

## Toronto Palestine Film Festival

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



### Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

#### **How was the Toronto Palestine Film Festival established? What are the goals of the festival?**

The Toronto Palestine Film Festival (TPFF) evolved from a series of successful screenings held over the past year in Toronto. This year also marks the 60th anniversary of the Nakba, which refers to the 1948 expulsion of the indigenous population of Palestine. The anniversary has been marked through a series of events over the year, and Palestine House felt the best way to share Palestinians' stories from the time of the Nakba until present day was through film.

This film festival will introduce Torontonians to Palestinian cultural, historical and personal narratives told through the rich variety of Palestinian films.

#### **How many movies are going to be featured in the film festival?**

TPFF will screen 37 films representing a variety of genres. Of those, 20 films are Canadian premieres, five films are North American premieres, and one film is a Toronto premiere. The films represent many genres including fiction, documentary, shorts, and experimental.

#### **What film directors or actors will be attending the festival?**

Jackie Reem Salloum, director of the documentary *Slingshot Hip Hop*, will be in attendance at her film's screening, as well as participating in a panel entitled "Palestinian Cinema and Cultural Resistance." Also in attendance are members of the Legal Research and Advocacy Team of Al Haq, a Palestinian human rights legal organization, based in Ramallah. Following the screening of their documentary *Memory of the Cactus*, they will host a discussion on the establishment of "Canada Park".

The other directors, actors and speakers in attendance at the festival will be announced on the TPFF website.

#### **How will this festival contribute to the Toronto?**

TPFF will contribute to the cultural richness that Toronto is known for. We are fortunate to live in a city that celebrates cultural diversity, and TPFF is happy to introduce Torontonians to the various genres of Palestinian films.

Torontonians have been very receptive and supportive of this festival. We were very pleased with the diverse audience of 650 people who attended our pre-festival screening of *33 Days* in July 2008.

This festival is a chance for people to connect to the stories of Palestine and to learn about the lives of Palestinians, to celebrate and learn about Arab culture and to encourage discussions about the issues facing our community.

---

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

tel: 647 882-9231

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

fax: 905 270-3628

## Toronto Palestine Film Festival

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

- 2 -

TPFF is very pleased with the support it has received from our sponsors and other film festivals co-presenting several films in the festival including Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, Images Festival, ImagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, the Inside Out: Toronto Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival and the National Film Board.

### **What are some themes that the diverse array of films selected will address?**

We are very happy to be showcasing the works of a diverse group of film-makers. They include Canadians and non-Canadians, Arabs and Palestinians, youth filmmakers and a strong representation of the works of acclaimed female directors. As a result of this diversity, the films delve into many different topics about Palestinian identity.

For example:

- *Mother of Palestine* examines the role of women in holding together their families, as well as greater society
- *The Land Speaks Arabic* tells the first hand stories of Palestinians who survived the Nakba
- *Zero Degrees of Separation* examines the Mid-east conflict through the eyes of a mixed Palestinian and Israeli gay and lesbian couples
- *All that Remains* explores the situation of Arab Bedouins of the Negev Desert and the Israeli policies that have stripped them of their rights
- *First Picture* tells the story of a young boy who is born and raised in a woman's prison and then removed from his mother at the age of three.
- *Gaza: Another Kind of Tears* follows Palestinians farm workers waiting at checkpoints to get to their jobs on Israeli farms
- *Maria's Grotto* deals with the issue of honour killings and patriarchal family structures
- *Welcome to Hebron* bares witness to female students trying to get to school and the abuse they face from the settlers of Hebron
- *Slingshot Hip Hop* shows how Palestinian youth use hip hop as a way to challenge the occupation and poverty they face.

### **How to Purchase Tickets**

The full programme, and movie trailers are on the TPFF website [www.tpff.ca](http://www.tpff.ca). For a limited time, the Festival is offering the TPFF 10 pass, which provides 10 films for \$50, a savings of 50%. Single tickets can be purchased in advance online or at the Toronto Women's Bookstore in Toronto or Palestine House in Mississauga. Tickets can be purchased at the venues during the festival.

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

tel: 647 882-9231

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

fax: 905 270-3628