

Admission is \$6.50

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 avail-
able as a package for \$33 at start of
series only.

Location

All films will be shown at the
Cineplex Odeon Tenley Theaters,
4200 Wisconsin Avenue, NW.
Take Metro Red Line to Tenleytown:

Parking is available in the building
along Van Ness Street, and at
4000 Wisconsin Avenue.

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

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

Special thanks to:

Cineplex Odeon Theaters



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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO
The Official Radio Station of *Filmfest DC*



Romantica and *The Captain* are shown in collab-
oration with the American Research
Center in Egypt, funded in part by the
USIA, Egyptian Ministry of Culture and
the Egyptian National Film Center.

January 20 - February 5

Arabian Sights 1998

Contemporary Arab Cinema



The Washington, DC
International Film
Festival

P.O. Box 21396

Washington, DC 20009

To:

January 20 - February 5

Arabian Sights 1998

Contemporary Arab Cinema

presented by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and
the Washington, DC International Film Festival

The third annual Arabian Sights offers Washingtonians a rare opportunity to view contemporary Arab cinema, reflecting a wide array of issues and genres by a new generation of filmmakers who have chartered new horizons in Arab cinema.

Sponsors:

Center for the
Global South,
American University

League of Arab States

American-Arab
Anti-Discrimination
Committee



Romantica

American Premiere

Tuesday, January 20th,
6:30 pm

Thursday, January 22nd,
8:30 pm

(1996, Zaki Faten Abd el-

Wahab, Egypt, 105 min.) Son of legendary singer and actress Layla Murad and filmmaker Faten Abd el-Wahab, Zaki provides us with a semi-autobiography in his debut film. Hassan is an inexperienced young man, aspiring to direct his first film. He shares his sense of loneliness, frustration, and alienation with the "Kharteya," a group of rebellious youth living on the edge of society and earning a living hustling tourists. *Romantica* offers a poetic and ironic glance at the "glittering" West and its magical appeal.

Bye-Bye

Washington, DC Premiere

Thursday, January 29th,
6:30 pm and 8:30 pm

(1995, Karim Dridi, France/
Switzerland/Belgium, 105 min.)
Tunisian-French Director

Karim Dridi explicitly portrays Arab-French culture in this bold feature. His camera seeks out the nuances of racism and love in the Mediterranean port of Marseille, while giving space to the intimate story of a young man faced with his own all-too-human weaknesses. Dridi's great strength as a filmmaker is in integrating the mood - smells, sounds, shadows - of a place into his compositions. *Bye-Bye* was the opening night film at New Directors/New Films, 1996.



Chronicle of a Disappearance

Tuesday, January 20th,
8:30 pm

Thursday, January 22nd,
6:30 pm

(1996, Elia Suleiman, Palestine,

90 min.) Winner of Best First Feature at the 1996 Venice Film Festival and featured in New Directors/New Films, 1997. After twelve years of self-imposed exile, filmmaker Suleiman, living in New York, returns home in search of his roots. But his journey uncovers a culture which has been uprooted. And so the images are strung together like memories in an attempt to weave a whole out of elements that have been blasted apart. This film is a personal meditation upon the spiritual effect of political instability on the Palestinian people, their psyche, their identity. As such, it is an invaluable contribution to the struggle for peace in the region.



Life... My Passion

Washington, DC Premiere

Tuesday, February 3rd, 6:30 pm
Thursday, February 5th, 8:30 pm

(1995, Magdi Ali Ahmed, Egypt, 110 min.)

This warm comedy introduces three indomitable women, friends since childhood, with no male guardians. A high-spirited but insanely reckless conman, a jealous fundamentalist, and an amorous but seedy rich man are just a few of the colorful characters they encounter in a convoluted search for viable spouses. Through their precarious struggle to find decent men, their only assets are mutual friendship and sheer force of personality. In this exuberant film, Magdi Ali Ahmed provides a panoramic view of the challenges facing women in contemporary Egypt.

Sous les pieds des femmes

American Premiere

Tuesday, February 3rd, 8:30 pm

Thursday, February 5th, 6:30 pm

(1997, Rachida Krim, Algeria/France, 85 min.)

This film took France by storm this year winning all four of the most prestigious national prizes for screenplays. It is 1958 in the south of France. Aya, a young Algerian woman meets Amin, a leader of the clandestine Algerian resistance movement. They will live a passionate and secretive love affair hidden from the eyes of her husband Moncef. Forty years later, Amin, travels from Algeria and visits them in France. Aya remembers...



The Captain

American Premiere

With Special
Guest Director
Sayed Said

Reception immediately
following screening in
Grand Foyer adjacent to
the theater, sponsored by
the Egyptian American
Cultural Association and Layalina Restaurant.

Tuesday, January 27th, 7:00 pm



(1997, Sayed Said, Egypt, 140 min.) This highly stylized film by critic-turned-director Sayed Said takes place in the city of Port Said during the 1948 War, a time of great political turmoil and oppression under British occupation. As Palestinian refugees flood the city, a newly assigned police commissioner arrives in town and soon clashes with "the Captain." A free-spirited, colorful and mystical character, the Captain offers a lesson of freedom and challenge to authority to the young people who follow him.

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