

Toronto Palestine Film Festival

September 26-October 2, 2009

102A-1075 Bay St., Ste 148

Toronto, ON M5S 2B2

MEDIA ADVISORY - For Immediate Release

September 22, 2009



Toronto Palestine Film Festival Opens with the Canadian Premiere of *Amreeka*

EVENTS: Toronto Palestine Film Festival – Opening Night
DATE: Saturday, September 26, 2009 at 6:30
WHERE: Bloor Cinema, 506 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON

From **September 26 to October 2**, the 2nd annual Toronto Palestine Film Festival (TPFF) will showcase [34 films](#), including 11 Canadian and three North American premieres, with eight directors in attendance. TPFF will also [host](#) a **contemporary art exhibit**, a **film & food brunch** and several **discussion forums**.

TPFF opens with the Canadian premiere of the internationally [acclaimed](#) feature film and Canadian [co-production](#) *Amreeka* ([trailer](#)). The film's director, **Cherien Dabis**, will be in attendance and conducting a Q & A with the audience after the screening.

Palestinian-American Cherien Dabis has been named one of Variety's "Ten Directors to Watch" in 2009. She makes her feature writing and directorial debut with *Amreeka*, winner at Cannes 2009 and nominee at Sundance 2009. *Amreeka* is a comedy-drama about Muna, a single mother who leaves Ramallah with her teenage son, Fadi, to provide him with a better future in small-town Illinois. As Fadi learns to navigate high school hallways, Muna, a former bank employee, scrambles together a new life by making hamburgers at the local White Castle.

Presenting non-stereotypical cinema, TPFF celebrates film as an art form and means of expression by presenting the extraordinary narrative of a dispossessed people living in exile and under occupation.

Other TPFF Events:

SAHTAIN! Film & Food Brunch. Sept 27, 11:00-1:00 pm, 93 HARBORD, 93 Harbord St.
Traditional Palestinian brunch with demo by chef Isam Kaisi and screening two food-themed short films.

ART EXHIBIT '09 *Jewels in the Machine: New Media Works at TPFF*

Sept 28 - Oct 3, 12:00pm - 7:00pm, Beaver Hall Gallery, 29 McCaul St., Exhibit Curator: Reena Katz
Innovative and provocative video, audio and visual installations by Canadian and international artists.

FORUMS '09

Not Your Harem Girl: Cinema and Stereotypes (Sept 28, 4:00-6:00 pm, William Doo Aud. 45 Willcocks St)
Cinema Politica: Film and the Art of Resistance (Sept 30, 3:30-5:30pm, Beaver Hall Gallery, 29 McCaul)
Steel for the Spirit: Palestinian Cultural Production Today (Oct 2, 3:30-5:30pm Beaver Hall Gallery)

For more information on TPFF or to schedule interviews with Cherien Dabis or other directors please see **TPFF 2009 Media Kit** at www.tpff.ca/media.htm.

Contact: media@tpff.ca or 647-865-4090.

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www.tpff.ca

email: media@tpff.ca

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tel: 647-865-4090