

# Films on DVD about Islam & the Middle East

ISLAM

## Recycle

A Film by Mahmoud al Massad




**NEW** Zarqa is an industrial city in Jordan with more than one million residents. At a time of America's "Global War on Terrorism," the every-day conversations of its citizens revolve around not only the economy or the lack of freedom of expression, but also on the need for pan-Arab unity, the rise of political Islam, and whether or not a faithful Muslim has a religious duty to engage in jihad. Zarqa is also the birthplace of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the former leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq.

RECYCLE is a portrait of the city as seen through the eyes of Abu Ammar, a forty-something Jordanian who served as a mujahid during the Afghan-Soviet War. The film joins Abu Ammar on his daily work routine, in intimate family settings at home, at prayer, and after his arrest and four-month imprisonment on suspicion of involvement in the 2005 hotel bombings in Amman. His periodic, wide-ranging conversations with friends and neighbors include the inadvisability for Muslims of working or living in "infidel" countries, the 9/11 attacks in America, the rise of extremist violence, and the role of Muslim theologians.

*"Outstanding... a beautifully shot, unpredictable and humane film."*—**International Film Guide 2009**

*"An intimate and touching portrait... [Abu Ammar] is an idiosyncratic figure who does not fit into any of the popular stereotypes or academic models of the radical Islamist."*—**The National**

 **World Cinema Cinematography Award, 2008 Sundance Film Festival**

 **2008 Dubai International Film Festival**

77 minutes | color | 2008  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398  
**Order #ME09-1**

# A Road To Mecca: The Journey Of Muhammad Asad

A Film by Georg Misch



**NEW** In the early 1920s Leopold Weiss, a Viennese Jew, alienated by the materialism and spiritual emptiness of the West, travelled to the Middle East, visiting Jerusalem, Egypt, the Transjordan and Saudi Arabia. After studying the Koran, he left his Jewish roots behind, converted to Islam and changed his name to Muhammad Asad.

Asad (1900-1992) became one of the most important Muslims of the 20th century, spreading its message of peace and brotherhood as a journalist and author of books such as *Islam at the Crossroads*, *The Principles of State and Government in Islam* and his autobiography, *The Road to Mecca*. He served as an advisor to the royal court of Saudi Arabia and was a co-founder of Pakistan and its Ambassador to the UN.

A ROAD TO MECCA traces his spiritual journey, from the Arabian desert to Ground Zero, visiting the places where Asad lived and travelled. Archival footage and photos and excerpts from Asad's writings are blended with contemporary interviews with writers, historians, scholars, and his friends and associates, revealing Asad's legacy as a modern theological thinker.

In portraying the lifelong evolution of the philosophy of Muhammad Asad, who sought to be a mediator between East and West, A ROAD TO MECCA provides a portrait of contemporary Islam.



"Fascinating... informative... a well-judged combo of travelogue and biopic... a fine piece of anthropology, worthy of the dedication it copies from Asad's translation of the Koran: 'For people who think.'"

—Alissa Simon, *Variety*

"Fascinating... elegantly uses the conflict between religions in Asad's life to present an objective view of the current relationship between Islam and Judaism and between East and West."

—Cecilie Bolvinkel, *DOX Magazine*

"Utterly fascinating."—*Canadian Jewish News*

"Surprises the viewer with astonishing inside views of the Islamic world... Truly worth seeing."

—*Rheinischer Merkur*

"The blindness and the prejudice with which we encounter Islam are based, almost without exception, on ignorance. Who makes the effort to learn more about it? Who's interested in the various interpretations and opinions? This situation is easy to correct, and it doesn't require a journey to Mecca. Going to the nearest movie theater is enough."—[www.kino-zeit.de](http://www.kino-zeit.de)



2009 Jerusalem Film Festival

2009 Dubai Film Festival

Jury Award, 2008 FIDOC Film Festival (Morocco)

Best Cinematography Award, 2008 Diagonale Festival of Austrian Films

2008 Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Film Festival

92 minutes | color | 2008  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398  
Order #ME09-2

## Shi'ism: Waiting for the Hidden Imam

A Film by Saïd Bakhtaoui & Mohammad Ballout



SHI'ISM illuminates the historical roots of this minority branch of Islam. Filmed in Iran, Lebanon and Iraq, the documentary blends both contemporary and historical footage with interviews with Muslim scholars, philosophers, writers, politicians and religious leaders, including Iran's Ayatollah Musa Zein al-Abidin, Lebanon's Sheikh Mohammad Hassan al-Amin, and Islamic Encyclopedia Director Mohammad Kadhim Bujnardi, among many others. The film also visits Shia holy sites, including the Tomb of Imam Hussein in Kerbala, Iraq, and the Mausoleum of Imam Abdul Azim.

*"A fine portrayal of the origins, defining features, and contemporary impact of... Shi'ism... Deeply moving... thoroughly recommended!"*  
—The Middle East Quarterly

 **2006 Middle East & Central Asia Politics, Economics, and Society Conference**

 **2005 Middle East Studies Association FilmFest**

53 minutes | color | 2005  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390  
**Order #ME09-3**

## The Road To Kerbala

A Film by Katia Jarjoura

In 2004, following a 30-year moratorium during Saddam Hussein's dictatorship, Iraq's Shiite Muslim population were free to commemorate Ashura, the most important holy day on the Shiite calendar. In THE ROAD TO KERBALA, filmmaker Katia Jarjoura



joins the procession of religious celebrants on the 100-kilometer walk from Baghdad to Kerbala.

*"Highly Recommended! Excellent!"*—Educational Media Reviews Online

53 minutes | color | 2005  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390  
**Order #ME09-4**

## Arab Diaries

Series Producer: Deborah Davies

Series Editor: Daoud Kuttab

Executive Producer: Ilan Ziv

These five groundbreaking films present a fresh, insightful picture of contemporary life across the Arab world, including Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Algeria, Palestine, Syria and Iraq. They tell intimate stories of individuals confronting the hardships and conflicts related to the most basic milestones, with a special focus on women's stories. Each film thematically centers on one of the universal phases of life—BIRTH, YOUTH, LOVE & MARRIAGE, WORK, and HOME.

*"Highly Recommended!... Presents a rare critical insight into contemporary life in the Arab world... Highly recommended to all kinds of libraries."*

—Educational Media Reviews Online



5 x 26 minutes | color | 2000  
Sale/DVD (2 discs): \$478  
**Order #ME09-5**

## 20 Years Old in the Middle East

A Film by Amal Moghaizel



*"This film should be required viewing... because it not only captures—often with great sadness—the frustration and despair of the Middle East's youth but it also offers solutions to these problems, if we would only listen."*

—Arabic Women's eNews

 **2006 Middle East & Central Asia Politics, Economics, and Society Conference**

52 minutes | color | 2003  
Sale/DVD: \$390  
**Order #ME09-6**

20 YEARS OLD IN THE MIDDLE EAST traverses the region—from Jordan to Syria, Iran, and Lebanon—to take the pulse of Arab and Iranian youth. It offers an indispensable snapshot of the attitudes of a generation that desires liberty over extremism, but at the same time fears that American policies will lead them into ever more warfare, and which—above all—simply wants to pursue their dreams.

# The Moroccan Labyrinth

A Film by Julio Sánchez Veiga



**NEW** In 1898, after losing Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines to the U.S., Spain focused its colonial aims on northern Morocco, establishing a Spanish Protectorate in 1912. From 1920 to 1926, Spanish military attempts to conquer the territory were resisted by the guerrilla forces of Rif leader Mohamed Abdel-Krim, a Muslim leader who led the resistance to the Christian invaders.

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. It took an alliance of French and Spanish military forces in 1925 to lead to the capture of Abdel-Krim, his surrender to French authorities, and the retaking of Spanish Morocco the following year.

THE MOROCCAN LABYRINTH reveals how this colonial conflict served as prologue to the Spanish Civil War, with losses in the African war undermining the monarchy and politically 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 Spanish Falangist movement and found themselves fighting for their former enemies in Spain against Republican forces.



Mohamed Abdel-Krim

THE MOROCCAN LABYRINTH plumbs the political complexities of this little-known Spanish colonial war as crucial historical background to the Civil War. It features rare archival footage, propaganda films of the era, contemporary interviews with elderly Moroccan combatants, their children and leading international historians, who discuss the Rif War, how the conflict influenced political developments in Spain, how Moroccan mercenaries were used as shock troops during the Spanish Civil War and then, despite financial promises, were immediately expelled from Spain after the Nationalist victory.



Today, the situation between the two countries remains strikingly similar, as several concluding interviews in the film reveal, with widespread poverty in Morocco forcing many young Moroccans to illegally immigrate to Spain for employment. THE MOROCCAN LABYRINTH thus continues to ensnare much of its impoverished populace, who remain economically dependent on their more prosperous, northern neighbor.

-  **2008 Marbella International Film Festival**
-  **2007 CPH:DOX International Documentary Film Festival**
-  **2008 Memorimage Film Festival**
-  **2008 International Documentary Film Festival of Navarra**

90 minutes | color | 2007  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$440  
**Order #ME09-7**



## Ben Barka: The Moroccan Equation



Directed by Simone Bitton

Ben Barka was abducted on a Paris street in October 1965 and later murdered. His body was never found and the culprits were never identified. BEN BARKA unearths the story of Morocco's most controversial political figure, a prominent nationalist leader during the independence movement, in later disputes over monarchy vs. democracy, and in the international, anti-imperialist movement of nonaligned countries.



*"A valuable resource."*

—Prof. Aomar Boum,  
Middle East Studies  
Association Bulletin

84 minutes | color | 2002  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398  
Order #ME09-8

Rather than merely another inquiry into the "Ben Barka Affair," the film chronicles the remarkable life and accomplishments of a man considered so politically dangerous that he became the target of the secret services of several different countries.

## Drowning by Bullets



A Film by Philip Brooks & Alan Hayling

On the evening of October 17, 1961—during the seventh year of the Algerian War—about 30,000 Algerians descended upon central Paris to protest an 8:30 curfew, imposed by the French authorities in response to repeated terrorist attacks by Algerian nationalists in Paris and other French cities.



*"Extremely powerful...  
Compelling!"*

—Professor Julia Clancy-  
Smith, Middle East Studies  
Association Bulletin

52 minutes | color-b&w | 1992  
Sale/DVD: \$390  
Order #ME09-9

Algerian demonstrators, met by a massive police force, were beaten, shot, even drowned in the Seine.

Thousands were rounded up and taken to detention centers around the city, where there were more beatings and killings.

DROWNING BY BULLETS exposes the massacre and the cover-up of what was undoubtedly one of the darkest nights in the history of France. Policemen, demonstrators, former officials, and journalists who witnessed the events speak on camera for the first time.

## Mustapha Kemal Atatürk: The Birth of a Republic

A Film by Séverine Labat



Mustapha Kemal (1881-1938), called Atatürk ("the father of the Turks"), was the founder of the Republic of Turkey and its first President. Both in Turkey and abroad, however, his actions continue to stir debate. Was he a visionary statesman or an enlightened despot?

MUSTAPHA KEMAL ATATÜRK tells the story of this historic figure with archival footage, newsreels and photos, and discussions with Turkish and Western historians, sociologists and biographers. The film traces his early secular education and his political rise as an army officer, from the birth of the "Young Turks" movement in 1908, through WWI, the Turkish War of Independence, the dethroning of the Sultan and elimination of the Caliphate, and the establishment of the republic in 1923.



*"Intricate and meticulously assembled... simply astounding... This outstanding work is highly recommended."*

—Educational Media  
Reviews Online

*"A classic documentary, accurate and without embellishments... paints a portrait of a man with a complex personality, as much despot as visionary."*—Télérama

52 minutes | color | 2005  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390  
Order #ME09-10

Much of the film's debate focuses on Kemal's authoritarian rule, when he abolished the national parliament, outlawed opposition parties and labor unions, and forced through legislation that led to sweeping political, economic and social reforms. MUSTAPHA KEMAL ATATÜRK makes clear that any consideration of Kemal's historic role must recognize that his "democracy" was founded upon a single party dictatorship whose cult-of-personality leader engendered as much fear as respect.

The recent rise of Political Islam has meant increasing challenges to the legacy of Kemalism. Turkey's democratic government has an increasingly Islamic character, while 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 the country's national hero.

## Syria: Chess Match at the Borders

A Film by Amal Hamelin des Essarts



Syria, branded by the U.S. Government as a "state sponsor of terrorism," is a single-party dictatorship ruled since 1970 by Hafez al-Assad and, following his death in 2000, by his son Bashar. But this landlocked nation, 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 to this situation, focusing on the three Arab-Israeli wars—in 1948, 1967 and 1973—that have convulsed the region. The legacy of these wars for Syria is shown to serve as a national rallying cry and an obstacle to diplomatic relations.

The film also examines tensions on Syria's other borders, including the northern province of Iskenderum, annexed by Turkey in 1939, where disputes over water resources and Syria's support of Kurdish rebels inflame relations with Turkey. Syria's self-styled and controversial role as "protector" of Lebanon, through the deployment of army troops and its secret service, to assure its continued political and economical control of that nation, is also critically examined.

SYRIA also looks at the political instability created by the U.S. occupation of Iraq, with the influx of millions of Iraqi refugees into Syria, what it sees as the virtual creation of a "common border" with America, and Syria's collusion with Iran in the financing and arming of the insurgency in Iraq.

Visually enriched by archival footage and contemporary scenes, SYRIA features interviews with ordinary Syrian citizens as well as an impressive array of political leaders, journalists, economists, diplomats, and academics from throughout the region.



*"Offers a superb panorama of politics in the Near East... The focus on Syria, rather than Israel or the occupied territories, is fresh... an excellent educational supplement for students of Middle East Politics."*

—Middle East Policy

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

52 minutes | color | 2008  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390  
Order #ME09-11



## Baghdad Twist

A Film by Joe Balass

A National Film Board of Canada Production



In this "visual memoir," filmmaker Joe Balass, born in Baghdad in 1966, blends a voice-over interview with his mother, Valentine, 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 North America in 1970.

In so doing, BAGHDAD TWIST provides a poignant portrait of Iraq's Jewish society, which had existed since Babylonian times as one of the world's oldest and most historically significant Jewish communities, living harmoniously among their Arab neighbors. Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, however, they began to experience persecution, and thousands of Iraqi Jews fled to Israel. The government-inspired persecution intensified after the 1967 war, when Iraqi Jews were suspected as "Israeli spies."

Valentine's memories range from crystal-clear to somewhat vague and fragmentary but the overall portrait she shares is one of a vibrant multicultural society that increasingly became politically fragmented and, within a decade, led to the virtual disappearance of the Jewish community in Iraq. Present estimates are that approximately 100 Jews remain in the country, with only seven to eight living in Baghdad.



*"Poignant... remarkable, not just the history it presents, but for the melodious way in which Balass lets the story unfold."* —Al Jadid: A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts

*"Compelling... we gain sensitive insight into the closing decades of a centuries old Jewish Arab world... will make an excellent contribution to university, high school and public libraries."*

—Leonardo Reviews On-Line

*"A poignant memoir... Recommended for the collections of high schools as well as academic and public libraries."* —Association for Jewish Libraries Newsletter

2008 Tribeca Film Festival

2008 San Francisco Jewish Film Festival

2008 Toronto International Film Festival

2008 Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival

30 minutes | color | 2007 CC  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$225  
Order #ME09-12

## Iran: A Cinematographic Revolution

A Film by Nader Takmil Homayoun

Iranian cinema is one of the most highly regarded national cinemas in the world today, one which has always been closely intertwined with the country's tumultuous political history. This documentary recounts this history through a compelling blend of archival footage, excerpts from representative and landmark Iranian films, and interviews with Iranian filmmakers, film critics, film historians, and government and film industry executives.



In the process, IRAN: A CINEMATOGRAPHIC REVOLUTION reveals the changing social functions of Iranian cinema and the artistic struggle of its filmmakers, against censorship and generic conventions, showing how today its leading filmmakers have become Iran's new ambassadors to the world.

*"Dazzling... Every country's cinema deserves a history as good as this."*—**Toronto International Film Festival**

*"Recommended."*—**Video Librarian**

 **2006 Amsterdam International Documentary Festival**

 **2006 Toronto International Film Festival**

98 minutes | color | 2006  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398  
**Order #ME09-13**

## Iran, Veiled Appearances

A Film by Thierry Michel

Giving voice to representatives of Iran's paramilitary religious sects, intellectuals and clerics—both reformers and fundamentalists—as well as the increasingly modernized and rebellious youth, IRAN, VEILED APPEARANCES provides an insightful introduction to the Islamic republic's ongoing ideological struggles and generational divide.



*"Compelling...poignant... Recommended."*  
—**Video Librarian**

*"Revelatory... remarkable."*  
—**Newsday**

58 minutes | color | 2002  
Sale/DVD: \$390  
**Order #ME09-14**

A college dormitory, a cemetery, a military academy, a drama class, a mosque... such are the places IRAN, VEILED APPEARANCES takes us. Iranians in their every-day life: soldiers, religious figures, young people, former soldiers, but also members of reforming movements, students, artists, or intellectuals.

## 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, young and jobless in the late Nineties, was paid to fight with the Taliban and a war injury left his legs paralyzed. He is now handicapped, and unable to work. Shaima was sold in marriage to a man forty years her senior, by whom she had a child, but, since the dowry remained unpaid, her father brought her back home to live with her five-year-old child.

WAR AND LOVE IN KABUL, a deliberately paced, observational documentary, reveals their dilemma through interviews with Hossein and Shaima, and members of their respective families, each representing a different ethnic group, who object to the relationship because of their loyalty to ancient tribal laws and family notions of honor and pride.

The film also discusses the prospects of marriage for Shaima's sisters within a culture in which daughters are virtually bought and sold, a tradition in which they are unable to pursue their own romantic desires but must submit to a marriage arranged by their father. WAR AND LOVE IN KABUL thus reveals the broader context of family life in a deeply traditional society, one in which the chances of personal happiness are very small.


*"An incredible Romeo and Juliet drama that feels like fiction, a very intimate love story in a country that only knows war."*

—**ScreenDaily.com**

*"By closely observing the situation in two families, the German director enables viewers to directly perceive prevailing values and their fragility... The impact of uprooting people and their disorientation are of great significance."*

—**www.german-info.com**

 **2009 Berlin International Film Festival**

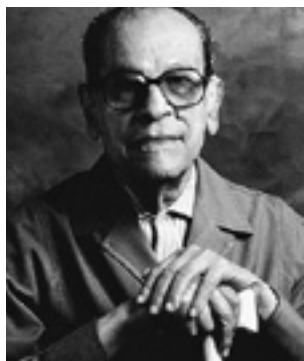
 **2009 Cinema du Réel**

 **2009 Norwegian Short Film Festival**

86 minutes | color | 2009  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398  
**Order #ME09-15**

## Naguib Mahfouz: The Passage of the Century

A Film by Francka Mouloudi



Nobel Prize-winning writer Naguib Mahfouz (1911-2006) granted rare access to make this revealing documentary with and about him. Author of the acclaimed *Cairo Trilogy*, *The Harafish*, *Arabian Nights and Days* and many other novels and collections of short stories,

Mahfouz weaves the threads of his life together with his view of society, his childhood, his discovery of literature (Egyptian and Western), the city of Cairo (which he left only three times in his life), Islamic fundamentalism, the evolution of Egypt, the role of women, and the future of civilization.

*"Recommended! A fascinating look at one of the giants of modern Arab literature."*

—Educational Media Reviews Online

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

49 minutes | color | 1999  
Sale/DVD: \$375  
**Order #ME09-16**

## Living With The Past: Historic Cairo

Directed by Maysoon Pachachi | Produced by Elizabeth Fernea

Cairo is one of the few medieval cities in the world that remains relatively intact. *LIVING WITH THE PAST* is a filmic portrait of Darb al-Ahmar, a neighborhood in the heart of the old city now facing a process of radical change. It documents a unique approach to historic preservation, one that combines social and economic development with monument restoration.



*LIVING WITH THE PAST* follows several restoration projects in progress in Darb al-Ahmar, including: the Great Gate of Bab Zuwayla (1092 A.D.), the Mosque of Emir Qijmas al-Ishaqi (1481 A.D.), the Church of the Virgin (600 A.D.), the Walls of Saladin (11th & 12th centuries A.D.).

*"Recommended."*  
—Library Journal

 **The First World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (2002)**

56 minutes | color | 2001  
Sale/DVD: \$390  
**Order #ME09-17**

## Women in the Middle East

A series of four films produced by Elizabeth Fernea



Elizabeth Fernea (1927-2008) was a writer and filmmaker whose work focused on the Middle East, particularly women and the family. She also taught English and Middle Eastern Studies for 30 years at the University of Texas in Austin. Her 1998 book *In Search of Islamic Feminism* was described by *Kirkus Reviews* as "A remarkable, stereotype-shattering, gender bending study of Middle Eastern women."

*Guests of the Sheikh: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village*, her first book, published in 1965 and continuously in print since then, has been cited as one of the 500 "Great Books by Women" in the *Penguin Readers Guide*. *Newsweek* magazine cited it as one of the ten best books to read about the Middle East since the September 11th attacks.

Her classic WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST series of films reveal the changing roles of women in the Arab world.

Titles in the series include *THE PRICE OF CHANGE*, which examines the effect of non-domestic work on five Egyptian women; *SAINTS AND SPIRITS*, which explores the personal dimensions of Islam during three religious events in Morocco; *A VEILED REVOLUTION*, which considers the possible reasons for modern Egyptian women's turn back to tradition; and *WOMEN UNDER SIEGE*, which looks at the daily lives of six women in a besieged Palestinian refugee camp.

Icarus Films is proud to distribute all of Elizabeth Fernea's films, which also include *The Road to Peace: Israelis and Palestinians*, *Living with the Past: Historic Cairo*, and *The Struggle for Peace: Israelis and Palestinians*. For detailed information on each of her films, visit our website at

[www.IcarusFilms.com/subjects/fernea.html](http://www.IcarusFilms.com/subjects/fernea.html)

*"The producer of these films, Elizabeth Fernea, is a writer whose experience in the Near East goes back about 30 years. Consequently, the films represent a distillation of understanding difficult to match. Although the focus of these films is on women—and would, therefore, be useful for any social science course in women's studies—the films are also fine for general anthropology, for political science courses about the contemporary Near East, and for the sociology of social change."*—*Psychology of Women Quarterly*



4 x 26 minutes | color | 1982  
Sale/DVD: \$1120 **Special Offer: \$998**  
**Order #ME09-18**

## The Perfumed Garden

A Film by Yamina Benguigui

THE PERFUMED GARDEN explores myths and realities of sensuality and sexuality in Arab society. Through interviews with men and women of all ages, classes, and sexual orientation, the film lifts a corner of the veil that usually shrouds discussion of this taboo subject in the Arab world.



The film examines the personal issues raised by the desire for pleasure, amidst societal pressures for chastity and virginity.

*"Looks unblinkingly... at the tensions between religious practices and customs and the contemporary expressions of sexuality in adult relationships."*

—Gale H. Golden, *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

 **2002 Seattle Arab and Iranian Film Festival**

52 minutes | color | 2000

Sale/DVD: \$390

Order #ME09-19

## The Virgin Diaries

A Film by Jessica Woodworth


Fatiha, a young Moroccan woman, is on the verge of marrying the man her grandfather chose for her. But her fiancé's disturbing views (he claims that, in the eyes of Islam, even a kiss of the hand is forbidden before marriage) shock her. So Fatiha and her friend Jessica, an American researching Moroccan family law reforms, embark on a journey through Morocco in search of answers to her questions about virginity, sex and Islam.



THE VIRGIN DIARIES joins them on their defiant quest, which produces a few answers and some unexpected romantic trouble.

*"Highly Recommended! An important movie."*

—Educational Media Reviews Online

 **2002 Middle East Studies Association FilmFest**

57 minutes | color | 2002 

Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$390

Order #ME09-20

## Saudi Solutions

A Film by Bregtje van der Haak

In Saudi Arabia, one of the most religiously conservative societies in the Middle East, women are not allowed to vote or to drive a car. Men and women are segregated in most public spaces and work environments. A strict dress code enforced by religious police mandates that women cover their heads and bodies in public, where they must always be accompanied by a husband or other male guardian.



SAUDI SOLUTIONS takes us inside this closed society where fewer than five percent of women work. It profiles several women with professional careers and asks them to explain what it means to be a modern woman in a fundamentalist Islamic society.

*"Elegant... teases the eye and mind with disturbing paradoxes [of] a stifling androcentric environment... Highly recommended."*—Counterpoise

 **2006 Middle East Studies Association FilmFest**

77 minutes | color | 2006

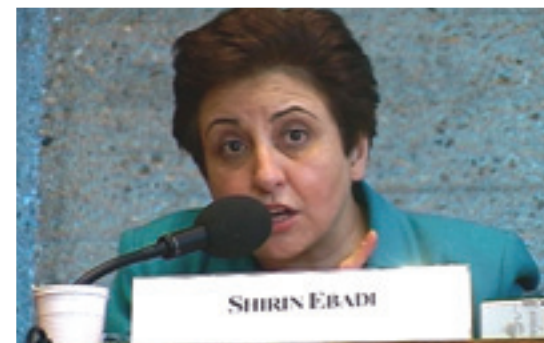
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398

Order #ME09-21

## Shirin Ebadi—A Simple Lawyer

A Film by Bani Khoshnoudi

Iranian attorney Shirin Ebadi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts for democracy and human rights. She was appointed the first female president of the Tehran City Court in 1975 but, following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, when women were forbidden to serve as judges, she lost her position, and was readmitted to the bar only in the early Nineties.



In an interview and public speeches, Ebadi discusses her current challenges to Iran's religious courts over human rights (especially those of women and children), freedom of expression, political prisoners and democratic reform.

*"Highly Recommended!"*

—Educational Media Reviews Online

 **2005 Middle East Studies Association FilmFest**

48 minutes | color | 2004

Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$375

Order #ME09-22

## Crimes of Honour

Directed by Shelley Saywell

Across the Islamic world, hundreds of women are shot, stabbed, strangled or burned to death each year by their male relatives, because they are thought to have dishonored their families by engaging in unacceptable relationships. Filmed in Jordan and on the West Bank, CRIMES OF HONOUR documents the terrible reality of femicide—the killing of sisters or daughters suspected of losing their virginity, for having refused an arranged marriage, or having left a husband.

CRIMES OF HONOUR tells the stories of several women, hiding from their families, fearing for their lives, as well as the men who commit femicide, delving into class and religious issues that infuse the debate, as well as the possible origins of femicide.

*"Powerful... highly recommended."*  
—Educational Media Reviews Online



44 minutes | color | 1998  
Sale/DVD: \$375  
Order #ME09-23

## Be Fruitful and Multiply

A Film by Shosh Shlam

How does it feel to have been pregnant or breastfeeding for most of your married life? This is one among many questions posed frankly in BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY, which exposes the consequences of the biblical commandment for ultra-orthodox Jewish women, for whom life is a continuing cycle of pregnancy, childbirth, nursing and nurturing.

The film profiles four ultra-orthodox women, in the U.S. and Israel, and documents their daily routines. In interviews, each of the women discuss their lives, focusing on their belief in the traditional and distinctive roles for women and men as dictated by Jewish religion.

*"Absolutely fascinating! Sensitive, entertaining, enriching, revealing."*—Yediot Hacharonot



2006 FilmFest, Middle East Studies Association

50 minutes | color | 2005  
Sale/DVD: \$298  
Order #ME09-24

## Hothouse

A Film by Shimon Dotan



Almost ten thousand Palestinians, designated by the Israeli government as "Security Prisoners," are incarcerated in Israel today. Most Israelis consider them murderers and criminals, but most Palestinians regard them as freedom fighters.

Granted rare permission to film inside the country's highest security facilities, Israeli filmmaker Shimon Dotan shows everyday prison life, including biweekly family visits, internal elections, periodic security searches of cells, and relations between inmates and prison staff.

HOTHOUSE also features interviews with many Palestinian prisoners, including those involved in suicide bombings, revealing how Israeli prisons have become virtual universities for Palestinian nationalism.

*"Candid and provocative documentary... Enlightening but disquieting."*—Rebecca Romani, **Al Jadid: A Review and Record of Arab Culture and Arts**

*"A candid and unflinching portrait... an excellent resource for teachers of politics and criminal justice... Highly recommended for academic and public libraries."*—Educational Media Reviews Online

*"Absorbing... full of remarkable interviews."*  
—The New York Times



2007 Sundance Film Festival

Wolgin Award, 2006 Jerusalem Film Festival

89 minutes | color | 2006  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398  
Order #ME09-25

## Palestine: Story of a Land



Directed by Simone Bitton

This remarkable, two-part historical documentary is distinguished by its use of only primary archival materials to tell the story of Palestine, from the late nineteenth century to the present era. Filmmaker Simone Bitton draws upon rare photos and footage from archives in France, Great Britain, Israel, Spain, the United States, Palestine and other Arab countries, and the United Nations. A comprehensive visual and historical record, **PALESTINE: STORY OF A LAND** provides the context needed to fully understand events in the Middle East today.



### Part 1: 1880 - 1950

Part 1 begins with the earliest photographs and motion pictures recorded in Palestine, in 1896. It tells of the first mass migration of European Jews to Palestine, when 4,500 sought relief from persecution in Czarist Russia. It then guides viewers through Theodore Hertzl's Zionist Congress in 1897, the influx of 150,000 Jews during Hitler's first three years in power, and events leading to the foundation Israel, while examining watersheds in the Zionist movement's history, including the Balfour Declaration, the Exodus incident, and the Deir Yassin Massacre.

### Part 2: 1950 - 1991

Part 2 covers the period following the establishment of the Jewish state. It introduces key figures—Arafat, Begin, Nasser, Rabin, Sadat, Shamir, among others—and the pivotal roles each played in the region's volatile history, as the unrest escalated into wars and terrorism, and the negotiations at the Madrid Peace Conference.

*"Succinct and effective history."*—**Friends of Sabeel-North America**

**Jury Special Mention, 1993 International Festival of Audiovisual Programs**

2 x 60 minutes | color-b&w | 1992  
Sale/DVD: ~~was \$490~~ **now \$398!**  
**Order #ME09-26**

## The Diaries of Yossef Nachmani

A Film by Dalia Karpel



This film provides a uniquely documented first-person account of the growth of Jewish settlement in Palestine before the creation of the state of Israel and in the early years thereafter. It draws upon the writings of a land broker for the Jewish National Fund, who purchased Arab-owned land in order to establish Zionist settlements for the nascent Jewish state, and who recorded his daily activities and private thoughts from 1935 to 1965.

The film focuses on events in Tiberius, Nachmani's hometown, the first mixed community where Arabs and Jews coexisted harmoniously. Although its Arab population accepted the logic of the UN Partition Plan, they became the first Arabs to be forcibly evacuated from their homes, paving the way for widespread ethnic cleansing. The film recounts atrocities committed by the Haganah and the IDF, including massacres and other forced evacuations.

**THE DIARIES OF YOSSEF NACHMANI** utilizes excerpts from Nachmani's diaries, rare archival footage, interviews with Nachmani's son and daughter, eyewitnesses and participants on both sides of the conflict, as well as with Israeli historian Benny Morris and Geography Professor Danny Gur.

*"A powerful documentary... a fascinating look at one of the most controversial moments in modern history."*

—**Al Jadid: A Review and Record of Arab Culture and Arts**

*"An impressive visual and historical document... powerful... a flowing film with wise and rich text."*

—**Shlomo Sand, Professor of History at Tel Aviv University**

*"Fascinating! A fine balance between facts and ideology, illuminating the past through the prism of the present."*—**Haaretz**



60 minutes | c/b&w | 2005  
Sale/DVD: \$390  
**Order #ME09-27**

## More Middle East Films

### 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 which control most of the oil—including Iran, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Russia—wielding their power on the world stage?

"Highly Recommended."

—Educational Media Reviews Online

78 minutes | color | 2007  
Sale/DVD (chaptered): \$398  
Order #ME09-28

### A Female Cabby in Sidi Bel-Abbès

Directed by Belkacem Hadjadj

The story of the only woman cab driver in the Algerian city of Sidi Bel-Abbès, and how her story, as a woman in a job normally reserved for men, reflects the struggles of women for more liberties in the face of the militant Islamic movement.

"A valuable glimpse into a class of people and some very courageous individuals—seldom seen in public."—Al Jadid, A  
Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts


52 minutes | color | 2000  
Sale/DVD: \$390  
Order #ME09-29

### Human Weapon

Directed by Ilan Ziv  
Produced by Ilan Ziv & Serge Gordey

Filmed in Iran, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Israel, Palestine, Europe and the U.S., this history of suicide bombing includes previously unseen footage plus interviews with key militants whose organizations use suicide bombing as part of their strategy.

"An in-depth view."—Middle East Studies Association Bulletin

55 minutes | color | 2002   
Sale/DVD: \$390  
Order #ME09-30


### Al Jazeera: Voice of Arabia

A Film by Tewfik Hakem

A behind-the-scenes look at Al Jazeera, combining news footage, excerpts from various Al Jazeera

programs, and interviews with executives, anchors, and journalists



 Viewer's Choice, 2003 Middle East Studies Association FilmFest

52 minutes | color | 2002  
Sale/DVD: \$390  
Order #ME09-31

### Slaves of the Sword Series

Directed by Paul Jenkins  
Produced by Liran Atzmor and Noemi Schory

This 3-part series investigates the lives of Moshe Dayan, Yitzhak Rabin and Ariel Sharon—former military men who became national political leaders, and asks: Why does Israel, proud to be a democracy, continue to choose generals as its political leaders? Each episode features rare archival footage and interviews.



"Highly Recommended!... a balanced view."

—Educational Media Reviews Online

3 x 56 minutes | color | 2003  
Sale/DVD: \$490  
Order #ME09-32

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