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The Washington, DC International Film Festival presents

# January 26 - February 11

# Arabian Sights 1999

## مشاهد عربية

### CONTEMPORARY ARAB CINEMA

The fourth annual Arabian Sights film series offers a unique opportunity to see rare, popular and classic Egyptian musicals on the wide screen, in addition to some of the newest and finest selections out of today's Arab world. Musicals represent a long-standing tradition in the history of Egyptian cinema, providing a glimpse of that society at leisure. You are sure to enjoy the selections offered in Arabian Sights featuring some of the most famous singers, dancers and film directors. The selections from Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria are all award-winning films dealing with marriage in any form you wish — drama, comedy and documentary. All films in this series are provided with English subtitles.

## OPENING NIGHT



★ American Premiere ★

## Ice Cream in Gileam

ايس كريم في جليم

With Special Guest  
Director Khairy Bishara

Reception immediately following first  
screening in Foyer adjacent to the theater.  
Sponsored by Chef Nayef Restaurant

Tuesday, January 26th, 6:45 pm  
Thursday, January 28th, 7:45 pm

(1992, Khairy Bishara, Egypt, color, 120 min., starring Amr Diyab, Simone, Ashraf Abd al-Baqi, and Husein al-Imam) Starring Egypt's most popular contemporary singer, Amr Diyab, this film is an upbeat musical about Seif, a young man who aspires to become a singer but has not yet found his own words or lyrics to offer. With a motley group of friends who gather around him, Seif comes to face the challenges of creativity within a changing society. As he rides his motorcycle through the bustling streets of Cairo listening to a lively mixture of Elvis Presley and Abd al-Halim Hafiz on his walkman, he is inspired to finally create his own unique musical and social identity.

Discussion immediately following the screening with the film's director, Khairy Bishara, and an introduction by Ambassador Clovis Maksoud, Director, Center for the Global South, American University.

★ American Premiere ★

## Bent Familia

بنت فاميلية

Tuesday, February 2nd, 7:45 pm  
Thursday, February 4th, 6:45 pm

(1997, Nouri Bouzid, Tunisia, 112 min.) Aida and Amina, two young Tunisian women now in their thirties, are reunited. Amina appears to be happily married while Aida is divorced. The presence of Fatiha, an Algerian refugee in Tunisia, creates a quest in the three women to overcome their respective societal limitations. While Fatiha is on the threshold of a new life in Europe, Amina searches for the strength and energy that help the other two women surpass their limits in a complex and very moving relationship among the three.

Discussion immediately following the screening, moderated by Hala Maksoud, President, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.



★ Washington, DC Premiere ★

## The Flirtation of Girls

غزل البنات

Tuesday, January 26th, 7:45 pm  
Thursday, January 28th, 6:45 pm

(1949, Anwar Wagdi, Egypt, b&w, 120 min., starring Layla Murad, Naguib al-Rihani, Anwar Wagdi, Muhammad Abd al-Wahhab, and Yusuf Wahbi) Modeled loosely on popular French theatre with some resemblance to Vaudeville, *The Flirtation of Girls* is a light-hearted comedy about a frivolous young rich girl falling in and out of love with dizzying speed. When she fails in her studies, an old teacher, Mr. Hamam, is hired to help her pass her exams. Mistaking her flirtatious manner for love, the old teacher quickly falls prey to her charms. Starring five legendary figures in the history of Egyptian cinema, this film is considered one of the best Egyptian musicals ever produced.



Discussion immediately following the screening, moderated by Film Specialist Walter Armbrust, Visiting Assistant Professor, Georgetown University.

★ Washington, DC Premiere ★

## My Family's Honor

شرف عائلتي

Tuesday, February 9th, 6:45 pm  
Thursday, February 11th, 7:45 pm

(1997, Rachid Bouchareb, Algeria, 83 min.) Nora's parents are conservative Algerian immigrants living in France. Through skillful deception and lying, Nora has managed to live a fairly free life ... until an unwanted pregnancy suddenly disrupts her existence. The only way to save her parent's reputation is by allowing them to arrange a marriage for her. Nora's mother wangles her an introduction to Hamid, owner of the town's largest textile store. Things go smoothly at first, but then the neighbors and the town's North African community suddenly discover Nora's secret...

Discussion immediately following the screening, moderated by Houria Sammari, Algerian-American Association of Greater Washington.



★ Washington, DC Premiere ★

## Love in Karnak

غرام في الكرنك

Tuesday, February 2nd, 6:45 pm  
Thursday, February 4th, 7:45 pm

(1967, Ali Rida, Egypt, color, 105 min., starring Mahmoud Rida, Farida Fahmy, Abd al-Munim Ibrahim, and the Rida Troupe) The Rida Troupe — Egypt's first national folkloric dance troupe — is invited to present its first show in the Upper Egyptian town of Luxor, home of some of the most spectacular ancient Egyptian ruins. Salah and Amina, the troupe's leading dancers, are romantically involved. A series of errors leads them both to believe their love affair is over, jeopardizing the successful completion of the show. *Love in Karnak* brilliantly brings together Egypt's cultural and musical traditions in a vivid and refreshing way.



Discussion immediately following the screening, moderated by Roberta Dougherty, Middle East Bibliographer, University of Pennsylvania, and a former member of the Rida Troupe, and Thomas Gorguissian, Film Critic and Journalist.

★ Washington, DC Premiere ★

## In My Father's House

في بيت والدي

Tuesday, February 9th, 7:45 pm  
Thursday, February 11th, 6:45 pm

(1997, Fatima Jebli Ouazzani, Morocco, 70 min.) In a startlingly candid portrayal, director Fatima Jebli Ouazzani pursues the importance of the Moroccan tradition of virginity. Employing fictional scenes in which fantasy and poetry reveal the deeper levels of her quest, Ouazzani goes back in time revealing her grandmother's and mother's marriages at young ages against their wills. The filmmaker herself defied tradition at the age of 18, leaving home and escaping the likelihood of the same kind of oppressive marriage. Against the breathtaking backdrop of a traditional North African wedding, Ouazzani uncovers family secrets, confronts fundamentalist doctrine and dispels prevailing myths about virginity in a moving and complex portrait of three generations of women and the choices they have made — or were denied — and their struggle to find a voice within the confines of their world.

Discussion immediately following the screening, moderated by Mohammed Cherkaoui, Journalist, Voice of America, ANA Television, and Mariam Bensaid, Journalist.



All films will be shown at the Loews Cineplex Foundry Theaters, 1055 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW (Georgetown, off M Street between 30th and 31st Streets) Take Metro Orange or Blue Lines to Foggy Bottom.

For more information on this series call 202-724-5613

Admission is \$7.00  
per person for each screening. Tickets  
for any film in the series may be  
purchased at the theater starting one  
hour before the first show.

## Festival Pass

Tickets for the six films will be available  
as a package for \$35 at start of series  
only.

## Location

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

Parking is available in parking lot on  
30th Street.

## مشاهد عربية

## Special thanks to:

Livia Alexander

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of Greater Washington

American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE)

Walter Armbrust

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Susan Peters

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Discounted tickets are offered to ARCE  
members with valid membership cards.

For more information on this series call  
202-724-5613.

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

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Filmfest DC



The Washington, DC  
International Film Festival  
P.O. Box 21396  
Washington, DC 20009

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