

## Toronto Palestine Film Festival

October 25-November 1, 2008  
102A-1075 Bay St., Ste 148  
Toronto, ON M5S 2B2



September 29, 2008

### Toronto Palestine Film Festival – October 25 - November 1, 2008

On behalf of the Toronto Palestine Film Festival (TPFF), I am pleased to present you with our media kit. The first annual TPFF will be held in multiple theatres in Toronto and Mississauga from October 25 to November 1, 2008.

It would give us great pleasure if you reported on our festival. We believe **your audience will be interested in TPFF** because of the diversity of themes addressed in our films, the speakers in attendance at the screenings, and the 20 Canadian and five North American premieres of award-winning films during the course of the festival.

TPFF is proud to have the support of a number of key sponsors including the Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council and NOW Magazine, among many others. We are also thrilled to be co-presenting several films jointly with Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, Images Festival, ImagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Inside Out: the Toronto Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival and the National Film Board.

Conceived by Palestine House, a cultural and educational community centre, TPFF evolved from a series of successful film screenings in Toronto. TPFF joins a year-long series of events commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nakba (the catastrophe), which refers to the 1948 expulsion of the indigenous population from Palestine.

Through film, TPFF will contribute to the city's thriving multiculturalism by sharing with Torontonians the untold Palestinian cultural, historical and personal narratives. The festival will open with the Canadian Premiere of ***Salt of this Sea*** by **Annemarie Jacir**, Palestine's first feature film by a female director. The film, an Official Selection (*Un Certain Regard*) at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival and the Palestinian entry in the foreign language category of the 2009 Oscars, tells the exceptional story of two refugees in search of their own freedom through the remnants of a lost Palestine.

TPFF aims to engage our audiences in discussions about the films. A panel entitled "Palestinian Cinema and Cultural Resistance" will feature the director of ***Slingshot Hip Hop***, **Jackie Reem Salloum**, whose film will close the festival. Speakers will also be in attendance at the film screenings. For instance, following the screening of ***Memory of the Cactus***, members of Al Haq, a Palestinian human rights legal organization, will participate in a discussion of their documentary on the establishment of Canada Park.

We are extremely pleased with the overwhelming public support TPFF has received. At our pre-festival screening on July 12, 2008, more than 650 people filled the Bloor Cinema to watch **Mai Masri's *33 Days***, a documentary about the 2006 war in Lebanon and the resilience of the people who lived through it.

[www.tpff.ca](http://www.tpff.ca)

tel: 647 882-9231

email: [media@tpff.ca](mailto:media@tpff.ca)

fax: 905 270-3628

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The **TPFF website [www.tpff.ca](http://www.tpff.ca)** is an excellent resource for information about the festival. The "Programme & Tickets" section of the website contains the complete film programme with the synopses and photos for the films, as well as movie trailers. The website is continuously being updated. To receive updates please sign-up online for our e-newsletter or send an email to [updates@tpff.ca](mailto:updates@tpff.ca).

The media kit includes the following items for your review:

- Festival Programme
- Directors Biographies and Contact Information
- Listing of Canadian and North American Premieres and Award Winning Films
- Festival Promotional Materials
- Listing of Panel Discussions
- Most Recent Press Release
- Most Recent Newsletter
- Question & Answers

If you require further information, tickets to any of the screenings, copies of films to review, or to schedule an interview, please do not hesitate to contact us at [media@tpff.ca](mailto:media@tpff.ca) or 647-882-9231.

Yours truly,

Toronto Palestine Film Festival

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*per:* Nausheen Quayyum

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