



Palestinian Days Film Festival List of Films

Lemonade

Director: Hicham Kayed

Duration: 13 minutes

Language: Arabic with English subtitles

Palestinian brothers endeavour to transcend their predicament as refugees by spending their school break productively, selling lemonade. Inspired by a true story, Lemonade is the outcome of a youth storytelling project run under the auspices of the Al-Jana Resource Centre in Lebanon, and was written, cast and edited with the participation of young residents of the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

Gaza Strip

Director: James Longley

Duration: 74 minutes

Language: Arabic with English subtitles

Gaza Strip follows a range of people and events following the election of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, including the first major armed incursion into "Area A" by IDF forces during this intifada. The film is filmed almost entirely in a verite style, presented without narration and with little explanation, focusing on ordinary Palestinians rather than politicians and pundits. More observation than political argument, Gaza Strip offers a rare look inside the stark realities of Palestinian life and death under Israeli military occupation.

Jerusalem.. The East Side Story

Director: Mohammed Alatar

Duration: 57 minutes

Language: In English/Arabic/Hebrew with English subtitles

The latest shipment of history is the Israeli occupation. In 1948, the western part of the city fell under Israeli control; in 1967, the eastern part fell under Israeli occupation. Since then, Israel has pursued a policy of Judaizing the city, aiming to achieve "Jewish demographic superiority." Part of this policy is to drive Palestinian Muslims and Christians out of the city; denying their presence, history, and ties to the land.

The documentary takes you on a journey exposing Israel's policy to gain supremacy and hegemony over the city and its inhabitants. It also touches on the future of the city: Jerusalem is the key to peace; without Jerusalem, there is no peace for anyone.



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Driving to.. ZIGZIGLAND

Director: Nicole Ballivian

Duration: 92 minutes

Language: In English and Arabic with English subtitles

A chronicle of a day in the life of a Palestinian cab driver in Los Angeles, DRIVING TO ZIGZIGLAND, portrays the social struggle of the Arab immigrant in post-9/11 America. A film audition typecasts Bashar to play an Al Qaeda terrorist role. The utilities are due and Bashar has twenty-four hours to make the money. For the remaining hours left until tomorrow, an unceasing flow of passengers ride in Bashar's taxi and give the Arab cabbie the run-around on issues that deal with suicide bombers, George Bush, Cat Stevens, the war in Iraq, music, and world geography. Bashar's quest to make the money is won until he realizes he has to choose between the Department of Homeland Security and his family. Shot in Los Angeles and Palestine, based on true stories. won until he realizes he has to choose between the Department of Homeland Security and his family.

Palestine Blues

Director: Nida Sinnokrot

Duration: 72 minutes

Language: Arabic with English subtitles

Palestine Blues follows the repercussions of Israel's security wall and settlement expansion throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Focusing on the village of Jayyous and its non-violent campaign against the wall, Palestine Blues documents the heroic victories and tragic defeats of this farming community's fight for survival.

"An affecting cri de coeur" – The Chicago Reader

Official selection NEW YORK UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL

JURY AWARD BEST FILM- NEW ORLEANS FILM FESTIVAL

A Letter from Sarah

Director: Muraz Jan Kot

Duration: 14 minutes

Language: English subtitles with Arabic subtitles

The filmmaker asks a 12-year-old Palestinian girl to write a film script recounting her ordeal.

A Letter from Sara was shown in The 24th International Mediterranean Film Festival of Montpellier – France; Tabor Film Festival - Yugoslavia and Carthage Film festival – Tunisia. The film also won the Special Festival award at the 9th Cairo Television Film Festival.

2003 Nominated for best film and best script award in Carthage

Frontiers of Dreams and Fears

Director: Mai Masri

Duration: 56 minutes

Language: Arabic with English subtitles

Winner of fourteen international awards. From Shatila camp in Lebanon to Dheisha camp in Palestine, this heart aching narrative is the story of two refugee girls and their extraordinary journey to the borders of exile separating them from their homeland and from each other.

"A vivid and touching testimony to love and hope"- Pillar to Post- USA



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Occupation 101

Director: Abdallah Omeish & Sufyan Omeish

Duration: 85 minutes

Language: English

Rated as one of the best documentaries by the LA Journal. It is a remarkable portrayal of the Palestinian ordeal. It is a thought-provoking and powerful award-winning documentary on the current and historical root causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Unlike any other film ever produced on the conflict -- 'Occupation 101' presents a comprehensive analysis of the facts and hidden truths surrounding the never-ending controversy and dispels many of its long-perceived myths and misconceptions.

Until When..

Director: Dahna Abourahme

Duration: 76 minutes

Language: Arabic with English subtitles

Set during the current Intifada, this documentary follows four Palestinian families living in Dheisheh Refugee Camp near Bethlehem. Fadi is 13 and cares for his 4 younger brothers, the Hammashes are a close-knit family who pass on the lessons of life with humor and passion, Sana is a single woman who endures long commutes to do community work, and Emad and Hanan are a young couple trying to shield their daughter from the harsh realities of the occupation. They talk about their past and discuss the future with humor, sorrow, frustration and hope. Until when... paints an intimate in-depth portrait of Palestinian lives today.

Watani Habibi, My Beloved Homeland

Director: John Mandelberg

Duration: 24 minutes

Language: Arabic with English subtitles

This rich musical expose reveals the exquisite sun drenched landscapes of ancient Palestine. We hear the haunting sounds of traditional Arabic instruments: the Ney, the Qanun and the Oud, in harmony with the passionate voices of Palestinian cultural resistance. An introductory exploration of Palestinian protest music and dance which features the treasured singular voice of the traditional village singer, Jawaher Shofani; the warm melodic tones of the banished maestro of folk, Mustafa al Kurd, and the youthful sounds of Arab rap calling to the world. They dance to remember their past, they perform for their futures, they believe in the enduring richness and vibrancy of their artistic heritage.

Jenin Jenin

Director: Mohammad Bakri

Duration: 54 minutes

Language: Arabic with English subtitles

The film includes testimony from Jenin residents after the Israeli occupation forces' so-called "Defensive Wall" operation, during which the city and camp were the scenes of fierce fighting. The operation ended with Jenin flattened and scores of Palestinians dead. Palestinians as well as numerous human rights groups accused Israel of committing war crimes in the April 2002 attack on the refugee camp. Jenin Jenin shows the extent to which the prolonged oppression and terror has affected the state of mind of the Palestinian inhabitants of Jenin.



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Since You Left..

Director: Mohammad Bakri

Duration: 60 minutes

Language: Arabic with English subtitles

In this autobiographical essay, Palestinian actor Bakri returns to the grave of his former mentor, the writer and communist Emile Habibi, and attempts – using archive footage, personal films, and documentary materials – to account for the personal and political transformations that have occurred in Palestine as well as within his own thinking since the author's death.

Palestine, Summer 06

Director: Rowan Al Faqih & Nahed Awwad

Duration: 35 minutes

Language: Arabic with English subtitles

Both established as well as new Palestinian filmmakers came together in a project that reflects the “mood” of the summer of 2006 when Israel carried out military assaults in Gaza and Lebanon. In three minutes or less, filmmakers were asked to tell their stories in a single shot. The result is a mosaic of 13 short films.

-- A crossover between film, video art, individual expression and a collective voice -- is a unique experience in the Palestinian cultural scene— Viewer

‘Arus el Jaleel (Bride of Galilee)

Director: Basel Tannous Duration: 48mins

Language: Arabic with English subtitles

Year of production: 2006

78 year old Fatma Hawari was a recently engaged young woman in 1948, when her village was bombed by Zionist forces during the Nakba. Found buried beneath the rubble with her lower body paralyzed, she sent her fiancé away and remained alone in a wheel chair, living in what became Israel. Every once in a while, she would take out the wedding dress she never wore. Then, over ten years ago, a man arrived in the village and asked for her forgiveness he was the pilot who had bombed her house. Unable to forgive, she sent him away, later to learn that he was Abe Nathan, better known as an Israeli peace activist. Years later, told by Israel that she is ineligible for war casualty compensation, as only “Arabs” could have caused her injuries, Fatma decides to trace Nathan, and ask him to confirm in writing that he had indeed bombed her home and family. Basel Tannous worked for over four years to gain the trust of Fatma and her family in the making of this often painful and profoundly moving account of the fateful encounters between two individuals, and their consequences. In doing so he has produced a unique and intimate portrait of an individual as well as of the enduring conflict itself.



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Arna's Children

Written and directed: Juliano Mer Khamis and Danniell Danniell

Duration: 84 minutes

Language: In English/Hebrew/Arabic with English subtitles

Arna Mer (1929-1995) led in the last years of her life a small theatre group of Palestinian children on the West Bank. Her son Juliano, who directed the group, used all those years his camera to film the rehearsals and performances of the plays.

Through playing in the theatre group the children try to cope with their memories of the refugee camp and daily reality. Arna plays an important role in the Jenin community through her dedication to the children. When the Israeli army's occupy the city, the theatre group rehearsals come to an end. But Arna won't take it lying down. She establishes an alternative educational system to replace the formal one that was practically paralysed by the Israeli occupation.

After the death of his mother and years after the theatre has closed, Juliano looks up 'Arna's children'. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has escalated again and bloody bomb attacks are the order of the day. Back in Jenin he discovers little by little the tragic story of the theatre children who were so dear to him.

Juliano Mer Khamis is the son of the Jewish Arna and an Arab father.

The Iron Wall

Director: Mohammed Alatar

Duration: 52 minutes

Language: In English and Arabic with English subtitles

In 1923 Vladimir Jabotinsky, leading intellectual of the Zionist movement and father of the right wing of that movement, wrote:

"Zionist colonization must either stop, or else proceed regardless of the native population. Which means that it can proceed and develop only under the protection of a power that is independent of the native population - behind an IRON WALL, which the native population cannot breach."

From that day these words became the official and unspoken policy of the Zionist movement and later the state of Israel. Settlements were used from the beginning to create a Zionist foothold in Palestine.

After 1967 and the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, the aim of the settlement movement became clear - create facts on the ground and make the creation of a Palestinian state impossible.

Thirty nine years of occupation and the policy started showing results. There are now more than 200 settlements and outposts scattered throughout the West Bank blocking the geographic possibility of a contiguous Palestinian territory.

The Iron Wall documentary exposes this phenomenon and follows the timeline, size, population of the settlements, and its impact on the peace process. This film also touches on the latest project to make the settlements a permanent fact on the ground - the wall that Israel is building in the West Bank and its impact on the Palestinian's peoples.

Settlements and related infrastructures are impacting every aspect of life for all Palestinians from land confiscation, theft of natural resources, confiscation of the basic human rights, creation of an apartheid-like system, to the devastating impact in regards to the future of the region and the prospect of the peace process. The film includes interviews with Palestinian and Israeli leaders, human rights activists and political analysts.