



# ARABIAN SIGHTS 2001

*Contemporary Arab Cinema*

*October 6-14, 2001*

presented by

THE WASHINGTON, DC INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

THE SIXTH ANNUAL ARABIAN SIGHTS FILM SERIES OFFERS SOME OF THE NEWEST AND MOST ENGAGING CINEMA FROM THE ARAB WORLD TODAY. CINEMA IS A MEDIUM CAPABLE OF ELOQUENTLY DEPICTING OUR RELATIONSHIP TO CULTURE AND SOCIETY. ARAB CINEMA IS AN ART FORM REFLECTING THE RICH DYNAMICS OF THE REGION. IN ORDER TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE, ARABIAN SHORTS, A SELECTION OF SHORT FILMS FROM SOME OF THE AREA'S MOST TALENTED YOUNG FILM DIRECTORS, HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE PROGRAM. ALL FILMS IN THIS SERIES ARE WASHINGTON, DC PREMIERES AND ARE SCREENED WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES.

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# Weekend I

## جنة الشياطين

### Fallen Angels Paradise



Saturday, October 6th, 7:00 pm  
Sunday, October 7th, 7:00 pm

(Egypt, Oussama Fawzi, 1999, 80 minutes) Tabel, a drug addict, dies suddenly one night in a café with a bottle in his hand and a smile on his face. Tabel spent the last ten years of his life with his outcast friends, after having walked out on his wife, his daughter, and even his own identity. When his daughter discovers his death, she tries to erase her father's past in order to preserve the family's tradition and reputation. But even in his expensive coffin, Tabel's friends steal him for one last wild ride around town in their doorless pickup truck.

★ WELCOMING REMARKS: H.E. NABIL FAHMY, AMBASSADOR OF EGYPT

## حريم مدام عثمان

### The Harem of Madame Osmane

Saturday, October 6th, 9:00 pm  
Sunday, October 7th, 9:00 pm

(Algeria/France, Nadir Moknèche, 1999, 100 minutes) Set in 1993 Algiers, this film is an offbeat comedy revolving around an apartment building run by a former freedom fighter, Madame Osmane. She does everything she can to manipulate the lives of the people living under her roof. Learning that her daughter has fallen in love, Madame Osmane devises a new scheme to keep her daughter safe at home.



## أفلام عربية قصيرة

### Arabian Shorts

A selection of new short films from the Arab world

Saturday, October 6th, 9:30 pm  
Sunday, October 7th, 6:30 pm

**LA FEMME DÉVOILÉE** (Algeria/France, Rachida Krim, Hamid Tassili, 1998, 8 minutes) Five boys spend their days killing time and chatting up women who pass by. A dare is made to pick up the first woman that passes by. Hareth accepts the dare.

**LA DOUCHE** (Lebanon/France, Michel Kammoun, 1999, 10 minutes) A struggle between man and water...in the bathroom.

**CLANDESTIN** (Algeria/France, Abdel Hamid Krim, 1999, 14 minutes) The witnessing of a

drug transaction opens a door of opportunity for four young men to flee to France.

**TAXI SERVICE** (Lebanon/France, Elie Khalifé & Alexandre Monnier, 1998, 13 minutes) An unwitting passenger thinks the taxi driver will take him to Beirut.



**KHMISSA** (Tunisia, Molka Mabdaoui, 2000, 13 minutes) A woman contemplates suicide...then the doorbell rings.

**MERCI NATEX** (Lebanon/France, Elie Khalifé & Alexandre Monnier, 1998, 13 minutes) Farès wins a contest conducted by a paper tissue company. One day he receives an enormous wooden crate.

**THE WALL** (Morocco/France, Faouzi Bensaidi, 2000, 10 minutes) A day in the life of a wall.

**MABROUK AGAIN** (Lebanon/France, Hany Tamba, 1999, 18 minutes) Hoda decides to meticulously recreate her wedding picture - ten years later - in order to give it to her mother as a gift.

**MONETTE** (Algeria/France, Marie Helia, 1999, 9 minutes) An Algerian man decides to find Monette, a woman he wanted to declare his love to 17 years earlier.

**FIRST CHRISTMAS** (Tunisia/France, Kamel Cbérif, 1999, 15 minutes) Rafik, a seven year old Tunisian boy, comes to France and learns about Santa Claus.

### Admission

\$8.00 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 seven programs are available as a special package for \$45 at start of series only. Passes may be reserved by calling 202-274-5613.

### 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)

Paid parking is available in the Foundry building along 30th Street and the parking lot across from the theatre.

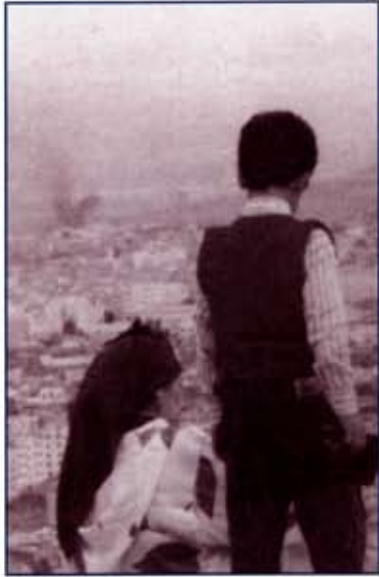
# Weekend II

## وقائع مغربية

### Moroccan Chronicles

★ WITH SPECIAL GUEST DIRECTOR MOUMEN SMIHI

Saturday, October 13th, 9:00 pm  
Sunday, October 14th, 7:00 pm



(Morocco, Moumen Smihi, 1999, 70 minutes) In the Arab storytelling tradition, a mother, whose son is recovering from circumcision, tells him three stories. The first story takes place in the market square in Marrakech where young boys harass a poor monkey trainer and receive a punishment to fit the crime. In the second story, set in Essaouira, a taunting young girl makes fun of an admiring suitor. The third story takes place in Tangiers where four old sailors exchange stories. One of them tells of a treasure lying in the belly of a whale and he is going to harpoon it.

## صافى

### Speakers of Truth

Saturday, October 13th, 7:30 pm  
Sunday, October 14th, 9:15 pm

(Algeria/The Netherlands, Karim Traïdia, 2000, 70 minutes) Sahafi, an Algerian journalist, survives several attacks on his life. When he comes to Holland to give a lecture, his friend Majid suggests he ask for political asylum. Sahafi seriously considers the proposal. The director provides the audience with a glimpse of Sahafi's life on either path he chooses.



## فلسطين نحت الأضواء

### Palestine in Focus

Saturday, October 13th,  
7:00 pm and 9:15 pm

**CYBER PALESTINE** (Palestine, Elia Suleiman, 2000, 15 minutes, video) A present-day Joseph and Mary, awaiting the birth of their child, travel from Gaza to Bethlehem.

**UPSIDE DOWN** (Rashid Masbarawi, Palestine, 2000, 10 minutes, video) The preparation of the traditional Palestinian dish "Makluba" (Upside down) is a visual feast for the eyes.

**NAZARETH 2000** (Palestine/The Netherlands, Hany Abu-Assad, 2000, 55 minutes, video) Director Hany Abu-Assad



follows two gasoline pump attendants in his native Nazareth on the eve of the new millennium. The result is a portrait of a town divided by dissention, where even Arafat and the Pope have become extras.

## نسيم الروح

### Breeze of the Soul

Sunday, October 14th,  
6:30 pm and 8:30 pm

(Syria, Abdullatif Abdalbamid, 1998, 91 minutes) A compassionate, big-hearted young man leaves a memorable impression with everyone he meets. He is challenged to sacrifice his relationship with his girlfriend in order to save the life of a suicidal friend. Director Abdulhamid walks the line between commercial and art filmmaking. He deftly combines fantasy and realism in this film about a passionate extra-marital affair, love, jealousy and murder.



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For more information

ARABIAN SIGHTS  
2001

call  
202-724-5613

or log on to  
[www.filmfestdc.org](http://www.filmfestdc.org)

All films in this series are Washington DC premieres and are screened with English Subtitles.

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



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مشاهد عربية حديثة