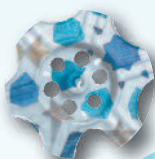


Arabian Sights 20

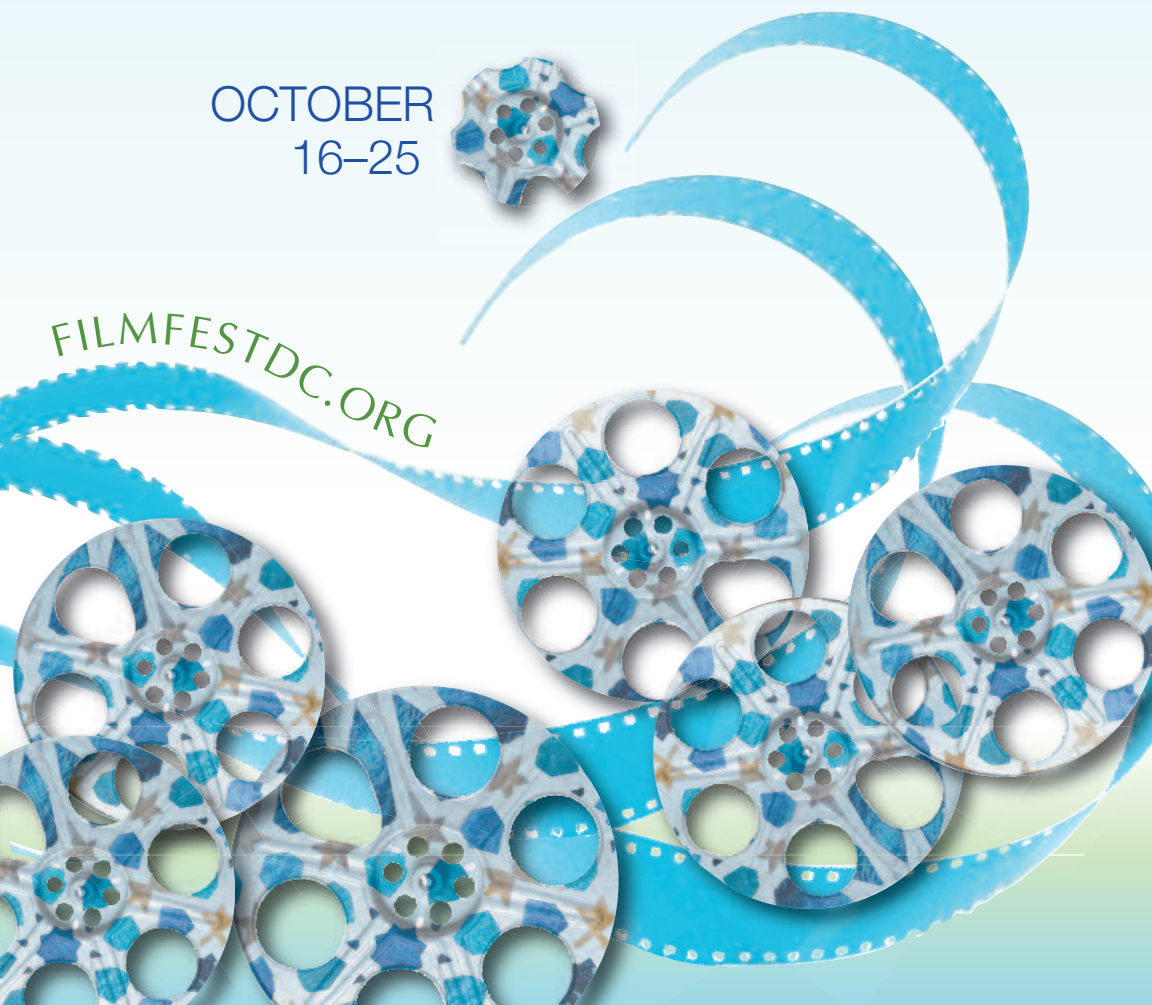
FILM FESTIVAL 2015

*Celebrating 20 Years of
Contemporary Arab Cinema*

OCTOBER
16-25



FILMFESTDC.ORG



Arabian Sights Film Festival is presented by



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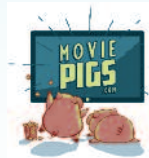
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Thank You

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;
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Theater Managers, Assistants, and Volunteers.

The *Washington, DC International Film
Festival* is the parent organization of the
Arabian Sights Film Festival.

**For more information
& updates:**

**Filmfestdc.org
202-234-FILM**

Arabian Sights 20 FILM FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 16–25, 2015

Celebrating 20 Years of Contemporary Arab Cinema

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Friday, October 16

7:00 pm *Les Petits Chats*
8:45 pm *Far from Men*

Saturday, October 17

4:15 pm *Far from Men*
6:30 pm *A Thousand and One Journeys: The Arab Americans*
Followed by a reception
9:00 pm *Les Petits Chats*

Sunday, October 18

2:30 pm *The Man from Oran*
5:00 pm *The Intruder*
7:00 pm *A Thousand and One Journeys: The Arab Americans*
Followed by a reception

Friday, October 23

6:30 pm *Eyes of a Thief*
8:50 pm *Zinzana*

Saturday, October 24

4:00 pm *The New Arab Cinema Panel*
5:30 pm **20th Anniversary Happy Hour FREE**

6:30 pm *I am Nojoom, Age 10 and Divorced*
9:00 pm *Zinzana*

Sunday, October 25

2:00 pm *I am Nojoom, Age 10 and Divorced*
4:15 pm *Cairo Time*
6:30 pm *From A to B*
Followed by a Closing Party, \$20.00

The *Arabian Sights Film Festival* returns for its celebratory 20th anniversary year with the latest and best films from today's Arab World. Select directors will accompany their films, conduct post-screening discussions, and an Audience Award for favorite film will be presented. New this year will be the *Arabian Sights Jury Award* competition for films deserving of increased recognition. Join us for a festive **happy hour, special events,** and of course a **Closing Night Party** to commemorate this momentous year!

ADMISSION

\$13.00 per person for each screening, unless otherwise noted. Closing Night event (film and party) is \$20.00 per person.

Advance sales are subject to a convenience fee. 1-888-996-4774 **MISSIONTIX**

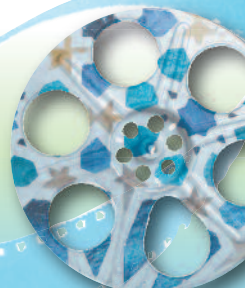
Tickets may be purchased at filmfestdc.org and at the theater starting one hour before the first show.

FESTIVAL PASS

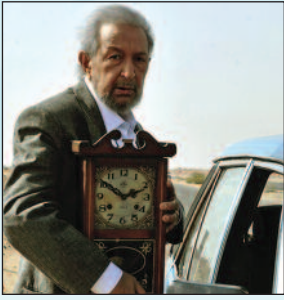
A special package of 10 tickets is available online and at the theater for a discounted price of \$100. Advance sales subject to a convenience fee. This package does not include Closing Night.

LOCATION

AMC Mazza Gallerie Theatre
5300 Wisconsin Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20015



★ ★ ★ ★ *American Premiere* ★ ★ ★ ★



Cairo Time

Sun., Oct. 25 at 4:15 pm

Cairo Time is the multigenerational story of six interconnected characters, all at a turning point in their lives. Lila, a retired actress is looking for her last acting partner, Sam, to resolve unfinished business. Salma, a germaphobe, is dating Wael and they are in a friend's apartment arguing about the biggest decision of their lives. Hazem, a young drug dealer on his way from Alexandria to Cairo, picks up an old man desperate to find the woman in the picture he has carried around for years. Together

they embark on a rollicking journey. *Cairo Time* brings together three Egyptian screen icons: Mervat Amin, Samir Sabry and Nour El-Sherif. From the director of *Jews of Egypt (Arabian Sights, 2013)* comes a film that harmoniously combines comedy, romance, and drama.

Co-presented
with  Middle East
Institute

Egypt, Directed by Amir Ramses, 2014, 110 minutes. In Arabic with English subtitles.

★ ★ ★ ★ *Arabian Sights Jury Award* ★ ★ ★ ★

Eyes of a Thief

Fri., Oct. 23 at 6:30 pm

Inspired by real events, *Eyes of a Thief*, operates simultaneously as a thriller, a relationships drama, and as a nuanced slice of everyday Palestinian life under the Occupation. After ten years in prison, Tarek, (Khaled Abol Naga), is desperate to find his daughter who was an infant when he was imprisoned. The film is set in Palestine's Valley of Thieves – where the film takes its name. A lawless lifestyle seems to have seeped into ten-year old Malak, whom Tarek suspects is his estranged daughter. But her adoptive mother is being forced into an arranged marriage with the town's main businessman with whom Tarek seems to have unfinished business. A story with many facets, *Eyes of a Thief* also boasts three original songs by the Algerian singer Souad Massi, who also acts in the film.



Palestine, Directed by Najwa Najjar, 2014, 98 minutes. In Arabic with English subtitles.



Far from Men

Fri., Oct. 16 at 8:45 pm

Sat., Oct. 17 at 4:15 pm

The year is 1954 at the onset of the Algerian War of Independence. The place is Algeria and former French Army soldier Daru (Viggo Mortensen) just wants to lead a peaceful, quiet life as a schoolteacher in a remote

mountainous town. When he is called to duty to escort an Algerian rebel (Reda Kateb) to a nearby city to stand trial for the murder of his cousin, Daru finds his life turned into chaos. In the spirit of a classic Western, French writer-director David Oelhoffen has expanded Albert Camus' short story *The Guest* into an absorbing survival tale of reserved, morally uncertain men in an unstable warzone in an unrelenting landscape.

France, Directed by David Oelhoffen, 2014, 101 minutes. In French and Arabic with English subtitles.

★ ★ ★ ★ Closing Night ★ ★ ★ ★

From A to B

Sun., Oct. 25 at 6:30 pm, followed by a Closing Party, \$20.00

From the director of *City of Life* (*Arabian Sights*, 2010), comes *From A to B*, a comedic road trip film, brimming with heart. *From A to B* tells the story of three long lost childhood friends Rami, Yousef and Omar (an Egyptian, a Saudi and a Syrian) who reluctantly embark on a journey from Abu Dhabi to Beirut to honor their friend Hady, who passed away five years earlier. Their route is not a straight line geographically or emotionally. Their journey is filled with speedbumps – breakdowns, wrong turns, shady mechanics and a camel or two. If all of this doesn't drive them crazy, it might just bring them closer.

United Arab Emirates/Jordan, Directed by Ali F. Mostafa, 2015, 107 minutes. In Arabic with English subtitles.



Co-presented with

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★ ★ ★ ★ Arabian Sights Jury Award ★ ★ ★ ★



I Am Nojoom, Age 10 and Divorced

Sat., Oct. 24 at 6:30 pm

Sun., Oct. 25 at 2:00 pm

A 10-year-old girl walks into a courtroom, looks the judge straight in the eye and tells him, "I want a divorce." In Yemen, where there is no age restriction for marriage, Nojoom Ali's father arranges for her to marry a villager who is three times her age in exchange for a trivial dowry. Subjected to physical and psychological abuse at the hands of her husband and grouchy mother-in-law, Nojoom escapes and attains protection from a compassionate judge. Despite the risk to his own career and family, the judge pursues justice on her behalf. Based on Nojood Ali's best-selling autobiography, this gripping feature film tells of the little girl who made headline news in 2009 and became a symbol of the movement against forced and underage marriage. Recipient of the top prize at the Dubai International Film Festival.

France/Yemen/United Arab Emirates, Directed by Khadija Al Salami, 2015, 99 minutes. In Arabic with English subtitles.

Co-presented with

THE YEMEN
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The Intruder

Sun., Oct. 18 at 5:00 pm

In this captivating and intense thriller, a Dutch cop of Moroccan descent goes deep undercover to infiltrate a drug-trafficking Moroccan family. The deeper he embeds himself in the family's inner circles, the more he realizes a sense of belonging and a feeling of brotherhood that has until now eluded him. It is then he begins to question his allegiance to the police force he pledged to serve. Neither is what they seem. Shariff Korver's feature debut is a smart, bracing thriller.



The Netherlands, Directed by Shariff Korver, 2014, 87 minutes. In Dutch and Arabic with English subtitles.

★ ★ ★ ★ *Arabian Sights Jury Award & World Premiere* ★ ★ ★ ★



Les Petits Chats

Fri., Oct. 16 at 7:00 pm

Sat., Oct. 17 at 9:00 pm

Get ready to tap your feet to James Brown's "I Feel Good", The Beatles "With a Little Help From My Friends" and Ray Charles' "Unchain My Heart" — as performed by Egypt's legendary Les Petits Chats. Concerts by the 60s and 70s rock

band were mobbed by loyal fans who danced the night away. Their songs, most of which were an eclectic array of American and European chart toppers, were amazingly and accurately choreographed. Sherif Nakhla's highly enjoyable documentary offers us an insight into the lives of the former band-mates during and after their glory days. Now major Egyptian celebrities and musicians, the six members are reunited for one last show. Beyond electrifying the crowds and reviving past thrills, that magical night also reignited a flame within each of the band members.

Egypt, Directed by Sherif Nakhla, 2014, 80 minutes. In Arabic with English subtitles.

The Man from Oran

Sun., Oct. 18 at 2:30 pm

From the director of *Masquerades* (*Arabian Sights*, 2009), Lyes Salem presents a poignant political drama spanning 30 years. Following the independence of Algeria, two close friends, Djaffar (director Lyes Salem), a modest idealist, and Hamid (Khaled Benaissa), a wheeler-dealer, face a promising future. Hamid goes on to a prominent political career and offers Djaffar a role in his office. Eventually Djaffar grows discontented with Hamid's betrayal of their revolutionary ideals. Their divergent political views eventually drive them apart. As with all of Salem's films, *The Man from Oran* has superb acting, an engaging script and high production values. Recipient of multiple festival awards.



France, Directed by Lyes Salem, 2014, 128 minutes. In French and Arabic with English subtitles.

The New Arab Cinema

Sat., Oct. 24 at 4:00 pm

Since the inception of the *Arabian Sights Film Festival* twenty years ago, there have been wide-ranging and significant strides in the evolution of Arab cinema, regionally as well as internationally. Has this evolution opened the doors for a strong industry with solid foundations? Has Arab cinema come of age and is it being more recognized on the international scene? What are the reasons behind this development? A panel comprised of Arab film experts and guest film directors will identify and assess these developments as well as address questions from the audience.

Please visit filmfestdc.org/arabiansights to view the list of participating panelists.

Co-presented
with



The Arab Gulf States
Institute in Washington
Building bridges of understanding

★ ★ ★ ★ *American Premiere* ★ ★ ★ ★

A Thousand and One Journeys: The Arab Americans

Sat., Oct. 17 at 6:30 pm, followed by a reception

Sun., Oct. 18 at 7:00 pm, followed by a reception

Abe Kasbo's timely new film vividly paints a portrait of the Arab-American immigrant experience through the stories of people who came to the United States hoping to find the American Dream, including Senator George Mitchell, Jamie Farr, General John Abizaid, Anthony Shadid, Andy Shallal, Helen Thomas, and others. This is the often untold story of nearly 200 years of enrichment of the American fabric by immigrants from the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf to the United States, a uniquely American story that provides viewers with a first-ever documentary of the Arab Americans experience told through the eyes of famous and everyday people.

USA, Directed by Abe Kasbo, 2015, 84 minutes.



Arabian Sights **20**
FREE!

20th Anniversary Happy Hour

Enjoy complimentary refreshments and mingle with fellow festival attendees as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of *Arabian Sights* on Saturday, October 24, 5:30 pm, at AMC Mazza Gallerie.

★ ★ ★ ★ *Arabian Sights Jury Award* ★ ★ ★ ★

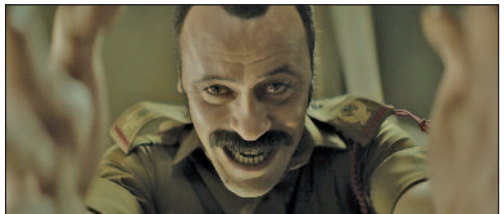
Zinzana

Fri., Oct. 23 at 8:50 pm

Sat., Oct. 24 at 9:00 pm

Talal (Saleh Bakri) has just woken up in a police cell with no memory of the night before and no identification. His predicament gets a lot worse with the arrival of brilliant psychopath Dabaan (Ali Suliman) who seems determined to play vicious and unexpected mind games with him. Talal's confinement becomes a fight for survival and a race to discover exactly what's motivating Dabaan. Building upon two brilliant performances is a taut thriller filled with outrageous twists and sudden moments of aggression. The discovery of exactly what Dabaan's plan entails is enormous fun, and each one of the nail-biting time limit sequences work wonderfully. Add to this, ambitious camerawork and a delightful musical interlude, and you have a discovery unlike any other.

Jordan/United Arab Emirates, Directed by Majid Al Ansari, 2015, 91 minutes. In Arabic with English subtitles.



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