January 11 to February 15, 1996

ARABIAN SIGHTS
Contemporary Arab Cinema

The Washington, DC International Film Festival
P.O. Box 21396
Washington, DC 20009
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Contemporary Arab Cinema

Major Sponsors:
Center for the Study of the Global South, The American University
Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University

presented by:
The Washington, DC International Film Festival

Some of the most evocative and exciting cinema in the world today is emanating from the Arab World. The rich historical, cultural, social, and political dynamics in this region are reflected in a unique tradition of widely-acknowledged filmmaking.

Arabian Sights brings together fine examples of recent Arab cinema. While there is no single form or style of cinema from this region, underlying unity does exist. This series provides insight into cultures where filmmaking requires efforts of almost heroic proportions. Yet somehow, with all the difficulties, there are new films, good films, turning up all the time. Arab cinema is a progressive and continuously evolving art form, with each new film expressing distinct dimensions of Arab reality and creativity.

Admission is $5.00 per person for each screening.

Opening night: 5:10 pm per person.

Location: All films will be shown at the Cinéplex Odeon Foundry Theatre, 1185 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW (Georgetown, off M Street between 30th and 31st Streets).

For more information call 220-274-6310.

This series is also sponsored by the Arab Renaissance Council of Washington, DC, a private, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Official Radio Station of狐狸狐 2003.

Arabian Sights is programmed and coordinated by Sharrif Sadek, Assistant Director of the Washington, DC International Film Festival.

Algeria
Bab El-Oued City
Thursday, January 11th
6:30 pm
Cinéplex Odeon Foundry Theatre

An Opening Night reception hosted by the Embassy of Algeria will immediately follow the screening at the theatre atrium ($10 ticket).
RSVP at 220-274-6310 by January 5th

(1994, Monkat Allezade, 93 minutes) One of the most noted recent productions from the Arab World and winner of the international critics' prize at Cannes, this film takes place in Algeria. 1988, not long after the Algerian riots. Young Boualem works nights in a bakery and sleeps during the day. While he sleeps, the message of Said's Islamic fundamentalist movement reaches around fifteen loudspeakers throughout the working-class district.
One night Boualem can no longer bear the noise and he takes one of the loudspeakers from the roof and throws it into the sea. This leads to his imprisonment.
Special guest speaker: Osman Bencherif, Ambassador of Algeria

Lebanon
Time Has Come
Thursday, February 1st
6:30 pm
Cinéplex Odeon Foundry Theatre

(1994, Jean-Claude Coste, 85 minutes) Two Lebanese who had fled their homeland during the civil war now decide to return. He's a failed musician and she's a bourgeoisie who found her place in Paris society. They meet on the boat to Lebanon. The film chronicles their rediscovery of their country and their reconciliation with the past.
Guest speaker: Ambassador Clovis Maksoud, Director of the Center for the Study of the Global South, The American University

Syria
The Extras
Thursday, February 8th
6:30 pm
Cinéplex Odeon Foundry Theatre

(1993, Haif Keaskir, 105 minutes) At a coffee house in Damascus, a young man and his friends become involved in a political intrigue.

Guest speaker: Dr. Taimer Naim, Research Professor, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University

Morocco
A Door to the Sky
Thursday, January 18th
5:30 pm
Cinéplex Odeon Foundry Theatre

(1988, Fadila Assa, 107 minutes) A modern-day mystic tale, this film traces the enlightenment of a young westernized Moroccan woman caught between alien modernity and traditional roles. Returning from France after the death of her father, Nadia encounters a woman from her mystical past. After a bitter inheritance struggle with her brother, Nadia turns the family home into a salt hospital for women. Through the renewal of this "salt" tradition, she finds community, identity and love.

Guest speaker: Mohammed Chebbab, Voice of America, AMA Television

Egypt
The Emigrant
Thursday, January 25th
6:30 pm
Cinéplex Odeon Foundry Theatre

(1994, Yousef Charane, 125 minutes) Yousef Charane is one of Egypt's most famous and accomplished filmmakers. His latest work is a film about the lives of the rural farmers in Egypt. It centers around a man who has lived his entire life as a farmer and dreams of changing his way of life. He has long understood that the precarious day-to-day existence of his tribe has to change.

Guest speaker: Ambassador Clovis Maksoud, Director of the Center for the Study of the Global South, The American University

Tunisia
The Magic
Thursday, February 15th
6:30 pm
Cinéplex Odeon Foundry Theatre

(1994, Aziz Fazaa, 90 minutes) A ten-year-old boy is sent to the city to see his parents, who have moved to France. He is looking for someone to help him. When he finds him, he finds himself free to do as he pleases. That's when the day he makes a magic box he considers to be his dream.

Guest speaker: Soudam Insan

(1994, Ibrahim Shadid, 26 minutes) The story of a shepherd from the south of Sudan who leaves his village to escape poverty and boredom and settles in a nearby town. Eventually, the desire to escape the town comes upon him very soon, but it is difficult for him to do so.

Guest speakers: Barbara Snow, Director, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University and Zebu Ban Hamida, Tunisian Information Office.