RECOMMENDED READINGS


DAY1

6:30 pm

A Day in Palestine-6min

"Deceptively beautiful, this Super-8 Kodachrome collection of vignettes of everyday life for Palestinians under occupation has a dreamlike quality, but the reality is anything but. A man picks olives against an azure sky. Grandmothers plead with expressionless soldiers as excavators wait on the hills behind them. Children and the elderly struggle to climb the brutal concrete wall that divides their homes, schools, mosques and workplaces as the film builds to a powerful indictment against oppression."

Gisèle Gordon

Dir: Will Eizlini, José García-Lozano, Mary Ellen Davis
Contact: medavis@sympatico.ca

No Way Through-8min

"No Way Through highlights mobility restrictions imposed in the West Bank, that are limiting its inhabitants' access to health care, thus violating a fundamental human right."

Ctrl Alt Shift

Dir: Alexandra Monro and Sheila Menon
Contact: info@ultralimited.com

Noor-18min

"Staring the celebrated actor Saleh Bakri, Noor tells the story of an unemployed man who lives alone with his bitter and seemingly unappreciative father. The story of Noor is anchored on this harsh relationship between father and son, culminating in madness. At its essence, Eyas Salman's Noor is an exploration of devotion to family and its consequent challenges to personal resilience."

Bside

Dir: Eyas Salman
Contact: aamer@qattanfoundation.org

Arafat & I-15min

"There's a crowd, especially in bed. In the romantic comedy Arafat & I, Marwan is a neurotic Palestinian in London with identity issues. He's finally met Lisa, the girl he's going to marry. Everything about her is perfect—she was even born on the same day as Chairman Arafat! But does Lisa know the significance of this coincidence?"

Boston Palestine Film Festival

Dir: Mahdi Fleifel
Contact: fleifel.m@gmail.com

BRAIN BREAK

8:15 pm

Occupation 101-88min

"A thought-provoking and powerful documentary film on the current and historical root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Unlike any other film ever produced on the conflict -- 'Occupation 101' presents a comprehensive analysis of the facts and hidden truths surrounding the never ending controversy and dispels many of its long-perceived myths and misconceptions.

The film also details life under Israeli military rule, the role of the United States in the conflict, and the major obstacles that stand in the way of a lasting and viable peace. The roots of the conflict are explained through first-hand on-the-ground experiences from leading Middle East scholars, peace activists, journalists, religious leaders and humanitarian workers whose voices have too often been suppressed in American media outlets.

The film covers a wide range of topics -- which include -- the first wave of Jewish immigration from Europe in the 1880's, the 1920 tensions, the 1948 war, the 1967 war, the first Intifada of 1987, the Oslo Peace Process, Settlement expansion, the role of the United States Government, the second Intifada of 2000, the separation barrier and the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, as well as many heart wrenching testimonial of the victims of this tragedy."

Dir: Abdullah Omeish and Sufyan Omeish
Contact: sales@occupation101.com
http://www.occupation101.com/

Discussion

DAY2

6:30 pm

Voices Beyond Walls

"Since 2006, Voices Beyond Walls has conducted nearly a dozen workshops in six different refugee camps in the West Bank in collaboration with youth centers, volunteer facilitators, and young participants aged 10-16. In each 10-day workshop a team of trainers works closely with 20-25 youth in groups to produce digital media shorts. Weaving together original stories, drama, poetry, photography, music, and digital video these youth express their own perspectives on Palestinian history, culture, and everyday life in the refugee camps, as well as their dreams and aspirations."

Dir: Selection of video shorts from workshops
Contact: info@voicesbeyondwalls.org

Neighbors-13min

"Two flirting kids, a slingshot and the Israeli army figure in a scenario of budding love in Neighbors."

Ann Arbor Palestine Film Festival

Dir: Georgina Asfour
Contact: aamer@qattanfoundation.org

Pickled-16min

"Kheir and Sadko are old bohemian friends who live in occupied Old Akka, in the North of Israel. One is a singer and the other a fruit and vegetable merchant who roam the town on his horse Mercedes selling his grandmother's famous pickles. Then one day the police accuse him of stealing an antique gun and a whole series of comic situations lead to a surprising ending as two journalists seek out the grandmother whose homemade pickles have special powers in Pickled."

Chicago Palestine Film Festival

Dir: Razi Najjar
Contact: aamer@qattanfoundation.org

BREAK

8:15 pm

Arna's Children-84min

"Arna's Children tells the story of a theatre group that was established by Arna Mer Khamis. Arna comes from a Zionist family and in the 1950s married a Palestinian Arab, Saliba Khamis. On the West Bank, she opened an alternative education system for children whose regular life was disrupted by the Israeli occupation. The theatre group that she started engaged children from Jenin, helping them to express their everyday frustrations, anger, bitterness and fear. Arna's son Juliano, director of this film, was also one of the directors of Jenin's theatre. With his camera, he filmed the children during rehearsal periods from 1989 to 1996. Now, he goes back to see what happened to them. Yusef committed a suicide attack in Hadera in 2001, Ashraf was killed in the battle of Jenin, Alla leads a resistance group. Juliano, who today is one of the leading actors in the region, looks back in time in Jenin, trying to understand the choices made by the children he loved and worked with. Eight years ago, the theatre was closed and life became static and paralysed. Shifting back and forth in time, the film reveals the tragedy and horror of lives trapped by the circumstances of the Israeli occupation."

Dir: Juliano Mer Khamis and Danniell Danniell
Contact: contact@arna.info
www.thefreedomtheater.org

Discussion

"If you destroy our houses, you will not destroy our souls"

- Graffiti on a wall still standing from a home in Gaza that was demolished by the Israel Defense Force