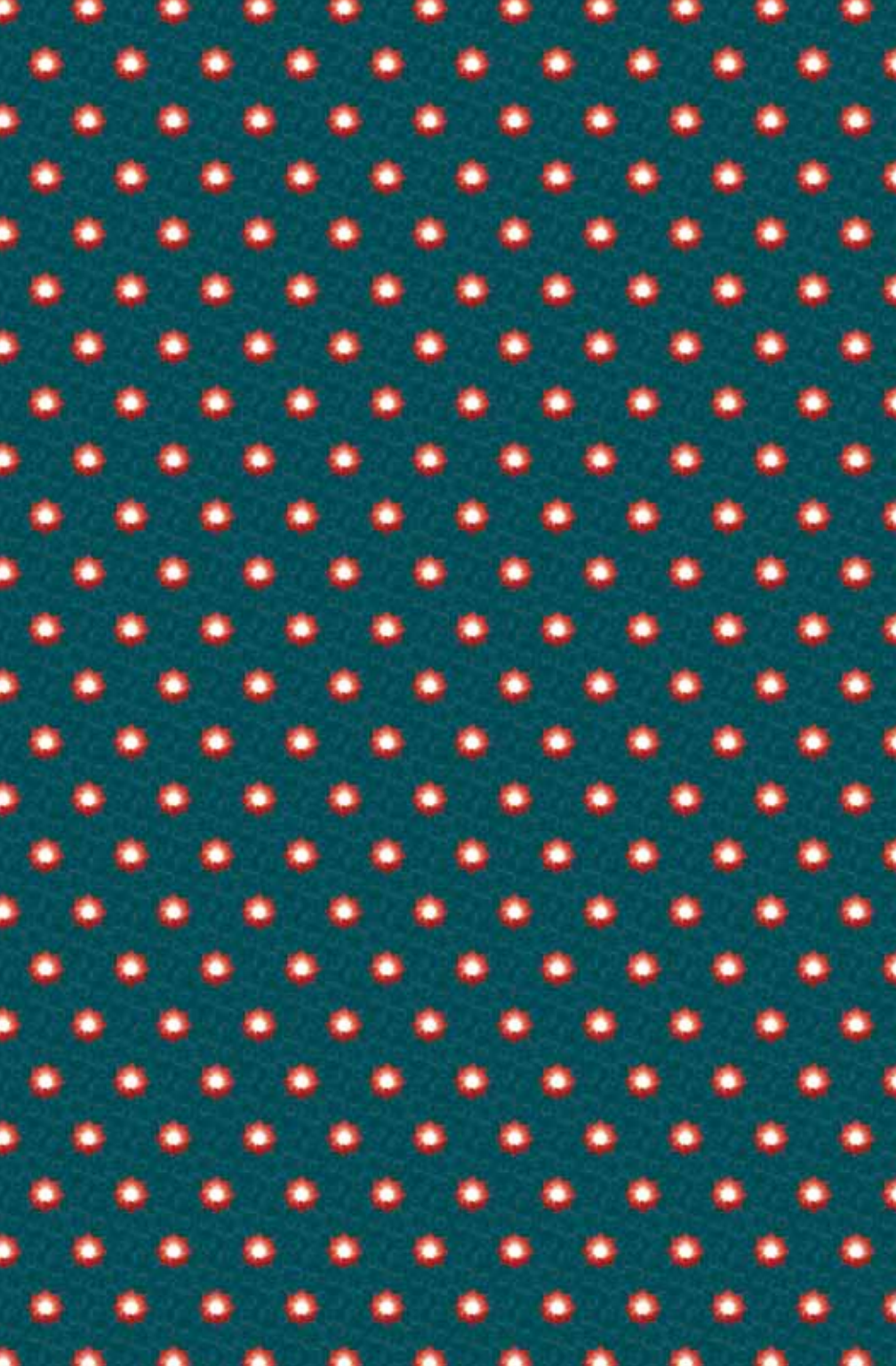
2009 | USA & Egypt | 80 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Directors Guild of America, USA Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Documentary
- > Dubai International Film Festival Special Jury Prize
- > Woodstock Film Festival--Best Editing
- > Al Gore REEL Current Award

www.garbagedreams.com

Mai started her career working as a camera assistant for the Academy Award nominated cinematographer Miroslav Ondricek (*Amadeus Ragtime*). As a camera assistant, Mai worked on over a dozen features such as *Preacher's Wife*, *Men in Black*, and *As Good as It Gets* and on over a hundred commercials. She graduated from New York University Tisch School of the Arts with a B.F.A. in film production and a B.A. in economics.



FRIDAY, MARCH 12TH, 2010 -- 1:30PM



LESH SABREEN ?

PALESTINE

DRAMA

OCCUPATION

Sabreen and Ayman dream of being together. But without true economic opportunities, Ayman will never be able to care for Sabreen in a way that her father would approve. With the power structures conspiring to restrain their dreams, will the young lovers muster the imagination to realize their hopes for the future?

Muayad Mousa Alayan *DIRECTOR*
Muayad Mousa Alayan is a Palestinian filmmaker. His first film was the documentary *Exiles In Jerusalem*. Today, Alayan conducts film-making workshops in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2009 | Palestine | 20 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Dubai International Film Festival
- > Arab Film Festival, San Francisco
- > Zanzibar International Film Festival

www.leshsabreen.com

MY HEART BEATS ONLY FOR HER

My Heart Beats Only for Her delves into the scantily recorded experience of Fatah's famous Student Brigade. The film mixes elements of autobiography, documentary and fiction, to introduce viewers into the lapsed universe of men who were once epic heroes, and are now disappeared, lost, or anonymous. With this film, we see them for the first time as fathers. We also witness the world their sons have inherited.

Mohamed Soueid *DIRECTOR*
Mohamed Soueid has worked in film since the early 1980's, having directed *Tango of Yearning* (1998) and *Nightfall* (2000), amongst others. In addition to filmmaking, he has worked as a screenwriter, film critic, and film professor.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

VIETNAM

LEBANON

DOCUMENTARY

multiple languages, **SUBTITLED**

2009 | Lebanon | 85 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Middle East International Film Festival, Abu Dhabi

FRIDAY, MARCH 12TH, 2010 -- 4:00PM



7915 KM

ON THE TRACKS OF THE RALLYE TO DAKAR

WEST AFRICA

DOCUMENTARY

PARIS-DAKAR RALLY

After a brief preliminary round of filming at a Paris-Dakar Rally press conference in Paris in November 2006, Nikolaus Geyrhalter and his crew spent a total of four months, between January and September 2007, filming on the rally's route, from Nador, Morocco, to Dakar, Senegal. The convoy of two off-road vehicles and a four wheel-drive truck covered more than 17,000 kilometers, at times under extreme, wildly varying conditions. The rally road books, which offered brief indications of coordinates, laid out the route to the various incidental encounters. A total of over 110 hours of footage were shot with the aid of local film crews and translators.

Nikolaus Geyrhalter DIRECTOR

Nikolaus Geyrhalter is an Austrian filmmaker born in Vienna in 1972. He has directed seven films since 1994, including *Our Daily Bread* (2005). He is the recipient of numerous awards including the prestigious Joris Ivens Jury Award at Amsterdam International Documentary Festival and his work has been selected at the renowned Venice and Cannes film festivals among others.

in multiple languages, **SUBTITLED**

2008 | Austria | 106 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- › Toronto International Film Festival
- › Sundance Film Festival

www.7915km.com

FRIDAY, MARCH 12TH, 2010 -- 6:30PM



LES BARONS

COMEDY

BELGIUM

IMMIGRATION

NORTH AMERICAN
PREMIERE

in French, **SUBTITLED**

2009 | Belgium & France | 111 min

FOR MATURE AUDIENCES

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Namur International French Language Film Festival
Emile Cantillon Jury
- > The Marrakech International Film Festival – Jury Prize
- > Dubai International Film Festival

www.lesbarons-lefilm.com

Second-generation immigrant Hassan dreams of making it big as a stand-up comedian, but his family would prefer him to take a more stable job. He's in love with his best friend's sister, one of the few people who has managed to succeed in life beyond the borders of their Brussels neighborhood.

Hassan is part of a small group of friends nicknamed "The Barons," whose philosophy is that humans are born with a pre-determined number of steps they may take before they die.

Nabil Ben Yadir *DIRECTOR*

Nabil Ben Yadir is from Molenbeek, a suburb of Brussels in Belgium. A former electrical engineer, his 2005 short film *Clown's Exit* was selected in over twenty film festivals worldwide. *Les Barons* is his feature debut.

FRIDAY, MARCH 12TH, 2010 -- 9:00PM



HEAT HARARA

NETHERLANDS

MOROCCO

DRAMA

ROAD MOVIE

Two friends, Dutch-Moroccan Raja and Dutch-born Nancy, decide to set up a salon specializing in manicures and henna treatments. In order to acquire materials and furnishings they embark on a road trip to Casablanca, Morocco. But a chance encounter with a couple of friendly guys on the roadside triggers a tragic chain of events that will change both of their lives forever.

Lodewijk Crins *DIRECTOR*

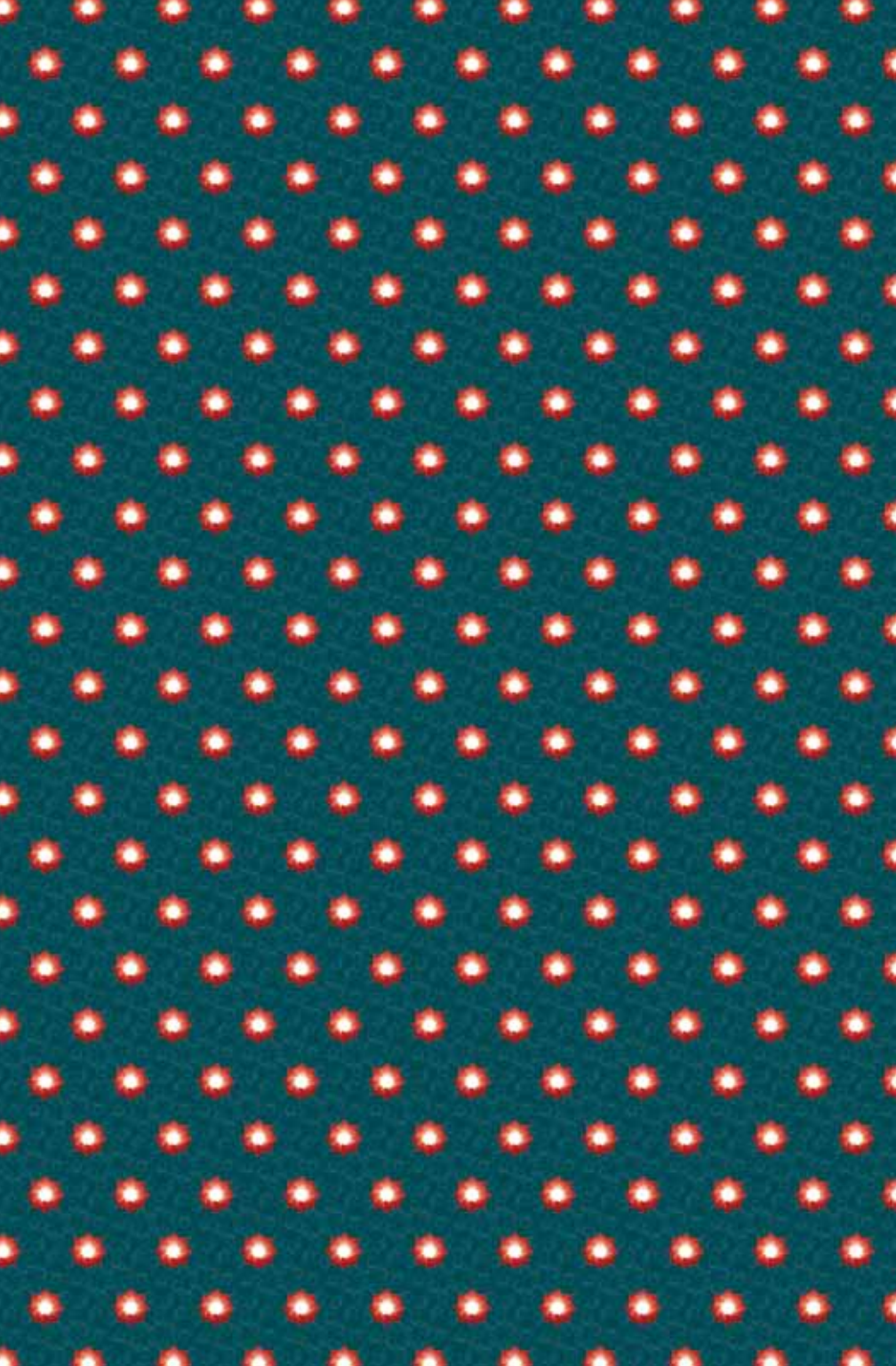
Born in Eindhoven in 1970, Lodewijk Crins attended film school in Norway and Holland. He has worked on a number of projects including commercials, documentaries, features, and television. In addition, he is also an accomplished musician.

in Dutch & Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2008 | Netherlands | 100 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Nederlands Film Festival
 - > Dubai International Film Festival
 - > Arab Film Festival, San Francisco
-





MY SIMPLE STORY

PALESTINE

CHILDREN'S FICTION

This film illustrates the story of ten-year-old Sami and his challenge to help Abu Salim's donkey return to his ancestral home in the city of Haifa. This short was entirely filmed in the Palestinian and Israeli territories.

Izidore Musallam

DIRECTOR

Izidore Musallam is a director who most recently produced the Sci Fi Pictures original film *Savage Planet*. He was born in Haifa and graduated with a B.F.A. in film production from York University in Toronto, Ontario, where he now lives and works.

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2008 | Qatar | 32 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > The Cairo Arab Media Festival
- > Festival Du Monde Arabe
- > The Cairo International Film Festival for Children

MAZEN AND THE ANT

LEBANON

CHILDREN'S FICTION

Mazen lives in a picturesque Lebanese town. One beautiful morning, on his way to school, he gets a glimpse of an ant struggling to carry a grain of wheat. Fascinated, he is taken by the insect's world and decides to help it.

Borhane Alaouié

DIRECTOR

Borhane Alaouié was born in Lebanon in 1941 and studied filmmaking in Brussels. He has directed a number of shorts and features, including *Khalass*, winner of Best Screenplay and Editing at the 2007 Dubai International Film Festival.

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2008 | Qatar | 23 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Dubai International Film Festival
- > Ayam Beirut Al Cinema'ya
- > Arab Film Festival, San Francisco

VERY HUMANE

EGYPT

CHILDREN'S FICTION

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Mahmoud, a twelve-year-old boy, works while going to school to help his mother, his unemployed father, and his ill grandmother. His growing body does not allow him to continue working as a money collector in a small service bus. But his honesty and strong, fair, and straightforward nature will help him overcome the many incidents he will encounter.

Osama Fawzi

DIRECTOR

Born in Cairo in 1961, Osama Fawzi studied film at the Higher Institute of Cinema of Cairo. In 1996, he directed his first feature film, *The Demons of Asphalt* followed by the festival hits, *Fallen Angels Paradise* and *I Love Cinema*.

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2009 | Egypt | 32 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Dubai International Film Festival

SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH, 2010 -- 12:00PM



WE WILL LIVE TO SEE THESE THINGS

SYRIA

DOCUMENTARY

AVANT-GARDE

A documentary video in five parts presenting competing visions of an uncertain future, *We Will Live to See These Things* was shot in 2005 and 2006 in Damascus, Syria. Each section of the piece—the chronicle of a building in downtown Damascus; documentation of an equestrian event; an interview with a dissident intellectual; a portrait of children learning the Qur'an; and the recitation of a vision held by a U.S. policymaker—offers a different perspective on what might come to pass in a place where people live between the forces of a repressive regime, a growing conservative Islamic presence and shifting pressures from the United States.

Julia Meltzer & David Thorne

DIRECTORS

Julia Meltzer and David Thorne produce videos, photographs, and installations. From 1999 to 2003, their projects centered on secrecy, history, and memory. Current works focus on the ways in which visions of the future are imagined, claimed, and realized or relinquished, specifically in relation to faith and global politics.

Arabic & Armenian, **SUBTITLED**

2007 | USA | 47mins

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Images Festival Toronto – Best New International Video
- > Electronic Media Arts Festival Germany – Dialogue Award

TEA ON THE AXIS OF EVIL

Syria's intricate dance between tradition and modernity reveals itself as a range of characters discuss dating, marriage, education, art, politics, and religion. Different religions and sects co-exist harmoniously, but as the country is left in a diplomatic vacuum, the fear of radical Islam grows. As it lyrically spins a tale of contemporary Syrian life, *Tea* gives voice and face to a moderate majority.

Jean Marie Offenbacher

DIRECTOR

Jean Marie Offenbacher graduated with honors from New York University, majoring in philosophy and film. Her initial work in film was as an artist, creating 16 mm experimental films. Her career in post-production was mainly focused on studio feature films including *Reversal of Fortune*, *American Heart*, and *The Rapture*. *Tea on the Axis of Evil* is her first documentary film.

SYRIA

DOCUMENTARY

FOREIGN POLICY

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2009 | USA & Syria | 67 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Arab Film Festival, Los Angeles Outstanding Documentary
- > Salento International Film Festival – Special Mention

www.reorientfilms.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH, 2010 -- 3:00PM



THE SONS OF EILABOUN

PALESTINE

DOCUMENTARY

Survivors of Eilaboun, a small Palestinian village, speak about the 1948 massacres in their town and the expulsion of the villagers. This story of a village tells the story of a nation.

Hisham Zreiq

DIRECTOR

Hisham Zreiq (Zrake) is a Palestinian artist and filmmaker. He was born in Nazareth to a Christian Palestinian family. He is considered one of the pioneers of digital fine art, which he began creating in 1994. His art has been exhibited in many galleries across the world since. In 2006, he started filming his first documentary *The Sons of Eilaboun*.

in Arabic & English, **SUBTITLED**

2007 | Palestine | 23mins

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Al-Awda Festival
- > Carthage Film Festival
- > Arab Film Festival, Los Angeles

www.sonsofeilaboun.com

REMNANTS OF A WAR

In the 2006 war between Hezbollah and Israel, one million cluster bomb munitions rained down upon South Lebanon. An estimated 30% failed to detonate. Three years later, teams of locally recruited and trained de-miners race to clear the land before more civilians are injured or killed.

Remnants of a War takes an intimate look into the lives of these brave Muslims and Christians, Sunni and Shia, women and men.

They work to make their land safe again, while their country endures the worst political and economic crisis in fifteen years.

Jawad Metni

DIRECTOR

Jawad Metni has worked in documentary film and television for over fifteen years as a cinematographer, producer, editor and director. His credits include *The*

Plutonium Circus (1995),

Hell House (2001), *Downwind*

(2001), *Trading with the*

Enemy (2003), and *Rumble in*

Mumbai (2004). Since 2004, he

has worked as a producer and

editor for various projects for

PBS and the History Channel.

He lives and works in New York.

LEBANON

DOCUMENTARY

LANDMINES

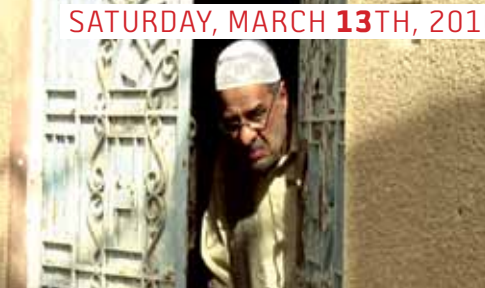
in Arabic & English, **SUBTITLED**

2009 | USA | 76 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Arab Film Festival, San Francisco
- > Human Rights Watch International Film Festival

www.remnantsfilm.com



ABSENCE

A man checks who's at the door, but doesn't find anyone. *Absence* deals with the poignant subject of loneliness in a fast moving society.

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED** | 2008 | UAE | 11 min



THE GOOD OMEN

Al Nasha—a form of popular female attire—over the rooftop, is a joyous announcement of the return of a family member from a long journey or absence.

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED** | 2009 | UAE | 26 min

Mohammed Rashid Bu-Ali

DIRECTOR

Mohammed Rashid Bu-Ali is a practicing attorney and Bahraini filmmaker who has directed, written, and produced several short films that have been screened in several international film festivals and have won many awards.



HENNA

DRAMA

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

URBANIZATION

For eight-year-old Henna, life has become difficult since her mother's illness, which had caused her father to divorce. When her Bedouin relative arrives into the burgeoning fishing town, he brings back nostalgic memories amongst the local fishermen, and new fascinations for the children. Yet when two teenagers steal his precious camels, the party is soon over.

Saleh Karama

DIRECTOR

Saleh Karama has produced some of the most original theater from the Arab world over the last fifteen years. He has several published novels and feature film scripts to his credit. He has also directed a short and a mini-feature. *Henna* is his first feature film.

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2008 | United Arab Emirates | 75 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Middle East International Film Festival
- > Arab Film Festival, San Francisco

SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH, 2010 -- 8:00PM



POMEGRANATES AND MYRRH

DRAMA

PALESTINE

DRAMA

OCCUPATION

LAND CONFISCATION

LOVE TRIANGLE

Dancer Kamar's joyful wedding to Zaid is followed almost immediately by Zaid's imprisonment in an Israeli jail for refusing to give up his land. Free-spirited Kamar wants to support her husband and be a dutiful wife, but struggles with the idea of giving up dance and her own dreams. Matters are complicated when a new dance instructor, Kais, returns to the studio after many years in Lebanon and takes a special interest in Kamar.

Like the character of Kamar herself, Najwa Najjar's filmmaking in this debut feature is matter-of-fact about Kamar's situation. Instead of manufacturing melodrama, Najjar stays focused on her protagonist's insistence on seeing her life, like anyone else's, as an opportunity for joy. Najjar's intimate storytelling and Yasmine Al Massri's sensitive portrayal of Kamar create a film that addresses honestly the way a woman might face the realities of life in modern-day Palestine while refusing to be defined by them.

Najwa Najjar *DIRECTOR*

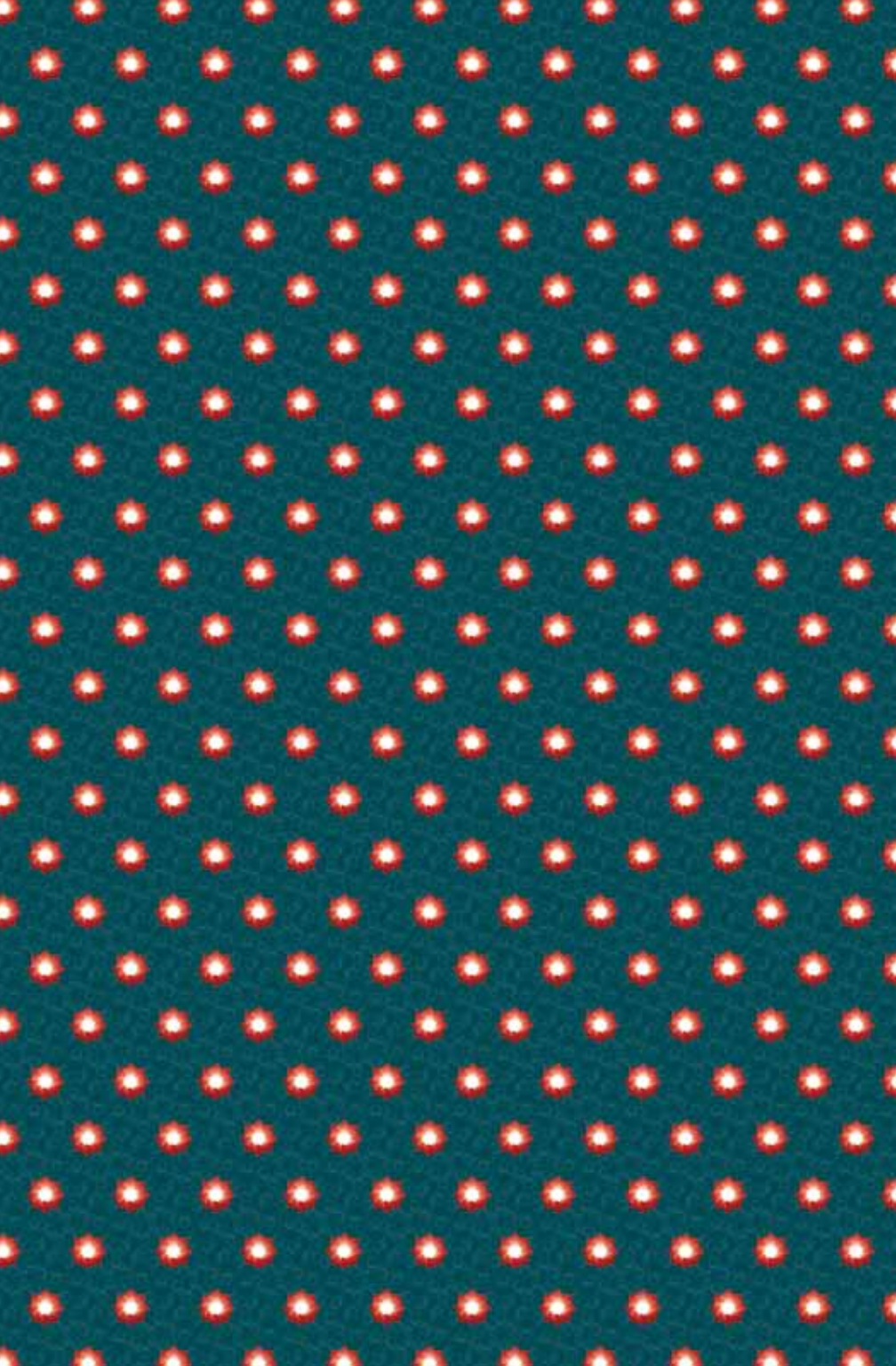
Writer and director Najwa Najjar has worked in both documentary and fiction genres. *Pomegranates and Myrrh*, her first feature film, won the Amiens Scriptwriting Award and was included in Sundance's Middle East Screenwriters Lab and the Mediterranean Films Crossing Borders workshop in Cannes. Her short films include the drama, *Yasmine's Song*, and the documentary, *Naim and Wadee'a*.

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2008 | Palestine | 95 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- › San Sebastián International Film Festival – Cinema in Motion Award
- › Sundance Film Festival
- › Arab Film Festival, San Francisco
- › Dubai International Film Festival
- › Palestinian Film Festival, Sydney



SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2010 -- 10:00AM



GAZA ON THE AIR

PALESTINE

DOCUMENTARY

WAR JOURNALISM

NORTH AMERICAN
PREMIERE

During the January 2009 bombardment of Gaza, and with foreign news crews barred from the area, a group of Palestinian journalists and cameramen risked their lives to cover scenes of the destruction, intended for news broadcast around the world. Director Samir Abdallah intercuts this harrowing, often never before-aired footage with interviews with the cameramen about their traumatic experiences and how they continue to cope with their haunting, horrifying memories. *Gaza on the Air* is a bold, uncompromising tribute to the men and women of the media. This is an exceptionally graphic film and contains scenes of extreme violence.

in Arabic & English, **SUBTITLED**

2009 | 90 min

Egypt, Palestine & France

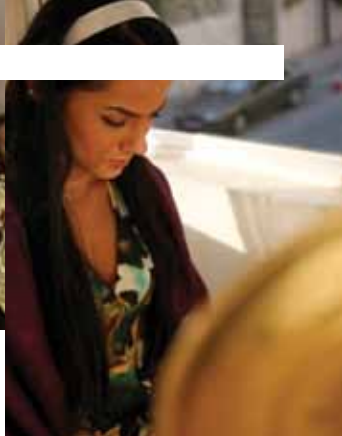
GRAPHIC CONTENT

Awards, recognitions & festivals:
› Dubai International Film Festival

Samir Abdallah DIRECTOR

Danish-Egyptian filmmaker Samir Abdallah has produced independent and television documentaries since 1983. Specializing in immigration and urban culture, he founded the L'Yeux Ouverts (Open Eye/Spaces) Association, which organizes workshops on film production and programming.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2010 -- 12:00PM



WALKING DISTANCE

Lou'adi is a puppet made of disparate parts. One night, he has an intense dream, so intense he ends up losing his head. Upon his awakening, he searches everywhere in vain for his head. A camera is installed in place of his lost head. He begins to see things differently through the lens of the camera and embarks on a voyage through the Arab world.

LEBANON

ANIMATION

UNITED STATES
PREMIERE

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2008 | Lebanon | 12 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:
➤ Festival du Monde Arabe

HOLD ON, MY GLAMOROUS

This musical documentary is an aesthetically evocative, poetic essay about a once famous Arab diva named Wadad, whose voice was heard almost daily on Arab radio stations for several reasons, she was steadily pushed towards anonymity.

LEBANON

MUSICAL
DOCUMENTARY

UNITED STATES
PREMIERE

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2009 | Lebanon | 32 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:
➤ Festival du Monde Arabe
➤ Dubai International Film Festival

ONCE UPON A PIANO

JORDAN

FICTION

MEMORY

Throughout his gloomy life, only one thing could pull Salem out of his despair: the beautiful girl playing piano in the next building. When an old friend comes to town with a tempting job offer abroad, Salem feels compelled to find a way to meet the girl.

Fadi G. Haddad

DIRECTOR

Fadi Haddad is an award-winning Jordanian filmmaker. In addition to *Once Upon a Piano*, Haddad has written and directed the fiction shorts *Shortwave* (2005), *Solitaire* (2007), and *High Heels* (2009).

Shirin Abu Shaqra DIRECTOR

Shirin Abu Shaqra studied history and political science at St. Joseph University, Beirut before collaborating with artist Fouad Elkoury on his photographic journal, *On War And Love*. In 2008, she directed a twelve-minute animation, *Walking Distance*. She is currently studying at Fresnoy National Studio for Contemporary Arts in France.

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2008 | Jordan | 26 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:
➤ Arab Film Festival, Berkeley

SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2010 -- 2:30PM



Focus on Filmmaker: Hisham Bizri

CITY OF BRASS

Antoine Galland (Misha Kuznatsov) buys a rare manuscript known as *The Arabian Nights* from an Arab Moor (Ellis Foster) living in Europe at the turn of the 18th century. While translating the manuscript, Antoine realizes that it is incomplete. The Arab promises to deliver the rest but delays fulfilling his promise as he carries on an affair with Antoine's estranged wife, Alma (Nicole Wilder), who in turn becomes a sorceress in control of Antoine's dreams.

ABSTRACT FILM

FILMOGRAPHY

Non-lingual	24 min
2000-2002	Lebanon & USA

VERTICES

Vertices: Beirut-Dublin-Seoul is a video capturing fragments of a day in the life of each city shot in Polyvision, a filmmaker-devised, wide-screen process, employing one camera and three projectors. Simple scenes from everyday life are recorded with a video camera, following in the tradition of the documentaries of the Lumière films. Each shot lasts fifty seconds, the approximate time a film reel lasted in early cinema.

Non-lingual	32 min
2003-2005	Lebanon & USA

SONG FOR THE DEAF EAR

Song for the Deaf Ear is a film poem about the insanity of war and violence in Lebanon. The filmmaker returned to his country of origin in 2007 to create a film on the death of his neighbors some 20 years ago. He constructed a story that revolves around a man who was shot dead on the streets of Beirut during the civil war and the crumbling world surrounding him. We see flashes of him throughout the film -- first bleeding on the pavement, and, finally, his death. At the film's end, we see a home movie shot the summer before his death -- he is sailing, with his family and his fiancée, enjoying a simple day in their life.

Non-lingual	18 min
2008	Lebanon & USA

Hisham M. Bizri DIRECTOR

Hisham M. Bizri was born in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1966. He started his career in 1989 as an assistant to filmmakers Raoul Ruiz and Miklós Jancsó. In 2004, Bizri co-founded the Arab Institute of Film (Lebanon) and became professor of film at the University of Minnesota. He made his first Super 8 mm film in 1987, followed by several films and videos that have been shown internationally, including at the MOMA, Louvre Museum, Reina Sofia Museum, Cinémathèque Française, and Centre Pompidou. Since 2006, Bizri has won the Jerome, McKnight, Rockefeller, and Guggenheim awards as well as the American Academy in Rome Prize.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2010 -- 5:00PM



HYMEN

EGYPT

DRAMA

WORLD PREMIERE

When two Egyptian young adults, a brother and sister, experience sex outside the boundaries of society's acceptance and approval, they have to confront their personal beliefs and social value system, finding themselves caught up in a web of multiple standards, lies, and hypocrisy. The ultimate test of morality is an easily replaceable piece of flesh.

Hisham Saqr

DIRECTOR

Hisham Saqr began his film career as an assistant editor when he was only seventeen years old. Not long thereafter, he edited his first full-length commercial feature. Hymen is his first completed short film.

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2009 | Egypt | 10 min

EIN SHAMS

(EYE OF THE SUN)

EGYPT

DRAMA

ECOLOGY

INTERCONNECTEDNESS

Having once been the Pharaonic capital of Egypt then a sacred location marked by the visit of Jesus and the Virgin Mary, Ein Shams has become one of Cairo's poorest and most neglected neighborhoods. Through the eyes of Shams, a girl inhabiting this neighborhood, the film captures the sadness and magic of everyday life in Egypt. In a series of heart-rending events, *Ein Shams* showcases the intricacies of Egypt's political system and social structure, and gives a glimpse into the grievances of the Middle East region and the complex relationships of its nations.

Ibrahim El-Batout

DIRECTOR

Born in 1963, in Port Said, Ibrahim El-Batout graduated from the American University in Cairo in 1985 with a degree in physics. He had since directed numerous documentaries for international TV channels, for which he had received many international awards, before stepping into the world of fiction to make the feature film *Ithaki* (2005). *Ein Shams* is his second feature film.

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2007 | Egypt | 90 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Rotterdam Arab Film Festival Golden Hawk
- > Taormina Film Festival - Golden Tauro
- > Arab Film Festival, San Francisco Outstanding Feature Film
- > Singapore International Film Festival - Best Asian Feature Film

www.ibrahimelbatout.com

CLOSING >>>>>>>> SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2010 -- 7:30PM



LAILA'S BIRTHDAY

PALESTINE

DRAMEDY

DAY-IN-THE-LIFE

in Arabic, **SUBTITLED**

2008 | Palestine, Tunisia,
& The Netherlands | 71 min

Awards, recognitions & festivals:

- > Middle East International Film Festival, Abu Dhabi
- Black Pearl for Best Screenplay
- > Carthage Film Festival
- Silver Tanit for Second Best Film
- > MedFilm Festival, Rome–Best Film
- > International Film Festival, Cairo
- Best Screenplay
- > Mons International Love Film Festival – Grand Prix
- > Singapore International Film Festival 2009
- Best Asian FeatureFilm

www.kino.com/lailasbirthday

Judge Abu Laila (Mohamed Bakri) is forced to become a taxi driver when the government runs out of money to pay his wages. On the day of his daughter Laila's seventh birthday, his wife insists that he needs to be home early with a present and a cake. Abu Laila has nothing else on his mind than completing this mission. However, daily life in Palestine is a bit chaotic and takes him in many other directions before he gets home.

Drawing from everyday tales of contemporary Palestine, director Rashid Masharawi concentrates his focus on a single day, crafting a wry comedy about a father, his daughter, and the incongruities around them.

Rashid Masharawi DIRECTOR

Rashid Masharawi was born and raised in the Shati refugee Camp in Gaza and is a self-taught filmmaker. In 1996, he founded the Cinema Production and Distribution Centre, which offers workshops to Palestinian filmmakers. His credits as director include [Curfew](#), [Haifa](#), [Ticket to Jerusalem](#), and [Waiting](#).

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THURSDAY, MARCH 11TH, 2010

7:00 PM Garbage Dreams

FRIDAY, MARCH 12TH

1:30 PM Lesh Sabreen ?
My Heart Beats Only For Her

4:00 PM 7915 Km

6:30 PM Les Barons

9:00 PM Heat Harara

SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH

10:00 AM **CHILDREN'S FILMS**
My Simple Story
Mazen And The Ant
Very Humane

12:00 PM We Will Live To See These Things
Tea On The Axis Of Evil

3:00 PM Remnants Of A War
Sons Of Eilaboun

5:30 PM Henna
Absence
The Good Omen

8:00 PM Pomegranates And Myrrh

SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH

10:00 AM Gaza On The Air

12:00 PM Once Upon A Piano
Walking Distance
Hold On, My Glamorous

2:30 PM **FOCUS ON FILMMAKER HISHAM BIZRI**
City Of Brass
Vertices
Song For The Deaf Ear

5:00 PM Ein Shams (Eye Of The Sun)
Hymen

7:30 PM Laila's Birthday

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