

Palestine Film Festival 2006



barbican

21st April - 5th May

The 2006 London Palestine Film Festival has been made possible through the support of the following organisations:

The Karim Rida Said Foundation (www.krsf.org)

Art School Palestine (www.artschoolpalestine.com)

The London Middle East Institute (www.lmei.soas.ac.uk)

SOAS Palestine Society (www.palestinesociety.org)

Deckert Distribution (www.deckert-distribution.com)

MEC Film (www.mecfilm.de)

Sindibad Films (www.sindibad.co.uk)

Freedom Clothing Project (www.freedomclothingproject.com)



Palestine Film Festival 2006

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The annual London Palestine Film Festival is organised by the Palestine Film Foundation, a project of the Palestine Society at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). The Foundation is a non-profit initiative that seeks to develop an audience for and encourage the development of a Palestinian cinema and cinema related to Palestine. Formed in 2004, the Foundation is managed by a network of volunteers from Palestine and the UK.

In addition to the annual festival, the Foundation and the SOAS Palestine Society coordinate a series of video related tours, special screenings and seminars throughout the year and across the UK. These activities allow the Foundation to introduce innovative and important works of documentary and fiction to new audiences and to provide a forum for visiting artists to engage UK-based audiences with work that is otherwise seldom screened. In previous years these activities have seen the Society and Foundation cooperate with numerous universities, sixth form colleges, community centres and repertory cinemas.

The Palestine Society at SOAS organised the

first London Palestine Film Festival in 1999. In response to increasing interest, the Society decided in 2004 to establish the Palestine Film Foundation as a body dedicated to coordinating the festival. The 2006 festival sees the Foundation working with the Barbican Centre for the second time, as well as continuing its screenings at SOAS.

The festival runs for two weeks, showcasing the finest in films on the subject of Palestine. Incorporating both documentary and fiction work, the festival provides a unique forum for the exhibition of a broad range of work by new and established directors, writers and producers. In addition to screenings at quality London venues, the festival provides valuable opportunities for the discussion of Palestine-related film and video work, bringing together key film-makers, actors and writers from around the world.

All profits from the festival are donated to selected Palestinian educational and cultural charities. For further information on the 2006 festival and the activities of the Foundation, please visit the website at : www.palestinefilm.org





The 2006 London Palestine Film Festival runs for 15 days and utilises two venues – London's Barbican Cinema and SOAS. All screenings in the first week of the festival are held at the Barbican Centre in Cinema 3 (with the exception of the Opening Gala on April 21st which will take place in the Barbican's Cinema 1). Screenings in the second week of the festival will be held at SOAS, either in the Brunei Gallery or the Khalili Lecture Theatre. Please see the rear of this programme for full addresses and maps to these two venues.

Advance booking is recommended for all first week screenings, and particularly for those involving Question & Answer sessions with guests of the festival. Tickets for these screenings are available directly from the Barbican box office, either through the Barbican website or over the telephone, and may also be booked through the festival website (www.palestinefilm.org).

Tickets for screenings at the Barbican Cinema cost £6.50 full price and £5 for concessions. A special pass for any three festival films at the venue is also available upon request at the discounted rate of £15.

Barbican Box Office:

Web: www.barbican.org.uk/film/

Tel.: 0845 120 7530

(10am-8pm daily, 12am-6pm sundays)

During the second week of the festival, screenings are held at SOAS, University of London, and are free of charge, with unallocated seating.

Any queries concerning tickets, venues and bookings should be directed to the Palestine Film Foundation via email or telephone:

info@palestinefilm.org

07733 235 760

07724 450 610

ARNA'S CHILDREN

Arna Mer Khamis was a legendary Israeli activist against the occupation. Born Jewish, she married a Palestinian and spent her life campaigning for human rights. In the Jenin refugee camp, Arna opened a theatre where, with her son Juliano, she taught children to express themselves through art. When Arna died of cancer in 1995, the theatre ultimately did not survive. Five years later, Juliano, one of the region's leading actors, returns to discover what happened to 'Arna's Children.' Shifting in time, his film juxtaposes the young boys with the militants and victims they become, exposing the horror of young lives trapped by the circumstances of Israeli occupation.

Winner:
FIPRESCI Award Hot Docs Canadian Film Festival, 2004
Best Documentary Feature Tribeca Film Festival, 2004

Dir	Danniel Danniel & Juliano Mer-Khamis
Duration	85m
Type	Documentary
Year	2003
Country	Netherlands/Palestine
Date	Wednesday 26th April 2006
Time	6:30pm
Cinema	Barbican Cinema 3



Dir Rima Essa
Duration 37m
Type Documentary
Year 2001
Country Palestine

Date Wednesday 3rd May 2006
Time 7:00pm
Cinema Brunei Gallery, SOAS



This short film by Palestinian citizen of Israel, Rima Essa, focuses on the plight of the villagers of the Palestinian village of Bir'am, expelled by Israel during the establishment of the Zionist state. Initially the villagers were informed that their 'removal' from their ancestral and national homes and expulsion from what became the state of Israel was to be for a matter of only 15 days. However, it soon became apparent that Israel had no more intention of allowing these Palestinians to return home than they did the other 750,000 expelled in the creation of the state. Essa's study examines the gaps that separate three generations of Bir'am refugees and seeks to understand the way in which powers of forgetting, remembering, bitterness and despair combine to keep villagers' longing for a physical as well as a moral restitution to what is rightfully theirs.

Ashes will be shown prior to Ula Tabari's *Private Investigation* (see page 30).

BE QUIET + PANEL DISCUSSION

The panel discussion will be shared by renowned art critic, curator and head of New Contemporaries, Sasha Craddock

Zoabi's Cannes award-winning short film tells the story of a Palestinian boy and his father on their journey home to the city of Nazareth. What should be a simple journey is instead beset by the tensions of a politically charged atmosphere and the militarized reality, each fuelling the struggle of a father bringing up his strong willed son.

Zoabi's film will be shown along with other Palestinian short films as part of a selection of young film-makers work preceding the screening of Ayreen Anastas' *Pasolini Pa* Palestine* (see page 28). Following the screenings, a panel discussion will be held with Palestinian directors Annemarie Jacir (*Like Twenty Impossibles* – see page 19), Larissa Sansour (*Bethlehem Bandolero* – see page 9) and Ayreen Anastas.

Dir	Sameh Zoabi
Duration	18m
Type	Fiction
Year	2003
Country	Palestine

Date	Sunday 23rd April 2006
Time	2:30pm
Cinema	Barbican Cinema 3



BETHLEHEM BANDOLERO + PANEL DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR

The panel discussion will be shared by renowned art critic, curator and head of New Contemporaries, Sasha Craddock

Dir Larissa Sansour
Duration 6m
Type Art
Year 2004
Country Palestine

Date Saunday 23rd April 2006
Time 2:30pm
Cinema Barbican Cinema 3



After years in exile, the Palestinian artist returns to her native Bethlehem, only to find the town has been divided by the Israeli constructed wall. Unable to see friends and family, Sansour sets off wearing a red sombrero and bandana. After making her way through the streets of Bethlehem, she confronts the wall in an absurd duel...

Sansour's film will be shown along with other Palestinian short films as part of a selection of young film-makers work preceding the screening of Ayreen Anastas' *Pasolini Pa* Palestine* (see page 28). Following the screenings, a panel discussion will be held with Palestinian directors Anastas, Sansour and Annemarie Jacir (*Like Twenty Impossibles* – see page 19).

CHRONICLE OF A DISAPPEARANCE

This is the rarely screened precursor to Elia Suleiman's internationally acclaimed and award-winning film *Divine Intervention*. It sees his silent character 'E.S.' cameo in a playful but symbolic series of everyday scenarios. With characteristic dry wit and an eye for the absurd at the heart of the mundane, this film is a thoughtful, politically nuanced treatment of the routines, rituals, ceremonies and accidents that punctuate the life of 'E.S.' on his return home from abroad to Palestine. For Suleiman, the film represents 'a journey in search of what it means to be Palestinian... a combination of possible truths, transgressing genres, and blending fact with fiction to explore the intertwined boundaries of storytelling, history and autobiography.'

Winner:

Luigi De Laurentiis Award – Venice Film Festival, 1996

New Directors Special Jury Prize – Seattle International Film Festival, 1997

Dir	Elia Suleiman
Duration	87m
Type	Fiction
Year	1997
Country	Palestine/Israel/USA

Date	Wednesday 26th April 2006
Time	8:30pm
Cinema	Barbican Cinema 3



FORGET BAGHDAD: JEWS AND ARABS – THE IRAQI CONNECTION

Dir Samir
Duration 110m
Type Documentary
Year 2002
Country Switzerland/Palestine/USA/Iraq

Date Sunday 23rd April 2006
Time 8:15pm
Cinema Barbican Cinema 3



Iraqi-Swiss film-maker, Samir, takes on stereotypical and historically novel distinctions between 'Jews' and 'Arabs' in this deeply thoughtful film about Iraqi-Jewish communists who left Iraq for Israel in the 1950s. Drawing on insightful interviews with academics (including Ella Shohat), novelists (Sami Michael and Samir Naqqash) and other 'Iraqi-Israeli Jewish Arabs', as well as upon archival research and footage, the film explores a fascinating set of political, cultural, religious, national and linguistic tensions linked to the emergence of new and potentially exclusive ways of identifying as Jewish or Arab. In so doing, the film confronts central issues of identity at the heart of national and ethnic conflict.

Winner:
Zurich Film Prize, 2002; Critics Week Prize, Locarno, 2002

HAMOUDI AND EMIL

Set in Denmark, this short story follows the two twelve-year old boys in their optimistic pursuit of a beautiful neighbour. But deciding who will take the first step in the numerous plots they hatch to attain her attention proves hard to settle, as does a means of dealing with her husband! In the midst of this comic portrait of young friendship, Hamoudi's grandfather introduces them to the power of prayer.

Hamoudi and Emil will be screened along with another short film, *Lemonade* by Hicham Kayad (see page 18) prior to the scheduled screening of Shady Srour's debut full-length feature, *Sense of Need* (see page 31).

Dir Mahdi Fleifel
Duration 23m
Type Fiction
Year 2004
Country Netherlands

Date Saturday 29th April 2006
Time 6pm
Cinema SOAS – Khalili Lecture Theatre



IN BETWEEN + PANEL DISCUSSION

The panel discussion will be shared by renowned art critic, curator and head of New Contemporaries, Sasha Craddock

Dir Manar Zoabi
Duration 3m
Type Art
Year 2005
Country Palestine

Date Sunday 23rd April 2006
Time 2:30pm
Cinema Barbican Cinema 3



Manar Zoabi's performance piece is a visually powerful contemplation on the artist's imposition of her hopes and passions upon that 'blank space' that confronts her; finding herself caught 'in between' her own projections and those that precede and constrain them, forces her to consider how total transformation might be achieved. This is a beautifully edited art piece that defies categorisation.

In Between will be shown along with other Palestinian short films as part of a selection of young film-makers work preceding the screening of Ayreen Anastas' *Pasolini Pa* Palestine* (see page 28). Following the screenings, a panel discussion will be held with Palestinian directors Anastas, Larissa Sansour (*Bethlehem Bandolero* – see page 9) and Annemarie Jacir (*Like Twenty Impossibles* – see page 19).

IN THE SPIDER'S WEB

In the Spider's Web was produced by Ramallah-based Human Rights organisation, Al-Haq, in order to provide a visual overview of collective punishment as it affects the daily lives of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The film tells many stories, but focuses on two in particular – those of a woman in Nablus and another in Hebron. Each of them talks of the impact that the compounded measures of intimidation (curfews, closures) and other collective penalties has on their lives. This powerful film directly confronts the audience with the connections between Israeli violations of international law, and the social consequences suffered by many women, some of whom end up blamed for their own plight. More broadly, Musleh's film highlights the impact that collective punishment has had and continues to have on an entire civilian population.

In the Spider's Web will follow a screening of Ghada Terawi's documentary, *What's Next* (see page 35).

Dir	Hanna Musleh
Duration	45m
Type	Documentary
Year	2004
Country	Palestine
Date	Thursday 4th May 2006
Time	6pm
Cinema	SOAS – Khalili Lecture Theatre



JENIN, JENIN + Q & A WITH DIRECTOR MOHAMMED BAKRI

Part of a special session: Mohammed Bakri Directs – A Double Bill

Dir Mohammed Bakri
Duration 54m
Type Documentary
Year 2002
Country Palestine

Date Monday 24th April 2006
Time 7pm
Cinema Barbican Cinema 3



Initially banned by the Israeli Film Board and still a source of controversy, Bakri's documentary bears witness to the aftermath of the April 2002 demolition of the Jenin refugee camp. The documentary hears survivors presenting their own testimony and presents an often harrowing portrayal of a Palestinian community responding to trauma.

As part of the Special Session Double Bill with festival guest, Mohammed Bakri, this screening will follow a presentation of the actor-director's recent autobiographical film *Since You Left* (see page 32) which touches on the ramifications of his making *Jenin, Jenin*. *Since You Left* will then be followed by a Q & A session with Bakri before the screening of *Jenin, Jenin*.

Winner:
Carthage International Film Festival – Best Film, 2002

JERUSALEMS: BORDERLINE SYNDROME

Director Eyal Sivan (*Route 181*, *Izkor: Slaves of Memory*, *The Specialist*) turns the camera on Jerusalem in this provocative and lyrical contemplation on the 'sacred city.' In searching for a way of capturing the city, Sivan encounters a peculiar fetishism that afflicts Jerusalem as an object of multiple desires. The film takes its title from a psychiatric condition recognised since the 19th century as suffered by pilgrims and other visitors overwhelmed by Jerusalem and the powerful associations they place upon the city.

Sivan's film, like his acutely insightful *Izkor: Slaves of Memory*, shown in last year's programme, is a rarely screened example of his unique artistic style and his willingness to challenge the conventions of the documentary genre at every turn. In common with the finest in classic documentary-making such as that undertaken by Marker or Herzog, Sivan's film does not flinch from controversial imagery and leaves more questions unanswered than originally posed.

Dir	Eyal Sivan
Duration	64m
Type	Documentary
Year	1994
Country	Belgium
Date	Saturday 22nd April 2006
Time	4:30pm
Cinema	Barbican Cinema 3



KINGS AND EXTRAS: DIGGING FOR A PALESTINIAN IMAGE

Part of special session: Palestine in the Archive – A Double Bill

Dir Azza el-Hassan
Duration 62m
Type Documentary
Year 2004
Country Lebanon/Palestine

Date Sunday 23rd April 2006
Time 5:00pm
Cinema Barbican Cinema 3



Azza el-Hassan uses precious 1970s and 1980s archival footage of the Palestinian national movement and a series of contemporary interviews with film-makers, archivists and historians to explore the role of film-making and photography during this period. At the heart of the film is her search for answers as to the apparently mysterious 'loss' of the central Palestinian cinema archive in Beirut during the Israeli occupation.

As part of a special, extended session on Palestine in the Archives, the film will be followed by a screening of Kais al-Zobaidi's *Palestine – A People's Record* (see page 26) which chronicles the Palestinian national trajectory from 1917 to 1974, drawing on extraordinary archive footage across the period.

LEMONADE

The outcome of a youth storytelling project run under the auspices of the Al-Jana Resource Centre in Lebanon, this short film tells the story of three brothers and their endeavour to make the most of their school break by selling lemonade. The writing, casting, and editing of the story were all executed with the participation of young residents of the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

Lemonade will be screened along with another short film, *Hamoudi and Emil* by Mahdi Fleifel (see page 12) prior to the scheduled screening of Shady Srour's debut full-length feature, *Sense of Need* (see page 31).

Dir	Hicham Kayed
Duration	12m
Type	Fiction
Year	2004
Country	Lebanon
Date	Saturday 29th April 2006
Time	6pm
Cinema	SOAS – Khalili Lecture Theatre



Winner:
Gold Prize – Cairo International Film Festival for Children, 2004

LIKE 20 IMPOSSIBLES + PANEL DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR

The panel discussion will be shared by renowned art critic, curator and head of New Contemporaries,
Sasha Craddock

Dir Annemarie Jacir
Duration 17m
Type Fiction
Year 2003
Country Palestine

Date Sunday 23rd April 2006
Time 2:30pm
Cinema Barbican Cinema 3



"When a Palestinian film crew decides to avert a closed checkpoint by taking a remote side road, the political landscape unravels, and the passengers are slowly taken apart by the mundane brutality of military occupation. Both a visual poem and a narrative, 'Like Twenty Impossibles' wryly questions artistic responsibility and the politics of filmmaking, while speaking to the fragmentation of a people." (film-maker's website). Annemarie Jacir's film, which premiered at Cannes, has brought her more than ten short film awards and she is currently working on a debut full-length feature film in Palestine.

Jacir's film will be shown along with other Palestinian short films as part of a selection of young film-makers work preceding the screening of Ayreen Anastas' *Pasolini Pa* Palestine* (see page 28). Following the screenings, a panel discussion will be held with directors Anastas, Jacir and Larissa Sansour (*Bethlehem Bandolero* – see page 9).

MASSAKER + Q & A WITH DIRECTOR MONIKA BORGMANN

Opening Gala Screening introduced by award-winning Egyptian novelist and cultural critic, Ahdaf Soueif

We are pleased to open the Festival with the powerful and controversial Berlin International Film Festival award-winner *Massaker*. Exploring the tragic events during the Lebanese war in 1982, *Massaker* features interviews with individuals who describe how, between September 16 and 18, for two nights and three days, they went about their crimes in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila. The massacre deeply shook public opinion throughout the world, but today has been almost forgotten, although unanswered questions still surface: what drives people to such excesses of brutality, and how are the perpetrators able to live on? *Massaker* is a psycho-political study of six individuals who participated in the atrocity, both on orders, and on their own personal initiative. The film intertwines the mental state of the killers with their political environment and broaches the phenomenon of collective violence through their accounts.

Both screenings of *Massaker* will be followed by Q & A sessions with co-director Monika Borgmann

'A rare insight into the banality of murder' -
The Guardian

Winner:
FIPRESCI Award Berlin 2005

Dir	Monika Borgmann, Lokman Slim & Hermann Theissen
Duration	98m
Type	Documentary
Year	2005
Country	Germany/Lebanon
Date	Friday 21st (Opening Night) and Saturday 22nd April 2006
Time	7:30pm (Fri.), 6:00pm (Sat.)
Cinema	Barbican Cinema 1 (Fri.), Barbican Cinema 3 (Sat.)



NAJI EL-ALI: AN ARTIST WITH VISION

Dir Kasim Abid
Duration 60m
Type Documentary
Year 1999
Country Egypt/UK

Date Tuesday 2nd May 2006
Time 7pm
Cinema SOAS – Brunei Gallery



The 1987 assassination in London of the legendary Palestinian political cartoonist and satirist, Naji el-Ali remains an unsolved crime. But this powerful documentary supplies clues as to his killers through a detailed and informative examination of his prolific life's work. Shot in Lebanon, Palestine and London, the film draws on archive footage of el-Ali, as well as interviews with his widow Widad and several of the many Arab poets, activists and artists whom el-Ali befriended. This is a rare insight into one of the icons of the Palestinian political left and arguably one of the most important political artists in modern history.

NB: Although the film is subtitled in English and has been shown to English-speaking audiences, many of the cartoon images featured in the film are not translated from the original Arabic. Nonetheless, the film is suitable for non-Arabic audiences and a selection of Naji el-Ali's work will be on display before and after the screening in the lobby of the Brunei Gallery.

The 2006 London Palestine Film Festival is organised by the Palestine Film Foundation, itself an initiative of SOAS's Palestine Society. Organising a two-week programme of rarely seen documentary, art, fiction and experimental video and film work involves considerable effort and time. This year, the voluntary organising committee was supported in its work through the material support of its partners, the Karim Rida Said Foundation and Art School Palestine. The Foundation would like to express its gratitude to these partners for their commitment to the festival and to the celebration and development of cultural work related to Palestine.

In addition to these donors, the festival has drawn on the in kind support of numerous distributors and production houses, who have waived or reduced screening fees for films. In particular, we would like to thank Deckert Distribution (Germany) and MEC Film (Germany), for allowing us to screen documentary and narrative films from their catalogues.

The 2006 festival is opened by acclaimed Egyptian novelist, Ahdaf Soueif. We extend our heartfelt thanks to her for her ongoing support for the work of the Foundation, and her enthusiasm for the festival.

Finally, our thanks go to all those participating filmmakers who have allowed us to screen their work without any remuneration and particularly to those who have joined us as guests of the festival.





The Palestine Film Foundation is a non-profit voluntary organisations which depends on material and in kind support for the execution of its projects. The Foundation does not have any long-term institutional funding in place as yet, which makes its work dependent upon small grants and private contributions. Despite these limitations, the Foundation endeavours to produce a professionally managed annual festival and several video and film themed tours of the UK throughout the year. This work has been sustained over the past 7 years through the extensive work of a large network of volunteers. However, as the festival and other activities of the Foundation have expanded to occupy a prominent place on the international cultural programme of Palestine-themed events, the need for sustained and substantive financial support has increased. The Foundation is therefore presently seeking to establish long-term partnerships with donors wishing to facilitate its activities over the long term.

The Foundation invites interested parties to contact it directly in order to discuss potential arrangements.

E: info@palestinefilm.org

T: 07724 450 610 / 07733 235 760

The Foundation, as noted, is a non-profit initiative. As well as its primary goal of developing audiences for a cinema related to Palestine, the foundation aims to raise awareness and funds for the carefully selected Palestinian charities to which it donates all proceeds of the festival. This year, the Foundation is working with the Palestinian IT educational charity, Markaz at-Tanwir, which provides free community-run computer-training centres for youth in the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip. The charity is registered in the UK and has a local (Palestinian) as well as UK board of voluntary trustees. The Foundation would like to draw attention to the essential work of this charity and invites festival audiences to contribute to the charity's work by visiting their English-language website, where donations can be made. A tear off slip is provided to the rear of this programme for those wishing to learn more about the charity's work. Further details are available at www.enlighten-palestine.org

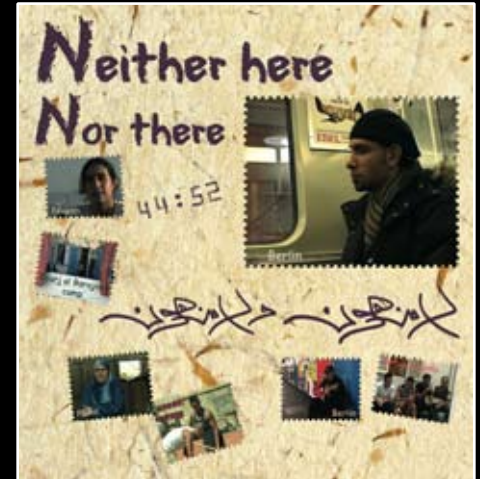
NEITHER HERE, NOR THERE

Part of a special session: Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon – A Double Bill

Starting with the theme of the Palestinian experience in the camps of Lebanon, this group project conducted under the auspices of the Al-Jana centre and under the technical supervision of Hicham Kayad, sees young Palestinians participate in the production of a unique study of the relationships between youth, economic hardship and dreams of emigration (primarily to Europe). Featuring first-hand accounts from young Palestinian refugees who have left and returned, or who plan to emigrate, this is a valuable portrayal of the aspirations and frustrations that influence the lives of thousands of young refugees in Lebanon.

As part of the special session on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon which closes the 2006 festival, this film will precede a screening of Stephan Markworth's documentary *Out of Time* – *Out of Place* (see page 25).

	Exec. Producer. Hicham Kayad
Duration	45m
Type	Documentary
Year	2006
Country	Lebanon
Date	Friday 5th May 2006
Time	6pm
Cinema	SOAS – Khalili Lecture Theatre



Part of a special session: Palestinian Refugees In Lebanon – A Double Bill

Dir Stephan Markworth
Duration 45m
Type Documentary
Year 2004
Country Australia/Lebanon

Date Friday 5th May 2006
Time 6pm
Cinema SOAS – Khalili Lecture Theatre



In 2003, Stefan Markworth visited Lebanon for the first time, coming by a series of coincidences to stay in the Burj el-Barajneh Palestinian refugee camp. The film he made there is a personal account both of his own experience as an Australian traveller coming to terms with the reality of the refugee camp existing beside apparently affluent modern Beirut, and of the remarkable young people he met there. With striking candour and humour, the young men and women of the camp speak of their dreams, their fears and their frustrations as they face a future framed by compounded uncertainties and restrictions. The film is an intimate account of both the film makers experiences and those of his subjects and friends.

As part of the special session on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon which closes the 2006 festival, this film will follow a screening of the Al-Jana centre's youth documentary project *Neither Here, Nor There*, (see page 24).

PALESTINE - A PEOPLE'S RECORD

Part of special session: Palestine in the Archive – A Double Bill

This unique film explores Palestine in archive footage dating from 1917 to 1974, bringing together valuable rare documentary footage in an historic account of Palestinian nationhood. The archive material is in itself remarkable and al-Zobaidi's knowledgeable editing renders the film an enthralling visual and historical document.

As part of a special, extended session on Palestine in the Archive, the film will be preceded by a screening of Azza el-Hassan's *Kings and Extras: Digging for a Palestinian Image*, see page 17) which charts the mysterious history of the Palestinian film archive 'lost' following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Dir	Kais al-Zobaidi
Duration	110m
Type	Documentary
Year	1984
Country	Syria/Germany/Lebanon
Date	Sunday 23rd April 2006
Time	5:00pm
Cinema	Barbican Cinema 3



Dir Osama Al-Zain
Duration 73m
Type Documentary
Year 2005
Country USA/Palestine

Date Sunday 30th April 2006
Time 4pm
Cinema Brunei Gallery, SOAS



In the wake of the terrorist attacks on the twin towers and the pentagon, the world witnessed a number of Palestinians celebrating on the streets of Jerusalem. Palestine Post 911 is an examination of the tragic events of 9/11 from a Palestinian perspective. Featuring interviews with scholars, experts and journalists in the US and Palestine, Al-Zain's film investigates the proposed relationship, or the lack thereof, between the issue of Palestine and terrorist attacks. The film explores the setback the Palestinian cause has suffered as a result of Al Qaeda's actions and political rhetoric on one side and US and Israeli policies on the other.

Palestine Post 911 reveals how after September 11th, the Zionist-Christian Right alliance, very skilfully and rapidly moved to capitalise on the tragedy by claiming that Americans should relate what Israel "endures" to what the US public witnessed on 9/11. In contrast to this version of events, the film presents a counterview as it follows Stanley Cohen, a Jewish lawyer from Manhattan, on his journey to Palestine. Through his eyes, the film examines daily life under occupation, the Israeli-American strategic alliance, and the Israeli governments' use of 9/11 as a justification for violations of humanitarian law.

Palestine Post-9/11 will be preceded by a screening of the short film by Richard Mosse, *Ya'ni Intifada* (see page 38).

PASOLINI PA* PALESTINE + PANEL DISCUSSION

The panel discussion will be shared by renowned art critic, curator and head of New Contemporaries, Sasha Craddock

For German philosopher Heidegger, *Wiederholung* (translated as 'repetition or retrieval') is one of the terms that he uses for the appropriate attitude towards the past. "By the *Wiederholung* of a basic problem, we understand the disclosure of its original, so far hidden, possibilities." In this video, director Ayreen Anastas enters into dialogue with Pasolini's 1963 footage entitled *Seeking Locations in Palestine for The Gospel According to Mathew*. The film adapts his script to the contemporary setting in Palestine, seeking to explore contradictions, disrupts and continuities and the disruptions and continuities to reveal previously unnoticed possibilities in the original.

This screening will be preceded by a showcase of the following Palestinian short narrative, art and experimental films: *Like 20 Impossibles* (Dir Annemarie Jacir – see page 19); *Be Quiet* (Dir Sameh Zoabi – see page 8); *Bethlehem Bandolero* (Dir Larissa Sansour – see page 9); *In Between* (Dir Manar Zoabi – see page 13).

Following all screenings a panel discussion will be held with directors Larissa Sansour, Annemarie Jacir and Ayreen Anastas.

Dir Ayreen Anastas
Duration 51m
Type Documentary
Year 2005
Country USA/Palestine

Date Sunday 23rd April 2006
Time 2:30pm
Cinema Barbican Cinema 3



PRIVATE + Q & A WITH LEAD ACTOR MOHAMMED BAKRI

Dir Saverio Costanzo
Duration 90m
Type Fiction
Year 2004
Country Italy

Date Tuesday 25th April 2006
Time 7pm
Cinema Barbican Cinema 3



Based on a true story, *Private* offers an intensely intimate view of events as they unfold for a middle class Palestinian family whose home is occupied by Israeli troops. Refusing to abandon their house, the father, a well-educated teacher, is faced with a struggle to retain his dignity, and to support his family as it is subjected to increasing levels of stress. Featuring an award-winning performance by leading actor Mohammed Bakri, the film's claustrophobic set and camera work combine to make it at once deeply unsettling and profoundly moving.

We welcome acclaimed actor Mohammed Bakri to talk about his life and work after the screening.

Winner:
FIPRESCI Award San Francisco International Film Festival, 2005
Golden Leopard Award Locarno Film Festival, 2004
Best Actor (Mohammed Bakri) Buenos Aires International Film Festival, 2005

PRIVATE INVESTIGATION + Q & A WITH DIRECTOR ULA TABARI

"All Palestinian kids in Israel used to hold the Israeli flag and sing for Israel in Arabic; each year we used to do that, to celebrate – we would prepare dance shows, theatre plays and songs! A lot of decorations and flags went everywhere... and no one said anything. But the next day, which is the official independence day, when all families and friends were supposed to go out on a picnic somewhere or to the beach... my father used to feel sick and we never left the house" (Ula Tabari). In her insightful and personal debut documentary Tabari intelligently probes the multiple paradoxes and tensions effecting Palestinian identity politics inside pre-1967 Israeli borders.

This screening will follow a screening of *Ashes* by Rima Esssa (*see page 7*).

Dir	Ula Tabari
Duration	90m
Type	Documentary
Year	2002
Country	Palestine
Date	Wednesday 3rd May 2006
Time	7pm
Cinema	SOAS – Brunei Gallery



Dir Shady Srour
 Duration 90m
 Type Fiction
 Year 2004
 Country USA/Palestine

 Date Saturday 29th April 2006
 Time 6pm
 Cinema SOAS – Khalili Lecture Theatre



Nazareth-born Srour's autobiographical essay on identity between Israel, Palestine and post-9/11 USA, is an intriguing debut. Mixing between a wide range of visual formats, he offers a series of contemplations on an identity crisis that appears as much to be his own fabrication or artistic performance as it does a result of the east-west divide he proposes. Casting himself in a sequence of Christ cameos, Srour (who describes his film as a "genius feature") moves between deafening pretensions and self-parody without leaving the viewer knowing quite where the line ought to be drawn. For a debut film that incorporates black and white musical sections, 3D graphic animations, and a crash-course in pop-philosophy, *Sense of Need* is no doubt over ambitious, but nonetheless unique, endlessly inventive and at times hilarious.

This screening will be preceded by the following Palestinian short narrative films:
Lemonade by Hicham Kayed (see page 18) and
Hamoudi and Emil by Mahdi Fleifel (see page 12).

SINCE YOU LEFT + Q & A WITH DIRECTOR MOHAMMED BAKRI

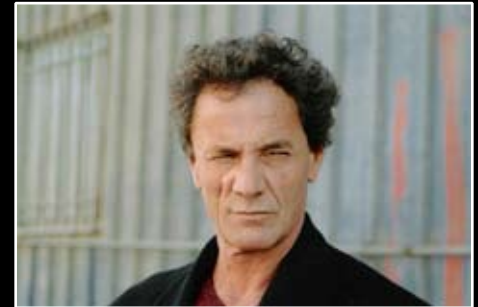
Part of a special session: Mohammed Bakri Directs – A Double Bill

In his autobiographical essay, Palestinian-Israeli 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 Israel/Palestine as well as within his own thinking since the author's death. This is a powerful work by one of the most prominent Palestinian citizens of Israel, whose turbulent relationship with the state and Zionist culture as artist and individual, is inescapably linked to his political thinking.

As part of a special session with festival guest Mohammed Bakri, this screening will be followed by a Q & A session with the director. Following the Q & A, there will be a screening of his 2002 documentary, *Jenin, Jenin* (see page 15).

Dir	Mohammed Bakri
Duration	60m
Type	Documentary
Year	2005
Country	Palestine

Date	Monday 24th April 2006
Time	7pm
Cinema	Barbican Cinema 3



WAITING (ATTENTE) + Q & A WITH DIRECTOR RASHID MASHRAWI

Dir Rashid Mashrawi
Duration 90m
Type Fiction
Year 2005
Country Palestine/France

Date Thursday 27th April 2006
Time 7pm
Cinema Barbican Cinema 3



Before leaving Palestine to settle abroad, director Ahmad accepts one last job. He must audition actors for the new National Palestinian Theatre. On the road with interviewer Bissan and her cameraman, "Lumière", Ahmad goes in search of talent in the numerous refugee camps of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Ahmad guides the auditioning actors into dramatizing what best embodies their destiny: waiting. Mashrawi's film is at times comic, at times tragic; in the camps the crew encounters not only idiosyncratic performers and characters but also the unifying themes of suspension, homelessness and yearning.

Waiting will close the first week of the 2006 Festival at the Barbican (week 2 is held at SOAS) and will be followed by a Q & A session with director Rashid Mashrawi.

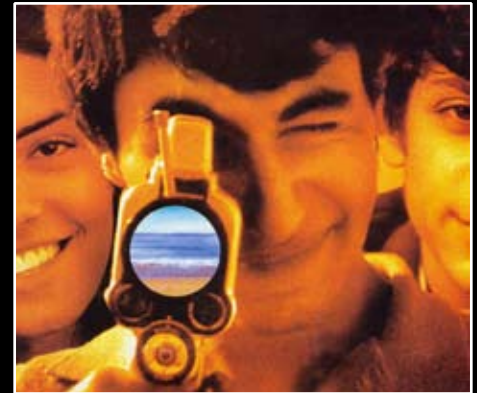
Winner
Grand Prix (Licorne d'Or) – 25th Amiens International Film Festival, 2005
Best Film – Med-Film Festival, Italy, 2005

WEST BEIRUT

The directorial debut from Quentin Tarantino's renowned cameraman Ziad Doueiri. West Beirut is a semi-autobiographical account of Doueiri's childhood in Lebanon during the civil war. The film features superb performances from a young cast whose characters explore war-ravaged Beirut with their Super 8 camera, bearing witness to the increasingly brutal conflict from their youthful and exuberant perspective. Doueiri has said that 'during the first years of the civil war, despite the anxiety that I could sense in my parents, I was incapable of feeling it myself...I wasn't born with fear; I acquired it.' His beautifully shot film offers an account of the process by which excitement and freedom was turned into fear and displacement.

Winner:
FIPRESCI Award Toronto International Film Festival, 1998
Best First Film Award Carthage Film Festival, 1998

Dir	Ziad Doueiri
Duration	105m
Type	Fiction
Year	1998
Country	France/Norway/Lebanon/Belgium
Date	Saturday 22nd April 2006
Time	8:30pm
Cinema	Barbican Cinema 3



Dir Ghada Terawi
Duration 40m
Type Documentary
Year 2004
Country Palestine

Date Thursday 4th May 2006
Time 6pm
Cinema SOAS – Khalili Lecture Theatre



March 29th, 2002 was a turning point in the history of Ramallah. Israeli troops invaded the city, crushing all resistance and bringing all aspects of life in the city to a fearful, grinding, halt. In Terawi's film, which covers the period leading up to, during and immediately after these events, three friends share their experiences of anticipation, confusion, siege, and curfew. Although united by shared feelings of frustration and anger, they are still able to laugh about their tragedy and are determined to withstand the situation and to restore their lives and hopes all over again.

This film will be followed by a screening of Hanna Musleh's documentary on the effects of Israel's collective punishment policies, *In the Spider's Web* (see page 14).

WOMEN BEYOND BORDERS

Part of a special session: Women and Resistance – A Double Bill

Chamoun is the acclaimed Lebanese director of *Shadows of the City* and *Hostage of Time* and together with wife Mai Masri, of numerous documentary films including *Suspended Dreams* and *War Generation-Beirut*. This recent work explores the themes of loss, generational divide and women in war that are found in several of his earlier films. This time, Chamoun (with Masri serving as producer) turns the camera on female ex-inmates of the notorious Khiam prison, run by Israel in southern Lebanon until 2000. Through the experiences of Kifah Afifi, the viewer is invited to reflect on an earlier generation of Palestinian women prisoners including poet Fadwa Tukan and activist Samiha Khalil. The film includes harrowing accounts of life in the brutal prison as well as inspirational personal testament to the power of survival and hope against oppression and dehumanisation.

As part of a special session on *Women and Resistance*, the film will follow a screening of Buthina Canaan Khoury's *Women in Struggle* (see page 37).

Dir	Jean Chamoun
Duration	58m
Type	Documentary
Year	2003
Country	Lebanon

Date	Friday 28th April 2006
Time	7pm
Cinema	SOAS – Brunei Gallery



Part of a special session: Women and Resistance – A Double Bill

Dir Buthina Canaan Khoury
Duration 56m
Type Documentary
Year 2004
Country Palestine

Date Friday 28th April 2006
Time 7pm
Cinema SOAS – Brunei Gallery



Women in Struggle presents rare testimony from four female Palestinian ex-prisoners who disclose their experiences during their years of imprisonment in Israeli jails and the effect it has had on their present and future lives. Once content to live their lives as sisters, wives and mothers, each of the women became active members in the national fight for Palestinian independence, though their 'crimes' differed markedly – one woman was detained in a peaceful protest while another was arrested for her participation in a bombing. Their painful recollections provide a fascinating personal perspective on their motives for political involvement, reveal their struggles in prison and define the difficulties they have faced and continue to face adjusting to life in Palestinian society.

As part of a special session on *Women and Resistance*, the film will be followed by a screening of Jean Chamoun's *Women Beyond Borders* (see page 36).

YA'ANI INTIFA

Ya'ni Intifada explores meanings of the word Intifada not generally known in the west. We certainly hear the word almost daily on television news and in newspapers, but we rarely ask ourselves as to its precise meanings. Sure enough, intifada does mean "uprising", but like many words in the Arabic language, it is also layered with other senses and connotations that can be quite removed from politics. Footage shot whilst driving between Gaza and the West Bank punctuates Mosse's interviews conducted at Bir Zeit University in Ramallah during May 2005.

Ya'ni Intifada will be followed by a screening of the full-length documentary *Palestine Post-9/11* by Osama Al-Zain (see page 27).

Dir Richard Mosse
Duration 7m
Type Documentary
Year 2005
Country Republic of Ireland

Date Sunday 30th April 2006
Time 4pm
Cinema SOAS – Brunei Gallery





OUT OF BEIRUT

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CURATED BY SUZANNE COTTER

Lamia Joreige, video still from the documentary
Here and perhaps elsewhere (detail)
© Lamia Joreige, 2003



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ArtSchool Palestine

منتدى الفنون المعاصرة

Residencies

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Talks

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Reviews

Exhibitions

Films

ArtSchool Palestine is a structure and place for the exchange and development of contemporary Palestinian art.

Foremost, ArtSchool Palestine is a forum connecting artists to each other in order to stimulate critical debate, grow networks, showcase work to an international audience and disseminate information about opportunities. It is a platform that projects contemporary art activity happening in Palestine and its Diaspora to an international audience.

TAKE PART:

We need your help to continue our work and offer exciting opportunities for artists and audiences. You can play a vital role in supporting Palestinian Contemporary art through:

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- ☪ Sponsoring one of our exciting activities such as the artist in residency programs, workshops or exhibitions.

**FOR INFORMATION HOW TO GET INVOLVED PLEASE CONTACT SAMAR MARTHA OR YASMEEN AL AWADI
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enlighten :: computer-aided learning

Enlighten's computer-aided learning centres are operated by local Palestinians and provide free computer courses for the camps' children in a safe and relaxed environment. Currently we run two centres in the Gaza Strip. Each centre has 20 PCs and provides over 1,000 children with a full 3-month course of study each and every year.

Despite operating year-round and weeklong, our centres are persistently oversubscribed. Enlighten is painfully aware of the enormity of the problems faced in the camps and hopes to open more centres in the near future so as to reach even more children.

Running a single computer-aided learning centre costs about £12,000 per year. Establishing new centres cost up to £25,000. Enlighten's community-based work means its trustees strive to keep decision-making at the grassroots level. This position, vital to the credibility and quality of its work, makes Enlighten highly reliant upon individual donations.



Girls @ Enlighten's Khan Yunis Centre

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E-mail: languages@soas.ac.uk Internet: www.soas.ac.uk/languagecentre

DATE	TIME	VENUE	FILM	PAGE
FRI 21st April	7:30	Barbican – Cinema 1	Massaker + Q & A with Director Monika Borgmann	20
SAT 22nd April	4:30	Barbican – Cinema 3	Jeruselems: Borderline Syndrome	16
SAT 22nd April	6:00	Barbican – Cinema 3	Massaker + Q & A with Director Monika Borgmann	20
SAT 22nd April	8:30	Barbican – Cinema 3	West Beirut	34
SUN 23rd April	2:30	Barbican – Cinema 3	Pasolini Pa* Palestine + Palestinian shorts collection: Be Quiet + Like 20 Impossibles + In Between + Bethlehem Bandolero – followed by panel discussion	28, 8, 19, 13, 9
SUN 23rd April	5:00	Barbican – Cinema 3	SPECIAL SESSION – PALESTINE IN THE ARCHIVE: Palestine - A People's Record + Kings and Extras: Digging for a Palestinian Image	26, 17
SUN 23rd April	8:15	Barbican – Cinema 3	Forget Baghdad: Jews and Arabs – The Iraqi Connection	11
MON 24th April	7:00	Barbican – Cinema 3	SPECIAL SESSION – MOHAMMED BAKRI DIRECTS: Since You Left + Jenin Jenin followed by Q & A With Director Mohammed Bakri	32, 15
TUES 25th April	7:00	Barbican – Cinema 3	Private + Q & A With Lead Actor Mohammed Bakri	29
WED 26th April	6:30	Barbican – Cinema 3	Arna's Children + Q&A with director Juliano Mer-Khamis	6
WED 26th April	8:30	Barbican – Cinema 3	Chronicle of a Disappearance	10
THURS 27th April	7:00	Barbican – Cinema 3	Waiting (Attente) + Q & A With Director Rashid Mashrawi	33
FRI 28th April	7:00	Brunei Gallery, SOAS	SPECIAL SESSION – WOMEN AND RESISTANCE: Women in Struggle + Women Beyond Borders	37, 36
SAT 29th April	6:00	Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS	Sense of Need + Lemonade + Hamoudi and Emil	31, 18, 12
SUN 30th April	4:00	Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS	Palestine Post-9/11 + Ya'ni Intifada	27, 38
TUES 2nd May	7:00	Brunei Gallery, SOAS	Naji el-Ali: An Artist With Vision	21
WED 3rd May	7:00	Brunei Gallery, SOAS	Private Investigation + Q & A with Director Ula Tabari + Ashes	30, 7
THURS 4th May	6:00	Khalili Lecture Theatre. SOAS	In The Spider's Web + What's Next?	14, 35
FRI 5th May	6:00	Khalili Lecture Theatre. SOAS	SPECIAL CLOSING SESSION - PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON: Out of Time – Out of Place + Neither Here, Nor There	25, 24

SOAS

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Thornhaugh St.
Russell Square
London
WC1H 0XG

Nearest Tubes

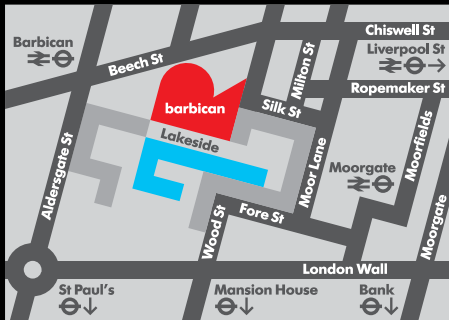
Russell Square
Goodge St
Euston
Warren St



Tickets and Bookings

For all screenings at the Barbican, tickets are available via the festival website and through the Barbican Box Office, at the special festival rate of £6.50 full price and £5 concession. A special pass for three films can also be purchased on request from the Barbican Box Office at the special rate of £15. Screenings at SOAS are unticketed and free of charge.

Tickets may be purchased on the night, but as many screenings are likely to be well attended, advance booking is recommended, particularly for those screenings involving appearances by guests of the festival.



Barbican Centre

Silk St
London
EC2Y 8DS

Nearest Tubes

Barbican
Moorgate
Liverpool St
Mansion House

Main Switchboard

020 7638 4141

Box Office

0845 120 7530
(10am-8pm daily,
12am-6pm sundays)

Please note that many of the screenings at SOAS in the second week of the festival will be in non-cinema formats such as VHS, and that space is limited, so please arrive early for all screenings.

For all further details around the schedule, ticketing and venues for the festival, please contact the Palestine Film Foundation via the website: www.palestinefilm.org