

BOSTON PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29th

Coolidge Corner Theatre 12pm



GOING FOR A RIDE? by Nahed Awwad
Palestine, 2003, 15 min

Based on the art installation 'Going for a Ride?' by Palestinian artist Vera Tamari, Awwad's film blends the absurd, the comical and the violent with its focus on cars crushed by the Israeli Army and their owners.



ARNA'S CHILDREN by Juliano Mer Khamis
Palestine, 2003, 84 min

Director will be present.

A Jewish woman, Arna Mer Khamis, established a children's theater in Jenin. Two decades later, after Israel's attack on the refugee camp in 2002, her son Juliano takes us back to see what has happened to the children since. "A must-see documentary...a devastating group portrait of the legacy of occupation."—Variety

Kendall Square Cinema 3pm



THE PRICE OF FREEDOM by Martin Ginestie
Palestine, 2007, 19 min

Considered by many to be the Nelson Mandela of Palestine, political leader Marwan Barghout languishes in an Israeli jail. This short documentary explores the potential role a freed Barghout might someday play in Palestine's future.



BELONGING by Tariq Nasir
USA, 2006, 68 min

Director will be present.

A story of deep-rooted attachment to one's land, the loss of an ancestral home, and the experience of being made a refugee—as told by two generations of a Palestinian family, this is a human story, one of displacement and loss, longing and belonging.

Museum of Fine Arts 7:15pm



LEILA KHALED: HIJACKER by Lina Makboul
Sweden, 2005, 58 min

Director will be present.

In 1969, Palestinian Leila Khaled made history by becoming the first woman to hijack an airplane. This documentary provides a portrait of Khaled and an examination of the nebulous dichotomy between "terrorist" and "freedom fighter." In this film, Makboul asks complex questions about the legacy of her childhood hero.



8:30pm
FESTIVAL OPENING PARTY

The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, 230 The Fenway, Boston. (8:30pm-12am)

Performance by Simon Shaheen, Palestinian oud and violin virtuoso, live music by Aboud Albert Agha (oud and singer), Anastassia Zachariadou (Kanun, Flutes), Walid Zairi (Bass and Oud), and April Centrone (Percussionist). Come enjoy food by Casablanca Restaurant, live music and the company of many of our featured directors, actors and speakers.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30th

Coolidge Corner Theatre 12pm



LEMONADE by Hicham Kayed
Lebanon, 2004, 12 min

Brothers endeavor to make the most of their school break by selling lemonade. This video short was executed with the participation of youth in Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.



STILL LIFE by Diana Keown Allan
USA/Lebanon, 2007, 23 min

Director will be present.

The life of an elderly refugee living in exile is examined with the help of a series of personal photos that survived his expulsion in 1948 from current day Israel.



JUST MARRIED by Ayelet Bechar
Israel, 2005, 71 min

Director will be present.

A wedding hall in northern Israel, two hundred guests, dancing, cake and a bride in a white dress. Kifah Massarwi, an Israeli citizen, has organized a wedding for herself, minus the groom as part of her bitter battle against the Israeli Citizenship Law which won't allow her to live with her new husband.

Kendall Square Cinema 3pm



PRIVATE by Saverio Costanzo
Italy, 2004, 90 min

Actor Mohammed Bakri will be present.

A psychological drama about a Palestinian family of seven, suddenly confronted with the volatile situation of the Israeli army taking over their home, mirroring the larger ongoing reality of the Israeli occupation.

Kendall Square Cinema 5pm



JENIN JENIN by Mohammed Bakri
Palestine, 2002, 54 min

Director will be present.

Testimony from Jenin residents after the Israeli army's Defensive Wall operation in April 2002, during which the city and refugee camp were the scenes of fierce fighting and scores of Palestinians killed. The film shows the extent to which the prolonged oppression and terror has affected the state of mind of the Palestinian inhabitants.



SINCE YOU LEFT by Mohammed Bakri
Israel, 2005, 60 min

Director will be present.

In this autobiographical essay, Palestinian-Israeli director Bakri returns to the grave of his former mentor, the writer and communist Emile Habibi, and attempts to account for the personal and political transformations that have occurred in Palestine as well as within his own thinking since the author's death.

MONDAY OCTOBER 1st

Harvard University 7:00pm



PALESTINE YOUTH MEDIA
USA/Palestine, 2006-2007, 120 min

Creative media projects and video shorts (5-10 mins each) by Palestinian youth (ages 10 and up) living in refugee camps in the West Bank. Weaving together original stories, drama, photography and video these youth express their own perspectives on Palestinian history, culture and life under occupation, as well as their dreams and aspirations. This special program showcases selected work emerging from digital storytelling workshops conducted in 4-6 Palestinian refugee camps by US-based groups Voices Beyond Walls and US-Palestine Youth Solidarity Network.

Discussion with workshop organizers follows the screenings.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 2nd

Harvard University 6:30pm



USA vs. AL-ARIAN by Line Halvorsen
USA, 2007, 99 min

A close portrait of an Arab-American family facing terrorism-related charges from the U.S. Government within a society where fear is increasingly used to justify discrimination against Muslims. Al-Arian's case is one of the first major tests of the USA PATRIOT Act.

Harvard University 8:30pm



ALL THAT REMAINS by Nada El Yassir
Israel, 2005, 52 min

The Negev Desert, encompassing 60% of historic Palestine, was once widely populated by Bedouin Arabs. Since the creation of Israel in 1948, a majority of those Bedouins have been uprooted and forced to live under draconian restrictions. All That Remains powerfully documents their efforts at peaceful resistance.



RAINBOW by Abdel Salam Shehada
Palestine, 2004, 39 min

Rainbow documents the killing and structural devastation in Rafah, caused by Israel's Operation Rainbow in May 2004. Filmmaker Shehada explores his own difficulty in coming to terms with his role as a news cameraman during the Intifada. This film offers a rare glimpse of life in Gaza after the cameras stop rolling.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3rd

Harvard University 6:30pm



THE IRON WALL by Mohammed Alatar
Palestine, 2006, 57 min

After 1967 and the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, the aim of the settlement movement became clear: create facts on the ground that make the creation of a Palestinian state impossible. Israel's almost surgical placement of The Wall renders this long-held intention inescapably—and quite literally—concrete. "The best description of the barrier, its routing and impact is shown in the film *The Iron Wall*."—President Jimmy Carter



CONFRONTING THE WALL: ART AND RESISTANCE IN PALESTINE by Alan Greig
USA/Palestine, 2007, 29 min

Director will be present.

Refusing to leave their home, a Palestinian family must face the dramatic—and absurd—development of Israel's building its Apartheid Wall around them, creating a virtual cage in which they must live. The family resists peacefully by creating a mural that covers the Wall.

Harvard University 8:30pm



I WON'T RUN by Christopher Pastor
USA, 2007, 4 min

A music video mosaic of images from life under Occupation in the West Bank, providing commentary on the media's unbalanced reporting.



OCCUPATION 101 by Sufyan and Abdallah Omeish
USA/Palestine, 2005, 90 min

Winner of numerous awards, this documentary presents a compelling analysis of the facts and hidden truths surrounding the conflict. As the real obstacles to a viable peace are illuminated, many long-standing myths and misconceptions are dispelled. "A visual revolution is born."—In Focus



DRYING UP PALESTINE by Peter Snowden and Rima Essa, Palestine, 2007, 28 min

A portrait of the stresses and strains imposed on Palestinian society by Israel's almost total control over access to water resources in the West Bank, told in the words of ordinary people.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 4th

Museum of Fine Arts 6pm



OPEN HEART by Claire Fowler
Palestine, 2006, 22 min

In this documentary, Claire Fowler follows a dramatic life or death crisis; a baby must have surgery to repair a congenital heart defect to get help his West Bank family must journey to Jerusalem by way of several checkpoints.



HARDBALL by Suha Arraf
Palestine/Israel, 2006, 52 min

Inside Israel, the small Arab town of Sakhnin, like much of the rest of the world, is just wild about soccer. Despite hardships, Sakhnin, has produced an edgy, hungry soccer team that managed, against all odds, to win Israel's national cup in 2004.

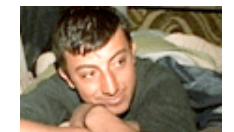
Museum of Fine Arts 7:45pm



EXILES IN JERUSALEM by Muayad Alayan
Palestine, 2005, 20 min

Director will be present.

Jerusalem has been inflected with two separation walls in the last 60 years: one erected between 1948 and 1967 wars, the second being built now. Through the accounts of his father and his best friend, in this film the director shows how these walls continue to cast lives into exile.



9 STAR HOTEL by Ido Haar
Israel, 2007, 78 min

An extraordinary exposé of Palestinian construction workers who cross the border each morning in order to make a living. Their determination to survive is inspiring.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 5th

Museum of Fine Arts 5:30pm



THE COLOR OF OLIVES by Carolina Rivas
Mexico, 2006, 97 min

The Aamer family's home has become an island, divided from both their farmland and their neighbors by the Apartheid Wall. This visually striking film calmly presents each family member's daily struggles along with endearing details that sustain each of them, including their olive trees, two small donkeys, and friendships.

Museum of Fine Arts 7:30pm



LA ULTIMA LUNA by Miguel Littin
Chile, 2005, 105 min

Director will be present.

Set in 1914 on the West Bank in Palestine, this film presents the life story of the director's grandparents before they emigrated to Chile. Filmed on location in the West Bank, this film explores notions of place and belonging while chronicling a period marked by mounting tensions between Palestinian and Jewish families. Co-presented with Boston Latino International Film Festival.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 6th

Museum of Fine Arts 12pm

EMERGING PALESTINIAN DIRECTORS

Palestine Summer 2006 by Palestinian Filmmakers Collective and Akka Films, Palestine, 2006, 35 min

Thirteen 3-minute films, each restricted to one shot, create a mosaic of the Summer of 2006.



Make a Wish by Cherien Dabis
Palestine, 2006, 12 min

A young Palestinian girl will do whatever it takes to buy a birthday cake.



Bethlehem Bandolero by Larissa Sansour
Palestine, 2004, 5 min

A quirky journey through Bethlehem as the filmmaker "duels" The Wall.



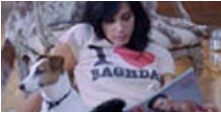
Kemo Sabe by Rana Kazkaz
USA, 2007, 12 min

Yussef, a six year old Arab-American boy wants to be the Cowboy, not the Indian.



The Way Back Home by Ghada Terawi
Palestine, 2006, 33 min

Artists in the diaspora share their intimate feelings and memories of Palestine.



The Seventh Dog by Zeina Durra
UK/USA, 2005, 20 min

A comic short about the lives of Arabs in New York City following 9/11.

Kendall Square Cinema 3pm



HAPPY DAYS by Larissa Sansour
Palestine, 2006, 3 min

Happy Days is a playful video that exposes everyday Palestinian life under Israeli occupation. Sansour underlines both the apathy of the western public to media coverage of the conflict and the blurry boundary between that news and entertainment.



A PALESTINIAN WOMAN by Andrew Courtney and Emily Perry, USA, 2006, 24 min
Directors will be present.

Outspoken and eloquent Terry Boulatta, mother, teacher and community activist, shows us how the Wall chokes her neighborhood in East Jerusalem, and separates it from adjacent Palestinian communities.



THIS BODY IS A PRISON by Dylan Bergeson
Palestine, 2007, 45 min

Shot on video over four months, this film captures the reality of the psychological trauma Palestinians, particularly youth, are suffering from by living under Israeli occupation. It manages to convey existence in a world where complexity is denied by violence, where everyday life is a struggle, and yet, through that struggle, art and education persist.

Kendall Square Cinema 5pm



DRIVING TO ZIGZIGLAND by Nicole Ballivian
USA/Palestine, 2006, 92 min

Director will be present.
U.S. PREMIERE

In this hilarious film, Bashar, a Palestinian cab driver in Los Angeles struggles to become a legitimate actor while trying to make the money to pay the utilities amidst the chaos of post 9/11 American passengers and Homeland Security. All the while, memories of his life in the theater back in Palestine pose big questions for his fate and role in his new country.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 7th

Museum of Fine Arts 3:30pm

PALESTINE REVOLUTIONARY CINEMA

A program of six vintage short films from 1969 to 1980, curated by Emily Jacir.

AWAY FROM HOME by Qais il Zobaidi, Syria, 1969, 11 min

THE VISIT by Qais il Zobaidi, Syria, 1970, 10 min



CHILDREN NONETHELESS by Khadija Abu Ali
Palestine, 1980, 25 min



THEY DON'T EXIST by Mustafa Abu Ali
Palestine, 1974, 25 min



BORN OUT OF DEATH by Monica Maurer
Palestine, 1981, 9 min

KOFR SHOBA by Samir Nimr, Palestine, 1972, 34 min

Museum of Fine Arts 5:45pm



PALESTINE BLUES by Nida Sinnokrot
Palestine, 2006, 73 min

Director will be present.

A bereft farmer grieves for his ancient orchard as bulldozers lay it to waste. Peaceful resistance grows in its place.

Museum of Fine Arts 7:30pm



DRIVING TO ZIGZIGLAND by Nicole Ballivian
USA/Palestine, 2006, 92 min

Director will be present.

U.S. PREMIERE

See previous description for film screening on Saturday October 6th at Kendall Square Cinema.

9:30pm

FESTIVAL CLOSING RECEPTION

Casablanca Restaurant, 40 Brattle St, Harvard Square, Cambridge. (9:30pm-12am)

Come mark the conclusion of the festival by celebrating with the organizers as well as many of the featured directors and speakers.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Boston Palestine Film Festival is sponsored by Tawassul, an organization committed to sharing and celebrating Palestinian arts and culture. Tawassul is a program of the Middle East Charitable and Cultural Society Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization.

This festival features a range of compelling and thought-provoking documentaries, dramatic features, rare early works (1969 to 1980), and new films by emerging artists. These films from international directors bring an honest, self-described, and independent view of Palestine and its diasporic society, culture and political travails. The nine days of screenings will take place at the Museum of Fine Arts, Coolidge Corner Theatre, the Kendall Square Cinema and Harvard University*. The festival encompasses over 40 films, Q&A with visiting directors, an opening and closing party with international directors, actors and academics and the US premiere of Driving to Zigzagland with director Nicole Ballivian present.

*Harvard festival program is co-presented with the student organizations 'Justice For Palestine' and 'Alliance for Justice in the Middle East' at the Harvard Law School (Langdell South, 1563 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge).

All film screenings at Harvard are free. Tickets are needed for festival opening/closing parties and film screenings at other theater venues.

For more information and ticket prices please visit www.bostonpalestinefilmfest.org

Festival brochure, posters and website designed by Vassia Alaykova. www.vassiadesign.com

Sponsors



Co-presenter
Museum of Fine Arts



Silver Sponsor
Casablanca Restaurant



Thanks to all donors and volunteers for supporting this festival.

Special thanks to Abdul Muhsin Al-Qattan for his very generous contribution.

BOSTONPALESTINE



FILM FESTIVAL

Film Program Schedule

September 29-October 7, 2007

www.bostonpalestinefilmfest.org