

# Arabian Sights

2014

FILM FESTIVAL

Contemporary  
Arab Cinema

November 1 - 9

FILMFESTDC.ORG

# Arabian Sights

*Presented by the Washington, DC International Film Festival*

The **Arabian Sights Film Festival** returns for its nineteenth year with a new and exciting program featuring the latest films from the Arab World today. Select directors will accompany their films, conduct post screening discussions, and an Audience Award for favorite film will be presented. All films will be screened with English subtitles. Visit [filmfestdc.org](http://filmfestdc.org) for updates on films, guests, and events.

## Tickets

**MISSIONTIX** 1-888-996-4774

\$12.00 per person for each screening, unless otherwise noted.

Advance sales are subject to a convenience fee.

Tickets may be purchased at [filmfestdc.org](http://filmfestdc.org) and at the theater starting one hour before the first show.

## Festival Pass

A special package of 9 tickets is available online and at the theater for a discounted price of \$90. Advance sales subject to a convenience fee. This package does not include Closing Night.

## Sponsors



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## Thank You

**Shirin Ghareeb**, *Arabian Sights Festival Director and Programmer, and Deputy Director of the Washington, DC International Film Festival.*

*Special thanks to Kristin Van Meerbeke, Coordinating Assistant, Press Relations; Jared Traver, Technical Coordinator; Mary Pettigrew, ampersand graphic design; Tuan Tran, Webmaster; and all Theater Managers, Assistants, and Volunteers.*

*Special thanks to the Embassy of Algeria and the Algerian Cultural Agency (AARC).*

# Contemporary Arab Cinema FILM FESTIVAL

November 1 - 9

## Festival Schedule

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

#### At Goethe-Institut

- 2:00 pm *Giraffada*
- 4:00 pm *Abd El Kader*
- 6:30 pm *Challat of Tunis*
- 8:30 pm *Sotto Voce*

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

#### At Goethe-Institut

- 3:00 pm *Abd El Kader*
- 5:00 pm *Challat of Tunis*
- 7:00 pm *Villa 69*

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

#### At AMC Mazza Gallerie

- 6:30 pm *Certified Halal*
- 8:45 pm *Ghadi*

#### At The Embassy of France

- 6:30 pm *The Proof*
- 8:45 pm *Rock the Casbah*

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

#### At AMC Mazza Gallerie

- 2:30 pm *Giraffada*
- 4:30 pm *Sotto Voce*
- 6:30 pm *Rock the Casbah*
- 8:30 pm *Ghadi*

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

#### At AMC Mazza Gallerie

- 2:00 pm *The Proof*
  - 4:00 pm *Villa 69*
  - 6:30 pm *Certified Halal*
- Followed by a  
Closing Party, \$17.00

## Locations

#### AMC Mazza Gallerie

5300 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20015

#### Embassy of France

4101 Reservoir Road, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20007

#### Goethe-Institut

812 7th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

For more information  
& updates:

[Filmfestdc.org](http://Filmfestdc.org)  
202-234-FILM





## North American Premiere

### **Abd El Kader**

Sat., Nov. 1 at 4:00 pm, Goethe-Institut

Sun., Nov. 2 at 3:00 pm, Goethe-Institut

A documentary that tells the story of Abd El Kader, a man larger than life, a warrior prince, philosopher and mystic. For many years, this Algerian national legend fought bravely for the freedom of his country against one of the most advanced armies in Europe. His fame as a freedom fighter and as the George Washington of Algeria led a group of Iowans to honor him by naming their new town after him in 1846, the only Arab and Muslim who received this recognition. Abd El Kader was also widely recognized and admired for his tolerance and the need for coexistence of people of various faiths. He courageously helped save thousands of Syrian Christians from the 1850 massacres and was awarded the sword of honor by Abraham Lincoln.

–Various Sources

*Algeria, Directed by Salem Brahimi, 2014, 96 minutes. In Arabic, French, and English with English subtitles.*



## American Premiere

### **Certified Halal**

Fri., Nov. 7 at 6:30 pm, AMC Mazza Gallerie

Sun., Nov. 9 at 6:30 pm, Followed by a Closing Party, AMC Mazza Gallerie, \$17.00

They planned everything except losing the bride! In southern Algeria, two processions collide at the tomb of the local mystic. Amidst confusion, two brides are switched... Kenza, a Parisian student kidnapped and drugged by her brother is to marry a chicken breeder. She's mistaken for Sultana, who's promised to a shepherd. With unexpected twists and turns Kenza escapes whereas her counterpart hasn't met with any luck. Drugged, Sultana cannot run from Attalah at the night of their wedding... What remains are the nuptials to wash away the infamy. But will Sultana submit to the laws of tradition? This entertaining comedy stars Hafsia Herzi and Mourade Zeguendi. From the director of *Beur, Blanc, Rouge (Arabian Sights, 2006)*. –Various Sources

*Algeria/France, Directed by Mahmoud Zemmouri, 2014, 90 minutes. In French and Arabic with English subtitles.*

*Special thanks to Turkish Airlines*

## Challat of Tunis

Sat., Nov. 1 at 6:30 pm, Goethe-Institut

Sun., Nov. 2 at 5:00 pm, Goethe-Institut

A mockumentary, full of satire and irony, that will have you laughing and surprised at the same time. It is summer 2003 in Tunisia. A man on a moped lurks the streets of Tunis, with a razorblade in hand. Known as Challat, he is on a personal mission: to slash the most beautiful derrières of women strolling along the city's sidewalks.

Tunisian women start to change the way they dress: no more tight jeans, or mini skirts. From one neighborhood to another, the most unlikely of stories circulate about him. After the revolution, one woman sets out to track him down, determined to clear up the mystery of Challat, at any cost. –*Various Sources*

*Tunisia/France/Canada/United Arab Emirates, Directed by Kaouther Ben Hania, 2013, 89 minutes. In Arabic with English subtitles.*



## North American Premiere

### Ghadi

Fri., Nov. 7 at 8:45 pm

AMC Mazza Gallerie

Sat., Nov. 8 at 8:30 pm

AMC Mazza Gallerie

Leba (Georges Khabbaz), a music instructor, resides in a small neighborhood within a traditional Lebanese coastal town, where he marries his childhood sweetheart, Lara. They are blessed with two beautiful daughters, Yara and Sarah, and they are overjoyed to learn that their third child, Ghadi, is a boy. Ghadi, turns out to be very special. Leba convinces the villagers that his son is an angel and only makes noise when one of them – a thieving policeman, a bad-mouthed barber, and a corrupt butcher, among others – commits an indiscretion. Rumors quickly spread that this angel can also make dreams come true. Suddenly, the villagers' transgressions are put into check and Ghadi becomes a window of hope. –*Various Sources*

*Special thanks to Turkish Airlines*

*Lebanon, Directed by Amin Dora, 2013, 100 minutes. In Arabic with English subtitles.*

## Giraffada

Sat., Nov. 1 at 2:00 pm, Goethe-Institut

Sat., Nov. 8 at 2:30 pm, AMC Mazza Gallerie

Ziad, a ten-year-old boy living in the West Bank, is so enamored of the two giraffes at the Qalqilya Zoo that he can communicate with them. Ziad enjoys helping his recently widowed father, Yacine (Saleh Bakri), a veterinarian who works hard to protect the zoo as a haven for animals. When one of Ziad's beloved giraffes is lost in an airstrike, Yacine is determined to bring in a new mate from the Ramat Gan safari park in Israel. Inspired by a true story, *Giraffada* beautifully illustrates the bond that can grow between children and animals, while raising important questions about social justice. This film also stars Roschdy Zem and Mohammed Bakri. Appropriate for ages 10 years and older. –*Toronto International Film Festival*



*France/Germany/Italy/Palestine, Directed by Rani Massalha, 2013, 85 minutes. In Arabic, English, and Hebrew with English subtitles.*



## American Premiere

### **The Proof**

Fri., Nov. 7 at 6:30 pm, Embassy of France

Sun., Nov. 9 at 2:00 pm, AMC Mazza Gallerie

Ali, a taxi driver in Algeria, is afraid. His wife, Houria, has two daughters by her deceased first husband, but their hopes for a baby of their own are fading. Secretly, Ali goes to another town to have his fertility tested—with the feared negative result. On his way back, Ali gives the pregnant Fatima a ride. Shortly after, the young woman claims that he is the father of her unborn child. When Houria leaves him, Ali can either

reveal his infertility or live with his alleged infidelity. He could easily save his marriage—but at what cost to his manhood? From the director of *The Yellow House* (*Arabian Sights*, 2008), *The Proof* is a captivating film about the fetters of traditional beliefs. —*Various Sources*

*Algeria/France/United Arab Emirates, Directed by Amor Hakkar, 2013, 95 minutes. In Arabic with English subtitles.*



### **Rock the Casbah**

Fri., Nov. 7 at 8:45 pm, Embassy of France

Sat., Nov. 8 at 6:30 pm, AMC Mazza Gallerie

Winner of the Signis Award during Filmfest DC (2014) and back by popular demand! Set in a lavish villa in Tangier, *Rock the Casbah* unfolds over the three days of mourning by local custom, following the death of a major family patriarch, Moulay Hassan. The solemnity of the occasion is disrupted by the unexpected return of the rebellious youngest daughter who left Morocco, against her father's wishes, seeking an acting career in the United States. Her sisters, rattled by her unsettling antics, come to reconsider their life choices in moments of emotional reckoning. And as their father's remains are prepared for burial, the three siblings find themselves unearthing some dramatic family secrets. This bittersweet drama laced with satire stars some of the Arab world's most acclaimed female actors: Hiam Abbas, Nadine Labaki, Lubna Azabal, and Morjana Alaoui, supported by screen icon Omar Sharif.

—*Toronto International Film Festival*

*France/Morocco, Directed by Laila Marrakchi, 2012, 100 minutes. In French and Arabic with English subtitles*



## Sotto Voce

Sat., Nov. 1 at 8:30 pm

Goethe-Institut

Sat., Nov. 8 at 4:30 pm

AMC Mazza Gallerie

In 1958, Algeria is still under French occupation. Hassan, a speech-language pathologist and lover of opera music, has formed a chorale made up of young deaf-mutes to whom he teaches vocalization. However the director of the medical establishment is abusive and the deaf-mutes kill him. To save them from the death penalty reserved for those who kill a Frenchman and to protect this exceptional chorus, Hassan and his pupils are going the flee through the Algerian Moroccan border, the Morice line, an electrified and mined belt of seven hundred kilometers. Winner of the Best Film Awards at the Tangier Film Festival and the African Cinema Festival of Khouribga. –*Various Sources*



*Morocco/United Arab Emirates, Directed by Kamal Kamal, 2013, 94 minutes. In Arabic and French with English subtitles.*



## Villa 69

Sun., Nov. 2 at 7:00 pm, Goethe-Institut

Sun., Nov. 9 at 4:00 pm, AMC Mazza Gallerie

Villa 69 is the place of residence of Hussein (Khaled Abol Naga), a stubborn and bad tempered old man. When his loyal housekeeper leaves for a few days to look after his father, Hussein finds his life turned upside down, especially after his sister Nadra (Lebleba) arrives to stay, bringing along her son, Seif, her maid, and driver in tow. Hussein is ordered, grumpy and set in his ways, but loves the company of women, and while he battles with his interfering sister, he slowly comes to bond with Seif and helps him with his own romantic issues. Hussein is effortlessly portrayed by Abol Naga and there are delightful moments of humor from his character's outbursts. *Villa 69* is the winner of the Special Jury Award at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival and received the highest number of awards at the Egyptian Film Association Festival for Best First Feature for Ayten Amin, Best Leading Actor for Khaled Abol Naga, and Best Supporting Actor for Omar El-Ghandour. –*Various Sources*

*Egypt, Directed by Ayten Amin, 2013, 120 minutes. In Arabic with English subtitles.*



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