

2007

MIDEAST

FILM, VIDEO & DVD CATALOG

PALESTINE & ISRAEL

THE DIARIES OF YOSSEF NACHMANI

A Film by Dalia Karpel

NEW release Drawing upon the diaries of a land broker for the Jewish National Fund responsible for acquiring Palestinian lands for Zionist settlements from the 1930's through the 1940's, *THE DIARIES OF YOSSEF NACHMANI* is a unique history of the gestation and birth of the Jewish state, the Palestinian diaspora, and the conflicts that continue to this day.

A complex and contradictory man, Yossef Nachmani, director of the JNF in the Galilee, set himself the goal of buying as much Arab land as possible, and establishing Jewish settlements upon it. As such, he was the man largely responsible for the Zionist enterprise in the Galilee.

This is also the story of Tiberius, where Nachmani lived, and which, following nearby killings committed by the Haganah, was the first mixed city whose Palestinian inhabitants were expelled during the 1948 war.



THE DIARIES OF YOSSEF NACHMANI uses readings from his diaries, archival footage, sequences with Nachmani's son and daughter, as well as Palestinian eyewitnesses from the time, still living in Israel, and interviews with historian Benny Morris, and geography professor Danny Gur.



This provocative historical documentary is sure to become a significant document in the ongoing debate about the basic foundation myths of Israel.

"An impressive visual and historical document."
—Shlomo Sand, Professor of History,
Tel Aviv University

"A fascinating lesson in local history... a fine balance between facts and ideology, illuminating the past through the prism of the present."—Uri Klein, Ha'aretz

62 minutes | color-b&w | 2005 | Order #ME701
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390

HOTHOUSE

A Film by Shimon Dotan



NEW release Almost ten thousand Palestinians, designated by the Israeli government as “Security Prisoners,” are incarcerated in Israel today. Most Israelis consider them murderers and criminals, but most Palestinians regard them as freedom fighters.

Granted rare permission to film inside the country’s highest security facilities, Israeli filmmaker Shimon Dotan shows everyday prison life in HOTOHOUSE.

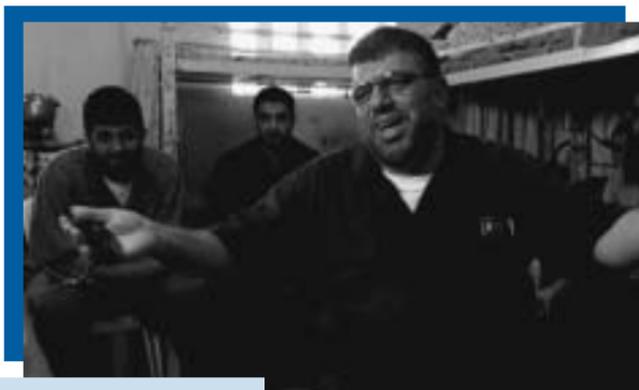
HOTOHOUSE explains that the Israeli criminal justice system uses imprisonment in an effort to stifle or control Palestinian democratic political life. Thirteen candidates in the 2006 Palestinian elections, for example, which saw

the rise to power of the militant Islamic party, Hamas, were imprisoned at the time of the election, although none of them had been involved in terrorist or military actions.

As HOTOHOUSE reveals, the population within Israeli prisons represents the entire range of contemporary Palestinian political life. The film features interviews, for example, with Hasan Yusuf, a Hamas leader who was elected to parliament from his jail cell; with Abu Naji, a Fatah leader imprisoned for more than twenty years; and with Ahlam Tamimi, Hamas leader of the female prisoners, who was sentenced to 16 life terms for her role in planning and executing the August 2001 suicide bombing of the Sbarro restaurant in Jerusalem.

Fatah leader Samir Masharoui, recently released after eight years imprisonment, explains that instead of repressing political activity, Israeli prisons actually serve as virtual “universities of Palestinian nationalism,” incubators for political education and debate.





Hasan Yusuf (Hamas)



In also revealing the surprisingly respectful relations between Palestinian inmates and their Israeli wardens and guards, however, *HOTHOUSE* also suggests that perhaps incarceration is inadvertently enabling the development of future political leaders who, as a result of their experience, will one day be able to play a role in the resolution of the current conflict.

"At once chilling and humanizing, HOTHOUSE provides an unprecedented look at how Israeli prisons have become the birth place of future terrorist threats and the breeding ground for the next generation of Palestinian leaders."—**Sundance Film Festival**

"A passionate and disturbing film."

—**Les Inrockuptibles**

"Asks complicated questions about how Israel is creating the conditions in which Palestinian leaders are emerging."

—**Avi Lewis, CBC Newsworld**

"An exceptional documentary."

—**Actualité Juive**

"Exceptional ... fascinating!"—**Télé Ciné Obs**

 **2007 Sundance
Film Festival**

 **Wolgin Award, 2006
Jerusalem Film Festival**

89 minutes | color | 2006 | **Order #ME702**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$398

SLAVES OF THE SWORD

A three-part series by Paul Jenkins

Moshe Dayan, Yitzhak Rabin and Ariel Sharon helped shape the destiny of Israel and the entire Middle East. Three generals, men of action, who became politicians and found themselves at crossroads of history. Did they ever stop being slaves of the sword? Did they truly become and act as statesmen?

Each episode of SLAVES OF THE SWORD, a three-part series, offers an incisive biography of each man through rare archival footage and interviews with colleagues, family, historians, friends and critics.

Dayan, Rabin and Sharon were all born in Israel, and all fought for the country from adolescence. Each is, or was in the end, a pragmatist. And all three men bore little respect for the state institutions, the formal procedures, or the scandal-ridden political parties that ruled the country.

SLAVES OF THE SWORD examines what these three men had in common as well as their differences. It asks why Israel, proud to be a democracy, so often chooses generals as its political leaders?

"Unusually frank in treating its subjects and in its integration of their subjects' personal lives with their careers."—**Charles D. Smith, Middle East Studies Association Bulletin**

"Highly Recommended! A balanced view ... provides greater insight into the foreign and domestic policy choices of the Israeli government."—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

"A long overdue, thoroughgoing, critical bio [of Ariel Sharon] ... strong stuff."

—**Robert Koehler, Variety**

 **2004 Vancouver Film Festival**

3 x 56 minutes | color | 2003 | **Order #ME706**
Sale/VHS: ~~was \$490~~ now \$398



HUMAN WEAPON

A Film by Ilan Ziv



HUMAN WEAPON provides the first in-depth examination of the complexities of the suicide bombing phenomenon. Filmed in Iran, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Israel, Palestine, Europe and the United States, the film weaves dramatic, previously unseen footage together with interviews with key militants whose organizations use suicide bombing as part of their strategy.

- ▶ In Iran, the film looks at the “prototype” for the human weapon – the *Basiji* – young volunteers who sacrificed themselves on the battlefield during Iran’s long war with Iraq.
- ▶ In Lebanon, the film combines interviews with key leaders of Hezbollah (the Party of God) and a former CIA agent, with rare archival material and footage of a visit to the family of a martyr. It also explores the very first suicide bombings – attacks directed at the U.S. Embassy and Marine barracks in 1983.
- ▶ In Sri Lanka, the film examines the Tamil Tiger separatist movement, which launched hundreds of suicidal attacks against both military and political targets.
- ▶ In Israel and Palestine, the film interviews failed suicide bombers, key leaders of Hamas and other militant organizations, Israeli doctors, and Palestinian psychiatrists. The film draws an intimate portrait of a recent suicide bomber and his community on the West Bank.

Finally, HUMAN WEAPON explores, with the help of well-known author Robert Jay Lifton, some of the far-reaching historical ramifications of suicide bombing.



“★★★★ Chilling and instructive.”
—David Sterritt, *Christian Science Monitor*

“An in-depth view.”—*Middle East Studies Association Bulletin*

“A gripping and important documentary.”
—Stephen Holden, *The New York Times*

“Highly Recommended... an excellent introduction to this currently prevalent form of warfare.”—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

 **2002 FilmFest, Middle East Studies Association**

55 minutes | color |  | 2002 | [Order #ME707](#)
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390

ON THE OBJECTION FRONT

A Film by Shiri Tsur

In 2002 a group of reserve officers and soldiers in the Israel Defense Force galvanized the Israeli public with a public statement declaring that they would no longer serve on the West Bank or in Gaza.

ON THE OBJECTION FRONT features sequences with the six founding members of the Courage to Refuse organization, who recount their



personal histories, their experiences of brutality in the occupied territories and at checkpoints, the often agonizing moral dilemmas that led them to their difficult decisions, and some of the repercussions they faced.

"Bold!... one of the most riveting films of witness and testimony ever made about the struggle of Israelis to challenge the status quo."—Middle East Studies

Association Bulletin

"Highly Recommended!"

—Educational Media Reviews Online

 Ecumenical Award, 2005 Berlin International Film Festival

 2005 FilmFest, Middle East Studies Association

63 minutes | color | 2005 | [Order #ME708](#)
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$298

FROM LANGUAGE TO LANGUAGE

A Film by Nurith Aviv

For centuries Hebrew was a sacred language, but today it is the language of everyday life in Israel — a country largely of immigrants.

In FROM LANGUAGE TO LANGUAGE filmmaker Nurith Aviv, Israeli writers, musicians, actors and a Rabbi/philosopher — all from varying countries and ethnic backgrounds — discuss the relationship between their mother tongues and Hebrew.

Among the participants: author Aharon Appelfeld, actress Evgenya Dodina, Rabbi Daniel Epstein, poet Salman Masalha, translator Agi Mishol, singer Amal Murkus, Professor of Jewish Thought Haviva Pedaya, and poet Meir Wieseltier.

"[The film has] important lessons to offer about history, language [and] individual courage."—The Jewish Week

 Best Film, 2004 DocAviv Film Festival

56 minutes | color | 2004 | [Order #ME709](#)
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390



HATS OF JERUSALEM

A Film by Nati Adler

NEW release A visitor to Jerusalem is immediately struck by the incredible variety of people who throng the narrow passageways of the old city. It soon becomes clear that specific groups within this crowd, almost all of whom sport headgear of varying shapes, sizes, textures and colors, can be distinguished by their hats.

As HATS OF JERUSALEM reveals, there is a history, a story, behind each type of hat, which filmmaker Nati Adler explores in this whimsical yet informative documentary.

Our guided tour enables the hat wearers to tell the stories of their hats, including that of the flamboyant fur *shtreimel* worn by ultra-orthodox Jews; the mysteries of the *tarbouz* worn by Moslem Kawasses; the peaked caps worn by Armenian monks; the stiff, cylindrical hats worn by Russian Orthodox clergy and the different styles of the *keffiyah* headscarves worn by Palestinians.

Blending interviews, archival footage, period graphics and an evocative musical score, the film shows us that, beyond their practical purposes, hats serve as an identity card, a way of declaring membership in a community, and a religious or political statement often reflecting centuries of tradition.



"Highly Recommended!"
—Educational Media
Reviews Online

"Educational as well as entertaining... Highly Recommended! A great resource!"—Association
for Jewish Libraries Newsletter

"An engaging look at a mysterious and fascinating side of this city."
—Jerusalem Post

"A playful yet fascinating religious exposé ... informative, entertaining."—Sydney Life

-  2006 FilmFest,
-  Middle East Studies Association
-  Best Cinematography & Editing,
-  2006 Israel Documentary Film Awards

52 minutes | color | 2005 | [Order #ME710](#)
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$298

BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY

A Film by Shosh Shlam

NEW release How does it feel to have been pregnant or breastfeeding for most of your married life? This is one among many questions posed frankly in **BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY**, which exposes the consequences of the biblical commandment for ultra-orthodox Jewish women, for whom life is a continuing cycle of pregnancy, childbirth, nursing and nurturing.

The film profiles four ultra-orthodox women, in the U.S. and Israel, and documents their daily routines of cooking, shopping, housework and child care.

In interviews, each of the women discuss their lives, focusing on their belief in the traditional and distinctive roles for women and men as dictated by Jewish religion as well as on the condition of perpetual motherhood as the "natural" and desirable state of being for women.

Amongst this group of women who rarely express self-doubt, Yentl, a childbirth trainer and educator, explains why she chose to take a job outside the home and not to have any more children. She questions the true happiness of her peers, and suggests the possibility for women's struggle within the community to break out of the social and ideological structures that bind them.



"Absolutely fascinating! Sensitive, entertaining, enriching, revealing."

—**Yediot Hacarot**

"A sad, moving and wise film."—**Ma'ariv**

 **2006 FilmFest,
Middle East Studies Association**

 **2006 Jerusalem
Film Festival**

50 minutes | color | 2005 | [Order #ME711](#)
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$298

THE BIBLE UNEARTHED:

The Making of a New Religion

Based on the book *The Bible Unearthed* by Israël Finkelstein and Neil Silberman
A four-part series by Thierry Ragobert

NEW release Based on decades of archaeological work in dozens of digs throughout the Middle East, THE BIBLE UNEARTHED reveals the dramatic archaeological discoveries that offer startling new revelations about the history of the Bible and of ancient Israel.

The four episodes—"The Patriarchs," "The Exodus," "The Kings" and "The Book"—visit digs in Egypt, Jordan and Israel, including Megiddo, the cradle of biblical archaeology, where 25 strata recording 7,000 years of



history have been excavated. The story is told through scenes of previous and current archaeological excavations, maps, biblical illustrations and computer animation.

The films also feature interviews with archaeological specialists from the Levant—including Neil Asher Silberman, Ayelet Gilboa, and Ronny Reich—as well as biblical scholars such as Thomas Romer, John Van Seters and William Schniedewind.

THE BIBLE UNEARTHED thus reveals the latest developments in an ongoing revolutionary transformation of what we know about the society, the history, the land, and the men who wrote the Bible.

Praise for the book *The Bible Unearthed*

"The boldest and most exhilarating synthesis of the Bible and archaeology in fifty years."—**Baruch Halpern, Author of The First Historians: The Hebrew Bible and History**

"Fresh, stimulating and highly engaging."
—**Publishers Weekly**

"A brutally honest assessment of what archeology can and cannot tell us about the historical accuracy of the Bible ... presented with both authority and panache."

—**Jonathan Kirsch, The Los Angeles Times**

"A significant, if controversial, contribution to cross-disciplinary studies of history and religion."—**Bryce Christensen, Booklist**

4 x 52 minutes | color | 2005 | **Order #ME715**
Sale/DVD: \$490

EDWARD SAID: The Last Interview

A Film by Mike Dibb

Produced by D. D. Guttenplan

Interviewer: Charles Glass

Edward Said, University Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, was one of the most important literary critics of the late 20th century, and for many years the most prominent spokesperson for the Palestinian cause in the United States.

He was the author of ten books, among them *Orientalism*, a runner-up in criticism for the National Book Critics Circle Award; *Blaming the Victims*; *Culture and Imperialism*; *Peace and Its Discontents: Essays on Palestine in the Middle East Peace Process*; and *Power, Politics, and Culture*.

Said was diagnosed with leukemia in 1991, and struggled with the disease throughout the decade. Towards the end of his life, as the disease and chemotherapy treatments sapped his energy, he stopped giving interviews. Less than a year before his death in September 2003, however, he made an exception, and over the course of three days spoke at length with the filmmakers about his illness, his work, Palestine and politics, his life and education, and his continuing preoccupations.

“★★★ A compelling memoir... Recommended!”—**Video Librarian**

“Gripping and very affecting. Stripped of soundbites, dramatic re-enactments and other conventional devices, [this] is the kind of portrait of an intellectual which is very rare.”—**Sight and Sound**

“Blazingly articulate! An intimate portrait of a great mind.”—**Leonardo: Journal of the International Society of Arts, Sciences and Technology**



“A scintillating conversation that ranges over the controversial writer-activist’s childhood, education, writings and, inevitably, his experiences in Palestinian politics. Said, whose leukemia was advancing quickly by this interview, is warm, funny and self-revealing.”

—**George Robinson, The Jewish Week**

“A wonderful moment spent with a great mind... This documentary will enable everyone to understand his struggle against illness and the courageous positions one of the greatest thinkers of our time took throughout his entire life.”—**Al Jadid: A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts**

“Riveting!”—**The Observer**

 **2005 Middle East & Central Asia Politics, Economics, and Society Conference**

 **2005 Film Festival, Association for Asian Studies**

114 minutes | color | 2004 | **Order #ME716**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$298

OUT OF PLACE: Memories of Edward Said

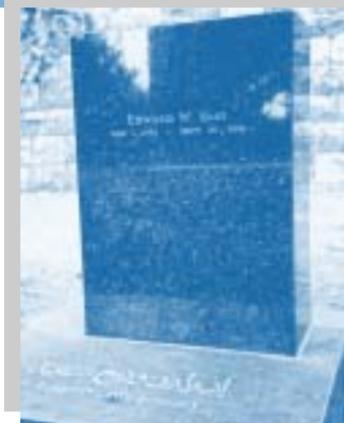
A Film by Sato Makoto

Music by Daniel Barenboim and Duo Esperanto

NEW release Borrowing its title from the author's 2000 memoir, *OUT OF PLACE* traces the life and work of Edward Said (1935-2003), the Palestinian-born intellectual who wrote widely on history, literature, music, philosophy and politics.

Filmed in Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt, and the U.S., this feature-length documentary traces Said's childhood influences and celebrates his intellectual legacy, especially the importance of his work in literary criticism and postcolonial studies, his love of music, his role on the Palestinian National Council and his troubled relationship with Yasir Arafat.

The film visits the sites of Said's birthplace in Jerusalem, boyhood homes in Lebanon and Cairo, and his New York City apartment. *OUT OF PLACE* blends readings from Said's memoir and other key writings, family home movies dating back to 1947, and interviews with Arab, Israeli and American thinkers, including many of Said's colleagues, family and friends, who offer personal reminiscences as well as reflections on the significance and legacies of his work.



"Marvelous! By the end, I felt I understood Said far better as a man and a thinker than ever before."—**Andrew O'Hehir, Salon.com**

"Fascinating! Allows the audience to see the concrete realization of abstract ideas about Israeli and Palestinian identity."

—**George Robinson, The Jewish Week**

"★★★★ Profound. The outreaching experiences of an extraordinary life."

—**Rob Humanick, Slant Magazine**

138 minutes | color |  | 2005 | [Order #ME717](#)
Sale/DVD: \$490



LIVING WITH THE PAST: Historic Cairo

Directed by **Maysoon Pachachi**

Produced by **Elizabeth Fernea**

Cairo is one of the few medieval cities in the world that remains relatively intact. **LIVING WITH THE PAST** is a filmic portrait of Darb al-Ahmar, a neighborhood in the heart of the old city now facing a process of radical change. The film documents a unique approach to historic preservation, one that combines social and economic development with monument restoration.

LIVING WITH THE PAST follows several restoration projects in progress in Darb al-Ahmar, including: the Great Gate of Bab Zuwayla (1092 A.D.), the Mosque of Emir Qijmas al-Ishaqi (1481 A.D.), the Church of the Virgin (600 A.D.), the Walls of Saladin (11th & 12th centuries A.D.). These projects have been incorporated into a mammoth social, cultural and economic neighborhood improvement scheme.

Across the globe monument preservation often means that people are displaced, and surrounding neighborhoods are demolished. Not so in Cairo, where efforts are underway to not only rescue endangered monuments but also to improve the standard of living of the affected communities, in this case the people of Darb al-Ahmar.



"Recommended ... Interviews with architects, construction workers, development officials, and shopkeepers illustrate how the vitality of the neighborhood is being preserved."

—**Library Journal**

"Does an excellent job of conveying the neighborhood's spirit and the dedication of those involved in the restoration."

—**Archaeology Magazine**

 **The First World Congress for Middle East Studies (2002)**

56 minutes | color | 2001 | **Order #ME718**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390

For more about Elizabeth Fernea and her films, see Page 35.



NAGUIB MAHFOUZ: The Passage of the Century

A Film by Francka Mouloudi

Now on
DVD

EGYPT

In 1988, Naguib Mahfouz (1911-2006), “who, through works rich in nuance—now clear-sightedly realistic, now evocatively ambiguous—has formed an Arabian narrative art that applies to all mankind,” was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. He was the first and is still the only Arab Nobel Laureate for Literature.

At the end of the 20th century Mahfouz granted filmmaker Francka Mouloudi rare access to make this revealing documentary with and about him. At the age of 88 at the time of filming, half-blind, hard of hearing, and crippled by a recent assassination attempt, Mahfouz is remarkably lively, witty and lucid.

Author of the acclaimed *Cairo Trilogy*, *The Harafish*, *Arabian Nights and Days* and many other novels and collections of short stories, Mahfouz weaves the threads of his life together with his view of society, his childhood, his discovery of literature (Egyptian and Western), the city of Cairo (which he left only three times in his life), Islamic fundamentalism, the evolution of Egypt, the role of women, and the future of civilization.

“Recommended! A fascinating look at one of the giants of modern Arab literature.”

—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

“More than just a portrait, [the film] intelligently crystallizes the doubts and developments of Egyptian society today.”—**Télérama**



“[Mahfouz] is not only a Hugo and a Dickens, but also a Galsworthy, a Mann, a Zola and a Jules Romains.”

—**Edward Said, London Review of Books**

“A very beautiful portrait.”—**Le Figaro**

-  **2002 African Literature Association Film Festival**
-  **2005 Middle East & Central Asia Politics, Economics, and Society Conference**
-  **2001 FilmFest, Middle East Studies Association**

49 minutes | color | 1999 | **Order #ME719**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$375

BORDER CAFE

A Feature Film by Kambozia Partovi

Starring Fereshtei Sadre Orafei and Parviz Parastoei

NEW release In *BORDER CAFE*, a selection from the 2006 Global Film Initiative* series, Reyhan, an Iranian widow and mother of two young children, reopens the roadhouse formerly run by her husband. But since running such a business is taboo for women, she encounters much resistance, particularly from her conservative brother-in-law, Nasser, whose only aim is to marry Reyhan despite already having one wife.

Reyhan refuses this marriage proposal since she would only marry for love and not tradition nor convenience, and so Nasser seeks a way to close the roadhouse in an effort to make Reyhan dependent to him.

An amorous Greek trucker named Zakariyo provides our heroine with a possible exit from this difficult situation, but ultimately the fate of Reyhan and her roadhouse, which has become quite successful under her management, is decided by a local court, and the verdict leaves Reyhan pondering her place in the world.

"The film is unusual in the way it brings Western and Iranian societies into such close contact and interweaves their uneasy co-existence into the drama."—**Variety**

"Creates a memorable portrait of one woman in Iran—and, by extension, of the bleak sorrows of millions of women's lives."

—**Louise Kennedy, The Boston Globe**

"Engaging and well-crafted... One of the most enjoyable and original films to come out of Iran in recent years."

—**UCLA International Institute**

 **Best Screenplay, 2005**
Fajr Film Festival

 **2005 Toronto**
Film Festival

105 minutes | color | 2005 | **Order #ME720**
Sale/VHS: \$248

**The Global Film Initiative is an annual series of feature films from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East selected for their ability to promote cross-cultural understanding.*



INSIDE OUT

A Film by Zohreh Shayesteh

NEW release Maria is a middle-aged single woman with three children. Saman is a newly married young man. Arash is an eighteen-year-old high-school dropout. The one thing they have in common is that all three are transsexuals living in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

INSIDE OUT features intimate conversations with Maria (a male-to-female transsexual), Saman (female-to-male) and Arash (female-to-male), allowing them to tell their stories, including the lifelong struggle to come to terms with their gender dysphoria, how this mind/body conflict has affected their everyday behavior, and the impact of hormone therapy and sex-change surgery on their lives.

The film also includes revealing interviews with a Muslim cleric, who explains that the majority of Iran's religious leaders consider transsexuality to be a human rights issue and therefore support gender reassignment surgery; a psychiatrist, who explains the difference between homosexuality and transsexuality and how the condition cannot be cured psychologically; and a surgeon, who discusses the nature and the difficulties of the required surgery.

"Will amaze and delight... a warm and personal portrait. [It] flies in the face of stereotypical views of Iranian religious and social attitudes and will serve to humanize Iranian society for many Western viewers. Fascinating!"

—**Professor William O. Beeman, Brown University, Author of *The Great Satan vs. The Mad Mullahs***



"Recommended! Surprising and illuminating."

—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

 **2006 Tribeca Film Festival**

39 minutes | color | 2006 | **Order #ME721**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$298

IRAN, VEILED APPEARANCES

A Film by Thierry Michel



Iran has been presented for years as one of the cradles of Muslim fundamentalism, and more recently as a radical regime on the brink of developing nuclear weapons.

IRAN, VEILED APPEARANCES takes us to a college dormitory, a cemetery, a military academy, a drama class, and a mosque.

We meet Iranians in their everyday life: soldiers, religious figures, young people, former soldiers, but also members of reform movements, students, artists, and intellectuals who often pay a heavy price in their fight for freedom.

The film looks equally at those convinced of a radical Islam and at those who aspire to more freedom. Iranians have confirmed their

desire for change during recent elections, but it is impossible today to predict how this desire for change will take shape. The power of the Mullahs as well as the influence of the Islamic fundamentalist groups is considerable. Oppression of the reforming factions, under the mask of the cult of martyrs of the revolution, does exist.

"A revelatory examination... Michel's access is remarkable, his insights pointed. The film, of course, couldn't be more timely."—**Newsday**

"Compelling! Recommended!"

—**Video Librarian**

 **2003 Sundance Film Festival**

 **2003 FilmFest, Middle East Studies Association**

58 minutes | color | 2002 | [Order #ME722](#)
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390



IRAN: A Cinematographic Revolution

A Film by Nader Takmil Homayoun

NEW release Today Iranian cinema is one of the most highly regarded national cinemas in the world, regularly winning festival awards and critical acclaim. IRAN: A CINEMATOGRAPHIC REVOLUTION traces the development of this film industry, which has always been closely intertwined with the country's tumultuous political history.



IRAN: A CINEMATOGRAPHIC REVOLUTION chronicles how Iranian films reflected contemporaneous society and often presaged social change. It shows how mainstream commercial cinema served as a propaganda tool, recounts the sporadic efforts of some filmmakers to reveal grimmer social realities, and the struggles against censorship and traditional cinematic formulas by such pioneers as Bahram Beyzai, Sohrab Shahid Saless and Parviz Kimiavi and pre- and post-Islamic revolutionary 'new wave' filmmakers such as Amir Naderi, Rakhshan Bani-Etemad, Dariush Mehrjui, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Jafar Panahi, Bahman Ghobadi and Abbas Kiarostami.

The documentary recounts this history through archival footage, excerpts from representative and landmark Iranian films, and interviews with Iranian filmmakers, film critics, film historians, and government and film industry executives. In the process, IRAN: A CINEMATOGRAPHIC REVOLUTION reveals the changing social roles of Iranian cinema, and the artistic struggles of its filmmakers.

"A must-see for anyone interested in geopolitics and/or world cinema."

—Cathleen Rountree, Santa Cruz Sentinel

"Dazzling... Every country's cinema deserves a history as good as this."

—Thom Powers, Toronto Film Festival

 2006 Toronto Film Festival

 2006 Galway Film Festival

98 minutes | color | 2006 | **Order #ME723**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$440

SHIRIN EBADI: A Simple Lawyer

A Film by Bani Khoshnoudi



This documentary profiles Iranian attorney Shirin Ebadi, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her efforts for democracy and human rights. SHIRIN EBADI: A SIMPLE LAWYER features an in-depth interview with Ebadi, speeches at numerous international conferences, and a visit to the children's center she founded.

Appointed the first female president of the Tehran City Court in 1975, Ebadi lost her position following the Islamic Revolution in 1979, when women were forbidden to serve as judges. She was readmitted to the bar in the early 1990's when she began to challenge Iran's religious courts over a wide variety of issues.

Ebadi argues that the most serious problem in Iran today is the misuse of religion and that judges must be independent of the Islamic government. She points out, for example, that although women in Iran are taking a more active role in social life, including increased attendance at universities, the status of women has actually regressed since the Islamic Revolution.

Although Shirin Ebadi may consider herself merely "a simple lawyer," her committed pursuit of peace, justice and human rights, despite recent death threats, has made her an important symbol of Iran's current struggle for democracy.

"Highly Recommended!"

—Educational Media Reviews Online

"A valuable recounting of the last thirty years of political history in Iran."—Les Inrockuptibles

 2006 Middle East & Central Asia Politics, Economics, and Society Conference

 2005 FilmFest, Middle East Studies Association

48 minutes | color | 2004 | [Order #ME724](#)
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$375



THE ROAD TO KERBALA

A Film by Katia Jarjoura

In 2004, following a 30-year moratorium during Saddam Hussein's dictatorship, Iraq's Shiite Muslim population were free to commemorate Ashura, the most important holy day on the Shiite calendar. Shia adherents from throughout the Mideast made the pilgrimage to Kerbala, Iraq's Holy City, to visit the tomb of Imam Hussein and Imam Abbas, heirs to the Prophet Muhammad who died as religious martyrs in 680 A.D.

In *THE ROAD TO KERBALA*, filmmaker Katia Jarjoura and Hamid el Mikhtar, a writer imprisoned during Saddam's regime, join the procession of religious celebrants on the 100-kilometer walk from Baghdad to Kerbala.

During the course of the 3-day trek, they encounter U.S. troops, a roadside bomb scare, and a reenactment of the historic Battle of Kerbala, and witness denunciations of Saddam's Sunni-dominated regime, angry protests of the U.S. Occupation, support for the Mehdi Army of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, and cries for the formation of an Islamic republic.

Arriving in Kerbala, Hamid, along with thousands of other Muslims, struggles through the thronging crowd to touch the tomb of the martyred Shiite Princes, while others express their religious devotion in bloody rituals of self-punishment. In contemporary Iraq, however, as *THE ROAD TO*

KERBALA makes clear, these fervent celebrations of long-dead martyrs reflect passions that also fuel current political strife.



"Highly Recommended! Excellent!"
—Educational Media Reviews Online

"Iraq's Shi'ites, after centuries of marginalization, have arrived, and Jarjoura's film shows them rising from their knees and taking their first tentative steps."—The Middle East Quarterly

-  2006 Middle East & Central Asia Politics, Economics, and Society Conference
-  2004 Festival dei Popoli (Italy)

53 minutes | color | 2005 | [Order #ME725](#)
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390



IN THE BATTLEFIELD

A Feature Film by Danielle Arbid

Starring Marianne Feghali, Rawia Eichab and Laudi Arbid

NEW release IN THE BATTLEFIELDS, a selection from the 2006 Global Film Initiative series, tells the story of a besieged Christian family in East Beirut during the Lebanese civil war during the Eighties. Daughter of self-destructive parents, 12-year-old Lina doesn't show much interest in the war taking place around her. Instead, Siham, her aunt's beautiful adolescent Syrian maid, is the focal point of her rebellious and neglected childhood.

As the basis for the girls' relationship shifts, issues of loyalty and power set off a series of events, which isolate Lina even more. Unlike films in which the violence of an urban war zone motivate a family to strengthen their ties, in this film, director Danielle Arbid instead depicts relationships that are shattered by passion, reprisal and guilt

"A courageous debut film... war is a brooding, menacing character just off-camera that makes its presence known through thundering explosions and the words of young militia boys carrying Kalishnakovs."—**Reverse Shot**

"★★★★ Arbid may not stress the politics of the civil war in Lebanon, but its emotional toll is clearly felt, not only in the cruel choices the film's characters make but also in the shots of devastated buildings outside the Beirut apartment."

—**Ed Gonzalez, Slant Magazine**



 **Grand Prize, 2004**
Cinema Arabe Film Festival

 **2004 New York**
Film Festival

90 minutes | color | 2004 | **Order #ME726**
Sale/VHS: \$248

Danielle Arbid's documentary *ALONE WITH WAR* is on page 36

WE LOVED EACH OTHER SO MUCH

A Film by Jack Janssen

For half a century, the Lebanese singer Fairuz has been a living legend in the Arab world. Her home is Beirut, once known as “the Paris of the Middle East,” and a haven for those fleeing religious or ethnic persecution. Throughout the civil war Fairuz remained in Beirut, and everyone—whether Christian, Muslim, left-wing or right-wing—continued to love this singer with the nightingale voice.

WE LOVED EACH OTHER SO MUCH portrays the love of diverse Beirut inhabitants for this diva. Through the music, and the myths that grew around Fairuz, they tell their life stories, and narrate the tragic, stirring history of their city. Their reminiscences, combined with Fairuz’ songs and her story, provide a moving commentary on Lebanon’s tumultuous history, traces of which are still visible in Beirut’s devastated cityscape and bullet-scared building.

Offering viewers a revealing and captivating introduction to this singer, and her place in Lebanese history and culture, WE LOVED EACH OTHER SO MUCH also powerfully shows how music and the emotions it stirs can transcend political and religious differences.

“Offers many wonderful moments, both light and intense. Fairuz’s songs seem to make the difficult situation of the Middle East easier for everyone.”—Al Jaidi: A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts

“Highly Recommended!... Intimate and poignant... documentary filmmaking at its finest.”—Educational Media Reviews Online

2004 FilmFest,
Middle East Studies Association

2004 San Francisco
Arab Film Festival

80 minutes | color | 2003 | [Order #ME727](#)
Sale/VHS: ~~was \$440~~ now \$398



THE WOMEN OF HEZBOLLAH

A Film by Maher Abi-Samra



Filmmaker Maher Abi-Samra returns to the neighborhood of his youth, Ramel el Ali, in Beirut's southern suburb. Settled in the 1950's by the mostly Shiite community from the villages of southern Lebanon and the Beka Valley, this community grew on the rubble of the civil war. By the early 1980's it had become one of the strongholds of the Islamic Party of God, the Hezbollah.

WOMEN OF HEZBOLLAH is a portrait of two women, Zeinab and Khadjie, activists in the Hezbollah, and an examination of the personal, social and political factors of their commitment.

"A stimulating and complex picture of Islamism, gender relations, feminism, and nationalism. The film helps reconceptualize the framework of female Islamic militancy in the Middle East...

A welcome addition to [any] film library."—**Al Jadid:**

A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts

"Highly Recommended!

A historical perspective from which the viewer can distill a clearer picture of the nature of the Islamic Party of God...

thus putting a face of human emotion to a topic often foreign to Western, non-Muslim audiences."—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

"A revelation!"—**Le Monde**

"The attitude of the film neither endorses nor condemns Hezbollah itself, but it does look on in wonderment that mothers would accept, and even encourage, their sons' martyrdom in suicide attacks."

—**The Memphis Flyer**

 **2005 Film Festival, National Women's Studies Association**

 **2001 International Documentary Festival Amsterdam**

49 minutes | color | 2000 | **Order #ME728**

Sale/VHS or DVD: \$375

ALGERIA'S BLOODY YEARS

A Film by Malek Bensmail, Patrice Barrat & Thierry Leclère



This documentary chronicles the country's struggle for peace, stability and democracy since independence from France. It combines recent and archival interviews, newsreel footage, and recently filmed footage from Algeria to trace the origins of the violence that has left as many as 200,000 dead since 1988.

ALGERIA'S BLOODY YEARS begins with a brief historical survey of events in Algeria since independence in 1962, and moves on to focus on the democratization process set in motion after the October 1988 riots, the success of Islamist groups in elections, the subsequent cancellation of these elections by the military, and the country's descent into violence.

Not a simple catalog of atrocities, ALGERIA'S BLOODY YEARS uses contemporary testimony from people on all sides of the conflict—from former Algerian generals to French government officials, from Algerian journalists to Islamist leaders—to unravel the mysterious machinations that have killed thousands of innocent Algerians.

"Rarely has the history of the Algerian conflict been presented with such clarity, or such force... recounts Algeria's complex recent history quickly and powerfully."—**International Journal of African Historical Studies**

"Recommended! Well-researched, balanced... A clear, coherent account."
—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

"★★★★★ Extraordinary!... One cannot come away from the film without shuddering in horror that Algeria's nightmare could easily become a prelude for Iraq's future."
—**Film Threat**

 **2004 Film Festival, African Studies Association**

 **2003 FilmFest, Middle East Studies Association**

59 minutes | color | 2003 | **Order #ME729**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390



DROWNING BY BULLETS

A Film by Philip Brooks & Alan Hayling



On the evening of October 17, 1961—at a time when the war in Algeria was in its seventh year—30,000 Algerians descended upon the boulevards of central Paris to protest an 8:30 curfew, imposed by the French authorities in response to repeated terrorist attacks by Algerian nationalists in Paris and other French cities.

Terrorism had claimed the lives of dozens of policemen, provoking what Interior Minister Roger Frey called the “just anger” of the police. Thus, on October 17, Algerian demonstrators were met by a massive police force. Demonstrators were beaten, shot, even drowned in the Seine. Thousands were rounded up and taken to detention centers around the city, where there were more beatings and killings.

DROWNING BY BULLETS exposes the massacre and the cover-up of what was undoubtedly one of the darkest nights in the history of France. Policemen, demonstrators, former officials, and journalists who witnessed the events speak on camera for the first time.

“Extraordinary... This moving film provoked animated discussion among the audience and was the highlight of our meeting. The film illuminated for us an event, a time, and a mentality about which we had heretofore known too little.”—Robert S. DuPlessis, President of the French Colonial History Society

“Extremely powerful... Compelling.”
—Professor Julia Clancy-Smith, University of Arizona, for the Middle East Studies Association Bulletin

“A chilling documentary.”—Daily Mail

 2004 Film Festival,
African Studies Association

 2003 FilmFest,
Middle East Studies Association

52 minutes | color-b&w | 1992 | Order #ME730
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390



BEN BARKA: The Moroccan Equation

A Film by Simone Bitton

Ben Barka was abducted on a Paris street in October 1965 and later murdered; his body was never found, and the culprits were never identified. By documenting the life of Ben Barka, this documentary answers the question, "Who wanted him dead?"



BEN BARKA unearths the story of Morocco's greatest and most controversial political figures. Rather than merely another enquiry into the "Ben Barka Affair," the film is about the life and accomplishments of a man whose disappearance prevented him from taking his rightful place in history.

"A valuable resource."—Prof. Aomar Boum, Middle East Studies Association Bulletin

 2003 FilmFest, Middle East Studies Association

84 minutes | color | 2002 | [Order #ME732](#)
Sale/VHS: ~~was \$440~~ now \$398

A FEMALE CABBY IN SIDI BEL-ABBÈS

A Film by Belkacem Hadjadj

When her husband died Soumicha, mother of three, had to earn a living, and became the only woman taxi driver in Sidi Bel-Abbès, Algeria. This film accompanies Soumicha around a city where religious and political violence rages, and records her experiences in a job normally reserved for men.

Soumicha's interactions with her fares introduce us to contradictory aspects of Algerian society: some men frown on working women but are happy to have a cabby with whom they can trust their wives and daughters; other men are supportive, and critical of Algeria's often violent treatment of women.

"A valuable glimpse into a class of people and some very courageous individuals."

—Al Jadid, A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts



 Special Jury Prize, 2000 Biennale des Cinemas Arabes (Paris)
 2001 FilmFest, Middle East Studies Association

52 minutes | color | 2000 | [Order #ME731](#)
Sale/VHS: ~~was \$390~~ now \$348

THE PERFUMED GARDEN

A Film by Yamina Benguigui

THE PERFUMED GARDEN explores the myths and realities of sensuality and sexuality in Arab society. Through interviews with men and women of all ages, classes, and sexual orientation, the film lifts a corner of the veil that usually shrouds discussion of this taboo subject in the Arab world.

Made by an Algerian-French woman director, the film examines the personal issues raised by the desire for pleasure, amidst societal pressures for chastity and virginity.



THE VIRGIN DIARIES

A Film by Jessica Woodworth

Fatiha, a young Moroccan woman, is on the verge of marrying the man her grandfather chose for her. But her fiancé's disturbing views (he claims that, in the eyes of Islam, even a kiss of the hand is forbidden before marriage) shock her. So Fatiha and her friend Jessica, an American researching Moroccan family law reforms, embark on a journey through Morocco in search of answers to her questions about virginity, sex and Islam.



"Looks unblinkingly at the tensions between religious practices and customs and the contemporary expressions of sexuality and female and male relationship."

—Gale H. Golden, Archives of Sexual Behavior

 **Best Documentary, 2001**
 **Vues d'Afrique Film Festival (Montreal)**

 **2002 Seattle Arab and Iranian**
 **Film Festival**

52 minutes | color | 2000 | **Order #ME733**
 Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390

THE VIRGIN DIARIES joins them on their defiant quest, which produces a few answers and some unexpected romantic trouble.

"Highly Recommended! An important movie."—Educational Media Reviews Online

 **2003 National Women's Studies**
 **Association Film Festival**

57 minutes | color |  | 2002 | **Order #ME734**
 Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390



AL JAZEERA: Voice of Arabia

A Film by Tewfik Hakem



MEDIA

Founded in 1996, Al Jazeera was the first 24-hour news channel in the Arab world. Little known in the U.S. until September 11th, 2001, the notoriety of this "Arab CNN" has exploded since then, and has grown during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Shot on location in Doha, Qatar, AL JAZEERA takes us behind the scenes of the Arab world's independent satellite TV channel. The film explores the paradoxes that emerge between the apparent orthodoxy of Arab societies, and the journalistic freedom flaunted by Al Jazeera.



Combining news footage, excerpts from various Al Jazeera programs, and interviews with executives, anchors, and journalists, AL JAZEERA is an invaluable look at the challenges faced and issues raised by the most important television channel in the Arab world.

"Brilliant! It is clear that Al Jazeera has sparked a revolution in the world of Arab media, and [this documentary] has brilliantly shown us how."

—Al Jadid: A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts

"Recommended!... a valuable resource."
—Educational Media Reviews Online

"Informative... Hakem's low-key but eye-opening documentary rewards the viewer with perhaps more insight into the forces and mindsets shaping the Muslim world than any number of retreaded policy papers."

—Bridges, An Interdisciplinary Journal

 **Viewer's Choice, 2003 FilmFest, Middle East Studies Association**

52 minutes | color | 2003 | **Order #ME735**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390



MEDIA **DEMOCRACY ON DEADLINE**

A Film by Calvin Skaggs

NEW release Filmed in the United States and countries throughout Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe and the Middle East, **DEMOCRACY ON DEADLINE** profiles international journalists as they cover local and international events. In the process, the film enables them to discuss their sense of vocation, the need to defend journalistic principles against commercial pressures, and how they deal with censorship or government constraints.

DEMOCRACY ON DEADLINE features leading American journalists, including Dana Priest and Dana Milbank of *The Washington Post* and Knight Ridder reporters Warren Stroebel and Jonathan Landay, who discuss the lack of critical reporting about the Bush Administration's claims of Saddam's possession of weapons of mass destruction.

Among the foreign journalists featured in the film are the publisher, editors and journalists at the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* who explain why they feel it is important, especially for a readership too often concerned only with its own agony, to document the violence directed against Palestinians.

"Traveling to places where journalism, the oxygen of freedom, is being suffocated, this documentary captures the struggle of independent journalists risking everything to give voice to the voiceless."—**Joan Konner, Dean Emerita, Columbia University School of Journalism**

"Searing! Uses [the journalist's] dangerous work from around the world to forcefully illustrate the importance of freedom of the press."—**Toronto Globe & Mail**

"A bracing reminder of why journalism matters.... The truth takes perseverance, this documentary reminds us."—**Mark Fitzgerald, Editor & Publisher**

"Presents an impressive cadre of reporters...who try to tell the truth in the face of death threats, prison sentences, and a host of other obstacles."—**Sam Allis, The Boston Globe**

114 minutes | color |  | 2006 | **Order #ME736**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$440



SAUDI SOLUTIONS

A Film by Bregtje van der Haak

SAUDI ARABIA



NEW release

In Saudi Arabia, one of the most religiously conservative societies in the Middle East, women are not allowed to vote or to drive a car. Men and women are segregated in most public spaces and work environments. A strict dress code enforced by religious police mandates

that women cover their heads and bodies in public, where they must always be accompanied by a husband or other male guardian.

In SAUDI SOLUTIONS, filmmaker Bregtje van der Haak travels to Saudi Arabia to try and look at the lives of women inside this closed society. She profiles several women with professional careers—including a journalist, a doctor, a photographer, a television newsreader, a university professor, and the nation's first female airplane pilot—and asks them to explain what it means to be a modern woman in a fundamentalist Islamic society.

In discussing their everyday lives and concerns, the women defend Saudi social customs,



arguing that, while they see the desirability of gradual social reform, they see no conflict between Islamic law and the rights of women. They are especially resistant to Western pressures to abandon their value system for one imposed on them from outside.

"Fascinating! Shows clearly the dance between religion and the hope of a secular existence."—2006 Middle East Studies Association Conference

- 2006 FilmFest, Middle East Studies Association
- World Television Award Nominee, 2006 BANFF TV Festival

77 minutes | color | 2006 | [Order #ME737](#)
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$398

ARAB DIARIES

A five-part series produced by Deborah Davies, Daoud Kuttab & Ilan Ziv



These five groundbreaking films present a fresh, insightful picture of contemporary life across the Arab world, including life in countries we know little about. They tell intimate stories of individuals confronting the hardships and conflicts related to the most basic milestones.

The stories are taken from Arab countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa, including Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Algeria, Palestine, Syria and Iraq. And they are notable for the large representation of women filmmakers and women's stories.

"Highly Recommended!... presents a rare critical insight into contemporary life in the Arab world... It dares to bring up strong issues without imposing judgment on the values discussed."—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

Titles in the series:

BIRTH

The story of a Palestinian woman caught up in a cycle of pregnancies because of social pressure to produce a male child, and two other stories of babies, one in need, the other absent, in Syria and Iraq.



HOME, OR MAIDS IN MY FAMILY

A Moroccan woman confronts her liberal bourgeois family and their servants about the relationship between them.



LOVE AND MARRIAGE

The stories of people confronting obstacles to their personal relationships and happiness in Algeria and Lebanon.



WORK

Explores the hopes and aspirations of Arab men and women as embodied in the dreams and realities of flying.



YOUTH

Four young women striving for independence and empowerment in Algeria, Egypt, and Lebanon.



 **2001 FilmFest Middle East Studies Association**

 **2002 National Women's Studies Association Conference**

5 x 26 minutes | color | 2001 | **Order #ME742**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$478

A CHILD'S CENTURY OF WAR

A Film by Shelley Saywell



A CHILD'S CENTURY OF WAR takes the viewer on a journey through the past century, the bloodiest in history, from the perspective of children. It is an examination of the way in which modern wars have increasingly threatened and targeted children.

We hear their stories in their voices. Establishing parallels between past and present conflicts, the film intercuts the accounts of children currently in danger, with diaries and voices of children in the past.

Three contemporary conflicts are the heart of the film. Orphans of the two recent Chechen wars, children growing up on Martyr Street in Hebron (the most dangerous street in the West Bank), and the abducted, raped and amputated children of Sierra Leone. As we listen to the children, their unflinching stories throw a disturbing light on the human condition at the beginning of our new century.

"Perhaps this is the film that should have been shown to those who made the decision, once again, to 'go to war.'"

—Catholic Library World

"A heartbreaking film."—**Library Journal**



"Highly Recommended... a strong and powerful film."—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

-  **2006 Middle East & Central Asia Politics, Economics, and Society Conference**
-  **2003 Notable Video for Adults, American Library Association**

90 minutes | color | 2001 | **Order #ME743**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$248

CRIMES OF HONOUR

A Film by Shelley Saywell



Across the Islamic world, hundreds of women are shot, stabbed, strangled or burned to death each year by their male relatives, because they are thought to have dishonored their families by engaging in unacceptable relationships. Filmed in Jordan and on the West Bank, **CRIMES OF HONOUR** documents the terrible reality of femicide—the killing of sisters or daughters suspected of losing their virginity, for having refused an arranged marriage or having left a husband.

But some women are fighting for change. **CRIMES OF HONOUR** profiles three women committed to human rights, who attempt to provide protection and assistance to those in danger.

Rana Husseini, an award winning reporter for *The Jordan Times*, investigates the crimes and reports on the stories of terrified young women. Jordanian Human Rights Lawyer Asma Khader fights in the courts to protect threatened women, and argues for longer prison sentences for those guilty of femicide. Professor Nadera Shalhoub-Kervorkian founded the Women's Work Center for Legal Aid and Counseling in the West Bank, where she provides aid and counseling to frightened women with no place to turn.

This emotionally wrenching film captures the horrific tragedy of this practice, personal reactions to it, and examines the wider societal response.

"Serious and memorable... A well researched documentary. The stories recorded are chilling."

—**Feminist Collections Quarterly**

"Powerful ... highly recommended."

—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

"A scorcher... a heartscalding exposé of blithe murder."—**Critical List**

 **2000 Film Festival,
National Women's Studies Association**

 **1999 FilmFest, Middle East
Studies Association**

44 minutes | color | 1998 | [Order #ME744](#)
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$375

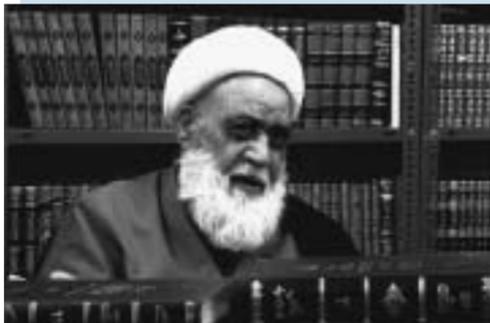
SHI'ISM: Waiting for the Hidden Imam

A Film by Saïd Bakhtaoui & Mohammad Ballout

Shi'ism is perceived by most Westerners as a religious sect characterized by violence and fanaticism. The American ouster of Saddam Hussein in 2003 and the U.S. occupation of Iraq, which have led to a resurgence of Shia political activity after decades of oppression, have provided Shi'ism with newfound political influence.

SHI'ISM illuminates the historical roots of this branch of Islam, from its origins in a 7th-century dispute over the successor to the Prophet Mohammad and a political and theological war between Sunni and Shi'ite followers, through the sect's mythology of martyrdom established by the massacre in 662 at Karbala, followed by centuries of persecution as a minority faith, It also outlines the basic tenets of Shi'ism, including belief in the 'hidden' Imam, who will appear on the Last Day as the Mahdi.

Filed in Iran, Lebanon and Iraq, SHI'ISM blends both contemporary and historical footage and graphics with interviews with Muslim scholars, philosophers, writers, politicians and religious leaders, including Iran's Ayatollah Mussa Zein al-Abidin, Lebanon's Sheikh Mohammad Hassan al-Amin, and *Islamic Encyclopedia* Director Mohammad Kadhim Bujnardi, among many others.



"A fine portrayal... Deeply moving... thoroughly recommended!"—The Middle East Quarterly

"Highly Recommended!.. This film conveys a wealth of information."

—Educational Media Reviews Online

 **2006 Middle East & Central Asia Politics, Economics, and Society Conference**

 **2005 FilmFest Middle East Studies Association**

53 minutes | color | 2005 | [Order #ME745](#)
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390

20 YEARS OLD IN THE MIDDLE EAST



A Film by Amal Moghaizel

Filmed after the fall of Saddam Hussein, **20 YEARS OLD IN THE MIDDLE EAST** traverses the region—from Jordan to Syria, Iran, and Lebanon—to take the pulse of Arab and Iranian youth. The film offers an opportunity for Western college students to truly understand the lives and attitudes of their Middle Eastern counterparts: how they're different, and how they're the same.



As America becomes more deeply embroiled in the region, **20 YEARS OLD IN THE MIDDLE EAST** offers an indispensable snapshot of the attitudes of a generation that desires liberty over extremism, but at the same time fears that American policies will lead them into ever more warfare, and which—above all—simply wants to pursue their dreams.

"A valuable perspective."—**School Library Journal**

"This film should be required viewing for leaders and citizens alike in the Middle East."

—**Arabic Women's eNews**

"Recommended."—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

 **2006 Middle East & Central Asia Politics, Economics, and Society Conference**

 **2004 FilmFest, Middle East Studies Association**

52 minutes | color | 2003 | **Order #ME746**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390



ELIZABETH FERNEA

Elizabeth W. Fernea, Professor Emeritus of English and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, is a writer and filmmaker whose work focuses on the Middle East, particularly women and the family. She is the author of such acclaimed titles as *In Search of Islamic Feminism*, which *Kirkus Reviews* called "A remarkable, stereotype-shattering, gender bending study of Middle Eastern women," and *Guests of the Sheikh: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village*, her first book, cited in *The Penguin Readers Guide* as one of the 500 "Great Books by Women."



First Run/Icarus Films is proud to distribute all of Fernea's films, including *LIVING WITH THE PAST* (see page 12), as well as the following titles:

ROAD TO PEACE: Israelis and Palestinians

Explores the implications of this historic crossroads in Israeli-Palestinian relations.



THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE: Israelis and Palestinians

Introduces grassroots organizations with very different perspectives on how to bring about a peaceful settlement.



A VEILED REVOLUTION

Examines the reasons for modern Egypt's women's turn back to tradition.

"An excellent basis for discussion."

—EFLA Evaluations



THE PRICE OF CHANGE

Discusses the effect of non-domestic work on five Egyptian women.



WOMEN UNDER SIEGE

Looks at the daily lives of six women in a besieged Palestinian refugee camp.



SAINTS AND SPIRITS

Explores the personal dimensions of Islam during three religious events in Morocco.



For detailed information on each of her films, visit our website at

<http://www.frif.com/subjects/fernea.html>

More Films, Videos & DVD's on the MIDDLE EAST

119 BULLETS + THREE

A Film by Yeud Levanon & Amit Goren

Focusing on the Baruch Goldstein massacre of Muslims at prayer and the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, this film investigates Israel's religious extremist movements.

60 minutes | color | 1995 | [Order #ME747](#)
Sale/VHS: \$390

ALONE WITH WAR

A Film by Danielle Arbid

A filmmaker in exile returns to Beirut to understand the causes of Lebanon's civil war and discovers an omnipresent collective amnesia

"A courageous and edifying document."

—[Le Monde](#)

 **Silver Leopard for Best Documentary,
2000 Locarno Film Festival**

58 minutes | color | 2000 | [Order #ME748](#)
Sale/VHS: \$390

THE BOMBING

A Film by Simone Bitton

Investigates the background of the Palestinians responsible for the September 4, 1997 suicide bombing of the Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall in Jerusalem

"Highly Recommended."

—[Educational Media Reviews Online](#)

59 minutes | color | 1999 | [Order #ME749](#)
Sale/VHS: \$390

CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE— Arab-Americans in Wartime

A Film by David Van Taylor & Brad Lichtenstein

Chronicles the stories of three diverse Arab New Yorkers as they wrestle with their place in post 9/11 America.

"Brilliant."—[The Baltimore Sun](#)

 **2002 Middle Eastern Studies
Association FilmFest**

54 minutes | color | 2002 |  | [Order #ME750](#)
Sale/VHS: \$298

CITIZEN BISHARA

A Film by Simone Bitton

Profiles Azmi Bishara, the most emblematic of Israel's Palestinian citizens and member of the Israeli Parliament.

"Highly Recommended!... An excellent film."

—[Educational Media Reviews Online](#)

 **2002 Human Rights Watch
International Film Festival**

52 minutes | color | 2001 | [Order #ME751](#)
Sale/VHS: \$390

DAILY BAGHDAD

A Film by Romain Goupil

An intimate chronicle of daily life in Baghdad, one year after the start of the war, as seen through the eyes of an extended Iraqi family.

"Recommended!"—[Educational Media Reviews Online](#)

100 minutes | color | 2004 | [Order #ME752](#)
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$348

FOR THOSE WHO SAIL TO HEAVEN

A Film by Elizabeth Wickert

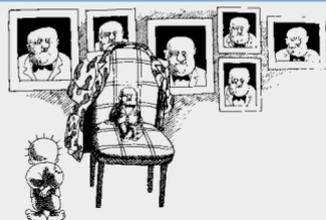
A stirring documentary portrait of the Sufi music, dance and games at the annual Opet Festival in Egypt.

"A rich film with many levels of meaning."

—[Middle East Studies Association Bulletin](#)

48 minutes | color | 1990 | [Order #ME753](#)
Sale/VHS: \$375





GENERATION X-SADDAM

A Film by Shelley Saywell

A film about Iraq after the fall of Saddam, focusing on Iraqi youth, and how their lives, and their feelings about Saddam and the U.S. changed.

"Highly Recommended!"—**Educational Media Reviews Online**

 **2004 Middle East Studies Association Film Fest**

45 minutes | color | 2003 | **Order #ME754**
Sale/VHS: \$298

MOKARRAMEH, MEMORIES AND DREAMS

A Film by Ebrahim Mokhtari

Portrays the life of an Iranian peasant woman who became a painter, and how her works provides rare insights into the lives of women in Iran.

"A lively and multifaceted portrait."—**Al Jadid, A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts**

 **2002 Middle East Studies Association Film Festival**

48 minutes | color | 1999 | **Order #ME755**
Sale/VHS: \$375

NAJI AL ALI—An Artist with Vision

A Film by Kasim Abid

Examines the forces that shaped the late Palestinian cartoonist Naji Al-Ali as an artist and as a human being.

"A wonderful visual documentation of the pain of Palestine."—**Politics and Culture**

 **Audience Award, 1999 Arab Screen Film Festival**

52 minutes | color | 1999 | **Order #ME756**
Sale/VHS: \$390

PALESTINE: Story of a Land

A Film by Simone Bittou

Using only archival and newsreel footage and other primary visual source documents, this film tells the story of Palestine from the nineteenth century through current times.

120 minutes | color | 1992 | **Order #ME757**
Sale/VHS: \$490

PLAYING THE NEWS

A Film by Jeff Plunkett & Jigar Mehta

NEW release Profiles the video game company, Kuma War, and its entertainment-style journalistic "coverage" of the Iraq War.

"A story about blurring news and entertainment and how technology numbs us to the horrors of war."—**South by Southwest Film Festival**

 **2006 Middle East Studies Association FilmFest**

22 minutes | color | 2005 | **Order #ME758**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$225

ZINAT, ONE SPECIAL DAY

A Film by Ebrahim Mokhtari

Profiles a nurse in Iran, the first woman from the Island of Qeshm to remove the traditional face mask, and run for elected office.

"Celebrates the empowerment of women."

—**Al Jadid: A Review & Record of Arab Culture and Arts**

54 minutes | color | 2000 | **Order #ME759**
Sale/VHS or DVD: \$390

Index

ANTHROPOLOGY

- For Those Who Sail to Heaven 36
 From Language to Language 6
 Hats of Jerusalem 7
 Road to Kerbala, The 19

ARCHAEOLOGY

- Bible Unearthed, The 9

ARCHITECTURE

- Living with the Past 12

ART

- Mokammeh, Memories and Dreams . . . 37
 Naji Al-Ali 37

CINEMA STUDIES

- Iran: A Cinematographic Revolution . . . 17

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

- On the Objection Front. 6

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Crimes of Honour. 32
 Hothouse. 2

FAMILY RELATIONS

- Arab Diaries 30
 Be Fruitful and Multiply 8

SEXUALITY & GENDER

- Inside Out 15
 Perfumed Garden, The 26
 Virgin Diaries, The 26

JOURNALISM

- Al Jazeera 27
 Democracy on Deadline. 28
 Playing the News. 37

LABOR STUDIES

- Price of Change, The 35
 Female Cabby in Sidi Bel-Abbes, A 25

LAW

- Shirin Ebadi. 18

LITERATURE

- Edward Said: The Last Interview 10
 From Language to Language 6
 Naguib Mahfouz 13
 Out of Place. 11

MIGRATION

- Diaries of Yossef Nachmani, The 1

MUSIC

- We Loved Each Other So Much 21

PSYCHOLOGY

- Hothouse. 2
 Inside Out 15

SHI'ISM

- Iran, Veiled Appearances 16
 Shi'ism: Waiting for the Hidden Imam . . . 33
 Women of Hezbollah 22

TERRORISM

- 119 Bullets + Three 36
 Algeria's Bloody Years 23
 Bombing, The 36
 Hothouse. 2
 Human Weapon. 5

WOMEN'S STUDIES

- Be Fruitful and Multiply 8
 Women of Hezbollah 22
 Female Cabby in Sidi Bel-Abbes, A 25
 Saudi Solutions. 29
 Crimes of Honour. 32



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