

MEDIA ALERT: Immediate Release

Toronto Palestine Film Festival 2023 Commemorates 16 Years of Cultural Resilience

September 18, 2023

What: Toronto Palestine Film Festival

When: September 27 - October 1, 2023

Where: TIFF Bell Lightbox, Opera House, Petra Restaurant

Online via TPFf.ca (Sept 27-Oct 4)

Tickets: [TPFF.ca/program-2023](https://www.tpff.ca/program-2023). More info are available [here](#)

Toronto, ON – From **September 27 to October 1, 2023**, the 16th Toronto Palestine Film Festival (TPFF) will showcase a captivating lineup of films, and special events including an art exhibition, a concert, an author talk, and our annual Sahtain Brunch. The festival engages audiences in-theatre and online by offering a platform for powerful Palestinian narratives and creative expressions.

TPFF 2023 returns with an array of thought-provoking films that delve into Palestinian experiences. Through poignant storytelling, these films capture the essence of Palestinian identity, resilience, and the intricate connections between culture, history, and contemporary challenges. The festival provides a platform for filmmakers, artists, and writers to share their work and perspectives, fostering a deeper appreciation for Palestinian culture.

TPFF would like to acknowledge funding support from the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) and the Government of Ontario for their support. The grant has helped make it possible to bring the sixteenth annual TPFf to audiences in Toronto and the GTA. TPFf was also awarded a Toronto Arts Council (TAC) “Visual/Media Arts: Presentation Project Grant”. All promotional materials, advertising and programs were produced with the support of the City of Toronto through TAC.

The festival also received an OAC Music Production and Presentation Projects Grant for “Faraj Suleiman Live in Toronto”. The grant has made it possible to bring a major Palestinian Artist to Canada for the first time and to assemble a backing group of 9 Ontario based musicians to support Faraj’s performance.

With the hybrid program, our audience can join us from all around the world to enjoy powerful and groundbreaking Palestinian stories.

Films will be available to watch online until October 4, 2023. The full program and tickets are available at: <https://www.tpff.ca/program-2023>.

Special Events:

[Opening and Closing Night Films \(Sept 27 and Oct 1\)](#): The festival commences with “Alam, The Flag”, a powerful debut feature film from Firas Khoury, that marries conversations around nationalism and iconography with the universal themes of growing up. The closing night film “Mediterranean Fever” by Maha Haj is a psychological thriller by the award-winning director.

[Art Show \(Sept 27 -Oct 1\)](#): Shepherded Towards a Yellowish Field: the works of Palestinian-Canadian artist Nour Bishouty. Free exhibition in the lobby of the TIFF Bell Lightbox (TBL).

[Visualizing Palestine Exhibition and Talk \(Sept 27-Oct 1\)](#): TPFf hosts an exhibition of Visualizing Palestine's research-based visuals. On October 1st, 4pm, Aline Batarseh, Visualizing Palestine's executive director will be giving a talk on Visualizing Palestine and the displayed works. Free event, TBL.

[Faraj Suleiman Concert \(Sept 28, 7:30pm\)](#): For the first time in Canada, internationally-acclaimed Palestinian composer Faraj Suleiman and his band will perform hits at the Opera House. His music features melodies and stories of Palestinian strangled dreams in the city of Haifa, musical images of love, frustration, and migration, in the shadow of colonialism and gentrification. Ticketed event. For more info check the following [link](#).

[Author Talk: Isabella Hammad \(Sept 30, 5:00 pm\)](#): Author Isabella Hammad will be launching her critically acclaimed second novel Enter Ghost. This novel follows her award-winning debut The Parisian (2019)." Free event, TBL.

[Homegrown Shorts \(Sept 29, 6:00 pm\)](#): TPFf proudly presents new works by local Palestinian filmmakers - including three TPFf film residents. Free screening, TBL.

[In Conversation with Chef Fadi Kattan \(Sept 29, 6:30 pm\)](#): TPFf is thrilled to be hosting culinary luminary – Chef Fadi Kattan. Chef Fadi's will discuss how culinary traditions passed through the generations shape Palestinian identity and feed Palestinian resilience. Free event, TBL

[Geometric Design Workshops for Adults and Youth \(Sept 30 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm\)](#): Artist Ola Alanqar will be hosting workshops - one geared to youth and one to adults - that celebrates the beauty and cultural significance of Islamic mosaics. Registration required, TBL.

[Sahtain! Brunch \(Oct 1, 11:00 am\)](#): Guests are invited to Petra Restaurant in Mississauga for the Sahtain! Brunch, a culinary journey through Palestine's traditional breakfast cuisine, fostering community connections. Ticketed Event. For more info check the following [link](#).

For complete program details and ticket information, please visit <https://www.tpff.ca/program-2023/>. Join us at #TPFF2023!

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About TPF:

Toronto Palestine Film Festival is an annual cultural event that celebrates the art of storytelling through film. Established in 2008, TPF remains dedicated to celebrating Palestinian heritage and narratives through the medium of film.

For media inquiries, please contact Rahaf Farawi, media liaison, or Fadwa Hadeed at media@tpff.ca. Media accreditation form available [here](#).

Website: www.tpff.ca

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/topalestinefilmfestival/>

Twitter: [#TPFF2023](https://twitter.com/TPFF)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TorontoPalestineFilmFestival>

Threads: [@topalestinefilmfestival](https://www.threads.net/@topalestinefilmfestival)

TPFF 2023 AT A GLANCE

WED SEP 27	THU SEP 28	FRI SEP 29	SAT SEP 30	SUN OCT 1
Art Exhibition: Nour Bishouty				
6:00 PM OPENING ART EXHIBITION: Nour Bishouty	 DOORS 7:00 PM Faraj Suleiman Live in Toronto @The Opera House	6:00 PM TPFF Homegrown Shorts	1:00 PM Twelve Beds w/ Mohammed (excerpt, 3 x 13)	11:00 AM Sahtain! Brunch @Petra Restaurant Mississauga
7:00 PM OPENING NIGHT Alam, The Flag w/ Coming Home		6:30 PM Talk w/ Chef Fadi Kattan	3:30 PM Notes on Displacement w/ 45th Parallel	2:00 PM The Promise w/ Last May in Palestine
		8:00 PM Three Promises w/ Paradiso, XXXI, 108	5:00 PM Author Talk w/ Isabella Hammad	4:30 PM We No Longer Prefer Mountains w/ Hush
			5:45 PM Tomorrow's Freedom w/ Palestine 87	7:00 PM CLOSING NIGHT Mediterranean Fever
			8:15 PM A Gaza Weekend w/ Zoo	

EXPLORE THE FULL PROGRAM



SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

- Children & youth programs
- Visualizing Palestine
- Workshops
- Post-screening Q&As and more!

LEGEND

IN-THEATRE & ONLINE*

IN-PERSON

IN-THEATRE ONLY

*Online films available from launch to October 4, 11:59 PM