

November 14 - 17



New Orleans, Louisiana

36th Annual
2019 FilmFest



The Judge

Courtesy of thejudgefilm.com

Thursday, November 14th @ 5:35pm



Afghan Cycles

Courtesy of www.afghancycles.com

Friday, November 15th @ 2:00pm



Samaritan

Courtesy of Gloria Films

Friday, November 15th @ 12:50pm



Advocate

Courtesy of Film Movement

Saturday, November 16th @ 8:10pm



Imprisoning a Generation

Courtesy of Anemoia Projects

Saturday, November 16th @ 1:05pm

Badge Required
to watch films
(Register on the 3rd Floor)

Film Schedule

Screening in
Maurepas
(3rd Floor)

Thursday, November 14

- 9:30 The Mad, Mad, p@W World (3)
9:35 Under the Scarf (6)
TERRORIST NUMBER FOUR (6)
A FILM CREW CENSORS ITSELF (4)
9:55 The Mosque Next Door (*Episode 2*) (61)
11:00 Thoub (10)
As if the King (11)
11:25 Saddam Hussein (56)
12:25 A Maid for Each (67)
1:35 Refuge (6)
The Death of Mr. Tamimi's Foot (9)
Influenced (7)
2:00 Casablanca Mon Amour (76)
3:20 Women with Gunpowder Earrings (77)
4:40 And There Was Israel... (53)
5:35 The Judge (82)
7:00 The Road to Jihad (48)
7:50 The Battle of Algiers: A Film within History (117)

Friday, November 15

- 8:30 Watan: Portraits of Syrian Refugees in Jordan (52)
9:25 Beyond the Fence (18)
Twinkle: Power to Change (8)
Salto (17)
10:10 Ancient Iran (41)
⇒ Plus a Cineforum with Kaveh Askari
11:05 Bahram Beyzaie: A Mosaic of Metaphors (67)
⇒ Plus a Cineforum with Bahman Ghaghaei
12:25 Silah (20)
12:50 Samaritan (52)
1:45 On Air (10)
2:00 Afghan Cycles (99)
3:40 In the Middle (14)
Yemen: The Silent War (11)
Just another Memory (14)
4:20 More Out of Curiosity (26)
⇒ Plus a Cineforum with Ronnie Close
5:00 POTTY MOUTH (10)
MUM (9)
ARASIAN (10)
5:30 HAIR: THE STORY OF GRASS (15)
The Bleaching Syndrome (19)
6:05 MARYAM (22)
6:30 Beduiner (16)
⇒ Plus a Cineforum with Jocelyn S. Mitchell and Scott Curtis
7:00 CLOSED FOR PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Saturday, November 16

- 8:30 Asheng (30)
9:05 City of Two Springs (70)
10:20 Time for Ilhan (89)
11:50 They Persist: Arab Youth Reinventing Politics (60)
⇒ Plus a Cineforum with Sarah Anne Rennick
1:05 Imprisoning a Generation (51)
❖ Sponsored by the Association of Middle East Children and Youth Studies (AMECYS) & Palestinian American Research Center (PARC) ❖
2:00 House in the Fields (86)
3:30 **10 DAYS BEFORE THE WEDDING** (120)
⇒ Plus a Cineforum with Amr Gamal
❖ Sponsored by the American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS) ❖
5:45 The Poetess (69)
6:55 I Am the Revolution (72)
8:10 Advocate (109)

Sunday, November 17

- 8:00 Morocco's Gnaoua Music Festival (23)
8:25 Revive the Lira's Glory (5)
8:35 Focus Iran - A Daring Vision (54)
9:30 Iran: Kashan, the Zoroastrian Fire Temple of Yazd (26)
10:00 The Mosque Next Door (*Episode 1*) (55)
11:00 - 2:00 Viewers' Choice!

The FilmFest Committee

Director

Thomas B. Stevenson, Ohio U, Zanesville (Emeritus)

Hebat-Allah El Attar, Cleveland State U

Julie Ellison-Speight, U Arizona

Dale Hudson, NYU Abu Dhabi

Sinan Khadife, Istanbul

Silvia Marsans-Sakly, Fairfield U

James Miller, Clemson (Emeritus)

Tamir Sorek, U Florida

KEY

BOLD CAPS = Feature Film
CAPS = Short Drama



As a courtesy to others, please silence your cell phone before entering the screening room.
No photography is permitted during film screenings.

Film Descriptions

10 DAYS BEFORE THE WEDDING (10 AYAM QABL AL-ZAFA) (Yemen) 2018 120 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director: Amr Gamal. Producers: Mohsen Al-Khalifi and Amr Gamal. **Print Source: Adenium Productions.** Rasha and Ma'moon, a young Yemeni couple, were set to marry. The war of 2015 prevented their wedding. They try to make it happen in 2018. Again, obstacles appear but it's not the war, it's the aftermath. From having to evacuate their homes and coping with war dealers controlling their fates to conflicts with militias and the economic crisis, the couple race with time to make sure the wedding scheduled in 10 days happens on time.

❖ *Sponsored by the American Institute for Yemeni Studies (AIYS)* ❖

AFGHAN CYCLES (Afghanistan) 2018 88 min. In English and Dari w/English subtitles. Director: Sarah Menzies. Producers: Sarah Menzies, Shannon Galpin, and Jenny Nichols. **Print Source: Sarah Menzies.** The bicycle tells the story of women's rights and the struggles Afghan women face daily. The women in this film ride despite cultural barriers, poor infrastructure, and death threats. They embrace the power and freedom that comes with the sport.

A Film Crew Censors Itself



A FILM CREW CENSORS ITSELF (Saudi Arabia) 2019 4 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: Bentley Brown. **Print Source: Aboudigin Films.** Despite the legalization of cinema in Saudi Arabia, film crews are still subject to “moral laws” governing “mixed-gender” work environments. Nestled away on a private beach film set, a film crew must censor its behind-the-scenes footage.

A MAID FOR EACH (MUKHDŪMĪN) (Lebanon) 2016 67 min. In Arabic, French, Amharic and Oromo w/English subtitles. Director: Maher Abi Samra. Producers: Jinane Dagher and Sabine Sidawi. **Print Source: Icarus Films.** Lebanon boasts some 200,000 foreign domestic workers, contracted under a system that deprives them of basic rights. This system is predicated on the premise that workers aren't providing a service but are a product with specialized agencies, such as the one in this film, organizing their import under conditions not unlike modern-day outposts of slavery.

ANCIENT IRAN (Iran) 1977 41 min. In English. Directors: Margaret Mehring and Ali Issari. Producer: Ali Issari. **Print**

Source: Kaveh Askari. This is the only complete episode of a joint Michigan State University and Iranian Radio and Television Corporation series on Iran. Production was halted because of student protests that the project legitimized an Iranian government condemned for human rights abuses. This is the U.S. Premier.

AND THERE WAS ISRAEL... (ET ISRAËL FUT...) (Israel/Palestine) 2018 52 min. In English and French w/English subtitles. Director: Romed Wyder. Producers: Yasmine Abd El Aziz, Romed Wyder and Quentin Laurent. **Print Source: Icarus Films.** The film returns to the origins of the creation of Israel and the responsibility of the Western world. The analysis of internationally renowned scholars reveals that by adopting the Zionist project, Great Britain and other Western countries were guided mainly by their own agendas.

ARASIAN (UAE) 2017 10 min. In Arabic and Tagalog w/English subtitles. Director: Ahmad Al Tunaiji. Producer: Yulia Piskuliyska. **Print Source: Ahmad Al Tunaiji.** Khalifa struggles to hide his half-Filipino identity from his Emirati schoolmates. He communicates with his Filipina mother through his sister. He has his mother drop him at the school's back door so she won't be seen. When the school bullies discover his secret, Khalifa is forced to make a choice.

A Maid for Each



ASHENG (Iran) 2018 30 min. In Farsi w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: Mohammad Sadeq Esmaeili. **Print Source: Women's Voices Now.** Seven women, who live in a frontier village in south-eastern Iran, band together for survival. Their husbands are incarcerated on drug charges. The women plan to get their men released.

AS IF THE KING (UAE) 2018 11 min. In Urdu w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: Fahad Hussain. **Print Source: Image Nation Abu Dhabi.** This is a look at the dual lives of a Pakistani working in the UAE. From a family of street performers, he enacts a king reciting for restaurant patrons, yet his fancy costume belies his meager off work life.

BAHRAM BEYZAIE: A MOSAIC OF METAPHORS (Iran) 2019 66 min. In English and Farsi w/Farsi and English subtitles. Director/Producer: Bahman Maghsoudlou. **Print Source: Iran Film and Video Center.** This documentary examines Beyzaie's film contributions, especially his cinematic vision and style. Before leaving Iran, Beyzaie directed and produced eleven feature films.

The Battle of Algiers: A Film within History



THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS: A FILM WITHIN HISTORY (Algeria/Italy/France/USA) 2019 157 min. In English and Arabic, French and Italian w/English subtitles. Director: Malek Bensmail. Producer: Gérald Collas. **Print Source: Journeyman Pictures.** In 1965 Italian filmmaker Gillo Pontecorvo shot a film reconstructing the events of the Battle of Algiers (1956/1957). The film took on mythical status in Algeria, where it was televised annually to commemorate the country's independence. Returning to the roots of the production and interviewing the personalities involved, this documentary explores what made the film so profound, as well as the controversies surrounding it.

BEDUINER (Qatar) 1962 16 min. In Danish w/English subtitles. Director: Jette Bang. Producer: Minerva Film. **Print Source: Private Copy.** Filmed by the 1959 Danish Expedition, *Beduiner* shows how life before oil revenues transformed Qatar. The film presents the Al-Murrah tribe, highlighting many aspects of their nomadic life.

BEYOND THE FENCE (ĀNSŪĀY HAŞĀR) (Iran) 2018 18 min. In Farsi w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: Arman Gholipour Dashtaki. **Print Source: Women's Voices Now.** Teenager Behnaz Rahmanpoor wants to become a professional football player. Her role model is Messi. But she lives in a rural city and this presents lots of obstacles to fulfilling her dream.

THE BLEACHING SYNDROME (Sudan/Egypt/Qatar) 2019 19 min. In English and Arabic w/English subtitles. Director: Eiman Mirghani. Producers: Atheel El Malik and Ali Khechen. **Print Source: Eiman Mirghani.** After a failed attempt to make a documentary about a Sudanese woman who bleaches her skin, the filmmaker turns the camera around to discover her own relationship with her skin color and how it has affected her life as a young, Afro-Arab woman living in the Middle East.

CASABLANCA MON AMOUR (Morocco) 2018 76 min. In Arabic and French w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: John Slatery. **Print Source: Zween Works.** Using movies as a road map between yesterday's Hollywood and today's Morocco, this film offers a Moroccan perspective on the long and entwined relationship between Hollywood and the Arab World. The film takes a human and humorous look at the effects Hollywood films have on people's imaginations and affords Moroccans' an opportunity to talk back—which they do in intelligent, witty and wildly ingenious ways.

CITY OF TWO SPRINGS (Iraq) 2019 71 min. In English and Arabic w/English subtitles. Directors: Frederick Mansell and Laurens Samsom. Producers: CoBO and NPO Fonds. **Print Source: Journeyman Pictures.** Resurrecting Mosul, a city turned to rubble is tough for both the UN and returning civilians. This film illustrates the problems through the stories of a senior UN figure and a young child.

THE DEATH OF MR. TAMIMI'S FOOT (UAE) 2018 9 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: John Haddad. **Print Source: Image Nation Abu Dhabi.** Abdul Nasser tells us his story by acting out significant moments in his life with diabetes. He is determined to get over his past and move on with his life.

FOCUS IRAN – A DARING VISION (Iran) 2017 54 min. In Farsi w/English subtitles. Directors: Nathalie Masduraud and Valérie Urréa. Producers: Anne Morien and France Saint Léger. **Print Source: Films Media Group.** In the Islamic Republic, a creative and daring young photographic scene is committed to giving Iran a new world image. This movie sheds new light on Iran, a complex country torn between tradition and modernity. Modernity presents a unique artistic scene – using humor and metaphor in their work to bypass censorship.

HAIR: THE STORY OF GRASS (Saudi Arabia) 2018 15 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director: Maha Al-Saati. Producers: Maha Al-Saati and Khalid Fahad. **Print Source: Maha Al-Saati.** Abandoned by her prince, an Arabian Cinderella is left serving guests. Meanwhile, her mentally challenged war-den attempts to escape the body of the hairy grown-up he is trapped in. The film explores attitudes toward beauty standards and hairiness.

HOUSE IN THE FIELDS (TIGMI N IGREN) (Morocco) 2017 86 min. In Amazigh w/English subtitles. Director: Tala Hadid. Producers: Tala Hadid and Larbi Idmansour. **Print Source: Documentary Educational Resources.** This film documents and portrays a village and community that has remained unchanged for years despite being faced with rapid sociopolitical changes. The central focus is on the intimate lives of two sisters as they plan their futures.

I Am the Revolution

Courtesy of Women Make Movies



I AM THE REVOLUTION (Afghanistan) 2019 72 min. In English and Arabic, Kurdish and Dari w/English subtitles. Director: Benedetta Argentieri. Producers: Benedetta Argentieri, Lorenzo Gangarossa and Elizabeth Pauker. **Print Source: Women Make Movies.** Three women press for gender equality in Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq. One educates women about their rights, another is an Army commander, and the third is a legislator.

IMPRISONING A GENERATION (Palestine) 2018 51 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director: Zeldia Edmunds. Producers: Zeldia Edmunds, Jesus Contreras and Nathaniel Edmunds. **Print Source: Anemoia Projects.** The stories of four young Palestinians who have been detained and imprisoned under the Israeli military and political systems reveal that occupation extends beyond prison walls. Their and their families' voices lend insight into the structures of oppression.

❖Sponsored by the Association of Middle East Children and Youth Studies (AMECYS) & Palestinian American Research Center (PARC)❖

INFLUENCED (UAE) 2018 7 min. In English. Director/Producer: Duha Abbas. **Print Source: Image Nation Abu Dhabi.** A beauty lover turned Instagram star moved to Dubai to pursue fame and success. In a competitive market where there's little substance, she still managed to make an Influencer of herself with her fierce, arrogant and diva attitude. But at what cost?

IN THE MIDDLE (FI AL-MUNTAŞAF) (Yemen) 2019 14 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director: Mariam Al-Dhubhani. Producers: Nour Abunabaa and Mohammed Al-Jaberi. **Print Source: Mariam Al-Dhubhani.** Even though the fighting in Aden is over, Yemen's state of uncertainty persists and lives remain on hold.

IRAN: KASHAN, THE ZOROASTRIAN FIRE TEMPLE OF YAZD (Iran) 2017 26 min. In English. Director: Xavier Lefebvre. Producer: Bastien Penquer. **Print Source: Films Media Group.** This Silk Road episode focuses on Iranian Zoroastrianism. At the temple of Chak Chak, viewers are introduced to Zoroastrianism, Persia's ancestral religion. In the sacred city of Yazd, the host visits a zurkhaneh, a "house of strength," where athletes engage in training sessions designed to strengthen the mind and the spirit as well as their muscles.

THE JUDGE (AL-QĀḌĪYA) (Palestine) 2017 82 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: Erika Cohn. **Print Source: Nicole Docta.** In 2009 Kholoud became the first female Shari'a judge in the Middle East with her appointment to a West Bank Shar'ia court. She dispenses justice in domestic and family affairs like marriage, divorce, abuse and child custody in a system that has always leaned heavily in favor of men.

Just Another Memory

Courtesy of Mariam Al-Dhubhani



JUST ANOTHER MEMORY (MUJRAD DHIKRA) (Yemen/Qatar) 2018 14 min. Director: Mariam Al-Dhubhani. Producer: Yasmine Hammoudi. **Print Source: Mariam Al-Dhubhani.** Amidst the ongoing war in Yemen, how does one move forward and heal? How can a person deal with so much suppressed pain? In this affecting documentary, the filmmakers investigate these questions and explore what it feels like to be suddenly uprooted and displaced by war.

THE MAD, MAD, DVV WORLD (Iran) 1975 3 min. No dialogue. Designer/Director: Nureddin Zarrin-Kelk. Producer: Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, Tehran. **Print Source: Media Resources Center, University of North Carolina.** This black-and-white animated cartoon features a very active symbolic map. It is a tale of "global relations." Taffy Bodman, the FilmFest founder, selected the cartoon which has become the MESA FilmFest signature film. It was shown first in 1991.

MARYAM (MARYAM) (UAE) 2019 22 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director: Mohammed Ahmed Alhammadi. Producers: Mohammed Ahmed Alhammadi and Sharjah Art Foundation. **Print Source: Mohammed Ahmed Alhammadi.** Maryam, a young Emirati, dreams of becoming an actress. But her plans clash with those of her conservative family who plan on getting her married.

MORE OUT OF CURIOSITY (Egypt) 2014 26 min. In English and Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: Ronnie Close. **Print Source: Ronnie Close.** The film is made up from street protests, football games, riots and banner making to help stitch together a portrait of Ultra subculture in a meta-documentary format. The work is bookended by the Port Said incident in 2012 and the court verdict a year later.

MOROCCO'S GNAOUA MUSIC FESTIVAL (Morocco) 2018 23 min. In English and French and Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: CNN. **Print Source: Films Media Group.** Every year, thousands of people from across the world journey to the Moroccan city of Essaouira to experience Gnaoua culture. Can this music, steeped in ancient rituals and religious mysticism, adapt to a changing, modern world?

The Mosque Next Door



Courtesy of SBS Australia

THE MOSQUE NEXT DOOR, Episodes 1 & 2 (Australia) 2017 55/61 min. In English. Director: Not credited. Producer: Ross Wilson. **Print Source: Films Media Group.** A look inside a Brisbane mosque at a time when politicians are calling for Muslims to leave Australia and security authorities question mosque members loyalty.

MUM (LAM Ā'D ĀKTAR) (UAE) 2018 9 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: Mariam Alawadhi. **Print Source: Image Nation Abu Dhabi.** 15 years of avoiding the source of her anxiety, Mariam at last voices her hidden emotions about her non-Emirati mother, and the uneasiness she feels about her mixed background in Emirati society.

ON AIR (UAE) 2018 10 min. In English and Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: Al-Hurr Al-Dalli. **Print Source: Image Nation Abu Dhabi.** When faced with a controversial breaking story, an ambitious news anchor must choose between her integrity and her career.

THE POETESS (AL-SHĀ'RA) (UAE/Saudi Arabia) 2018 66 min. In English and Arabic w/English subtitles. Directors: Stephanie Brockhaus and Andreas Wolff. Producer: Andreas Wolff. **Print Source: CAT & Docs.** In 2010 Saudi poetess Hissa Hilal was the first woman to make it to the finals of "Million's Poet", an Abu Dhabi based reality television show. It is the Arab world's biggest poetry competition, and it is dominated by men. In her poems, Hissa criticizes patriarchal Arab society and attacks one of the most notorious Saudi clerics for his extremist fatwas.

POTTY MOUTH (ḤAMMAM MAḤSHĪ) (UAE) 2018 10 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: Fajer Alalami. **Print Source: Image Nation Abu Dhabi.** Hurtful teasing and reckless jokes were the only things three bullies adored, till one joke goes bad and they are sucked into the mysterious world of the very joke they played.

REFUGE (MALJĀ') (Palestine) 2019 6 min. In English and Arabic w/English subtitles. Directors/Producers: Wijdan AlKhatteeb and Maha Essid. **Print Source: Maha Essid.** This short film presents young people's views of their place as Palestinians.

REVIVE THE LIRA'S GLORY (KHALĪ AL-LĪRA TARJ' TAḤLĪ) (Lebanon) 2019 5 min. In English and Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: Alessandra El Chanti. **Print Source: Alessandra El Chanti.** This documents a Lebanese artist who paints important Lebanese figures on the very low value lira.

THE ROAD TO JIHAD (UK/Pakistan) 2017 48 min. In English. Director: Mobeen Azhar. Producer: Shehzad Hameed Ahmad. **Print Source: Films Media Group.** The rise of Islamic extremists has fueled negative stereotypes of Islam. Why have these radical views gained traction and how are Muslims fighting back?

SADDAM HUSSEIN (Iraq) 2019 54 min. In English. Director: Mark Stevenson. Producer: Patrick Cameron. **Print Source: Films Media Group.** This episode of The Dictator's Playbook presents the life of Saddam Hussein from village kid to Iraqi dictator.

SALTO (SĀLTŪ) (Iran) 2017 17 min. In Farsi w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: Maryam Haddadi. **Print Source: Women's Voices Now.** This is a portrait of a girl who is the swimming "champion of champions" in Iran. Because the Islamic Republic is not happy with her efforts and swimming costume, the film was shot clandestinely.

SAMARITAN (Palestine) 2019 52 min. In English and Arabic w/English subtitles. Director: Julien Menanteau. Producer: Maud Huynh. **Print Source: Gloria Films.** Samaritans are a unique minority. They hold dual Israeli-Palestinian nationality. With only 780 members, they are on the verge of extinction. On the heights of Nablus, Abdallah Cohen, the high priest's grandson, seeks his own way.

SILAH (ŞILA) (Saudi Arabia) 2019 20 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director: Hussam Alhulwah. Producers: Mohamed Alhamoud and Hussam Alhulwah. **Print Source: Hussam Alhulwah.** Khaled and his father represent very different generations of Saudi society. When Khaled's mother is hospitalized, the two find themselves physically closer, but

further apart emotionally. Khaled's father's fixation on his son's religious obligations only deepens their disconnection.

TERRORIST NUMBER FOUR (USA) 2018 6 min. Director: Bentley Brown. Producers: Bentley Brown and Nathan Danskey. **Print Source: Aboudigin Films.** In a racist film industry decimated by the departure of Arab actors routinely cast as terrorists, one man stands a chance to wrong the rights, er, um, right the wrongs.

THEY PERSIST: ARAB YOUTH REINVENTING POLITICS (MUSTAMIRRŪN: ĀJĪĀL SHĀBBA WA ḤARĀKĀT MABTAKARA) (Algeria/Tunisia/Egypt/Lebanon/Syria) 2019 60 min. In English and French and Arabic w/English subtitles. Directors: Marc Almodovar and Andreu Roses. Producer: Arab Reform Initiative. **Print Source: Arab Reform Initiative.** This documentary focuses on how Arab youth in five countries re-imagine politics, and how their actions represent a new way of "being together" that breaks with political norms and the traditional social order.

THOUB (THAWB) (UAE) 2018 10 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: Raihana Alhashmi. **Print Source: Image Nation Abu Dhabi.** An abused tailor teleports to an affluent customer's world through a magical dress.

TIME FOR ILHAN (USA) 2018 89 min. In English. Director: Norah Shapiro. Producers: Norah Shapiro, Chris Newberry and Jennifer Steinman. **Print Source: Flying Pieces Productions.** A timely take on the American Dream, this film shadows Ilhan Omar and her dedicated campaign staffers through a dramatic, uphill political battle for the Minnesota legislature. Ilhan challenged the party's status quo, while simultaneously defying lingering gender norms within her own Muslim community.

Time for Ilhan



Courtesy of TimeforIlhanFilm.com

Twinkle: Power To Change



Courtesy of YouTube.com

TWINKLE: POWER TO CHANGE (Pakistan) 2018 8 min. In Urdu w/English subtitles. Director: Aftab Abbasi. Producer: Tauseeq Haidar. **Print Source: Women's Voices Now.** Twinkle Sohail is one in a group of women weightlifters in Pakistan. She and her cohorts have won medals in international competitions.

UNDER THE SCARF (USA) 2018. 5 min. In English. Directors/Producers: Ana Antuna, Mehrin Ashraf, Michelle Leon and Cheyenne Williams. **Print Source: Women's Voices Now.** Pakistani immigrant, Mehrin, like any other teenage girl, tries to navigate her way through high school. Once the scarf is on, she becomes a stereotype.

WATAN: PORTRAITS OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN JORDAN (Jordan/Syria) 2018 52 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Directors/Producers: James L. Brown and Bill Irving. **Print Source: Collective Eye.** Watan is a film that looks beyond rhetoric and into the human cost of the Syrian refugee crisis. Intimate portraits of refugees in the camps and cities of Jordan reveal a very human struggle for normalcy and dignity in a situation that is anything but.

WOMEN WITH GUNPOWDER EARRINGS (ZANĀNĪ BĀ GŪSHVĀRAHĀĪ BĀRŪTĪ) (Iraq) 2018 77 min. In Farsi and Arabic w/English subtitles. Director: Reza Farahmand. Producer: Morteza Shabani. **Print Source: Journeyman Pictures.** On the war-torn Syrian-Iraqi border, journalist Noor Al Helli documents Islamic State's ongoing regime of terror. When she meets civilians, who endured the occupation yet sympathize with the enemy, her perspective of IS is challenged.

YEMEN: THE SILENT WAR (AL-YAMAN: AL-ḤARB AL-ŞĀMATA) (Yemen/Djibouti) 2018 11 min. In Arabic w/English subtitles. Director/Producer: Sufian Abolohom. **Print Source: Sufian Abolohom.** This short film presents the small group of Yemeni refugees who have chosen to remain in the Markazi Refugee camp in Djibouti.

Distributors, Film Makers, Print Sources

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Films Media Group

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Image Nation Abu Dhabi

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Iran Film and Video Center

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Journeyman Pictures

The Battle of Algiers: A Film within History, City of Two Springs, Women with Gunpowder Earrings
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Media Resources Center, University of North Carolina

The Mad, Mad, PeW World
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Sarah Menzies

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Eiman Mirghani

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Women Make Movies

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Women's Voices Now

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www.zweenworks.com

Call for Entries

The MESA FilmFest Committee seeks submissions for FilmFest 2020 to be screened during the annual meeting in Washington, D.C., October 10-13. All entries will be reviewed by the committee or selected regional/topical experts. DVD submissions (2 copies) in region free NTSC format should be sent with the entry form to the address below. Links to digital submissions of H.264 files (with .mp4 or .mov extensions) should be provided with the entry form and sent to the email address below. If a digital entry is accepted, the film maker may be asked to send a higher resolution file (not larger than 4-5 GB). MESA rarely pays screening fees. Issues of such fees must be addressed before submitting to the fest. Entry forms will be available online. Contact information: Thomas B. Stevenson, FilmFest Director, MESA Secretariat, 3542 N. Geronimo Ave., Tucson, AZ 85705 (520.333.2577; 740.605.0115; tbstevenson@email.arizona.edu).

Submission Deadline: June 15, 2020