

# MESA FilmFest '11

## Films and Schedule

### Thursday

Pépé Le Moko 12:20pm



Passion 8:20pm



photo courtesy Arab Film Distribution

Arab Film Distribution



### Friday

White Meadows 12:25pm

photo courtesy Global Film Initiative



THE GLOBAL  
FILM  
INITIATIVE

True Noon  
(Qiyami Roz) 8:45pm

photo courtesy Nosir Saidov



Feature Films '11

## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual FilmFest

December 01-04, 2011  
Washington, DC



**Middle East Studies Association**  
1219 N Santa Rita Avenue  
The University of Arizona  
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### Saturday

Before Your Eyes  
(Min Dit) 9:00pm

photo courtesy Film Movement



# Film Schedule

## Thursday December 1

- 10:00am Mad, Mad, P!W World (the MESA FilmFest Logo) (4)  
Hand of Fatima (75)
- 11:20am Cairo Garbage (60)
- 12:20pm **PÉPÉ LE MOKO** (94)
- 2:00pm ♦ Silky Eloquence (10)
- 2:10pm The 10 Conditions of Love (56)
- 3:10pm Strangers in the Neighborhood (58)
- 4:10pm Hassan and the Graduates (26)
- 4:45pm The Human Turbine (55)
- 5:45pm Voices from Inside (64)
- 7:00pm Letters from Iran (78)
- 8:20pm **PASSION** (98)

## Friday December 2

- 8:00am Women of Turkey (52)
- 8:55am ♦ Women of Tahrir (3)
- 9:00am ♦ The Third Rider (55)
- 10:00am The Way North (60)
- 11:05am Between Two Worlds (70)
- 12:25pm **WHITE MEADOWS** (92)
- 2:00pm City of Borders (66)
- 3:10pm Lion Women (53)
- 4:05pm ♦ Egypt: The Story Behind the Revolution (60)
- 5:10pm Muslims in Love (25)
- 5:40pm ♦ The Other Town (45)  
▶ Filmmaker present—Nefin Dinc

### 7:00-8:30pm PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS & AWARDS CEREMONY

- 8:45pm ♦ **TRUE NOON** (83)

**As a courtesy to others, please keep your cellphones on "vibrate" or "off" inside the FilmFest screening room.**



## Saturday December 3

- 8:00am Addicted in Afghanistan (78)
- 9:25am The Oath (96)  
\*This screening is sponsored by the American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS)
- 11:05am ♦ The Green Wave (80)
- 12:30pm ♦ Silky Eloquence (10)
- 12:45pm Friends of Jenin Freedom Theatre (12)

### 1:00-2:30pm MESA MEMBERS MEETING

**2:30pm-4:30pm FilmFest Panel**  
New Challenges in Documentary Filmmaking

- 4:40pm ♦ The Last Harvest (25)  
▶ Filmmaker/Principal present- Jonathan Friedlander
- 5:15pm ♦ Neither Allah Nor Master (75)
- 6:35pm ♦ Gaza Shield (18)  
▶ Filmmaker- Tania Khalaf
- 7:00pm Waiting for Mercy (68)
- 8:10pm ♦ Destructive Beast (41)
- 9:00pm **BEFORE YOUR EYES (MIN DIT)** (102)  
\*This screening is sponsored by the Kurdish Studies Association (KSA)

## Sunday December 4

- 8:00am ♦ Valentino's Ghost (93)  
Work-in-progress special premiere screening
- 9:45am Voices Unveiled (69)

### 12:00 noon-2:00pm Viewer's Choice

#### KEY

- ALL CAPS**= Feature film  
▶ Filmmaker/Director in attendance  
♦ North American Premiere  
Number after film title indicates film length in minutes.



# Film Descriptions

**The 10 Conditions of Love (East Turkestan/USA)** 2009 56 min. In Uyghur w/English subtitles. Director: Jeff Daniels. **Print Source: Filmmakers Library.**

This film introduces Ms. Rebiya Kadeer, a human rights activist twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and exiled leader of the Uyghurs. The Uyghurs are a Muslim people whose ancestral home, East Turkestan, was annexed by the Chinese in 1949 and re-named Xinjiang province. Since then the Chinese have dominated politically, culturally and economically. Using archival footage, the film traces the violent conflict between Chinese and Uyghurs.

**Addicted in Afghanistan (Afghanistan)** 2010 78 min. In Dari, Farsi and Pashto w/English subtitles. Director: Jawed Taiman; Producer: Sharron Ward for Katalyst Productions. **Print source: Forward in Time Documentary Production & Distribution/Parallel Lines.**

Afghanistan is not only a country devastated by the horrors of war, crime, violence and poverty, but also a country blighted with the cultivation and supply of opium. Although 95% of all heroin on the streets of the UK & Europe comes from Afghanistan, few talk of the drugs that stay within the country and the devastating effect it is having on its youth. The film explores the heartbreaking reality behind the headlines as seen through the eyes of Jabar & Zahir, two 15-year-old drug addicts living in Kabul.

❖**BEFORE YOUR EYES (MIN DIT) (Turkey, Germany)** 2010 101 min. In Turkish and Kurdish w/English subtitles. Director/Writer/Producer: Miraz Bezar. **Print source: Film Movement. \*Film screening is sponsored by the Kurdish Studies Association.**

Ten-year-old Gulistan and her brother Firat live in the heart of Turkish Kurdistan. Tragedy strikes when their parents are shot down by paramilitary gunmen before their very eyes. Traumatized and orphaned, Gulistan and Firat try to care for their infant sister, but their money soon runs out and they are forced onto the street. It is there that Gulistan meets the part-time escort Dilara. Accompanying her on a hotel call one day, Gulistan is shocked to recognize Dilara's client as the murderer of her parents, and she devises a method of revenge.

**Between Two Worlds: The American Jewish Culture Wars (USA/Israel)** 2011 70 min. Directors: Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman; Produced by Snitow-Kaufman Productions. In Hebrew and English w/English subtitles. **Print source: Bullfrog Films.**

The film is a personal exploration of the community and family divisions that are redefining American Jewish identity and politics. The filmmakers' own families are battlegrounds over loyalty to Israel, interpretations of the Holocaust, intermarriage, and a secret communist past. This first-person documentary begins with a near riot at a Jewish Film Festival in San Francisco, reveals the agonizing battle over divestment from Israel on a university campus, and shows the crackdown on dissent in Israel itself.

**Cairo: Garbage (Egypt)** 60 min. 2011. Produced by Danish Radio. Part of the series: Cities on Speed-Shanghai, Cairo, Mumbai, Bogota. In Arabic w/English subtitles. **Print source: Filmmakers Library.**

"Cities on Speed" shows how four different megacities are dealing with the challenge of rapid growth. What are the visions and the solutions and how do they affect the inhabitants? Previously only 12 million people lived in Cairo and the city was neat and tidy. Today Cairo has a population estimated at 20 million with six giant Garbage Villages that have evolved into towns within the city. Nobody can keep up with the speed at which the city is growing and their garbage piles up in the streets.

**City of Borders (Israel/Palestine/USA)** 2009 66 min. Director/Producer: Yun Suh. **Print source: Yun Suh.**

*City of Borders* goes inside the vibrant community at the only gay bar in Jerusalem where people of opposing nationalities, religions and sexual orientations create a sanctuary among people typically viewed as each other's "enemy." The documentary portrays the daily lives of the Israeli bar owner and four Israeli and Palestinian patrons as they navigate the minefield of politics, religion and discrimination to live and love openly. The five inter-woven stories reveal the contradictions and complexities in the struggle for acceptance.

◆**Destructive Beast: Corruption in Yemen (Yemen)** 2010 41 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Filmmaker: Khadija al-Salami. **Print Source: Khadija al-Salami.**

This video, shot in 2010, and released before the beginning of Yemen's anti-government protests, is a clear presentation of some of the reasons the citizens were fed up with corruption. This isn't merely talking heads; the filmmaker openly challenges those collecting bribes or threatening citizens with arrest for not paying bribes. Set in the context of the Children's Parliament, it allows youngsters to ask obvious questions that are generally unasked by adults. For years, Yemenis have complained rather vaguely about corrupt practices; this film makes them clear. Filmed in Ms. Al-Salami's effective "this is what I saw" style.

## Thank You!

Introducing the new MESA 2011  
Sponsor and Patrons



American Institute for Yemeni Studies



Diane Belle James

*Meticulous Editor*  
Papers, Dissertations, Books  
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**Kurdish Studies Association**

◆**Egypt: The Story Behind the Revolution (Egypt)** 2011 60 min. In Arabic and English w/English subtitles. Director/Filmmaker: Khaled Sayed; Producer: M. David Green. **Print source: IndieFlix.com.**

Filmed primarily in Egypt in March of 2011, soon after the January revolution, this film introduces you to Egyptians who lived under Mubarak and helped to bring him down. Included are interviews with many young revolutionaries fighting for a new start for Egypt. Watch as people tell you their reasons for taking to the streets of Egypt to call for freedom and reforms, and what led them to ask for Mubarak's resignation. Feel the joy as their hard work pays off when Mubarak steps down after thirty years in power. This documentary is a snapshot of Egyptian people's views about what happened and why.

◆**Friends of the Jenin Freedom Theatre (FJT) (Palestine)** 2011 12 min. In Arabic and English w/English subtitles. **Print source: Friends of Jenin Freedom Theatre.**

FJT's involvement with the Freedom Theater began in 2006, after meeting Juliano Mer-Khamis (director of *Arna's Children*). His vision supported artistic endeavors in the effort to heal and address trauma. Mr. Mer-Khamis was fatally shot April 4, 2011 in Jenin. Though not technically a film, this short excerpt demonstrates the power of the arts.

◆▶**Gaza Shield (Lebanon)** 2011 18 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Filmmaker: Tania Khalaf. **Print Source: Tania Khalaf.**

Is it war, or is it a game? *Gaza Shield* is a peace-oriented online video game created as a response to the blatantly violent video games using the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a focus. The film follows three unconventional Lebanese artists as they develop, draw, and create graphics in an unusual and interesting process.

◆**The Green Wave (Iran)** 2011 80 min. Director/Filmmaker: Ali Samadi Ahadi. Dreamer Joint Venture; film in coproduction with Wizard UG. In English, Farsi w/English subtitles and narration. **Print source: New Yorker Films.**

*The Green Wave* is a documentary-collage illustrating the dramatic events and telling about the feelings of the people behind this

revolution. Facebook reports, Twitter messages and videos posted on the internet were included in the film composition, and hundreds of real blog entries served as reference for the experiences and thoughts of two young students, whose story runs through the film as the main thread. The film describes their initial hope and curiosity, their desperate fear, and the courage to yet continue to fight. These fictional 'storylines' have been animated as a motion comic-sort of a moving comic-framing the deeply affecting pictures of the revolution and the interviews with prominent human rights campaigners and exiled Iranians. Ali Samadi Ahadi's documentary is a highly contemporary chronicle of the Green Revolution and a memorial for all of those who believed in more freedom and lost their lives for it.

◆**Hand of Fatima (Morocco/USA)** 2009 75 min. In English. Director: Augusta Palmer; Co-Producers: Augusta Palmer & Chris Arnold. **Distributor/Print source: Augusta Palmer for Cultural Animal, LLC.**

The *Hand of Fatima* explores music critic Robert Palmer's encounter with The Master Musicians of Jajouka, a band whose album Brian Jones presents the *Pipes of Pan at Joujouka* (recorded by one of the Rolling Stones) is often identified as the first world music record. Palmer wrote extensively for *The New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*, and the tales of his encounter with Jajouka helped spark a series of collaborations between The Master Musicians of Jajouka and Ornette Coleman, Sonic Youth, and several generations of European and American artists.

◆**The Human Turbine (Israel)** 2010 55 min. In Hebrew w/English subtitles. Director: Danny Verete; Producer: Yehuda Bitton. **Print source: Ruth Diskin Films.**

The film follows the attempts to harness wind and solar energy for the benefit of the residents of the Palestinian village of Susia. And in the process we get to know extraordinary individuals from both sides of the conflict. Three years in the making, in joint meetings with local residents, they have created a renewable energy project at Susia. They have succeeded in supplying electricity for residents living in tents and caves, figuratively and literally lighting up their lives.

◆▶**The Last Harvest (USA)** 2011 25 min. In Arabic and English w/English narration. Director: Jonathan Friedlander; Filmmaker: Erik Friedl. **Print source: Erik Friedl. With fiscal support from the American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS).**

*The Last Harvest* explores the lives and times of Muslim immigrants from Yemen and their descendants who call California's San Joaquin Valley home. Yemeni labor migrants started coming to the United States in the post-1965 era when the new immigration law opened the gates to non-Europeans. While most of these immigrants settled in the Detroit area, a small band of villagers from the mountainous Ibb region found work in the San Joaquin Valley where they tended the vineyards that produce a yearly bounty of internationally renowned table grapes. At the peak of the sojourn migration some 5000 Yemenis were employed in the fields. Today only several hundred remain. This is their story.

## BE SURE TO ATTEND THE

### FilmFest Panel & Discussion

**Saturday December 3, 2010 2:30-4:30pm**

**HOOVER, the FilmFest screening room**

New Challenges in Documentary Filmmaking

Thomas B. Stevenson, Chair & Discussant  
Ohio University, Zanesville

Nefin Dinc, filmmaker  
SUNY Fredonia

Jonathan Friedlander  
Department of Special Collections at the UCLA

Tania Khalaf, filmmaker  
University of North Texas

Joan Mandell  
Independent film scholar

organized by Nadia Hlibka



After viewing a film, please take a moment to complete the evaluation form available in the auditorium. This is an important service to the committee as well as to the filmmakers and distributors.

◆**Letters from Iran (Iran)** 2011 79 min. In Farsi w/English subtitles. Produced by Al Jazeera English. **Print source: Landmark Media, Inc.**

While winds of freedom blow through the Arab world, the Iranian youth wait. They were the first to rise up against their leaders in 2009, the first to tweet, Facebook and post YouTube updates, and film the fallout of their failed revolution on camera phones. Now, Iran has closed itself off to the Western press, making it difficult to get the inside story from the outside. For the past two years, Manin Loiseau has been following a group of Iranians inside Iran. Many lost loved ones or were tortured themselves in the aftermath of the elections. Piecing together interviews, footage from hidden cameras, YouTube clips and more, she paints a vivid portrait of the aftermath of the Green Revolution.

◆**Lion Women-The Fight for Freedom in Iran (Iran/Norway)** 2011 53 min. Director: Gry Winther for Zevs Productions AS. **Print source: Landmark Media, Inc.**

With the Iranian revolution of 1979 came the imposition of *sharia* law and the repression, persecution, state-sanctioned discrimination and murder of women. Over the last 30 years, the women's fight for freedom and equality led to an inner awakening. *Lion Women* chronicles the untold story of the Iranian Women's Movement and its fight for democracy and human rights. The fight culminated in Tehran's bloody streets in 2009 when the "Lion Women" were joined by hundreds of thousands protesting the controversial presidential election. For the first time, Iranian women reveal to the world their heartbreaking stories in this powerful documentary directed by filmmaker Gry Winther, who stood shoulder to shoulder with women in Tehran amid the brutality and violence.

◆**Mad, Mad, P2W World (Iran)** 1975 4 min. **Print Source: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Media Resources Center.**

The MESA FilmFest logo. This is a black and white animated cartoon from Iran about "global relations." The more things change, the more they stay the same.

◆**Muslims in Love (USA)** 2010 25 min. In English. Director: Zerina Usmen; Producers: J.R. Hardmen, Amy Reynolds. **Distributor: Filmmakers Library.**

Americans interested in marrying generally go out on dates and move from relationship to relationship until they find the right fit. But how do Americans of the Muslim faith find mates when their culture prohibits dating? This lively film shows us devout American Muslim young people pursuing love and marriage, searching for alternatives to arranged marriages common to traditional Muslim culture. Mohammad and Ferdaus moved from emails and phone calls to family involvement, and then on to the signing of the

*Nikah*, an Islamic marriage contract. Zahra, a law student whose parents are from India, will consider dating only those men who can handle the ambitious career goals she describes online. She leaves her quest for Mr. Right to "fate."

◆**Neither Allah Nor Master (Tunisia)** 2011 75 min. In Arabic and French w/English subtitles. Filmmaker: Nadia El Fani. **Print source: Icarus Films.**

It is Ramadan under Ben Ali's regime. Despite the weight of censorship, Nadia El Fani films a country which seems open to the principle of freedom of conscience and one that is liberal in its relationship to Islam. Three months later, when the Tunisian Revolution breaks out, Nadia is out in the field. While the Arab World enters an era of radical change, Tunisia, which initiated the wind of revolt, is once again a "laboratory country" for its outlook on religion. And what if, for once, by the will of the people, a Muslim country opted for a secular constitution? Then Tunisians would really have made revolution.

◆**The Oath (Yemen/USA/Guantanamo)** 2010 96 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. **Print source: Zeitgeist Films. Sponsored by the American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS).**

Abu Jandal is a taxi driver in Sana'a, Yemen; his brother-in-law Salim Hamdan is a Guantanamo prisoner and the first man to face the controversial military tribunals. Jandal and Hamdan's intertwined personal trajectories—how they became bin Laden's bodyguard and driver respectively, act as prisms to explore and contextualize a world which has confounded Western media. As Hamdan's trial progresses, his military lawyers challenge fundamental flaws in the court system. The charismatic Jandal dialogues with his young son, Muslim students and journalists, and chillingly unveils the complex evolution of his belief system post-9/11. *The Oath* offers a rare window into a hidden realm and the international impact of the U.S. War on Terror.



**Global Film Initiative gives MESA members an exclusive discount:**

**USE CODE GLSI IVN-MESA**

MESA members are invited to use a special discount code to purchase DVD's directly from the Global Film Initiative website. Of special interest is the forthcoming release (January 3, 2012) of the 2009 film *MY TEHRAN FOR SALE*, directed by Granaz Moussavi. The code GLSIIVN-MESA will give you a 20% discount on this and all other films purchased from GFI. And you can use it multiple times! The offer is good through January 31, 2012.

**The Other Town (Greece/Turkey)** 2011 45 min. In Turkish with English subtitles. Director/Filmmaker: Nefin Dinc; Producers: Hercules Millas-Nefin Dinc-Claudine Avetyan; **Distributor/Print Source: Atlantik Film, Istanbul.**

Frozen conflicts are international disputes that are not resolved for many years. Greeks and Turks continue the tense relations into the present, still facing disagreements. The film is about this conflict and the perceptions of their respective citizens. Two towns, Birgi in western Turkey and Dimitsana in central Peloponnese, were chosen for this film. These towns are rich in memories about the "Other". In the past the Ottomans had captured the Greek town, and the Greeks, the Turkish one. The film examines to what extent the widespread popular beliefs of the citizens, state policies and their opinion multiply prejudices which in turn perpetuate conflict.

**PASSION (BAB EL MAKAM) (Syria)** 2005 98 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director: Mohamed Malas. **Distributor: Arab Film Distribution.**

*Passion*, a feature film from Syria, beautifully demonstrates the simultaneous attraction and repulsion of music, poetry and natural human creativity. Conservative values meet innocent artistic expression. Based on a real incident, director Mohamed Malas' riveting drama examines in meticulous detail the circumstances surrounding "crimes of honor" and the devastation they inflict on everyone involved.

**PÉPÉ LE MOKO (France/Algeria)** 1937 94 min. In English. Director: Julien Duvivier; Producers: Raymond and Robert Hakim. **Distributor: The Criterion Collection.**

The notorious Pépé le Moko (Jean Gabin, in a truly iconic performance) is a wanted man: women long for him, rivals hope to destroy him, and the law is breathing down his neck at every turn. On the lam in the labyrinthine Casbah of Algiers, Pépé is safe from the clutches of the police—until a Parisian playgirl compels him to risk his life and leave its confines once and for all. One of the most influential films of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and a landmark of French poetic realism, Julien Duvivier's Pépé le Moko is presented here in its full-length version. Based on Henri La Barthe's novel,

this 1937 film was remade in America in 1938 and retitled *Algiers*. Also remade as *The Casbah*.

♦**Silky Eloquence (China)** 2011 10 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Filmmaker: Hossein Khandan. **Print Source: Hossein Khandan.**

Intrigued by stories of villagers in a remote area of China still speaking Persian, the filmmaker was irresistibly drawn to investigate. Mr. Khandan searched for traces of his Iranian heritage in western China and ended up in the remote villages of Kashgar (the historical capital of the "Silk Road"). The documentary is a testament to Mr. Khandan's determination as he negotiated the geography and bureaucracy, while working as a "one-man" crew.

**Strangers in the Neighborhood (The Netherlands/Turkey)** 2005 58 min. In Dutch, English, Turkish w/English subtitles. Director/Filmmaker: Patrick Bisschops. **Print source: Arab Film Distribution.**

Turkish immigrants have been flocking to the working-class Transvaal neighborhood of The Hague in recent years, breeding resentment amongst the area's Dutch residents—especially the native pigeon enthusiasts. Not only have the immigrants appropriated their hobby and encroached upon the local bird store, but they've also brought their own variety of pigeons, called "tumblers" because they turn in the air.

**The Third Rider (Armenia)** 2008 55 min. In Armenian w/English subtitles. Director/Filmmaker: Gor Baghdasaryan. **Print source: Gor Baghdasaryan-Manana Films Studio.**

Armenia is one of the most mono-ethnic countries in the world, and if one looks more closely, it is revealed that all Armenians are distant relatives. In spite of this, tolerance is not common for our society. Most of us don't accept those who differ from us even a little bit. All the characters in this film judge and ridicule each other, while sitting at home. But the hate and intolerance can't remain safe within the house forever.

**TRUE NOON (Qiyami Roz) (Tajikistan)** 2009 83 min. Director: Nosir Saidov. In Russian and Tajik w/English subtitles. **Print source: Nosir Saidov.**

This hauntingly beautiful feature film from Tajikistan highlights the disruptive negative effects of borders and boundaries. A remote Tajik village awakens one morning to find it is being divided by a "border" fence placed by exiting Russian troops.

**Valentino's Ghost (USA)** 2011 93 Min. Director: Michael Singh. **Print source: Michael Singh.**

The film moves chronologically from the early days of Hollywood when Arabs were romanticized heroes in such films as Rudolph Valentino's *The Sheik*. Soon that fantastical image made way for cowboy-and-Indian plotlines adapted for the Arabian desert with Arabs playing vicious barbaric natives. The Arab as the embodiment of Evil, and as the Attacker (9/11), and as innocent victim (Iraq) further enrich a multi-faceted portrait of the peoples of the Middle East. The film ends with a report of a few Hollywood films that have provided complex images and avoided ethnic stereotyping.

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## MESA FilmFest '11

### FilmFest Committee

Faith Childress  
Rockhurst University  
Yaron Shemer  
University of North Carolina  
at Chapel Hill  
Thomas B. Stevenson  
Ohio University, Zanesville  
Dinah Assouline Stillman  
University of Oklahoma

### FilmFest Reviewers

John Dunn  
Valdosta State College  
Julie Ellison-Speight  
University of Arizona  
Josef Gugler  
University of Connecticut  
Amy W. Newhall  
University of Arizona

**THANK YOU!**

Nadia Hlibka  
MESA FilmFest Coordinator

## MESA FilmFest 2012

### Call for Entries

The 2012 MESA FilmFest Committee seeks submissions in video/dvd format for the FilmFest 2012 to be screened during the Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, November 17-20, 2012. All entries will be reviewed by members of the FilmFest Committee and coordinated by Nadia Hlibka. Films should be in VHS (NTSC) format or DVD (must be region-free), also playable as NTSC in English or with English subtitles. Send 2 copies of film for preview with entry form which will be available online, to: Nadia Hlibka, MESA Secretariat, 1219 N. Santa Rita Ave., The University of Arizona, Tucson AZ 85721 (520 621-7073; nhlibka@email.arizona.edu).

**Submission deadline: June 15, 2012.**

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### **Voices from Inside: Israelis Speak (Israel/Palestine/USA)**

2008 64 min. Director: Lucy Martens; Producer: Marjorie Wright.

**Print source: Marjorie Wright for Luz Films.**

*Voices from Inside* is a documentary based upon interviews with 16 Jewish Israeli voices of conscience. Representing different facets within the peace movement there, the film traces Zionism from its beginnings to the reality that exists today, with brutal honesty. Through their eyes and perspectives, it is a film about personal development, the evolution of consciousness, moving from a perspective of nationalist myths to a revelation regarding moral choices for their society, a society permeated and defined by militarism, racism, and denial.

### **Voices Unveiled: Turkish Women Who Dare (Turkey)**

2010 69 min. In Turkish w/English subtitles. Director: Binnur Karaevli; Producer: Jill Rytie Lutz; Co-Producer: Duncan McLean.

**Print Source: Women Make Movies.**

*Voices Unveiled: Turkish Women Who Dare* explores the clash of the East and the West through the lives of three modern Turkish women—an activist, an artist, and a dancer—who struggle to find their own voices in a traditional world. Can Islamic values co-exist with gender equality? Would mainstream Turkish society welcome this change? The film includes interviews with scholars, politicians and a cross-section of society voicing differing perspectives.

### **The Way North: Maghrebi Women in Marseille (Algeria/France)**

2008 60 min. In Arabic and French w/English subtitles.

**Print source: Third World Newsreel.**

From Marseille come the stories of North African women making new lives for themselves in contemporary France. Riots throughout France in November 2005 and the presidential election in 2007 are backdrops to this documentary about the women of the community organization Women From Here and Afar, and community activist Fatima Rhazi. Fatima gave up a successful career as a sports photographer in Morocco and emigrated to France in order to protect her daughter from in-laws who would have taken her away. Itto, a young, newly immigrated bride, negotiates a new culture while raising her young daughter. Hadja, a political asylum seeker from Algeria, is without papers. The documentary shows these women's struggles to cultivate alternative economic and social supports for themselves in a society that has historically ignored or misunderstood them.

### **Waiting for Mercy: The Case Against Mohammed Hossain and Yassin Aref (USA)**

2009 68 min. In English.

Director: Ellie Bernstein; Producer: Tony Grocki. **Print source:**

**Third World Newsreel.**

The shocking story of two Muslim men who were entrapped by the FBI. Once charged and arrested they were caught in a wave of "Catch 22s" such as not being able to see the evidence against them, not being able to contest the judges prejudicial statements, and the general anti-Muslim feelings in the US. The presentation is very calm, informed, and well done.

### **WHITE MEADOWS (KESHTZAR HAYE SEPID) (Iran)**

2009 93 min. In Farsi w/English subtitles. Director: Mohammad Rasoulof. **Distributor/ print source: Global Film Initiative.**

In this dreamlike yet earth-bound film, Rahmat the boatman navigates the increasingly brackish waters of a coastal land,

collecting the heartaches and tears of its inhabitants. But he remains powerless against their misguided attempts to appease the gods and make the land green again, whether by offering a bride to the sea or forcibly "treating" the eyes of a painter who sees in different colors. Drawing firsthand on the challenges faced by Iranian artists of today, writer-director Mohammad Rasoulof's deeply atmospheric and poetical film is a gorgeous allegory of intolerance, brutality and mystified routine that resonates far beyond any one state's borders.

### **The Women of Tahrir (Egypt)**

2011 3 min. In English.

Filmmaker: Yasmin Moll. **Print source: Yasmin Moll.**  
Bringing together images of women revolutionaries in Tahrir, this 3-minute video has a simple message—to rethink pervasive assumptions of Arab and Muslim women as disempowered creatures of passivity. Without the active and vocal participation of women, the Egyptian revolution of January 25<sup>th</sup> would not have been possible.

### **Women of Turkey: Between Islam and Secularism (Lebanon/Turkey)**

2006 52 min. In Turkish w/English subtitles.

Filmmaker: Olga Nakkas. **Distributor: Women Make Movies.**

In this thought-provoking documentary, veiled and unveiled women explore relationships between Islam and secularism in present-day Turkey, where millions of women, many of them educated and urban, wear the hijab. For her survey, filmmaker Olga Nakkas, who was born in Turkey and raised in Lebanon, draws on historical footage and individual visits with Turkish women from across the professional spectrum. Among them are the owner of a gallery devoted to Islamic art; a left-wing journalist whose politics stem from her religious convictions; a young intellectual adhering to a spirituality based on no single religion; and the film critic and columnist for a popular online newspaper. Their wide-ranging interviews, which analyze the background and impact of controversial bans on headscarves in universities and civil service, yield fresh perspectives on Turkish women's integration of Islamic culture and modern lifestyles, and their far-reaching achievements and priorities for the future.

# Film Distributors / Filmmakers / Print Source

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info@cinemaguild.com  
www.cinemaguild.com

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Nefin.Dinc@fredonia.edu

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**Forward in Time/Parallel Lines**

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**IndieFlix.com**

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**Tania Khalaf**

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http://vimeo.com/channels/  
taniakhalaf

**Hossein Khandan**

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avafilms@yahoo.com  
http://silkyeloquence.com

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bev@landmarkmedia.com  
www.landmarkmedia.com

**Luz Films**

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voicesfrominside@gmail.com  
www.voicesfrominside.net/

**Yasmin Moll**

*The Women of Tahrir*  
yasminmill@gmail.com  
www.vimeo.com/yasminmoll/  
thewomenofTahrir

**New Yorker Films**

212 645-4600; fax: 212 683-6805  
info@newyorkerfilms.com  
www.newyorkerfilms.com

**University of North Carolina**

Media Resources Center CB #3942  
R.B. House Undergraduate Library  
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www.lib.unc.edu/house/mrc

**Nosir Saidov**

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**Michael Singh**

*Valentino's Ghost*  
310 86-1314  
turbancowboy@earthlink.net

**Yun Suh**

*City of Borders*  
510 295-7588  
wizbliss@gmail.com  
www.cityofborders.com

**Third World Newsreel**

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tw@tw.org  
www.tw.org

**Women Make Movies**

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Contact Nadia Hlibka, MESA FilmFest Coordinator for more information, at nhlibka@email.arizona.edu.