

Tickets:

\$10 / \$5 available at:

www.tpff.ca/tickets.htm

Toronto Women's Bookstore 73 Harbord St, Toronto

Palestine House Educational and Cultural Centre 3185 Erindale Station Rd Mississauga

NFB Cinema, 150 John Street, Toronto (Additional Outlet for NFB Screenings Only)

Venues:

Bloor Cinema, 506 Bloor Street West, Toronto

Revue Cinema, 400 Roncesvalles Avenue, Toronto

NFB Cinema, 150 John Street, Toronto

AMC Courtney Park 16 Theatre, 110 Courtney Park Drive, Mississauga

Forums:

Palestinian Cinema and Cultural Resistance

Saturday, November 1, 2008 11:00 am -1:00 pm (Venue TBA)

Sat. October 25, 6:30 pm, Opening Program, Bloor Cinema**Mother of Palestine**

Amani Omar, Osama Hasa, Ahmad Hassan, Anas Ahmad, Ra'd Fathi, Mouwia Mohammed
2007

5:39

Fiction

Palestine

Canadian Premiere

Presenting a fictional Palestinian family as a microcosm of the nation, this tale illuminates both the destructive inter factional strife of recent years and the crucial, yet undervalued role of Palestinian women in holding together families and society under unprecedented strain. This film was made at the Jenin Freedom Theatre as part of the Voices Beyond Walls workshops where children from refugee communities in Palestine learn how to make films.

Salt of This Sea

Annemarie Jacir

2008

105:00

Fiction

Palestine/France

Canadian Premiere

Soraya, born in Brooklyn in a working class community of Palestinian refugees, discovers that her grandfather's savings were frozen in a bank account in Jaffa when he was exiled in 1948. Stubborn, passionate and determined to reclaim what is hers, she fulfills her life-long dream of "returning" to Palestine. Slowly she is taken apart by the reality around her and is forced to confront her own anger. She meets Emad, a young Palestinian whose ambition, contrary to hers,

is to leave forever. Tired of the constraints that dictate their lives, they know in order to be free, they must take things into their own hands, even if it's illegal. In Palestine's first feature by a female director, we follow two refugees in search of their own freedom through the traces of a lost Palestine.

Official Selection, Un Certain Regard, Cannes Film Festival 2008

Sat. October 25, 9:45 pm, Bloor Cinema

A Day in Palestine

Mary Ellen Davis, Jose Garcia-Losano, Will Eizlini

2007

5:30

Experimental

Canada

A collection of scenes of everyday life in the occupied Palestinian territories are presented with a dream-like feeling reminiscent of home-movies of the 1960s. But instead of a day at the beach or in the backyard, Palestinian daily life consists of: an olive tree, a wall, a bulldozer, soldiers harassing grandmothers. Film locations include Jayyus, Abu Dis, Beit Duqqu.

The Land Speaks Arabic

Maryse Gargour

2008

61:00

Documentary

France/Greece

Canadian Premiere

This award-winning film shines a spotlight on the ethnic cleansing of Palestine by the Zionist movement. Original source documents, rare archival footage, direct quotes from Zionists leaders, testimonies of witnesses, along with interviews with historians, illustrate that the expulsion of the indigenous Arab population from Palestine was far from an accidental outcome of the 1948 war. *Winner of three prizes, 2008 Documentary and Reportage Award, Mediterranean Center for Audiovisual Communication.*

Sun. October 26, 1:30 pm, Bloor Cinema

Chronicles of a Refugee - Episode II: The Daily Nakbas

Perla Issa, Aseel Mansour, Adam Shapiro

2008

89:00

Documentary

USA/Lebanon

Canadian Premiere

Episode II: The Daily Nakbas documents the repeated expulsions of Palestinians from refugee camps and countries around the world since 1967. It explores the impact of displacement on a community under constant threat of becoming refugees a second, third or fourth time.

(Chronicles of a Refugee is a 6-part documentary series examining the global Palestinian refugee experience over the last 60 years.)

Sun. October 26, 4:00 pm, Bloor Cinema

Sound of the Street

Annemarie Jacir

2006

3:00

Fiction

Palestine

This witty satire draws a humorous comparison between a busy collection of ants and the liveliness of a Palestinian street.

(*Sound of the Street* is one of 13 short films directed by Palestinian filmmakers and produced by the Palestinian Film Collective. All the films are under 3 minutes in length and reflect, in one shot, the mood of the summer of 2006 in Palestine.)

Driving to Zigzigland

Nicole Ballivian

2006

92:00

Fiction

USA/Palestine

Shot in Jerusalem, Ramallah and Los Angeles, *Driving to Zigzigland* is a chronicle of a day in the life of Bashar, a Palestinian taxi driver living in Los Angeles who dreams of becoming a Hollywood actor. When Bashar realizes that he has twenty-four hours to earn the money for his utilities bills, he undertakes a marathon shift that brings a unceasing flow of taxi passengers who give Bashar the run-around on issues such as suicide bombers, George Bush, Cat Stevens, the Iraq war, Rai music and world geography. Bashar's efforts to pay his bills is won - until he realizes he must choose between the Department of Homeland Security and his own family.

Best Film Award, Best Actor Award (Bashar Da'as) Amal Film Festival; Spain

Audience Award Winner; Arabian Sights Film Festival, Washington, DC

Sun. October 26, 7:00 pm, Bloor Cinema

Flee

Ahmad Habash

2006

3:00

Animation

Palestine

Canadian Premiere

Flee shows how an artist expresses his dreams for normal living. Using paints on glass, images of the sea, birds, a flute, trees, a flying kite, and a mother holding a child, flow seamlessly together in a creative longing for a normal daily life.

(*Flee* is one of 13 short films directed by Palestinian filmmakers and produced by the Palestinian

Film Collective.)

The Olive Harvest

Hanna Elias

2003

90:00

Fiction

Palestine/Israel

Canadian Premiere

The Olive Harvest tells a complex love story against the backdrop of intoxicating Palestinian landscapes. Upon his release from an Israeli prison, Mazen develops romantic feelings for his childhood friend, Raeda. Unfortunately, Raeda is already engaged to Taher, Mazen's younger brother. As it is tradition for the eldest brother to marry first, their love is kept a secret.

Silver Pyramid Prize, Best Arab Film and Jury Award, Cairo International Film Festival 2004; Finalist, First Time Director, Sao Paulo International Film Festival 2004

Sun. October 26, 9:30 pm, Bloor Cinema

Going for a Ride?

Nahed Awwad

2003

15:00

Documentary

Palestine

Canadian Premiere

Going for a Ride? was inspired by Palestinian artist Vera Tamari's installation of cars crushed by the Israeli Defense Force during invasions of Ramallah in 2002. She uses the destroyed cars as a metaphor for the freedom these cars once represented.

Telling Strings

Anne-Marie Haller

2007

59:00

Documentary

Palestine

Telling Strings shows the intense interplay of music and politics in Palestine. After the expulsion of the Palestinians and the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, the young Palestinian Elias Jubran stayed on in the place where he was born. As a result of the political situation, he and his family lived in total isolation. Music helped him to overcome this isolation and provided him with an escape. All four of his children have grown up in this environment permeated by politics and music, and have retained their connection to music in very different ways. This is a film about music, which draws its vitality largely from its closeness to the main characters and their different ways of life.

**Mon. October 27, 7:30 pm, AMC Courtney Park 16 Theatre,
Mississauga**

Palestine in the Eye: Hani Jawhariah, Martyr of Revolutionary Cinema

Mustafa Abu Ali

1979

27:00

Documentary

Palestine

North American Premiere

The late Hani Jawhariah (1939 – 1976) was one of the three founders of Fateh's Palestinian Film Unit created in 1968. Jawhariah was martyred while filming the battle of Ain Toura in the mountains of Lebanon. Born in Jerusalem, much of Jawhariah's photography and filming showed his great love for the city. He also filmed the Palestinian exodus after the 1967 war, and produced the first dramatic images of the Fidae'en (freedom fighters) to be known to the world. Director Mustafa Abu Ali made this film as a tribute to his friend and colleague and shows much of Jawhariah's work as a cameraman, including the last 5 shots he filmed before his death.

Driving to Zigzigland

Nicole Ballivian

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Fiction

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Tues. October 28, 7:00 pm, NFB Theatre

Zero Degrees of Separation

Elle Flanders

2005

90:00

Documentary

Canada

Described by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz as a film bursting with concern about identities - secular, national, political, generational, cultural, class, ethnic and more - Elle Flanders' feature length documentary breaks from the sensationalistic media coverage of violence in the Middle

East by examining the conflict through the eyes of two mixed Palestinian and Israeli gay and lesbian couples.

Tues. October 28, 9:30 pm, NFB Theatre

The People

Tamara Masri

2008

6:17

Documentary

Palestine

Canadian Premiere

Directed by 16 year old filmmaker Tamara Masri, *The People* is a personal narrative depicting the lives of Palestinians living under oppression. Traveling through Jerusalem, Jaffa, Jericho, and the winding roads in between, the film shows various aspects of Palestinian life. *The People* was produced to promote an understanding of the Palestinians, not as fighters or terrorists, but as people working for freedom.

Mahmoud Darwich – As the Land is the Language

Simone Bitton

1997

60:00

Documentary

Palestine

This film traces Darwish's path of exile from the Cisjordanian Desert to Paris, via Cairo and Beirut. It sets out to understand the popular fervour and intense emotion generated by Palestine's national poet through his own inimitable words and rhythms. It not only allows the audience to appreciate his work in its totality, but also places it in its political, historical and cultural context.

Wed. October 29, 7:00 pm, Revue Cinema

Hope of Freedom

Ahmad Abu Odeh, Amjad Al Khawaja, Saja Al Ajarma, Miras Al Azza, Mohammad Sarhan, Katherine Toukhy

2007

11:03

Documentary

Palestine

Canadian Premiere

A child interviews his grandmother about their family history, her memories of the Nakba and fleeing their home in the village of Ajur. This film was made at the Aida Refugee Camp as part of the Voices Beyond Walls workshops where films are made by children from refugee communities in Palestine.

Memory of the Cactus

Hanna Musleh

2008

42:00
Documentary
Palestine
Canadian Premiere

This documentary reveals the true story behind Israel's "Canada Park" – a story of dispossession, destruction and continuing displacement. Forty one years ago, the three Palestinian villages of Imwas, Yalo and Beit Nouba in the Latroun enclave of the West Bank were razed to the ground after Israel occupied the territory in 1967. Today, the residents of those villages remain displaced and barred from returning, while Israeli citizens enjoy picnics in the Jewish National Fund's "Canada Park", much of it funded by Canadians, oblivious to the crimes perpetrated in their names.

Discussion with guest speaker from Al-Haq, a Palestinian Human Rights Organization, will follow the screening.

Wed. October 29, 9:30 pm, Revue Cinema

First Picture

Akram Al-Ashqar
2006
26:34
Documentary
Palestine
North American Premiere

The film tells the story of Nour, a Palestinian child born to Manal Ghanem from the Tulkarem refugee camp while she was detained in the Israeli Telmond prison. Nour lived with his mother in the prison for over two and a half years, before being sent to reside relatives while his mother remained in detention. The film also documents the reaction of his relatives as they adjust to his behavior resulting from his imprisonment.

All That Remains

Nada El-Yassir
2005
52:00
Documentary
Palestine/Israel
Canadian Premiere

Arab Bedouins once inhabited the entire Negev Desert, which accounts for 60% of historic Palestine. Since the creation of Israel in 1948, the majority were uprooted and dispersed. Those who remain have either been rounded up into one of seven townships or are living in one of 46 "unrecognized villages" without the basics of water, electricity, schools, roads or medical services. The film explores the struggle of the Bedouins of the Negev, a unique part of Palestinian society, for the recognition of their indigenous land rights against a backdrop of Israeli policies that aim to strip them of their land and therefore their way of life.

Thurs. October 30, 7:00 pm, Revue Cinema

Chic Point

Sharif Waked
2003
7:15
Satire
Palestine

Waked's video presents a line of haute couture men's fashion that exposes various parts of the body to the onlooker's view. The garments are designed for use at Israeli security checkpoints, offering a satirical response to the serious problem of being stopped and searched while traveling between Palestine and Israel.

Tunnel Trade

Laila El-Haddad and Saeed Taji
2007
22:00
Documentary
Palestine
North American Premiere

When Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula in 1982, they built a wall along the Gaza border with Egypt, splitting the city of Rafah into two. Families found themselves divided by a high-security international border. Frequent border closures by the Israelis further isolated the Gaza Strip and Palestinian trade soon went underground. Since then, dozens of secret tunnels have been burrowed below the Israeli border fence. Everything moves through the tunnels of Rafah - from cigarettes and medicine to cash and people. But the residents have also suffered enormously as Israeli operations to destroy the tunnels have demolished thousands of homes.

Gaza: Another Kind of Tears

Abdel Salam Shehadeh
2006
51:00
Documentary
Palestine
North America Premiere

Checkpoint surrounded by small and large cement blocks, attached by wires. Bored soldiers detaining people, keeping them standing for hours all day long, bothering them with endless questions. This is what Hussein faces as he arrives early in the morning carrying his lunch waiting for any soldier to release him from the crossing to the settlement where he works. This film documents the lives of Palestinian farm workers and farmers both before and after Israeli settlers left Gaza.

Thurs. October 30, 9:30 pm, Revue Cinema

To the Arabs of Haifa, a Special Message

Razi Najjar

2006
3:00
Fiction
Palestine
Canadian Premiere

Two young men get quite the shock as they intently watch Al-Jazeera's coverage of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah's speech to the Arabs of Haifa during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 2006.

(*To the Arabs of Haifa, a Special Message* is one of 13 short films directed by Palestinian filmmakers and produced by the Palestinian Film Collective.)

Since You Left
Mohammed Bakri
2005
60:00
Documentary
Palestine
Toronto Premiere

The film *Since You Left* by renown Palestinian actor Mohammad Bakri, is neither a eulogy to his friend and mentor, the writer and politician Emile Habibi, nor an account of the late author's life and work. Instead, it is a poignant and deeply personal letter to the departed. Much of the film is centred around two events which traumatized Bakri's life in the years after his mentor's passing. The first is his nephew's involvement in an deadly attack on a public bus in the city of Meiron, and the subsequent backlash against the entire Bakri family. The second is the censorship of his film *Jenin Jenin* that was banned in Israel for two years upon its release. Bakri imparts this information as if he were sitting across a cafe table from Emile Habibi, talking over coffee and cigarettes.

Fri. October 31, 7:00 pm, Revue Cinema

untitled part 1: everything and nothing
Jayce Salloum
2003
43:00
Documentary
Canada/France

Lebanese-Canadian, Jayce Salloum, talks off-camera with Soha Bechara, a former Lebanese National Resistance fighter who was detained for ten years in the notorious El-Khiam torture and interrogation centre in South Lebanon. Upon her release, she became the subject of intense media interest in the European and Arab press. In a riveting and intimate conversation, Salloum inquires about home, resistance, survival, and the distance between Paris, where Bechara now lives, and Khiam.

Snow White and the Ambassador
Erik Pauser, Thomas Nordanstad
2004
54:00

Documentary
Sweden
Canadian Premiere

The film demonstrates the role of art as political statement. It is also about the Israeli Ambassador to Sweden who, in January 2004, attacked and tried to destroy an exhibition at the Historic Museum in Stockholm. The event made world headlines in 350 newspapers and 100 TV and radio stations all over the world. The exhibition was a cultural presentation made in conjunction with the conference called "How to Prevent Genocide" that was initiated by Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson and the Swedish government. This is the story of what really happened.

Fri. October 31, 9:30 pm, Revue Cinema

Maria's Grotto
Buthina Khoury
2007
52:00
Documentary
Palestine
Canadian Premiere

A gripping and inspiring portrait of women whose lives are dictated by a patriarchal moral code, *Maria's Grotto* examines the issue of honor killings in Palestine. Khoury explores the subject through the stories of four women.

The Mountain
Hanna Elias
2003
36:00
Fiction
Palestine
Canadian Premiere

The Mountain is a poignant story of the bond between generations, and explores Palestinian community life apart from the shadow of Israeli occupation. When an attractive young woman from Galilee catches the eye of a young farmer from Gaza on market day, love may be an inevitable consequence. But in this film, the course of true love is complicated by tradition. For many centuries elopement in the Middle East has been the only alternative for women who object to pre-arranged marriage.

Winner of 13 international awards including: Grand Prix. Du Monde Arab film festival, Paris, France. Best short film GrandPrix. Henri LongLois Film festival. Tours, France. President Prize. UINESCO. International Film Festival. Hiroshima, Japan. Cine Eagle Film Award. Washington DC, USA

Sat. November 1, 1:30 pm, Bloor Cinema

Lemonade
Hicham Kayed
2004

13:00
Fiction
Lebanon
Canadian Premiere

A Palestinian family settles in a new exile in Lebanon after fleeing Kuwait during the Gulf War. The children, raised with the epic tales of their grandfather's heroism in the defense of Palestine, finally meet him but only for one day before he dies. The young brothers, inspired by a girl that creates beautiful rituals from her grandmother's garden, try to transcend their predicament as refugees by spending their holidays productively.

*Golden Prize, 2004, Cairo International Film Festival for Children;
Producers Award, The 14th Youth Media Festival, Berlin, 2005*

Welcome to Hebron

Terje Carlsson
2007
55:00
Documentary
Sweden
North American Premiere

The first thing 17 year old Leila asserts in *Welcome to Hebron* is that no one can tell her what to do. Leila is a Palestinian student living in the Israeli-occupied city of Hebron in the West Bank, and refuses to be a victim of her situation. The film documents the increasingly brutal and racist behavior of the Israeli settlers as they attempt to force Palestinian residents of the city from their homes.

Sat. November 1, 4:00 pm, Bloor Cinema

USA vs Al-Arian

Line Halvorsen
2007
99:00
Feature
Documentary
Norway

USA vs Al-Adrian is a portrait of an Arab-American family facing terrorism charges leveled by the U.S. Government. The film shows the personal story of a family living in a society where fear of terrorism has resulted in increasing stigmatization and discrimination against Muslims. For years, Nahla Al-Arain and her children have been fighting to prove the innocence of their husband and father Sami, a Palestinian refugee, university professor and civil rights activist, who has lived in the USA for more than thirty years.

Best Documentary, Norwegian Documentary film Festival, Oslo 2007; Best Film, New Orleans Human Rights Film Festival USA 2007; Grand Prix, 2007 International Festival of Muslim Cinema, Kazan, Russia

Sat. November 1, 7:00 pm, Bloor Cinema

Sedition

Min Sook Lee

2008

12:00

Documentary

Canada

World Premiere

Co-presented by PEN Canada

Synopsis

Spoken word slam artists Rafeef Ziadah and Boonaa Mohammad pack their poetic punches with bull's-eye aim at the politics of exile and identity. Spliced with the hypnotic beats of renowned Toronto musical group, LAL.

A World Apart Within 15 Minutes

Enas Muthaffar

2006

3:00

Documentary

Palestine

Canadian Premiere

A World Apart in 15 Minutes shows a woman driving her car in Jerusalem. She repeatedly asks Israelis for directions to nearby city of Ramallah. The few people who know the way are reluctant to answer, and may even give false directions.

(*A World Apart Within 15 Minutes* is one of 13 short films directed by Palestinian filmmakers and produced by the Palestinian Film Collective.)

Jerusalem: The East Side Story

Mohammed Alatar

2008

57:00

Documentary

Palestine

Canadian Premiere

“The air above Jerusalem is filled with prayers and dreams

Like air above cities with heavy industry

Hard to breathe

From time to time a new shipment of history arrives” Yehuda Amichai

The latest shipment of history is the Israeli occupation. In 1948, the western part of the city fell under Israeli control, and in 1967, the eastern part fell under Israeli occupation. Since then, Israel has pursued a policy of Judaizing the city, aiming to achieve "Jewish demographic superiority." Part of this policy is to drive Palestinian Muslims and Christians out of the city, and at the same time deny their presence, history, and ties to the land. The film also touches upon the future of the city: without peace in Jerusalem, there is no peace for anyone.

Special Festival Award, 9th Cairo Television Film Festival, Egypt 2008

Sat. November 1, 9:00 pm, Closing Program - Bloor Cinema

The Shooter

Ihab Jadallah

2007

7:00

Satire

Palestine

Canadian Premiere

Palestine is occupied by the international media and is often “staged” by the international media for sensational newscasts. Palestinians have become “performers” of dramatic international evening infotainments. “Cinema is not the reflection of the reality; it's the reality of the reflection.”

Slingshot Hip Hop

Jackie Reem Salloum

2008

80:00

Feature Documentary

Palestine

Canadian Premiere - Director in Attendance

Slingshot Hip Hop braids together the stories of young Palestinians living in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank as they discover Hip Hop and employ it as a tool to surmount divisions imposed by occupation and poverty. From internal checkpoints and “Separation Walls”, to gender norms and generational differences, this is the story of young people crossing the borders that separate them.

Nominee, Grand Jury Prize, Sundance Film Festival 2008