

BOSTON PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS

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To make a donation, please visit <http://www.bostonpalestinefilmfest.org>



Friday October 16, 2009

The Center for Arts at the Armory

7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

OPENING PARTY Tickets: \$30 per person



Maysoon Zayid is an actress and professional standup comedian. Maysoon runs art and wellness programs for disabled and wounded refugee children and orphans in Palestine.



Poet & writer **Remi Kanazi** is a Palestinian-American poet and writer based in New York City. He is the editor of the recently released collection of poetry, spoken word, hip hop, and art, *Poets For Palestine*.

~Live music, food and exhibits featuring: Road Movie: a Multi-Media art installation designed by Elle Flanders and Tamira Sawatzky, Youth Visions of Jerusalem exhibit, works by photographer Rania Matar (raniamatar.com), and Palestinian jewelry designer Hiam Rouhana~

191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143

www.ArtsattheArmory.org

Saturday October 17, 2009

Museum of Fine Arts 2:00 pm

Fatenah (2009). Ahmad Habash and Saed Andoni, 3-D Animation, 30 min., Palestine USA Premiere



Fatenah, the first-ever Palestinian 3-D animated feature film, is inspired by a true story of a Palestinian woman living in Gaza who discovers she has breast cancer. Her struggle for survival brings the audience into the painful and humiliating journey of those who suffer from terminal illnesses in the context of Israel's debilitating siege.

For additional programming, locations, and information, please visit www.bostonpalestinefilmfest.org.

This Palestinian Life (2009). Philip Rizk, Documentary, 28 min., Palestine

Director TBD



This film, by Egyptian journalist and activist Philip Rizk, gives voice to Palestinian villagers who recount their experiences of engaging in nonviolent resistance in an ongoing effort to remain steadfast (*sumoud*).

Gaza Winter (2009). Raed al-Helou, Ismail Habbash, and Najwa Najjar, 35 min.

Director will be present. World Premiere

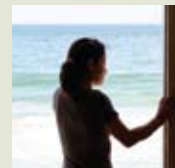


During the winter of 2008-9, as Israel smashed into Gaza, filmmakers living in Ramallah met in an attempt to channel their anger into a creative collective effort. The result was *Gaza Winter*, a compendium of shorts from filmmakers in Palestine, Jordan, the Golan Heights, and Europe.

Museum of Fine Arts 4:30 pm

Terrace of the Sea (2009). Diana Allen, Experimental Documentary, 57 min., Palestine

Special Preview. Director will be present.



Terrace of the Sea, shot in 2008 in Jal el-Bahar, South Lebanon, is a meditation on the distances between memory, photography, and film. It explores relationships between past and present, land and sea, and seeing and being seen.

Merely a Smell (2007). Maher Abi Samra, Documentary, 10 min., Palestine



Lesh Sabreen [Why Sabreen]? (2009). Muayad Alayan, Narrative Short, 20 min., Palestine



This brief haunting film brings the viewer into the anguishing experience of living through the 2006 Israeli war on Lebanon.

Set in a Palestinian neighborhood in Jerusalem, *Lesh Sabreen?* tells the story of two young lovers as they navigate myriad interwoven layers of authority in an effort to realize their hopes for the future.

Museum of Fine Arts 7:00 pm

OPENING FILM

Pomegranates & Myrrh (2009). Najwa Najjar, Narrative Feature, 95 min., Palestine

Director will be present.



This feature tells the story of a newly-wed, freespirted dancer in Ramallah whose husband, Zaid, is imprisoned for resisting Israeli confiscation of their land, leaving her torn between abiding by societal norms and fulfilling her own desires.

Sunday October 18, 2009

Museum of Fine Arts 12:30 pm

Palestine in Fragments (2007). Dominique Dubosc, Documentary, 82 min., France

Using images shot between 2001 and 2007, the director assembles a series of short documentaries that move between



Fasateen [Dresses] (2002). Raeda Adon, Narrative Short, 8 min.



impressionistic studies of unusual spaces and structures observed in the occupied Palestinian territories to informal interviews with West Bank Palestinians.

Based on photographs of black dresses in Lifta, a Palestinian village near Jerusalem whose houses have stood empty since 1948, the film reincarnates, and reconnects us with, the dresses' original wearers.

Penelope (2008). Samer Salameh, Experimental, 3 min., Syria



This brief experimental piece explores what happens when a life in exile becomes indistinguishable from a surreal dream.

Museum of Fine Arts 3:00 pm

Heart of Jenin (2008). Leon Geller and Marcus Vetter, Documentary, 90 min., Germany



Heart of Jenin tells the true story of a grieving Palestinian father who decided to donate the organs of his 12-year-old son (who was shot by an Israeli soldier while playing) to sick Israeli children. This moving film documents the father's encounters with the four children who received the transplants and with them, the gift of life.

Tuesday October 20, 2009

Harvard University 6:00 pm

From Khalil to Qalqilya: Witness to Occupation (2009). Chris Belcher, Documentary, 90 min., Palestine



This film, shot on location, depicts the lives of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza under occupation, including live confrontations with Jewish settlers shot from within private homes.

Around (2007). Mohanad Yaqubi, Documentary-Short, 3 min., Palestine



A group of four young filmmakers in a blue Fiat Uno make their way through the West Bank from Jenin to Ramallah to have their favorite pizza—a trip considerably lengthened by Israeli checkpoints.

Harvard University 8:00 pm

Shadow of Absence (2007). Nasri Hajjaj, Documentary, 84 min., Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, France, UK, Bulgaria, USA, and Vietnam



This film explores the anxiety that Palestinians experience about the site of burial, which lies at the heart of their dream to open up a spiritual gate that will lead them back home.

Wednesday October 21, 2009

Harvard University 6:00 pm

Over their Dead Bodies: Tantura, the Forgotten Massacre. Arab Loufti, Documentary, 113 min.



In May 1948, Tantura, a former Palestinian Arab fishing village south of Haifa, was attacked by Jewish Haganah forces as part of a regional "cleansing" operation. In this film, expelled residents share their recollections of what happened on that fateful night.

Harvard University 8:00 pm

Degrees of Incarceration (2008). Amahl Bishara, Nidal Al-Azraq, Documentary, 65 min, Palestine

Directors will be present.



This documentary explores the toll that the high rate of Palestinian imprisonment takes on a refugee camp, a family, and individual lives, shedding light on a pivotal issue in Palestinian society that is little known outside it.

Shadow in the Dark (2008). Jihad Sharkawi, Narrative, 19 min., Palestine



This low-budget film showcases the creativity of two siblings who try to cope in the aftermath of the destruction of Gaza's only power plant during an Israeli air strike in 2006.

Thursday October 22, 2009

Museum of Fine Arts 7:00 pm

City of Borders (2009). *Yun Suh, Documentary, 66 min., USA/Israel/Palestine*



City of Borders takes viewers into Shushan, a gay bar in the heart of Jerusalem, where people of opposing nationalities, religious affiliations, and sexual orientations gather under one roof. *City of Borders* explores this community's daily fight for dignity.

Gaza-London (2009). *Dima Hamdan, Narrative Short, 15 min., UK*

Director will be present. USA Premiere



Mahmoud, a Gazan studying in London, watches Operation Cast Lead unfold on his computer screen. This is an intimate portrayal of what it's like to live through war on one's homeland from afar.

A Boy, a Wall, and a Donkey (2008). *Hani Abu Assad, Narrative Short, 3 min., Palestine*



Intent on making a film, a group of resourceful young boys decide to go where the cameras are, even if that means the middle of the Gaza Strip.

Friday October 23, 2009

Museum of Fine Arts 8:30 pm

American Radical: The Trials of Norman Finkelstein (2009). *David Ridgen and Nicolas Rossier, Documentary, 90 min., USA*



American Radical is the definitive documentary about American academic Norman Finkelstein, devoted son of Holocaust survivors, ardent critic of Israel and US Mideast policy, and author of 5 provocative books including *The Holocaust Industry*.

Saturday October 24, 2009

Museum of Fine Arts 2:00 pm

Seeds of Peace (2008). *Andre Kloer, Documentary, 60 min., The Netherlands*



This film highlights the no-win situation facing Palestinian workers in the West Bank and the perils of pushing for their labor rights through the story of Jawdat Talousy, a Palestinian who worked in the Israeli industrial complex Nitzanei Shalom (Seeds of Peace).

Keffiyeh: Made in Palestine (2009). *Benoit Faiveley, Documentary, 7 min., Palestine*



French journalist Benoit Faiveley visits the last Palestinian keffiyeh factory in Hebron on the West Bank and finds business endangered by Israeli restrictions and now competition from Chinese manufacturers.

Sedition (2008). *Min Sook Lee, Documentary, 16 min., Canada*



Spoken word slam artists Rafeef Ziadah and Boonaa Mohammad pack their poetic punches with bullseye aim at the politics of exile and identity. *Sedition* is a tale for the masses; spoken words to unsettle the ruling classes.

Museum of Fine Arts 4:30 pm

GAZA IN FOCUS

Young Freud in Gaza (2009). *PeA Holmquist and Suzanne Khardalian, Documentary, 58 min, Sweden*



Filmed between 2006 and 2008, *Young Freud in Gaza* follows Ayed, a Palestinian psychologist in northern Gaza, during therapy sessions that he conducts with Hamas militants and grieving youth. The challenging therapeutic goal is to restore a sense of security.

To My Father (2008). *Abdelsalam Shehada, Documentary, 52 min., Palestine*



Set partly in a refugee camp in Rafah, this poetic retrospective homage to the studio photographers of the 1950s-1970s looks back at 50 years of Palestinian and Arab history.

Daggit Gaza (2009). *Hadeel Assali and Iman Saqr, Experimental Short, 8 min., USA*



Politics, food, and family are the topics of a phone conversation between Houston and Gaza that serves as voiceover commentary to the preparation of a spicy tomato salad.

Museum of Fine Arts 7:00 pm

FILM/POETRY EVENT: REMEMBERING MAHMOUD DARWISH

A special program commemorating the life and work of Mahmoud Darwish will follow the film.

Mahmoud Darwish—As the Land is the Language (1997). *Simone Bitton, Documentary, 60 min., France*



Filmmaker Simone Bitton interviews the late Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish about his art, life, and relationship with his homeland. Readings of Darwish's work by the poet himself are set against scenes of the Palestinian countryside, which is conjured up and recreated in his verse.

Sunday October 25, 2009

Museum of Fine Arts 12:30 pm

Five Minutes from Home (2008). *Nahed Awwad, Documentary, 52 min., Palestine/Turkey/Switzerland*



Five Minutes from Home focuses on the growing isolation of Palestinians in recent decades. The history of the Jerusalem Airport symbolizes this: Once a world hub, it is now the filthy end of it.

On the East Side (2009). *Mahassan Masser-Eldin, Narrative Short, 23 min., Palestine*



This short fresh film describes the lives of an eclectic bunch of friends as their day unfolds in occupied East Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, The Adulterous Wife (2008). *Matthias De Groof, Experimental Short, 8 min., Belgium*



This film juxtaposes archival footage of archaeological digs in Jerusalem with quotations of Biblical punishment for adultery creating an oblique but

provocative look at Jerusalem's status as an ancient city and as territory claimed by both Palestine and Israel.

Museum of Fine Arts 3:00 pm

The Dupes (1972). *Tawfik Saleh, Narrative Feature, 107 min.*



The Dupes, one of the first Arab films to address the Palestinian question, follows three Palestinian refugees trying to cross from Iraq into Kuwait concealed in a truck in the 1950s. Adapted from the 1962 novella *Men in the Sun* by assassinated Palestinian writer Ghassan Kanafani.

Monday October 26, 2009

Harvard University 7:00 pm

YOUTH VISIONS OF JERUSALEM: VOICES BEYOND WALLS

Short Films & Photography by Palestinian Youth (2009). *90 min., Palestine*

Presented by Nitin Sawhney.



Youth Visions of Jerusalem is a unique program of digital video, photography, and storytelling workshops. Conducted by Voices Beyond Walls, the program supports Palestinian youth in expressing their cultural identity, personal narratives, and creative visions of Jerusalem.

Tuesday October 27, 2009

Harvard University 6:00 pm

Jehad in Motion (2007). *Richard Fung, Experimental Loop, 26 min., Canada*

USA Premiere



Rendered on a split screen, *Jehad in Motion* is a double portrait of a man and the two cities he calls home, Toronto and Hebron. *Jehad* synthesizes the challenges and possibilities in these two very different but overlapping worlds.

This is a single split-screen preview version of a two-screen video installation.



Young Palestinian Filmmakers Series: Stories from Dar al-Kalima College, Bethlehem, Palestine

Razan (2008). *Hiba Ghasub and Nassarat Rashed, Documentary Short, 20 min., Palestine*

Razan explores the lack of services available to the handicapped in Palestine and the importance of education and cultural heritage.

I Want to Live (2009). *Ahmad Hamad, Documentary Short, 16 min., Palestine*

I Want to Live is the heartbreaking story of a young man with an apparent mental disability and his struggles to live a normal life despite abusive treatment from his father, stepmother, and some in his community.

I Am Not Just a Number (2009). *Thaer Azzeh, Documentary Short, 12 min., Palestine*

This short film explores the life of a very poor Palestinian family. The director is inspired by Marie Antoinette's phrase, "If there is no bread, let them eat cake."

Harvard University 8:00 pm

Take Me Home (2008). *Mais Darwazah, Documentary, 54 min., Palestine*



An observational first-person look into the lives of a dispersed Palestinian family. The director questions her personal fears and clings to the recollection of intimate moments shared with her grandmother and great aunt.

The I Word: Seeking Dialogue on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (2007). *Daniel Freshman and Lauren Hind, Documentary, 44 min., USA*

Directors will be present.



This film seeks to illuminate how in the US, voices seeking Middle East reconciliation have been marginalized and ultimately silenced in the public debate. The film features such noted figures as Professors John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, former president Jimmy Carter, and Prof. Norman Finkelstein.

Wednesday October 28, 2009

Kendall Square Theatre 7:00 pm
GAZA IN FOCUS

I Am Ghazza (2009). *Asma Bseiso, Documentary, 42 min., Palestine*

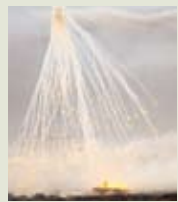
USA Premiere



Filmed in Gaza after the 2008-9 Israeli invasion, this film uncovers the personal stories not reported by the media. It also examines the long-term psychological

and social impacts of war on the people of Gaza and the challenges they face as they try to reconstruct their shattered lives.

Gaza Winter (2009). *Raed al-Helou, Ismail Habbash, and Najwa Najjar, 35 min., Various*



During the winter of 2008-9, as Israel smashed into Gaza, filmmakers living in Ramallah met in an attempt to channel their anger into a creative collective effort. The result was *Gaza Winter*, a compendium of shorts from filmmakers in Palestine, Jordan, the Golan Heights, and Europe.

Fatenah (2009). *Ahmad Habash and Saed Andoni, 3-D Animation, 30 min., Palestine*

Fatenah, the first-ever Palestinian 3-D animated feature film, is inspired by a true story a Palestinian woman living in Gaza who discovers she has breast cancer. Her struggle for survival brings the audience into the painful and humiliating journey of those who suffer from terminal illnesses in the context of Israel's debilitating siege.

Kendall Square Theatre 9:00 pm

Rachel (2008). *Simone Bitton, Feature Documentary, 202 min, Belgium & France*



From 2003 to 2008, filmmaker Simone Bitton gathered testimonies, written documents, still photos, and video footage about the killing of Rachel Corrie, an American peace activist who was crushed to death by an Israeli army bulldozer while she was serving as a human shield to prevent the destruction of private homes in Rafah in the Gaza Strip.

Thursday October 29, 2009

Kendall Square Theatre 7:00 pm

Arafat & I (2007). *Mahdi Fleifel, Romantic Comedy, 15 min., UK*



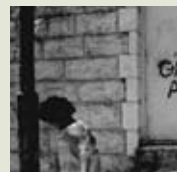
There's a crowd, especially in bed, in the romantic comedy *Arafat & I*.

Pomegranates & Myrrh (2009). *Najwa Najjar, Narrative Feature, 95 min., Palestine*

This feature tells the story of a newlywed, freespirted dancer in Ramallah whose husband, Zaid, is imprisoned for resisting Israeli confiscation of their land, leaving her torn between abiding by societal norms and fulfilling her own desires.

Kendall Square Theatre 9:00 pm

Welcome to Hebron (2007). *Terje Carlsson, Documentary, 55 min., West Bank, Palestine/Sweden*



Welcome to Hebron was filmed during more than three years on location in Hebron, West Bank. It features 17-year old Leila, a student at the al-Qurtuba-school, a Palestinian girls' school surrounded by Israeli military installations and settlements.

Sedition (2008). *Min Sook Lee, Documentary, 16 min., Canada*

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. *Sedition* is a tale for the masses; spoken words to unsettle the ruling classes.

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Mahmoud, a Gazan studying in London, watches Operation Cast Lead unfold on his computer screen. This is an intimate portrayal of what it's like to live through war on one's homeland from afar.

Saturday October 31, 2009

Kendall Square Theatre 11:45 am

Bil'in Habibti [Bil'in My Love] (2006). *Shai Carmeli Pollack, Documentary, 84 min., Israel*



Due to the planned construction of the Separation Wall, the Palestinian village of Bil'in in the West Bank is about to lose more than half of its land to Israel. Village residents decide to embark on a nonviolent struggle. The director, a former IDF soldier, confronts the military.

Kendall Square Theatre 1:30 pm

Intifada NYC (2009). *David Teague, Documentary, 47 min., USA*
Director TBD



The opening of the United States' first Arabic language public school provoked a firestorm of allegations that the school would teach radical Islam and even

produce terrorists. In the tense post-9/11 environment, controversy forces the school's Arab-American Muslim principal to resign. *Intifada NYC* chronicles the story.

This Palestinian Life (2009). *Philip Rizk, Documentary, 28 min., Palestine*
Director TBD

This film, by Egyptian journalist and activist Philip Rizk, gives voice to Palestinian villagers who recount their experiences of engaging in nonviolent resistance in an ongoing effort to remain steadfast (*sumoud*).

Kendall Square Theatre 3:00 pm

DIRECTOR RASHID MASHARAWI RETROSPECTIVE – PART 1

Ticket to Jerusalem (2002). *Rashid Masharawi, Drama, 85 min., Palestine*

Director will be present.



This film chronicles the lives of Jabir, a middle-aged Palestinian freelance film exhibitor and his wife Sana, an emergency medical worker, in the West Bank.

Sunday November 1, 2009

Museum of Fine Arts 2:30 pm

DIRECTOR RASHID MASHARAWI RETROSPECTIVE – PART 2

Curfew (1994). *Rashid Masharawi, Drama, 73 min., Palestine*

Director will be present.



In Masharawi's first feature film, the effects of a curfew upon one extended family during a single day are chronicled in this drama set in Gaza in 1993, before the Oslo Accords.

Viewers experience life under curfew and gain insight into societal dynamics at play in an earlier, somewhat less restricted period in Palestine.

CLOSING FILM

Museum of Fine Arts 5:00 pm

DIRECTOR RASHID MASHARAWI RETROSPECTIVE – PART 3

Laila's Birthday ('Eid Milad Laila) (2008). *Rashid Masharawi, Drama, 72 min., Palestine*



Gazan-born director Rashid Masharawi captures the absurdity of the Palestinian situation in this comically deadpan, stop-and-start "road trip" through the land of checkpoints and barriers. A former judge who still retains his regal bearing, Abu Laila now drives a taxi to make ends meet. Our harried hero is also trying to regain his former position and today at least, needs a birthday cake for his daughter.



Look for Me – The Children of Gaza (2009). *Tone Andersen, 3 min.*



This brief video focuses on the civilians who live through war and conflict in Gaza and elsewhere. Dedicated to Gaza, it will be shown before various screenings throughout the festival.