Admission is $6.50 per person for each screening. Tickets for any film in the series may be purchased at the theater starting one hour before the first show.

**Festival Pass**

Tickets for the six films will be available as a package for $33 at start of series only.

**Location**

All films will be shown at the Cineplex Odeon Tenley Theaters, 4200 Wisconsin Avenue, NW. Take Metro Red Line to Tenleytown.

Parking is available in the building along Van Ness Street, and at 4000 Wisconsin Avenue.

For more information on this series call 202-724-5613.

Arabian Sights is programmed and coordinated by Shirin Ghorehchi, Assistant Director of The Washington, DC International Film Festival.

Special thanks to:

- Cineplex Odeon Theaters
- Donohoe Real Estate Services
- GDG
  The Georgetown Design Group
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The Official Radio Station of Filmfest DC

Romeo and Juliet are shown in collaboration with the American Research Center in Egypt, funded in part by the USIA, Egyptian Ministry of Culture, and the Egyptian National Film Center.

**January 20 - February 5**

Arabian Sights 1998

*Contemporary Arab Cinema*
Arabian Sights 1998

The third annual Arabian Sights offers Washingtonians a rare opportunity to view contemporary Arab cinema, reflecting a wide array of times and genres by a new generation of filmmakers who have charted new horizons in Arab cinema.

Romantica

American Premiere
Tuesday, January 20th, 6:30 pm
Thursday, January 22nd, 8:30 pm

(1996, Zahi Fawaz Abdul el-Walab, Egypt, 105 min.) Son of legendary singer and actress Layla Murad and filmmaker Fawz Abdul el-Walab, Zahi provides us with a semi-autobiography in his debut film. Hassen is an inexperienced young man, aspiring to direct his first film. He shares his sense of loneliness, frustration, and alienation with the “Kharteya,” a group of rebellious youth living on the edge of society and earning a living hustling tourists. Romantica offers a poetic and ironic glance at the “ghetto” West and its magical appeal.

Chronicle of a Disappearance

Tuesday, January 20th, 8:30 pm
Thursday, January 22nd, 6:30 pm

(1996, Elia Salama, Palestine, 90 min.) Winner of Best First Feature at the 1996 Venice Film Festival and featured in New Directors/New Films, 1997. After twelve years of self-imposed exile, filmmaker Salama, living in New York, returns home in search of her ex-husband. But his journey uncovers a culture which has been uprooted. And so the images are strong together like memories in an attempt to weave a whole out of elements that have been blasted apart. This film is a personal meditation upon the spiritual effect of political instability on the Palestinian people, their psyche, their identity. As such, it is an invaluable contribution to the struggle for peace in the region.

Bye-Bye

Washington, DC Premiere
Thursday, January 29th, 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm

(1995, Karim Dridi, France/Switzerland/Belgium, 105 min.) Tunisian-French Director Karim Dridi explicitly portrays Arab-French culture in this bold feature. His camera seeks out the anomalies of fashion and love in the Mediterranean port of Marseille, while giving space to the intimate story of a young man faced with his own all-too-human weaknesses. Dridi’s great strength as a filmmaker is in integrating the mood—smells, sounds, shadows—of a place into his compositions. Bye-Bye was the opening night film at New Directors/New Films, 1996.

Life...My Passion

Washington, DC Premiere
Tuesday, February 3rd, 6:30 pm
Thursday, February 5th, 8:30 pm

(1995, Magdi Ali Ahmed, Egypt, 110 min.) This warm comedy introduces three indomitable women, friends since childhood, with no male guardians. A high-spirited but insensibly reckless woman, a jealous fundamentalist, and an amnesiac but deadly rich man are just a few of the colorful characters they encounter in a convoluted search for viable spouses. Through their prevarications and fleeting courtesies, their only assets are mutual friendship and sheer force of personality. In this exuberant film, Magdi Ali Ahmed provides a panoramic view of the challenger, female anatomy in contemporary Egypt.

Sous les pieds des femmes

American Premiere
Tuesday, February 3rd, 8:30 pm
Thursday, February 5th, 6:30 pm

(1997, Rachida Krim, Algeria/France, 85 min.) This film took France by storm this year winning all four of the most prestigious national prizes for screenplays. It is 1958 in the south of France. Aya, a young Algerian woman meets Amin, a leader of the clandestine Algerian resistance movement. They will live a passionate and secretive love affair hidden from the eyes of her husband Moreef. Forty years later, Amin, travels from Algeria and visits them in France. Aya remembers...