

38 FILMS & DVDS FROM AND ABOUT THE

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



Tahrir: Liberation Square

A Film by Stefano Savona



"Soon after the first reports came about the occupation of Tahrir Square, filmmaker Stefano Savona headed for Cairo, where he stayed, amidst the ever-growing masses in the Square, for weeks. His film introduces us to young Egyptians such as Elsayed, Noha and Ahmed, spending all day and night talking, shouting, singing, finally expressing everything they were forbidden to say out loud until now.

"As the protests grow in intensity, the regime's repression becomes more violent, with the terrifying potential for massacre never far away. TAHRIR is a film written in the faces, hands, and voices of those who experienced this period in the Square. It is a day-to-day account of the Egyptian revolution, capturing the anger, fear, resolve and finally elation of those who made it happen." (New York Film Festival description)



US Premiere,
2011 New York Film Festival



Official Selection,
2012 Santa Barbara Film Festival



Grand Prize, 2011 Traces de vies
Documentary Film Festival (France)

90 min | color | 2011

Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398 ~~now~~ \$348



More films on Egypt

For Those Who Sail to Heaven

A Film by Elizabeth Wickett

Captures the Sufi rites of the annual Opet Festival in Egypt.

"Wickett has carefully portrayed the intertwining of ancient and modern so important in Egyptian life but often missing in Western portrayals of Egypt. We have the voices of the local participants as well as the voice of producer Wickett who narrates the film and provides a scholar's analysis. The result is a rich film with many levels of meaning."—Middle East Studies Association Bulletin

48 min | color | 1990 | Sale/DVD: \$298

Living with the Past

Directed by Maysoun Pachachi

Produced by Elizabeth Fernea

Cairo is one of the few medieval cities in the world that remains relatively intact. This a portrait of Darb al-Ahmar, a neighborhood in the old city now facing a process of radical change.

"LIVING WITH THE PAST documents ongoing restoration efforts in [Cairo's historic district of] Darb al-Ahmar ... and does an excellent job of conveying the neighborhood's spirit and the dedication of those involved in the restoration."—Archaeology Magazine

2003 Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival (UK)

2002 American Anthropological Association Film Festival

56 min | color | 2001 | Sale/DVD: \$390

The Price of Change

Directed by Marilyn Gaunt

Produced by Elizabeth Fernea

Examines the effect of non-domestic work on five Egyptian women. A picture of changing attitudes toward work, family, sex, and the woman's place in society.

"Provides glimpses into the lives of a variety of contemporary Egyptian women... [and] sets their difficulties in the context of changes that pose problems for the entire nation."

—Psychology of Women Quarterly

26 min | color | 1982 | Sale/DVD: \$248

Naguib Mahfouz: The Passage of the Century

A Film by Francka Mouloudi



A portrait of Egyptian author Naguib Mahfouz, the first and still only Arab winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. "[Mahfouz] is not only a Hugo and a

Dickens, but also a Galsworthy, a Mann, a Zola and a Jules Romains."

—Edward Said, London Review of Books

2005 Middle East & Central Asia Politics, Economics and Society Conference

2002 African Literature Association Film Festival

49 min | color | 1999 | Sale/DVD: \$348

A Veiled Revolution

Directed by Marilyn Gaunt

Produced by Elizabeth Fernea



The first film to consider the possible reasons for modern Egyptian women's turn back to tradition—the resurgence of Islamic fundamentalism, the rejection of western values—as Egyptian women speak out. An important document that helps place current developments in context.

26 min | color | 1982 | Sale/DVD: \$248



Goodbye Mubarak!

A Film by Katia Jarjoura

The ground for the protests that would overthrow Hosni Mubarak on February 11, 2011, had been laid in the months preceding the mass outpouring of opposition. GOODBYE MUBARAK! takes us to Egypt during that time, in the run-up to legislative elections. We discover a revolution-in-waiting, already simmering under the surface of Egyptian society.

Over several weeks the documentary crew travels the country from Cairo to Alexandria to the industrial city of El-Mahalia El-Kubra, introducing us to ordinary Egyptians, politicians, members of the Muslim Brotherhood and secular activists—many of whom would soon be leading the anti-Mubarak rebellion.

While the young, web-savvy activists get much of the credit for the demonstrations, GOODBYE MUBARAK! shows just how deep opposition to the regime ran among the population. "We only have corrupt and old leaders with nothing to offer" says one angry pensioner. Another adds, "the solution is in the hands of our 12 million jobless kids. They need to go out, demonstrate, and overthrow the regime." Within weeks, Mubarak's opponents would be doing just that. GOODBYE MUBARAK! is an invaluable portrait of Egypt on the brink of history.



"The emphasis here is on the months preceding the demonstrations that led to [Mubarak's] forced resignation, during which Jarjoura and her crew traveled about the country, observing candidates of various political stripes... who were campaigning for election to parliament against entrenched supporters of the regime, many of them wealthy businessmen who profited handsomely from the government's economic policies. ...[a] snapshot portrait of a contemporary revolution."—Video Librarian

72 min | color | 2011
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348 *now* \$298



Neither Allah, Nor Master!

A Film by Nadia El Fani

"Fascinating! Useful for understanding the Arab Spring." —Le Monde

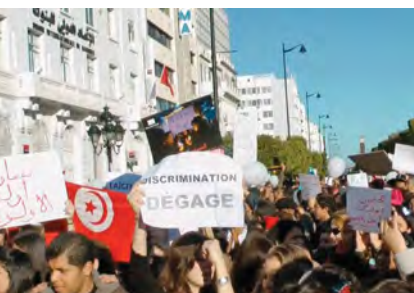
"Instructive and constructive!"
—Premiere

2011 Film Festival,
Middle East Studies Association

Official Selection, 2012
Minneapolis-St. Paul Film Festival

2011 International Documentary
Film Festival Amsterdam

71 min | color | 2011
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348



August, 2010. Tunisia is in the midst of Ramadan, under Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's regime. Despite the weight of censorship, Nadia El Fani films a country that seems open to the principle of freedom of conscience and liberal in its relationship to Islam. After all, officially, Tunisia is not an Islamic nation. Indeed, in an archival interview, President Habib Bourguiba, who ruled the country for 30 years, affirms equal rights for Jews and Christians.

Three months later, the Tunisian Revolution breaks out. El Fani is out in the field. The Arab world has entered an era of radical change. Tunisia, which initiated the wind of revolt, is once again a "laboratory country" for its outlook on religion and democracy.

But El Fani also sees troubling signs that Tunisia may be becoming less tolerant of non-Islamic beliefs. An avowed atheist and feminist, Nadia takes a provocative approach to the upheaval, while introducing us to Tunisians, including many women, to explore just how high the stakes may be. Could, by the will of the people, a Muslim country really opt for a secular constitution? And what if it does not?



Tunisia, Year Zero

A Film by Feriel Ben Mahmoud

On January 14th, 2011, after months of mass protests, the people of Tunisia toppled the government of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, launching the Arab Spring.

TUNISIA, YEAR ZERO records the turbulent day-to-day events that followed. Over a nine-month period Tunisians drafted a new constitution, saw the creation of more than 110 political parties, and embarked upon the first free elections in the country's history.

The film tracks the social and political turmoil of this period, as Tunisians grapple with choosing the kind of society in which they wish to live. As Islam, secularism, and the status of women become themes of the campaign, several major parties emerge, broadly divided between modernist parties, and the previously banned Islamist party, Ennahda.

Eventually Ennahda emerges as the strongest, and one of its leaders, Hamadi Jebali, becomes prime minister. With its intimate look at the run-up to their victory, TUNISIA, YEAR ZERO helps us understand the contours of the political landscape and the continuing debates in Tunisia over its future.



52 min | color | 2011
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$298

The Moroccan Labyrinth

A Film by Julio Sánchez Veiga

"With its astute selection of interviews and contemporary film clips, Julio Sánchez Vega's film brings to the screen a fascinating but oft-overlooked slice of modern colonial and military history."—Geoffrey Jensen, *The Journal of Military History*

2009 Vancouver Film Festival

2008 Marbella Film Festival

90 min | color | 2007
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398

In 1898, after losing Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines to the U.S., Spain focused its colonial aims on Morocco, establishing a Spanish Protectorate in 1912. But Spanish attempts to conquer the territory were resisted by the guerrilla forces of Rif leader Abd el-Krim. Thousands of Spanish soldiers died—including 15,000 during a two-week period in 1921 known as the Defeat of Annual—and the Spanish Army responded with aerial bombings, chemical weapons and widespread atrocities.

THE MOROCCAN LABYRINTH examines how this colonial conflict served as prologue to the Spanish Civil War, with losses in Morocco undermining the monarchy and emboldening the "African militarists," including generals such as Francisco Franco, who in 1936 launched a revolt against the Spanish Republic. Ironically, in order to escape famine and poverty, thousands of Moroccans enlisted in the Falangist movement and found themselves fighting for their former enemies in Spain against Republican forces.

The film features rare archive footage, propaganda films of the era, interviews with elderly Moroccan combatants, their children and leading international historians, who discuss the Rif War, how the conflict influenced developments in Spain, how Moroccan mercenaries were used during the Civil War and then, despite promises, were expelled from Spain after the Nationalist victory. THE MOROCCAN LABYRINTH plumbs the complexities of this little-known colonial war.



Mustapha Kemal Atatürk

A Film by Severine Labat

Through archival material and discussions with historians, sociologists and biographers, MUSTAPHA KEMAL ATATÜRK tells the story of the founder and first president of the Republic of Turkey.

While Atatürk played a major role in modernizing the nation, his "democracy" was founded on single-party rule and a cult-of-personality leader who engendered as much fear as respect.

The rapid transformation of Turkey into the first secular Muslim republic, attempting to blend Western and Eastern influences, upset much of the country's population and laid the basis for tensions still at the center of Turkey's social and political life today.

As Turkey's democratic government takes on an increasingly Islamic character, the military staunchly defends the secular basis of the regime. In its contemporary political tensions—Muslim vs. secular, religious vs. political—Turkey more than ever reflects not only its unique geopolitical position on the world map, but also the mixed legacy of its national hero.

"Intricate and meticulously assembled... This outstanding work is highly recommended to those who want an advanced and comprehensive record of Turkey in the early 20th century."

—Michael J. Coffta, Educational Media Reviews Online

52 min | color-b&w | 2008
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390



Syria, Chess Match at the Borders

A Film by Amal Hamelin des Essarts



"An excellent geopolitical lesson... this efficient educational documentary provides indispensable keys."

—Télérama

52 min | color / 2008

Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390 ~~now~~ \$348

Syria, bordered by Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan, is both a strategic and a besieged country. SYRIA: CHESS MATCH AT THE BORDERS chronicles the historical background and ramifications of this situation.

The history includes the legacy of three Arab-Israeli wars, which led to an influx of Palestinian refugees, Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights, and the enmity of successive U.S. Administrations. With Turkey, Syria has had long-running disputes over water resources and support of Kurdish rebels. And in Lebanon, Syria has acted as a self-styled "protector," deploying troops and its secret service to try to maintain control of that nation. The border with Iraq is not trouble-free either: Iraqi refugees flocked into Syria, and the country has colluded with Iran to finance and arm Iraqi resistance forces.

Visually enriched with archival footage and contemporary scenes, the film features an impressive array of political leaders, journalists, diplomats, and academics, as it examines the geopolitics of Syria, at the nexus of the region.



Syria: The Assads' Twilight

A Film by Vincent de Cointet & Christophe Ayad

During the 1970s, Hafez al-Assad turned Syria into one of the world's most secretive and repressive dictatorships. His son and successor, Bashar al-Assad, was supposed to be different. A doctor who had lived in London, he vowed to fight corruption and embrace globalization.

Just over a decade later, the Assad regime has been responsible for the deaths of thousands of its citizens—protesters no longer willing to accept repression and insisting on the same freedoms that other nations have gained through the revolutions of the 2011 Arab Spring.

SYRIA: THE ASSADS' TWILIGHT is a lively documentary that recounts the history of the regime and the region—including the tortured and troubled history of Syrian involvement in Lebanon. The film uses archival footage, as well as the testimony and analysis of key foreign policy and security figures from the Middle East, France and the U.S., dissidents (among them members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood), and political scientists.

What emerges is a picture of a regime that has been at the center of Middle East politics for two generations—but is now on the verge of being swept away.



"Highly Recommended... This film will not disappoint the viewer seeking to be enlightened about the recent history of Syria and the influence of Syria on the rest of the world."

— Educational Media Reviews Online

52 min | color | 2011

Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348

Democracy on Deadline

A Film by Calvin Skaggs

"A bracing reminder of why journalism matters—and the sometimes harrowing consequences of practicing journalism that matters."

—Editor and Publisher Journal

114 min | color | 2006 | CC
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398 *now* \$348




Filmed across Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe, the Middle East, and the U.S., DEMOCRACY ON DEADLINE is a comprehensive look at journalists worldwide as they attempt to speak truth to power.

For example in Moscow journalists (including Anna Politkovskaya, assassinated in 2006) discuss government control of the media and the dangers of covering the Chechen War; the publisher, editors and journalists at the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* explain why they feel it is important, especially for a readership often concerned only with its own agony, to document the violence directed against Palestinians; and U.S. journalists discuss how the press failed in its reporting of the Bush Administration during the lead-up to the Iraq War.

As journalism is steadily eroded by political manipulation, commercial constraints, circulation and ratings pressures, DEMOCRACY ON DEADLINE is a reminder of the value of an independent news media in any democratic society.

Al Jazeera

A Film by Tewfik Hakem

 **Viewer's Choice, 2003**
Middle East Studies Association
FilmFest

52 min | color | 2002
Sale/DVD: \$348 *now* \$298




AL JAZEERA goes behind the scenes at the Arab world's first 24-hour news channel, exploring the paradoxes that emerge between the apparent orthodoxy of Arab societies, and the journalistic freedom flaunted by the network. Al Jazeera's philosophy of open debate is not easily embraced by what program host Fayçal Al-Quassam, calls "a dictatorial, single-party culture which does not know the meaning of dialog."

Combining news footage, excerpts from various Al Jazeera programs, and interviews with executives, anchors, and journalists, AL JAZEERA is a look at the challenges facing the most important television channel in the Arab world.



The Battle for the Arab Viewer

A Film by Nordin Lasfar

 The rivalry between Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya, the main satellite news channels in the Arab world, is not only about ratings but also about the political interests of their owners. Al Jazeera, created by the Emir of Qatar, more populist, and the causes that it champions, such as the Egyptian uprising against Hosni Mubarak are not always supported by the Saudi regime. While Al Arabiya, owned by a close friend of the Saudi ruling family, seems to oppose popular groups, even the Muslim Brotherhood.

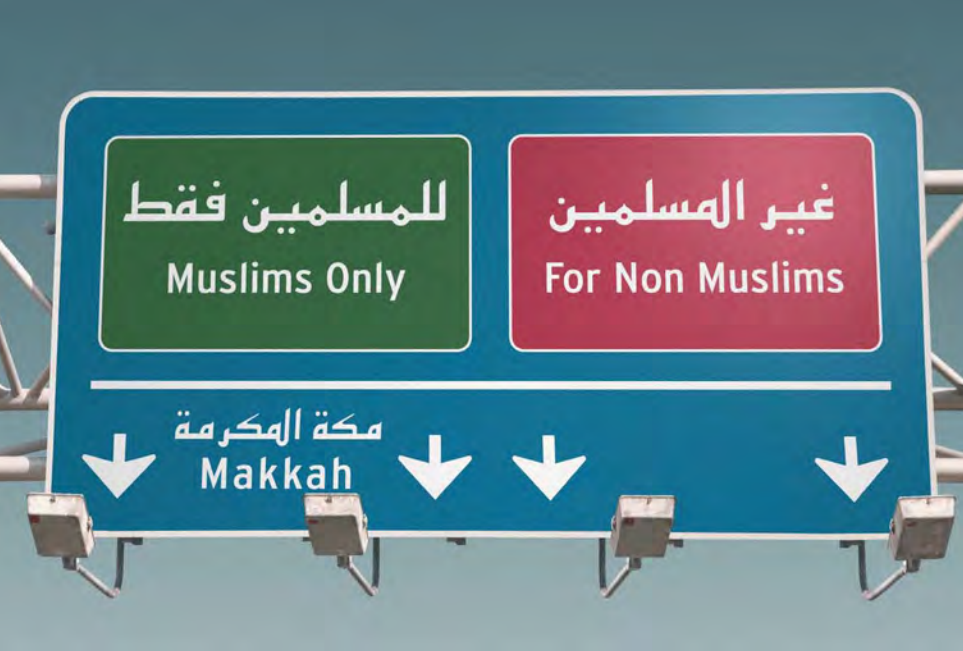
THE BATTLE FOR THE ARAB VIEWER examines the competition between the stations, focusing on their Cairo correspondents—Al Arabiya's Randa Abul Azm and Al Jazeera's Abdelfattah Fayed. We go behind the scenes as they follow stories and report on events, such as Hosni Mubarak's trial. (Azm is allowed into the courtroom, but Fayed is not.)

Both deny that their work is influenced by the agendas of their networks' owners. But former employees tell a different story. One case is that of Hafez al Mirazi, who was taken off Al Arabiya after promising to put Saudi Arabia itself under the microscope on his show.

Media bias is not new—as Mirazi says, viewers of Fox News and MSNBC know what they're going to get. What is different in the Arab world is that the networks owe their allegiances to states. Which raises the question, as democracy spreads through the region, will truly independent media follow?



48 min | color | 2011
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$375



A Road to Mecca: The Journey of Muhammad Asad

A Film by Georg Misch

"An inquisitive journey... The spectator is taken on a beautifully uncertain journey."—Catalin Brylla, University of Newport, Leonardo Reviews

2009 Dubai
Film Festival

2009 Jerusalem
Film Festival

Jury Award, 2008 FIDADOC
Film Festival (Morocco)

92 min | color | 2008
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398



In the early 1920s, Viennese Jew Leopold Weiss (1900-1992) traveled to the Middle East, visiting Jerusalem, Egypt, the Transjordan and Saudi Arabia. After studying the Koran, he converted to Islam and changed his name to Muhammad Asad.

Asad became one of the most important Muslims of the 20th century, spreading a message of peace and brotherhood through books such as *Islam at the Crossroads*, *The Principles of State and Government in Islam*, and his autobiography, *The Road to Mecca*. He went on to act as an advisor to the royal court of Saudi Arabia, was a co-founder of Pakistan and served as the country's Ambassador to the UN.

A ROAD TO MECCA blends archival footage with contemporary interviews with writers, historians, scholars, and Asad's friends and associates, revealing his legacy as a modern theological thinker.

Muhammad Asad sought to be a mediator between East and West. In portraying his life and the evolution of his thought, this documentary provides a portrait of contemporary Islam. It challenges deeply rooted Western prejudices by revealing the distance between the beliefs that support terrorism and the core beliefs of a profoundly humane religion.



The Koran: Back to the Origins of the Book

A Film by Bruno Ulmer

This enlightening documentary explores the origins of the Koran. According to Muslim tradition, this holy text has remained static and unchanged since it was revealed to the prophet Muhammad in Mecca and Medina, between 610 and 632 CE. However, recent discoveries of the oldest extant Koranic manuscripts, dating from around 680, hint at a more complicated history.

Many scholars now believe that during the first century of Islam, different concurrent versions of the Koran existed—with a number of different readings possible.

In THE KORAN: BACK TO THE ORIGINS OF THE BOOK, European scientists and Islamic scholars struggle with tracing the history of the Koran. From the Mosque of Kairouan in Tunisia to that of the Umayyads in Damascus and Al-Azhar in Cairo, the film takes us on a fascinating journey into the heart of the origins of the book and the world of late antiquity—and into a region where Muslim tradition and scientific research converge.



★★★"Essential viewing for Islamic scholars, this is likely to also be of interest to devout Muslims. Recommended." —Video Librarian

"Bruno Ulmer treats a highly controversial topic with sensitivity, striving for understanding, as opposed to judgment... with heavy attention given to artistic imagery, the documentary makes a noteworthy contribution to the study of Islamic history."

—Al Jadid, A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts

52 min | color | 2009
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348

Islam Unknown

An eight-part series by Fons Elders



ISLAM UNKNOWN is a collection of eight half-hour conversations with unconventional Muslim intellectuals. In each episode, eclectic Dutch philosopher Fons Elders engages the thinkers on topics including gender, economics, sharia, secularism, colonialism, and the nature of religious authority.



Part 1: Asma Barlas argues for “radical sexual equality”—based on a reading of the Qur’an. She says the Qur’an, like other texts, is open to multiple readings and that the fundamental Muslim concept of the oneness of God transcends gender.



Part 2: Egyptian Nasr Hamed Abu Zayd was forced into exile on a charge of apostasy in the 1980s. He sees Islam as a religion rooted in social justice, and says colonial attitudes towards Islam have trapped both Christians and Muslims into false perceptions of each other.



Part 3: Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im is a law professor at Emory University—and a Sufi dedicated both to Islam and to secularism. For him the notion of an Islamic state is heretical, and secularism the only way to guarantee believers the freedom to pursue their beliefs and practices.



Part 4: The first woman in her family to attend university, Egyptian Amna Nusayr has written more than 40 books, many on Qur’anic themes. Nusayr focuses the conversation primarily on a discussion of sharia and jihad—two notions that she says have been misrepresented.



Part 5: In a wide-ranging conversation about politics, society and culture, Reza Aslan says that young Muslims are better off in the U.S. than in Europe, and that American Muslims are less likely to be seduced by fundamentalist rhetoric, because of the nature of American identity.



Part 6: Anouar Majid is a believer in the power of heresy. He looks at how Europe and Islam have defined themselves in opposition to each other, and argues for a new relationship—one based on cultures that encourage a multiplicity of points of view.

Part 7: Germany’s first Muslim theology professor, Turkish-born Ömer Özsoy emphasizes interpreting the Qur’an in the context of time and place. On that basis he argues that one of the divisive symbols of Islam—the headscarf—is not mandated by the Qur’an. Yet Muslim women should be free to wear it as they see fit. To him it is not a question of religion, but simply one of human rights.



Part 8: Mehmet Asutay has devoted himself to developing a model for an Islamic economy that emphasizes social justice. Asutay believes the economic crisis was caused by the disconnection between finance and the real world. What Asutay hopes for instead is a moral economy—one that offers equal access to resources and that recognizes that humans are equal in their relationship to God.



Elders’ hope is that the conversations will contribute to a new understanding of the diversity of Islam, and to a decrease in “Islamophobia.” For what emerges from this series is a nuanced mosaic of contemporary perspectives on one of the world’s great religions.

8 x 26' | color | 2011
Sale/DVDs (two): \$398



More films on Iran

Energy War

A Film by Shuchen Tan, Ijsbrand van Veelen & Rudi Boon

A global investigation into the geopolitical dynamics of the world's oil supply. How are the governments that control most of the oil wielding their power on the world stage?

"Alerts viewers to a critical issue... recommended for public and academic libraries."

—David Conn, Library Journal

78 min | color | 2007 | Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390

Inside Out

A Film by Zohreh Shayesteh

Transsexuals in Iran. Intimate conversations with doctors, religious authorities, and transsexuals about the mind/body conflict, Islamic interpretations, and the impact of sex-change treatments on their lives.

"Will amaze and delight! A warm and personal portrait. [It] flies in the face of stereotypical views of Iranian religious and social attitudes and will serve to humanize Iranian society for many Western viewers. Fascinating!"

—Professor William O. Beeman, Brown University, Author of *The Great Satan vs. The Mad Mullahs*

39 min | color | 2006 | Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$298

Iran: A Cinematographic Revolution

A Film by Nader Takmil Homayoun

The intertwined history of Iran and its cinema, from the first silent films to the talkies, from the Shah's regime to the Islamic revolution, and the international cinematic success of today.

"Remarkable... Drawing upon a wide catalogue of films and newsreel footage, the documentary offers an insight into the two revolutions-political and artistic-and their joint battle to produce, and consequently control, the national imago."

—Lindsey Hair, Film & History

2011 United Nations Association Film Festival

2008 American Historical Association Annual Meeting

98 min | color-b&w | 2006 | Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348

Shirin Ebadi: A Simple Lawyer

A Film by Bani Khoshnoudi

An in-depth introduction to Nobel Peace Prize winner in the Tehran office, interwoven with speeches at international conferences and a visit to the children's center she founded.



"Highly Recommended!"

—Educational Media Reviews Online

2006 National Women's Studies Association Film Festival

2005 Middle East Studies Association FilmFest

48 min | color | 2004 | Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348

Zinat, One Special Day

A Film by Ebrahim Mokhtari



Zinat, the first woman from the Island of Qeshm in the south of Iran to remove the traditional face mask (Boregheh), is running for elected office.

"Celebrates the empowerment of women, not abstractly, but in direct life situations, without sentimentality or manipulation of scenes or dialogue."—Al Jadid - A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts

2005 National Women's Studies Association Film Festival

Special Mention of the International Jury, 2000 Cinéma du Réel (Paris)

54 min | color | 2000 | Sale/DVD: \$348



Fragments of a Revolution

Directed by Anonymous

Produced by Virginie Guibbaud & Gilles Padovani

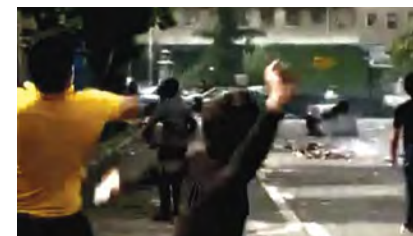
FRAGMENTS OF A REVOLUTION goes beyond the headlines and the tweets to tell the story of the protests that swept Iran in the aftermath of the disputed 2009 presidential election.

Directed by an anonymous Iranian living in exile, the film brings together clandestinely sent emails, online videos and footage shot by protesters in the midst of demonstrations.

This highly unconventional documentary—which largely relies on anonymous correspondents and YouTube footage—has an astounding immediacy. We alternate between events in Tehran and the anonymous director's attempts to make sense of them, until the two storylines converge in early 2010.

As the protest movement grows, we are privy to the immediate experiences of those on the ground: women picking up rocks to hand to protesters; people secretly filming police as they beat people, smash cars and target those in windows who are looking on; marchers coming under fire from rooftop snipers.

Finally, the protests die down, and the forced confessions and show trials begin. "My hopes have become ashes," says the film's director. But under those ashes, embers continue to glow.



"Tears and feelings emerge from the film and attach to us as we become part of this very secret and intimate process. We come to know [the protestors'] fear of being caught, arrested, tortured and potentially becoming one of the many 'disappeared.'... this film is bound to be relevant for years to come"

—Educational Media Reviews Online

2011 Best Documentary on Democracy, DOK Leipzig

2011 Louis Marcorelles Prize & Special Mention Young Jury Prize, Cinema Du Reel Festival (Paris)

57 min | color | 2011
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348



Two Films by Maryan Khakiour On One (1) DVD

Siah Bâzi: The Joy Makers

2006 Tribeca Film Festival
(New York)



In Iran, Siah Bâzi theater troupes, similar to Commedia dell'arte, traditionally performed at weddings and parties, led by men and women in full harlequin garb, making impromptu skits peppered with subtle commentary on current events and politics.

When Tehran's troupe faces the closing of their 400-year-old theater, the performers face uncertain futures as truck drivers and tea-servers. SIAH BÂZI: THE JOY MAKERS offers a look at how folkloric entertainment is challenged by modern political and economic changes in Iran.

Shadi

2009 Cinéma du Réel
Film Festival (Paris)



Moved by the plight of the "Joy Makers," world-renowned French stage director Ariane Mnouchkine invites the acting troupe to perform with her Parisian avant-garde improvisational stage ensemble, Théâtre du Soleil.

The documentary follows young comedic actress Shadi as she battles for her domineering husband's permission to travel outside Iran for the first time, and later finds herself caught between the differing artistic visions of her Iranian director and Mnouchkine while performing in Paris.

48 min + 58 min | color | 2004 & 2008
Sale/DVD (both films): \$398 ~~now~~ \$348



Two Films by Reza Haeri On One (1) DVD

Final Fitting

Mr. Arabpour is a spry octogenarian and master tailor who has served Iran's most important religious leaders for decades. He discusses the many variations on the traditional turban and robe, and demonstrates how he cuts and creates the garments, adapting them for men with different needs. For instance, reform-minded ayatollahs prefer a more sculpted and tailored style, with defined seams and pockets.

FINAL FITTING showcases the changing cultural styles of Iran and its clerical elite through a portrait of one man and his time-honored craft.

"The beauty of FINAL FITTING lies in the intersection of the tailor's wit and Haeri's careful editing. A study of the interplay of modesty and vanity, the humanity at the core of theocracy."
—The Daily Star

Grand Prix Short Film,
2008 Iran International
Documentary Film Festival

2009 Hot Docs Film Festival
(Canada)

All Restrictions End

In the early days of the Iranian revolution, anyone with press lines on his trousers would be dismissed from work. "How can one say his prayers to Allah without breaking his trousers' press lines?" This and other reflections on Islam and clothing characterize Reza Haeri's thought-provoking, free-form documentary ALL RESTRICTIONS END.

The film is structured like a collage, interweaving archival footage from Iranian cinema, imagery from various stylistic epochs in the history of Persian painting, graphics from the period of the Islamic Revolution, and works provided by various artists.



31 min + 35 min | color | 2008 + 2009
Sale/DVD (both films): \$348

Young Freud in Gaza

A Film by PeÅ Holmquist and Suzanne Khardalian

★★★ "A moving glimpse of a population suffering from violence and deprivation in a region torn by hatred and strife, this is recommended."

—Video Librarian

2012 Frames of Mind
Film Festival Vancouver

2010 American Psychological
Association Film Festival

58 min | color | 2008

Sale/DVD: \$348



Meet Ayad, a young Palestinian psychotherapist in Gaza. Against the background of armed clashes, he consults with patients, providing therapy and prescribing medication for depression, stress, and suicidal tendencies. We follow him as he trains young women in deep-breathing exercises to calm anxiety, and counsels maimed militants in meditation techniques.

YOUNG FREUD IN GAZA also shows Ayad at home with his parents, family members and friends, revealing that this young mental health

doctor is struggling with some personal issues of his own, including serious doubts that he is able to help his patients. As he says, "Gaza needs a million psychologists."

Hothouse

A Film by Shimon Dotan

"Enlightening but disquieting... a humanizing, deeply disturbing look at a detention process that affects nearly every Palestinian in the Occupied Territories, a documentary that leaves one in stunned silence at the end." —Rebecca Romani, *Al Jadid: A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts*

2007 Special Jury Prize,
Sundance Film Festival

89 min | color | 2006

Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348

Filmed inside Israel's highest security prisons, HOTHOUSE shows everyday prison life for the thousands of Palestinian "security prisoners"—seen as criminals by most Israelis and freedom fighters by Palestinians.

The experience of Israeli prison life has become a national symbol in Palestine, with the prisons becoming virtual universities for Palestinian nationalism, shaping the prisoners' ideology and strengthening their political convictions.



This Way Up

A Film by Georgi Lazarevski

East of Jerusalem, the Israeli wall of separation is going up a few meters from a senior citizens' home. Its unavoidable progression increasingly isolates residents, as both visitors and staff face more obstacles with each passing day.

A haunting soundtrack of bells and chimes accompanies elderly patients sleeping in wheelchairs, and silhouetted staff members walking down long hallways with glistening floors. In the gardens, some protest the barrier. One man shouts his political views at the television in the common room during a news broadcast, while two women argue with each other over songs. Another man savors the momentary sensual pleasures of cigarettes, coffee, and fruit, as he silently strolls through the home, the garden, and the surrounding area.

While presenting the painful sense of despair that rises in the home, THIS WAY UP also captures a sense of levity and hope.

"THIS WAY UP is a good film...For those teaching courses on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the film can provide an artistic portrait of Palestinian lives that is humanizing of the Palestinian condition."

—Anthropology Review Database

"Poignant and profound."

—Slant Magazine

"A superb documentary about the effects of politics on everyday lives."

—Pop Matters

Grand Prix Documentary,
2009 Tetouan Mediterranean
Film Festival (Morocco)

Don Quixote Award, 2008
Krakow Film Festival (Poland)

2008 Human Rights Watch
International Film Festival

61 min | color | 2008

Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$348

More Films & DVDs... from & about the Middle East

Baghdad Twist

Directed by Joe Balass

Produced by The National Film Board of Canada

This "visual memoir" by Baghdad-born filmmaker Joe Balass brings together a voice-over interview with Balass' mother and an evocative flow of photos, archival footage and Super-8 home movies of his family's life in Iraq before their departure for a new home in Canada in 1970. It is a poignant portrait of Iraq's Jewish society, which had existed since Babylonian times.

"Remarkable, not just the history it presents, but for the melodious way in which Balass lets the story unfold."

—Rebecca Joubin, *Al-Jadid: A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts*

2008 Tribeca Film Festival

2008 San Francisco Jewish Film Festival



34 min | color | 2008 | **CC** | Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$248

Drowning by Bullets

A Film by Philip Brooks & Alan Hayling

On the evening of October 17, 1961—seven years into the war in Algeria—about 30,000 Algerians, ostensibly French citizens, descended on the boulevards of central Paris to protest a curfew imposed by French authorities imposed by the French authorities in response to terrorist attacks by Algerian nationalists. The protesters were met by police who beat, shot and even drowned them in the Seine. Thousands were taken to detention centers, where there were more beatings and killings. **DROWNING BY BULLETS** exposes a story that quickly died, suppressed by the French government, and a complicit press.

"A must-view for students of colonialism in general and, in particular, Franco-Algerian affairs."—*The French Review*

52 min | color-b&w | 1992 | Sale/DVD: \$390

Palestine: Story of a Land

A Film by Simone Bitton

Using only rare archival and newsreel footage, this film tells the story of Palestine from the 19th century to recent times. The best compilation of the visual record.

120 min | color-b&w | 1992 | Sale/DVD: \$398

Saudi Solutions

A Film by Bregtje van der Haak

Personal profiles of ambitious women in Saudi Arabia, one of the most closed and conservative Muslim societies in the world.

"Fascinating! Shows clearly the dance between religion and the hope of a secular existence."

—Middle East Studies Association



2006 Middle East Studies Association Bulletin

77 min | color | 2006 | Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390 **now** \$348

Shi'ism:

Waiting for the Hidden Imam

A Film by Saïd Bakhtaoui & Mohammad Ballout

Fewer than one in 10 Muslims are Shi'ites, and their form of Islam is widely misunderstood.

Filmed in Iran, Lebanon and Iraq, **SHI'ISM** blends contemporary and historical footage and images, with interviews with Muslim scholars, philosophers, writers, politicians and religious leaders. It offers valuable insights into the complex and largely unknown history of this small branch of one of the world's largest faiths.

"A fine portrayal of the origins, defining features, and contemporary impact of...Shi'ism. Deeply moving... thoroughly recommended!"

—*The Middle East Quarterly*

"Captivating, clear and informative."
—*Bridges Journal*

53 min | color | 2005 | Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$390

War and Love in Kabul

A Film by Helga Reidemeister



Hossein and Shaima, who have known and loved each other since childhood, were separated as teenagers by war in Afghanistan. Today, reunited in Kabul, they remain deeply in love, but their relationship is socially and religiously prohibited.

Hossein's legs are paralyzed as a result of a war injury and he can no longer work. As a young woman, Shaima was sold in marriage to a man 40 years her senior with whom she had a child. But since her dowry remained unpaid her father brought her back home, to live with her five-year-old child.

WAR AND LOVE IN KABU explores the broader context of family life in a deeply traditional society, one in which the chances of personal happiness are very small.

"Set against the backdrop of a ruined world in which daughters are considered currency, and honor killing is a cultural norm, the film provides an intimate insight into Afghan society."

...An excellent film."

—Leonardo Reviews

2009 Margaret Mead Film Festival

2009 Berlin International Film Festival

2009 Cinema du Réel (Paris)

86 min | color | 2009
Sale/DVD (Chaptered): \$398

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Previews: DVDs may be previewed for purchase consideration by established video libraries.

Ordering: Submit all orders by purchase order, on official institutional letterhead, or pay in advance of shipping.



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