Arabian Sights 2001
Contemporary Arab Cinema
October 6-14, 2001

presented by
The Washington, DC International Film Festival

The sixth annual Arabian Sights film series offers some of the newest and most engaging cinema from the Arab world today. Cinema is a medium capable of eloquently depicting our relationship to culture and society. Arab cinema is an art form reflecting the rich dynamics of the region. In order to be more inclusive, Arabian Shorts, a selection of short films from some of the area's most talented young film directors, has been added to the program. All films in this series are Washington, DC premieres and are screened with English subtitles.

Sponsors
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities • Center for the Global South, American University • Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University • The Jerusalem Fund • American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee • Mosaic Foundation • Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco • Royal Air Maroc • James & Betty Sams

Egyptian Cultural & Educational Bureau, Embassy of Egypt • American Tunisian Association • Friends of Morocco
**Weekend I**

**Arabian Shorts**

A selection of new short films from the Arab world

- **La femme dévoilée** (Algeria/France, Rachida Krim, Hamid Tazi, 1998, 8 minutes) Five boys spend their days killing time and chatting up women who pass by. A dare is made to pick up the first woman that passes by. Hareth accepts the dare.
- **La douche** (Lebanon/France, Michel Kammoun, 1999, 10 minutes) A struggle between man and water...in the bathroom.
- **Clandestin** (Algeria/France, Abd Hamid Krim, 1999, 14 minutes) The witnessing of a drug transaction opens a door of opportunity for four young men to flee to France.
- **Taxi service** (Lebanon/France, Elie Khalife & Alexandre Monnier, 1998, 13 minutes) Farès wins a contest conducted by a paper tissue company. One day he receives an enormous wooden crate.
- **The Wall** (Morocco/France, Faouzi Benzafi, 2000, 10 minutes) A day in the life of a wall.
- **Marbouk Again** (Lebanon/France, Hany Tawil, 1999, 18 minutes) Hoda decides to meticulously recreate her wedding picture—ten years later—in order to give it to her mother as a gift.
- **Monette** (Algeria/France, Marie Holm, 1999, 9 minutes) An Algerian man decides to find Monette, a woman he wanted to declare his love to 17 years earlier.
- **First Christmas** (Tunisia/France, Kamel Chérif, 1999, 15 minutes) Rafik, a seven year old Tunisian boy, comes to France and learns about Santa Claus.

**Admission**

$8.00 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.

**Location**

All films will be shown at the Locus Cineplex Foundry Theaters, 1055 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW (Georgetown, off M Street between 30th and 31st Streets)

Paid parking is available in the Foundry building across from the theatre.

**Festival Pass**

Tickets for the seven programs are available as a special package for $45 at start of series only. Passes may be reserved by calling 202-274-5613.
Moroccan Chronicles

★ WITH SPECIAL GUEST DIRECTOR MOUHSEN SMIIH

Saturday, October 13th, 9:00 pm
Sunday, October 14th, 7:00 pm

(Morocco, Mouhson Smiih, 1999, 70 minutes) In the Arab storytelling tradition, a mother, whose son is recovering from circumcision, tells him three stories. The first story takes place in the market square in Marrakech where young boys harass a poor monkey trainer and receive a punishment to fit the crime. In the second story, set in Essaouira, a taunting young girl makes fun of an admiring suitor. The third story takes place in Tangiers where four old sailors exchange stories. One of them tells of a treasure lying in the belly of a whale and he is going to harpoon it.

Palestine in Focus

Saturday, October 13th, 7:00 pm and 9:15 pm

CYBER PALESTINE (Palestine, Elia Suleiman, 2000, 15 minutes, video) A present-day Joseph and Mary, awaiting the birth of their child, travel from Gaza to Bethlehem.

UPSIDE DOWN (Rashid Masharawi, Palestine, 2000, 10 minutes, video) The preparation of the traditional Palestinian dish "Makluba" (Upside down) is a visual feast for the eyes.

NAZARETH 2000 (Palestine/The Netherlands, Harry Abu-Assad, 2000, 55 minutes, video) Director Harry Abu-Assad follows two gasoline pump attendants in his native Nazareth on the eve of the new millennium. The result is a portrait of a town divided by religion, where even Arafat and the Pope have become extras.

Speakers of Truth

Saturday, October 13th, 7:30 pm
Sunday, October 14th, 9:15 pm

(Africa/The Netherlands, Karim Traaia, 2000, 70 minutes) Sahafi, an Algerian journalist, survives several attacks on his life. When he comes to Holland to give a lecture, his friend Majid suggests he ask for political asylum. Sahafi seriously considers the proposal. The director provides the audience with a glimpse of Sahafi's life on either path he chooses.

Breeze of the Soul

Sunday, October 14th, 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm

(Syria, Abdallah S. Asaad, 1998, 97 minutes) A compassionate, big-hearted young man leaves a memorable impression with everyone he meets. He is challenged to sacrifice his relationship with his girlfriend in order to save the life of a suicidal friend. Director Asaad's film combines fantasy and realism in this film about a passionate extra-marital affair, love, jealousy and murder.

Special thanks to:

ARABIAN SIGHTS 2001

For more information

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