

# Toronto Palestine Film Festival

September 26-October 2, 2009

102A-1075 Bay St., Ste 148

Toronto, ON M5S 2B2

Media Advisory: September 28, 2009



## **JEWELS IN THE MACHINE: Toronto Palestine Film Festival's Art Exhibition**

**EVENT:** Jewels in the Machine: New Media Works at TPF  
**WHO:** Toronto Palestine Film Festival  
**WHEN:** Sept 28 - Oct 3, 12:00pm - 7:00pm  
Exhibit Opening: Tuesday Sept 29, 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
**WHERE:** Beaver Hall Gallery, 29 McCaul St., Toronto, ON

***Jewels in the Machine*** is a group exhibition of new media works in conjunction with the Toronto Palestine Film Festival. Curated by **Reena Katz**, the exhibition integrates TPF's mandate to share and celebrate the richness and diversity of Palestine and Palestinians with Toronto audiences. Using an array of technological practices including video, digital photography, projection and audio composition, the artists in the exhibition explore themes of motion, embodiment, violence, resistance and generational memory. Their work offers nuance and depth to the narratives of Palestine and diaspora so often simplified in the West.

Jewels in the Machine features works by London, Ontario-based senior artist Jamelie Hassan; Venice Biennale exhibitors Sandi Hilal & Alessandro Petti; Local composer and audio innovator John Kameel Farah; internationally acclaimed video artist Jumana Manna; and the illustration work of art students from Project Hope's Graphic Novel initiative in Nablus.

### **MONDAY SCREENING and DISCUSSION FORUM**

Together with **Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival**, TPF will screen ***Indecisive Moments*** on **Monday Sept. 28, 7:00pm** at the **AGO Jackman Hall theatre**.

#### ***Indecisive Moments* LARRY TOWELL IN ATTENDANCE**

Larry Towell | 2008 | 45 min | Documentary | Canada/Palestine | Toronto Premiere



Intending to document the birth of a nation following the Oslo Agreement, famed Magnum photographer Larry Towell ended up recording what he later referred to as "the World's largest open-air prison." The film is a personal video diary of his experiences in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, which bridges the gap between artist and journalist. *Achievement in Filmmaking for a Documentary* *New York International Independent Film and Video Festival 2007*

The first segment of ***Road Movie*** (Elle Flanders, Tamira Sawatzky), a 12 Screen Multi-Media Installation on the road system in Palestine will debut. Other segments will run before each film.

Sept 28 Panel: **Not Your Harem Girl - Cinema and Stereotypes**, 4:00-6:00 pm William Doo Aud., 45 Willcocks St, Panellists: Dana Olwan, Nahed Mansour, Natalie Kouri-Towe.  
Panel looks at stereotypical representations of the Arab in film, particularly the Arab woman, and how young Arab artists are subverting stereotypes through art.

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

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## BACKGROUNDER – Description of Works

***The Oblivion Seekers, 1985*** – Jamelie Hassan – London, ON (2009 DVD format premiere of film-installation work) source: The Carnavalesque Catalogue, 2008



*The Oblivion Seekers*, an installation/ performance work includes 2 films played simultaneously – home movie from 1955 in colour and black & white news footage – combined with film of Hassan's microfiche search of the London Free Press. Audio includes commissioned electronic and guitar music by Gerry Collins based on a recording of legendary Egyptian singer Umm Kalthoum, with original text by Lillian Allen based on the 19th century prose of Swiss-Algerian writer Isabelle Eberhardt and fragments from the autobiographical text of Umm Kalthoum.

***Wanderings and Places 2009, short pieces for electronics and piano***– John Kameel Farah – Toronto, ON



John's original composition for TPFF expands on his ongoing explorations of electronic piano works, dealing with musical architecture and complex forms. In this gallery-specific context, musical fragments are positioned as places in the mind, landscapes and rivers; a composer's sketches hanging in the air for someone to eavesdrop on. source: [www.johnfarah.com/](http://www.johnfarah.com/)

***Decolonizing Architecture*** – Sandi Hilal + Alessandro Petti – London, UK + Bethlehem, Palestine



(Silent Projections) source: [www.decolonizing.ps](http://www.decolonizing.ps)  
*Decolonizing Architecture* is a multi-faceted project in Palestine, which uses architecture to articulate the spatial dimension of a process of decolonization. It deals with a fundamental question: how Israeli colonies and military bases - architecture of Israel's colonization – could be reused, recycled or re-inhabited by Palestinians, at the moment they are unplugged from the military/political power that charges them.

***The West Bank: A Collection of Graphic Novels*** – Project Hope – Nablus, Palestine



(Cells from upcoming book) source: [www.projecthope.ps](http://www.projecthope.ps)  
Project HOPE provides educational, medical relief and arts instruction to youth in the Nablus area. Under Rebecca Cox's mentorship, the youth completed a course on the art of the graphic novel at Al-Najah University. Their collected stories will be published in a book format this year. *The Promise* by Insaf Al-Shahed deals with the emotional experiences of Palestinian siblings separated and divided by war and occupation.

***Familiar + Ramallah Computer Game*** – Jumana Manna – Oslo, Norway + Jerusalem, Palestine



(Two Video Works) <http://www.artpalestine.org/jumana-manna-familiar/>  
Manna's mother/daughter video portrait *Familiar* viscerally searches for a sense of comfort and satisfaction, as the artist is seen breastfeeding from her mother at an adult age. Her homage to this intensely personal relationship attempts to return to unconditional love.

*Ramallah Computer Game* is a video installation which uses sound and digital processing on an aerial shot of a demonstration in Ramallah, showing the eerie similarity between military crowd control and video game aesthetics.

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