

# The 10<sup>th</sup> London Palestine Film Festival

April 24<sup>th</sup> - May 8<sup>th</sup> 2009

020 7638 8891 Box office  
Reduced booking fee online  
[www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)

barbican

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	3
THANKS .....	4
HIGHLIGHTS .....	5-6
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES .....	7-8
PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION .....	9
FILMS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER .....	10
VOICES FROM GAZA - POETRY EVENT .....	24-25
FILMS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER (CONT.) .....	26
SPECIAL APPEAL .....	46
PROGRAMME IN BRIEF .....	51
TICKETS & VENUE INFORMATION .....	52

The 2009 London Palestine Film Festival has been made possible through the support of the following partners:



SOAS Palestine Society  
[www.palestinesociety.org](http://www.palestinesociety.org)



ArtSchool Palestine  
[www.artschoolpalestine.com](http://www.artschoolpalestine.com)



The International Arab Charity (IAC)  
[www.iac67.com](http://www.iac67.com)



Ramattan News Agency  
[www.ramattan.net](http://www.ramattan.net)

## Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual London Palestine Film Festival

The first London Palestine Film Festival was organised by SOAS Palestine Society in 2000. In 2004, the Society established the Palestine Film Foundation (PFF) as a special body dedicated to the exhibition and archiving of films and video art concerning Palestine. The PFF is a non-profit voluntary body which relies upon the generous support of institutional partners, private donations, and the goodwill of filmmakers and distributors in producing the annual Festival.

The 2009 Festival runs from April 24<sup>th</sup> to May 8<sup>th</sup>, featuring over 30 works by artists from Tokyo to Beirut. In the first week, screenings take place at the Barbican Cinema; in the second, the Festival shifts to SOAS, University of London.

In addition to the Festival screenings, the PFF is delighted to be organising two further exciting events. A photographic exhibition showcasing the work of multi-award-winning photojournalist Ryuichi Hirokawa runs alongside the Festival in the Barbican Centre. And following the Festival an evening of readings by Palestinian poets from Gaza will be held at the Brunei Gallery, Russell Square. Details of both of these events are included in this programme.

The PFF remains fully reliant on donor support to continue its work. It is currently reviewing its extensive archive with a view to beginning cataloguing processes to make this material available to researchers and filmmakers.

If you are able to support the PFF in this important work, please contact us: [info@palestinefilm.org](mailto:info@palestinefilm.org)

# THANKS

The London Palestine Film Festival is the largest Festival of its kind in Europe; this year 34 films are presented over two weeks and numerous speakers will be in attendance for Q & A sessions or panel discussions. The continued growth of the Festival has been made possible through the generosity of the many filmmakers and distributors who, over the years, have allowed us to screen their work, often with fees reduced or waived.

The PFF would like to thank the many guest speakers for their invaluable contributions to the programme, and particularly Ahdaf Soueif, who has been patron of the Festival since 2005. In Palestine, Idioms Film, Ramallah, provided essential technical support. Our thanks also to the many friends and colleagues who have brought work to our attention, advised on selections, or assisted in tracing rare works; in particular to Nacho Baillon, Zaki Boulos, Gareth Evans, Ian Fergusson,

Omar Jabary-Salamanca, Kolin Kobayashi, Eyal Sivan, Samia Tabari, Christine Tohme, Yoko Uozumi, Mohanad Yaqubi, and Mark Zeitoun.

A special thanks also to Édouard Baudry for his generous work on the programme design.

Finally we extend our thanks to the Barbican Cinema team, whose support, advice, and professionalism over the past 5 years has been integral to the development of the Festival.

The 2009 programme includes a number of "live" sessions with the participation of directors, scholars and curators. These sessions are normally well attended (advance booking recommended). A series of short speaker biographies is provided on pages 7 & 8.

**Laila's Birthday + Q & A Session with Director Rashid Masharawi and Lead Actor Mohammed Bakri**

*Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> April, 18:15, Barbican, Cinema 3*  
In a repeat of the Festival's Opening Gala, director Masharawi and renowned actor Bakri will participate in a Q&A session chaired by novelist Nicholas Blincoe (see p. 26).

**To My Father + Q & A Session with Director Abdelsalam Shehadeh**

*Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> April, 20:30, Barbican, Cinema 3*  
UK premier screening of Gaza-born filmmaker Shehadeh's remarkable new documentary followed by Q&A with the director (see p. 43).

**NAKBA: Palestine 1948 + Panel with Director Hirokawa and scholars Ilan Pappe, Karma Nabulsi**

*Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> April, 17:00, Barbican, Cinema 2*  
UK premier of award-winning photojournalist Hirokawa's documentary followed by panel discussion with Hirokawa, professors Ilan Pappe and Karma Nabulsi - chaired by Eyal Sivan. Hirokawa's visit is also marked by an exhibition showcasing his photography on Palestine (see p. 7 & p. 8).

**Salt of This Sea + Q&A with co-Producer Sawsan Asfari**

*Thur. 30<sup>th</sup> April, 20:30, Barbican, Cinema 3*  
Annemarie Jacir's acclaimed full-length debut premiered at Cannes and featured in the 2008 London Film Festival. Screening followed by Q&A session with co-producer Sawsan Asfari (see p. 34)

**La Terre Parle Arabe + Q&A with Director Gargour and historian Nur Masalha**

*Tues. 5<sup>th</sup> May, 19:00, SOAS, KLT*  
Gargour's powerful historical documentary followed by Q&A session with both the director and renowned Palestinian historian Nur Masalha (see p. 23).

**A Summer Not to Forget + Introductory Talk on the Recent Gaza Offensive**

*Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup> May, 18:00, SOAS, KLT*  
Carole Mansour's hard-hitting documentary on Lebanon 2006 will be preceded by presentations from Dr. Ghassan Abu-Sittah and Nick Denes on the targeting of civilians during the recent Gaza offensive (see p. 13).

# THEMATIC HIGHLIGHTS AND PREMIERS

The 2009 programme includes a number of thematic sessions, UK premiers, and rarely seen films from the PFF archive. The following are recommended highlights:

## **Shadow of Absence**

*Mon. 27<sup>th</sup> April, 20:45, Barbican, Cinema 3*

The UK premier of Nasri Hajjaj's remarkable documentary charting the Palestinian experience of exile through a series of fascinating and moving tales of love, loss, and burial from Hanoi to Kensington (see p. 36).

## **Introduction to the End of an Argument...**

*Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> April, 20:15, Barbican, Cinema 3*

A chance to see the rarely screened debut by Elia Suleiman (*Divine Intervention*, 2002 - also showing, see p. 15) with Lebanese-Canadian video artist Jayce Salloum. Now recognized as a classic of its genre, this montage deconstruction of mass-media racism and orientalism is screened with a selection of more recent art and experimental works (see p. 21).

## **Lebanon: The Aftermath of the 2006 War**

*Mon. 27<sup>th</sup> April, 18:30, Barbican, Cinema 3*

Two compelling new documentaries explore the aftermath of the war of 2006 (*Smile! You are in South Lebanon* by Dalia Al-Kury & *Re:Existence* by Marco Pasquini see p. 33, p. 37). Also getting its UK premier, the experimental short *Welcome to Shatilla* by Raad Raad of the Studio Camps video-activist collective (see p. 45)

## **Friendship's Death**

*Weds. 29<sup>th</sup> April, 20:30, Barbican, Cinema 3*

This rare screening of Peter Wollen's film precedes a planned DVD-re-release for this extraordinary science-fiction-political-drama (see p. 19). Starring Bill Paterson and Tilda Swinton, the film is preceded by the UK premier of Larissa Sansour's latest video-art piece *A Space Exodus* (see p. 12)

## **Edward Said on Screen - All Day Session**

*Sat. 2nd May, 16:00 & 18:00, SOAS, KLT*

Five years after his death, the PFF presents a day dedicated to the thought and work of Edward Said. Mike Dibb's 2004 film *The Last Interview* (see p. 18) is preceded by a rare screening of *Said in conversation with Salman Rushdie* and reading from his then-new *After The Last Sky: Palestinian Lives* at the ICA in 1986 (see p. 17)

## **Memory of the Cactus**

*Weds. 6<sup>th</sup> May, 16:00, SOAS, KLT*

UK premier of Hanna Musleh's powerful documentary recalls the destruction and expulsions of 1967 in the Latroun enclave of the West Bank (see p. 27) The film won the Arabic Documentary Prize at the 2008 Dubai International Film Festival; it will be shown with *Stranger in My Home* (see p. 39)

**Ghassan Abu Sittah** is a plastic, reconstructive and craniofacial surgeon at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. He worked in Palestine during the first and second Intifada. He also treated wounded civilians in South Lebanon and in Iraq (1991). Along with his colleague Dr Swee Chai Ang, Abu Sittah published "Wounds of Gaza" in the Lancet medical journal in early 2009, one of the first reports on the civilian casualties of Israel's recent offensive.

**Sawsan Asfari** is a member of the Arab Labour Group, a trustee of the Foundation of al-Quds Medical School, a board member of the Welfare Association, and a founder-Director of the Galilee Foundation, established in 2007 to empower Palestinian citizens of Israel. In 2007, along with partner Maya Sanbar, she founded the production company Clarity World Films, becoming co-producers of new feature *Salt of This Sea*, which has been shown to acclaim at festivals internationally. Sawsan lives in London and has 4 children.

**Mohammed Bakri** has been a leading actor, of both stage and screen, for nearly 3 decades. He has put in award-winning performances in films including *Private*

(Saverio Costanzo 2004), *The Olive Harvest* (Hanna Elias 2003), *Milky Way* (Ali Nassar 1997), *Haifa* (Rashid Masharawi 1996), and *The Tale of the Three Jewels* (Michel Khleifi 1994). Meanwhile, as a director (*Jenin*, *Jenin* 2002, *Since You Left* 2005) he has produced two of the most striking political documentaries of recent years. This is his second visit to the London Palestine Film Festival.

**Nicholas Blincoe** has published six novels, including Manchester Slingback winner of the CWA Silver Dagger 1998. His theatre debut *Cue Deadly*, a recipient of the Beckett Trust Award, was staged at London's Riverside studios (2003). His novel, *Burning Paris*, a dual account of the siege of Paris and the siege of Bethlehem was published to acclaim in 2004. Nicholas is a founder member of the British literary movement, the New Puritans. He is a prolific journalist, writing regularly for the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Guardian*, *Sunday Times*, *New Statesman* as well as numerous political and cultural magazines.

**Nick Denes** is a sociology PhD candidate at Goldsmiths College, University of London. His research is on technologies and

nationalism in Israel, and he is the author of *"From Tanks to Wheelchairs: The Political Economy of Israel's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Exports"* (forthcoming). He is also co-founder of the Palestine Film Foundation.

**Maryse Gargour** was born in Jaffa. She has worked as a journalist and producer for the Office de Radio Diffusion et de la Télévision Française in Beirut, as well as at UNESCO, Paris and at the International Council for Cinema and Television. Gargour's many documentaries include: *A Palestinian Looks at Palestine* (1998), *Blanche's Homeland* (2001), and *La Terre Parle Arabe* (2007).

**Ryuichi Hirokawa** is a multi-award-winning photojournalist who has spent over 4 decades covering conflict in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Palestine. His studies on the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster have also been widely acclaimed and he is the founder of the Chernobyl Children's Fund, Japan. His publications include *The Battle-Field of Human Beings* (1998), *Palestine* (new edition 2002), and *The Lost 458 Villages of Chernobyl* (1999). He was among the first journalists to enter Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps after the 1982 massacres,

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

winning the International Journalists Organisation Newspaper Photography Grand Prize for his coverage of the atrocities. He has been documenting Palestinian history and exile since 1967, and in 2008 announced the launch of a DVD-based oral history, visual, and textual archive of some 45 hours. Hirokawa is founder and editor in chief of the photojournalism publication *Japan Today*.

**Nur Masalha** is Reader in Religion and Politics, and Director of the Centre for Religion and History at St Mary's University College. He has published extensively on Zionism and the colonial history of the Palestine-Israel conflict, as well as on archaeology, post-colonial theory, and ethnic cleansing. He is the editor of *Holy Land Studies: A Multidisciplinary Journal*. His books include *Imperial Israel and the Palestinians* (2000), *The Politics of Denial* (2003), and *The Bible and Zionism* (2007).

**Rashid Masharawi** was born in the Shati refugee camp (Gaza Strip) in 1962 and now lives and works between Paris and Ramallah. In 1993 he directed his first feature, *Curfew*, winner of the UNESCO Award at Cannes. His second film, *Haifa* (1996), premiered at Cannes and garnered awards at various festivals. His other films include *Ticket to Jerusalem* (2002), winner of the Silver Pyramid at Cairo Festival, *Waiting* (2005), and *Arafat, My Brother* (2005).

**Karma Nabulsi** is Fellow in Politics at St-Edmund Hall, Oxford, and lecturer in the Department of Politics and International Relations, Oxford University. She was a PLO representative from 1977-90, working in Beirut, Tunis, and the UK. She is the author of *Traditions of War: Occupation, Resistance and the Law* (Oxford University Press, 2005) and writes on the philosophy and ethics of war; the laws of war; European political history and theory, and Palestinian history and politics.

**Ilan Pappé** is a leading historian of the Middle East, and an expert on the ethnic cleansing of Palestine. His many publications include: *The Making of the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (1992), *The Modern History of Palestine: One Land Two Peoples* (2003), *The Modern Middle East* (2005), and *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine* (2006). He is currently at the History Department, Exeter University.

**Abdelsalam Shehadeh** was born in Rafah, Gaza. He has worked in television production and media and as a camera and sound technician, and in various capacities for international news crews. He is a board member of the Ramattan News Agency - the largest Palestinian media services company, and the main media agency to broadcast coverage of the recent offensive in Gaza. He has made over 15 films.

**Ahdaf Soueif** is the bestselling author of *The Map of Love* (shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1999). She writes prolifically as a political and cultural commentator; a collection of her essays, *Mezzaterra: Fragments from the Common Ground*, was published in 2004, as was her translation (Arabic to English) of Mourid Barghouti's *I Saw Ramallah*. She lives with her children in London and Cairo. Ahdaf has been the patron of the London Palestine Film Festival since 2004.



# THE ANNUAL PFF PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

## Works by Ryuichi Hirokawa, 1982 – 2009

Barbican Centre, Mezzanine Floor

April 24<sup>th</sup> – May 8<sup>th</sup>

In honour of leading photojournalist Ryuichi Hirokawa's visit to the London Palestine Film Festival for the UK premier of his documentary *Nakba: Palestine 1948*, the PFF is delighted to exhibit a selection of his work on Palestine. Drawing on over a quarter-century of award-winning images, this specially prepared collection features images from Lebanon in 1982 to Gaza in 2009.

Ryuichi Hirokawa is the founder and editor-in-chief of photojournalism publication *Days Japan*. He has won numerous commendations and prizes for his work on Afghanistan, Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, and the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. These include each of the top awards conferred by the International Journalists' Organisation, and the 2003 Japanese Photographic Society Award. His many photographic publications include *From the Battlefields of the World: The Victims of the Anti-Terror War* (2003), *Palestine: A Photographic Record* (2002), and *The Battlefield of Human Beings* (1998).

Hirokawa was amongst the first international photojournalists to enter Gaza in the wake of the recent offensive, and continues to be an active chronicler of the Palestinian plight. He will be speaking on April 26<sup>th</sup> with Prof. Ilan Pappé (Exeter) and Prof. Karma Nabulsi (Oxford) following the screening of his documentary at 5pm (see p. 29).



# 5 MINUTES FROM HOME



Director: Nahed Awwad  
Duration: 52 min  
Year: 2008  
Type: Documentary

Date: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: SOAS, KLT

The Jerusalem Airport lies on the road that links Jerusalem with Ramallah. Five kilometres from Ramallah and 10 kilometres from Jerusalem, the airport has been occupied by Israeli army since 1967. Today, to the east of the runway, a checkpoint blocks the Jerusalem-Ramallah road: a dead-end street. *5 Minutes From Home* shows that life was not always like this: this was once a place where international flights landed and Palestinians travelled freely, not just in Palestine, but globally. The happy images and testimonies of the past director Nahed Awwad compiles contrast with a present where access to the airstrip is prevented by behind barbed wire and the creeping advance of the West Bank Wall.

*5 Minutes From Home* will be screened alongside *Easy, Easy* by Riyad Deis (see p.16).

This 60-second experimental short speaks to 60 years of Palestinian dispossession through an enigmatic sequence of freeze-frames, interrupted actions, and rhythms captured from the refugee camps of Beirut by Raad Raad of the progressive artists' network Camps Studio (Studio Moukhayyat). The independent collective is comprised of Palestinian and Lebanese artists working in Lebanon which creates experimental artwork and media across various genres and platforms. From their statement: "we work in collaboration with our peoples who deal with the burdens of imperialism and economic injustice every day. Most of our inspiration and work comes from the Palestinian Refugee Camps."

*60 Units of Time* will be screened alongside *Salt of This Sea* by Annemarie Jacir (see p.34).



Director: Raad Raad

Duration: 1 min

Year: 2008

Type: Art/Experimental

Date: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

Time: 20:30

Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

# A SPACE EXODUS



Director: Larissa Sansour  
Duration: 5 min  
Year: 2008  
Type: Art

Date: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 20:30  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

*A Space Exodus* quirkily sets up an adapted stretch of Stanley Kubrick's *Space Odyssey* in a Middle Eastern political context. The recognizable music scores of the 1968 science fiction film are changed to arabesque chords matching the surreal visuals of Sansour's film. The film follows the director herself onto a phantasmagorical journey through the universe echoing Stanley Kubrick's thematic concerns for human evolution, progress and technology. However, in her film, Sansour posits the idea of a first Palestinian into space, and, referencing Armstrong's moon landing, she interprets this theoretical gesture as "a small step for a Palestinian, a giant leap for mankind". The film offers a naively hopeful and optimistic vision for a Palestinian future contrasting sharply with all the elements that are currently eating away at the very idea of a viable Palestinian state.

*A Space Exodus* will be screened alongside *Friendship's Death* by Peter Wollen (see p.19).

# A SUMMER NOT TO FORGET

On July 12<sup>th</sup> 2006, Hezbollah captured 2 Israeli soldiers. For the following 34 days, Lebanon witnessed continuous Israeli bombardment. This documentary takes you beyond the news headlines into the harsh realities of war: It explores the devastation of a nation and a people caught under siege. Through powerful images, this documentary tells the story of yet another war on Lebanon: 1,200 civilians killed and 4,000 injured, more than one million people displaced, 78 bridges destroyed, 30,000 homes damaged, the environmental disaster of 15,000 tons of oil spilled on 80 km of Mediterranean coast, and many more catastrophes. In footage not shown by the Western media, the film also exposes the devastation of 57 massacres in an attempt to capture the horror of its victims and their families. *A Summer Not to Forget* is an important and revealing chronicle of the brutalities of war and the plight of people as they deal with loss and destruction.

**The film contains extremely graphic and disturbing images of human suffering and death throughout.**

The screening will be preceded by a statement from the PFF on the decision to screen it and a presentation by Dr Ghassan Abu Sittah and Nick Denes on the civilian toll of the recent Gaza offensive.



Director: Carol Mansour  
Duration: 27 min  
Year: 2007  
Type: Documentary

Date: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: SOAS, KLT

# ARTHUR BALFOUR AND ME



Director: Charlotte Cornic  
Duration: 11 min  
Year: 2007  
Type: Documentary

Date: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: SOAS, KLT

What links Arthur J Balfour, the British Politician born in 1848 on a sumptuous family estate in East Lothian and Fatima, a young Palestinian woman, born in 1971 in a refugee camp in Lebanon and now seeking asylum in Glasgow? From the narrow alley ways of a refugee camp in Lebanon to the beautiful farming landscape of East Lothian in Scotland, *Arthur Balfour and Me* is a visual and emotional journey through history and the present, a personal story about how one politician's actions continue to affect the life of a young woman from the Middle East.

*Arthur Balfour and Me* will be screened alongside *La Terre Parle Arabe* by Maryse Gargour (see p.23).

Packed with witty visual gags, comic vignettes and moments of spectacular fantasy, the multi-award winning *Divine Intervention* is a portrait of the conflict laced with wicked and subversive humour. Palestinian director Elia Suleiman (*Chronicle of a Disappearance*) again plays the central character himself: "E.S." cares for his ailing father in Jerusalem whilst conducting an affair with a Palestinian woman living in Ramallah. Barred from moving between the two cities, the lovers are forced to share their intimate moments in the shadow of an Israeli army checkpoint, from where they observe the daily feuds between the troops and civilians. Recalling the comic genius of Jacques Tati and deadpan delivery of Buster Keaton, Suleiman's film is a passionate and surreal depiction of the political and human situation in Palestine.

Winner, FIPRESCI Prize, Cannes 2002

Winner, Jury Prize, Cannes 2002

*Divine Intervention* will be screened alongside *The View* by Hazim Bitar (see p.41).

Suleiman's early collaboration with Lebanese-Canadian video artist Jayce Salloum, *Introduction to the End of an Argument...* is also showing at this year's festival (see p.21).



Director: Elia Suleiman  
Duration: 92 min  
Year: 2002  
Type: Fiction

Date: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 16:00  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

# EASY, EASY



Director: Riyad Deis  
Duration: 20 min  
Year: 2008  
Type: Fiction

Date: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: SOAS, KLT

Set in rural Palestine in 1939 at the close of the Palestinian revolt against the British Mandate, *Easy, Easy* follows a Palestinian farmer and his family whose traditional rural lives are turned upside down when a Palestinian resistance fighter decides to hide in their small farm home, bringing revolutionary ideas into the family and challenging their traditional way of life. Starring emerging talent Saleh Bakri and some of the brightest new production talent working in Palestine, this is an allegorical tale which leaves much to the imagination and suggests a promising new talent in young director Riyad Deis.

*Easy, Easy* will be screened alongside with *5 Minutes From Home* by Nahed Awwad (see p.10).



# EDWARD SAID IN CONVERSATION WITH SALMAN RUSHDIE (1986)

A treasure from London's Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) archives, this video documents the late Edward Said's 1986 talk at the ICA, chaired by Salman Rushdie. Poised historically between the horrors of the 1982 Lebanon war and the imminent outbreak of the Palestinian Intifada (1987), the talk sees Said in wonderful form as he recalls anecdotes – serious, light-hearted, political, and personal – and reads passages from his then-new book, *After The Last Sky: Palestinian Lives*. Sadly no longer available for purchase and preserved only as a VHS recording (digitised especially for this event), this is a precious glimpse of Said at his quick-witted best.

*Edward Said in Conversation with Salman Rushdie* will be followed by a screening of *Edward Said: The Last Interview* by Mike Dibb (see next page).



Director: ICA Production  
Duration: 80 min  
Year: 1986  
Type: Talk

Date: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
Time: 16:00  
Venue: SOAS, KLT

# EDWARD SAID:THE LAST INTERVIEW

PFF  
2009  
PALESTINE  
FILM  
FESTIVAL  
2009

Director: Mike Dibb  
Duration: 120 min  
Year: 2004  
Type: Documentary

Date: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
Time: 18:00  
Venue: SOAS, KLT

Edward Said, professor of Literature at Columbia University and one of the most important cultural critics of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, was for decades the most articulate and principled advocate of the Palestinian struggle. His critical academic writing, voluminous political commentary, and passionate defence of the rights of all oppressed peoples, marked Said out as one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's foremost public intellectuals and humanists. Suffering from terminal leukemia since the early 1990s, Said gradually reduced his public appearances and declined to give interviews in the final years of his life. He made one exception in agreeing to speak in 2002 with Charles Glass, renowned investigative journalist, broadcaster, and Middle East analyst. Directed by Mike Dibb (*Ways of Seeing* with John Berger), *The Last Interview* is a captivating portrait of Said, who speaks about his political, personal, and scholarly life frankly and in depth.

*Edward Said: The Last Interview* forms part of a thematic double-bill. A rare recording of Said in conversation with a pre-turn Salman Rushdie in 1986 will be screened earlier in the day (see previous page).

# FRIENDSHIP'S DEATH

1970: A war correspondent played by Bill Paterson is covering the Palestinian revolution from Amman as the civil war and events of "Black September" begin to erupt around him. Amidst the chaos, he encounters an extra-terrestrial, superbly rendered by Tilda Swinton in one of her first lead roles. Almost entirely structured around dialogue between Swinton and Paterson, the script unfolds as a series of questions about what it means to be human, and what it means to have one's humanity withheld. Wollen, who co-wrote Antonioni's *The Passenger* (1975) manages to bring science fiction to bear on political history masterfully in a film which shifts ceaselessly from the bizarre to the profound and enjoys formidable performances by two of Britain's finest actors.

*Friendship's Death* will be screened alongside *A Space Exodus* by Larissa Sansour (see p.12).



Director: Peter Wollen  
Duration: 78 min  
Year: 1987  
Type: Fiction

Date: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 20:30  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

# "HOUSE SALAD" (SALATA BALADI)



Director: Nadia Kamel  
Duration: 105 min  
Year: 2007  
Type: Documentary

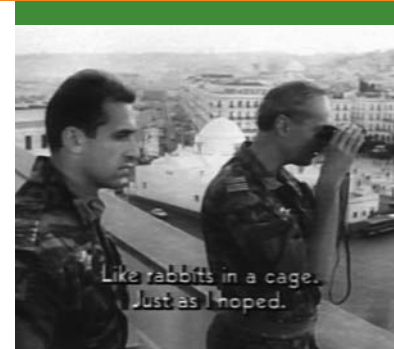
Date: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

21<sup>st</sup> century Egypt is allegedly spurred by the rallying cries of a global "clash of civilizations". Mary, a grandmother, and her daughter (director, Nadia Kamel) try to give Mary's grandson, Nabeel, a glimpse into the family's history of mixed marriages. Like many Egyptians, after a century of immigrations, Nabeel is a mix of Egyptian, Italian, and Palestinian with some Russian, Caucasian, Turkish and Spanish: from his Moslem, Christian and Jewish descendants. As the grandmother recounts the family fairy tales, she confronts her own fears. In an act of solidarity with the Palestinian people dispossessed by the creation of the Jewish state of Israel in 1948, Mary has been boycotting her Egyptian Jewish family in Israel for 55 long years. Inspired by the telling of her own stories she sets about breaking one of the most powerful taboos in modern Egypt.

# INTRODUCTION TO THE END OF AN ARGUMENT....

Rarely screened, this early collaboration between renowned Lebanese-Canadian video-artist Jayce Salloum and Palestinian director Elia Suleiman (*Divine Intervention*, *Chronicle of a Disappearance*) is a wonderful piece of culture-jamming satire and political jujitsu. Assembling a combination of Hollywood, European and Israeli film, documentary, news coverage together with excerpts of 'live' footage shot in the West Bank and Gaza strip, *Introduction to the End of an Argument...* critiques Western representations of the Middle East, Arab culture, and the Palestinian people. The film mimics dominant forms of representation, subverting their methodology in a bid to arrest both imagery and ideology, decolonizing and recontextualizing images to provide space for a voice consistently denied expression in the mass media.

*Introduction to the End of an Argument...* will be screened alongside *Palestine Remembered* by Dominique Dubosc (see p.31) and *Sedition* by Min Sook Lee (see p.35).



Director: Jayce Salloum  
& Elia Suleiman

Duration: 41 min

Year: 1990

Type: Art/Experimental

Date: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

Time: 20:15

Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

# JOHN BERGER READS GHASSAN KANAFANI'S LETTER FROM GAZA



Duration: 21 min  
Year: 2008  
Type: Short Story - Reading

Date: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 20:30  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

This moving reading was initially prepared for the May 2008 Palestine Festival of Literature. Berger, Booker Prize-winning novelist, cultural critic, and art theorist, has been at the forefront of international activism on the question of Palestine. He has championed the struggle of Palestinian artists to become heard, bringing new and established Palestinian cultural work to a wider audience and highlighting its vital role in the liberation struggle. In this piece he reads Ghassan Kanafani's (1936-1972) "*Letter from Gaza*" of 1955. Kanafani's piece is now considered a classic of his early output - in it, he pronounces his commitment to the revolutionary struggle while providing a portrait of Gaza eerily familiar to that witnessed in recent months. Berger's sensitive reading is complimented by imagery evoking the enduring struggle to which Kanafani devoted his energies and which ultimately cost him his life.

*John Berger Reads Ghassan Kanafani's Letter From Gaza* will be screened alongside *To My Father* by Abdelsalam Shehadeh (see p.43).

The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with Abdelsalam Shehadeh.

# LA TERRE PARLE ARABE

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Zionism, a minority political movement, appeared on the international stage. As theorised by its leaders, it entailed the goal of creating a Jewish state somewhere in the world but particularly in Palestine, then populated by Arabs for thousands of years. How would the Zionist leaders manage to reconcile their political ambitions with the reality on the ground in Palestine at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century? Based on Zionist historical sources, unseen archive footage, print press from the period, official documents, interviews with historians and the testimonies of pre-1948 Palestinians, *La Terre Parle Arabe* trains a historian and a filmmaker's eye on the explosive truth, one involving cleansing the land of Palestine of its inhabitants.

*La Terre Parle Arabe* will be screened alongside *Arthur Balfour and Me* by Charlotte Cornic (see p.14).

Following the screening, director Maryse Gargour will join historian Nur Masalha for a Q&A session.



Director: Maryse Gargour  
Duration: 61 min  
Year: 2007  
Type: Documentary

Date: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May  
Time: 18:45  
Venue: SOAS, KLT

# ***REFUGE IN WORDS:***

**An evening of poetry and short stories from Gaza.  
7pm, Friday May 22nd**

**SOAS, Brunei Gallery Theatre**

The Palestine Film Foundation, English PEN and the Poetry Translation Centre invite you to join us for an evening of poetry and short fiction from Palestine celebrating the publication of new work in translation from Gaza commissioned by the English PEN World Atlas.

Faten al-Gharra will share her erotic, meditative, vivid poems and Khaled Abedallah will read his bold new poetry; their translations will be read by Sarah Maguire.

Atef Abu Seif and Khaled Juma'a will present their work via video from Gaza, while Michael Rosen, our MC, will read his translations of Juma'a's resonant lyrics, including new work from 2009.

Also via video, John Berger reads Ghassan Kanafani's classic *Letter from Gaza*. And there will be a chance to talk to the writers about their work and life in Gaza.

Free event. For registration <http://poetrytranslationcentre.eventbrite.com>



# VOICES FROM GAZA

## **A Different Morning**

By Atef Abu Seif

*This morning is different.*

*No jets in the sky. Even the sun was late in rising from its bed. And the sound of guns can no longer be heard at the outskirts. Ambulances that did not sleep all night settled down to rest. Children, contrary to their custom, did not fill the streets with the noise of their games; nor did the hawking of the women carrying their baskets on the way to market. Also, in the alley in our quarter, the kiss will not appear that two small lips would draw on the cheek of the mother standing in the doorway saying her last good-bye to the son on his way to school.*

Translated by Ibrahim Muhawi for the English PEN World Atlas.

Read more new work by Atef Abu Seif and other new writing from Gaza on the English PEN World Atlas: <http://penatlas.org>

poetry  
translation  
centre



pen



# LAILA'S BIRTHDAY



Director: Rashid Masharawi  
Duration: 71 min  
Year: 2008  
Type: Fiction

Date: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April  
& Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 19:30 (Friday)  
& 18:15 (Saturday)  
Venue: Barbican,  
Cinema 1 (Friday)  
& Cinema 3 (Saturday)

Abu Laila (played by Mohamed Bakri) used to be a judge. Now the government doesn't have the means to pay him he is compelled to work as a taxi driver. On the day his daughter Laila turns ten years old his wife insists he be home early to bring her a present and a cake. Abu Laila has nothing else on his mind other than completing this vital mission. But daily life in Palestine has other plans for him....

Gaza-born Masharawi (*Waiting* - 2005, *Tension* - 1998, *Haifa* - 1996) has been at the forefront of Palestinian cinema for over a decade, working across genres and with the finest acting and production talent in the region. *Laila's Birthday* is his most accomplished and engaging work yet, featuring a virtuoso turn from Bakri, a very clever script, and some moments of inspired natural comedy. But while always entertaining, in its original style, *Laila's Birthday* manages to expose and confront many of the most serious issues facing Palestinians today. *Laila's Birthday* had its UK premier at the 2008 London Film Festival. This is the first UK screening since then and will be followed by a Q&A session with both director Rashid Masharawi and lead actor Mohammed Bakri.

Both screenings of *Laila's Birthday* will be followed by Q&A session with director Rashid Masharawi and lead actor Mohamed Bakri.

# MEMORY OF THE CACTUS

42 years ago, the three Palestinian villages of 'Imwas, Yalo and Beit Nouba in the Latroun enclave of the West Bank were razed to the ground after Israel occupied the territory. Today, the residents of those villages remain displaced and barred from returning, while Israel treats the land as if it were part of Israel and refuses to acknowledge the Palestinian history of the area. Israeli citizens enjoy barbecues and picnics in the Jewish National Fund's "Canada Park", oblivious to the crimes perpetrated in their names on that very land. Musleh's documentary traces the buried histories of these Palestinian villages through oral histories, archive film and photography, and expert testimonies.

*Memory of the Cactus* will be screened alongside *Stranger in My Home* by Sahera Dirbas (see p.39).



Director: Hana Musleh  
Duration: 42 min  
Year: 2008  
Type: Documentary

Date: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: SOAS, KLT

# MY LAND



Director: Tone Andersen  
Duration: 24 min  
Year: 2005  
Type: Documentary

Date: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: SOAS, KLT

In the northern Galilee, Ali and Therese are not allowed to build a house on their own land. They take up the fight with the surrounding community of Misgav, whilst living in a house under a constant threat of demolition. Despite fines and prison terms, they are refusing to give up, hoping they will eventually be able to live in their house legally. *My Land* tells one of the stories from within Israel that rarely reach the attention of the mainstream media. While there are aggressive government-sponsored campaigns and financial incentives used to persuade Jewish Israelis to settle in the Galilee, residents of pre-existing Arab towns struggle to get planning permission in their own lands. *My Land* exposes the plight of that 20% of the Israeli population who are Palestinian Arabs. Being Israeli by citizenship, Palestinian by nationality and Arab by ethnicity, they are seen as suspect in some Arab countries and yet are treated as an internal enemy by the state of Israel.

Al-Awda "Media for the Right to Return" Prize, 2006

*My Land* will be screened alongside *Recognized* by Ori Kleiner (see p. 32).

# NAKBA: PALESTINE 1948

Director Ryuichi Hirokawa is a leading photojournalist, with a body of award-winning work from Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon and Afghanistan. But his journey into photography, into conflict areas, and into political activism, is one intimately related to his encounters with Palestinian history. Hirokawa travelled to Israel in 1967 to work on a kibbutz. One day he found rubble at the edge of the kibbutz that later proved to be the remains of a Palestinian village. His journey to find out what had happened to the village started then; so too, his involvement with socialist activism, as well as his career as an investigative journalist and photographer. In the years and decades that followed, Hirokawa continued to follow the Palestinian exile into its darkest hour (covering the massacres at Sabra and Shatilla in 1982), and to the present day, continuing to amass evidence, testimonies, images, and artefacts from the Nakba while covering the consequences of enduring dispossession. This incredible film, masterfully assembled from hundreds of hours of documentation traces this personal, political, national, and visual history, bringing the past and the present together in an original and compelling way.

This is the UK Premier of *Nakba: Palestine 1948*, and will be followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with director Ryuichi Hirokawa and the preeminent scholars of Palestinian history, Ilan Pappe and Karma Nabulsi.

Hirokawa's visit is also celebrated with an exhibition drawn from his work over the last three decades (from Lebanon 1982 to Gaza 2009) which he has selected specially for the Palestine Film Festival (see p.9).



Director: Ryuichi Hirokawa  
Duration: 131 min  
Year: 2008  
Type: Documentary

Date: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 17:00  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 2

# OPEN HEART



Director: Claire Fowler  
Duration: 22 min  
Year: 2006  
Type: Documentary

Date: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

Four years ago Iham and Jihad lost their third child on the operating table. Now their nine month old son Jamal's life is threatened by congenital heart disease, for which no affordable treatment is available. With the aid of the charity The Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF), a British surgeon's arrival in Palestine offers hope. But first the Samara family must travel from their home in the West Bank and through Israeli checkpoints to Makassed hospital in Jerusalem, before the real journey can even begin... *Open Heart* is an emotional journey that highlights the plight of the struggling Palestinian health care system under occupation, from the perspective of Doctor, Patient and Humanitarian organisation.

*Open Heart* will be screened alongside *This Way Up* by Georgi Lazarevski (see p.42).

# PALESTINE REMEMBERED

In July 2002, French illustrator Daniel Maja is invited to Ramallah and Gaza to develop a project for art schools in Palestine; this despite the fact that most West Bank cities are under curfew at the time. Filmmaker Dominique Dubosc decides to accompany him. His film develops as a series of visual and symbolic interactions between their two gazes. In this experimental video essay, Dubosc (*Palestine In Fragments*) manages to convey both the horrors of the reality perceived, and the complexities and limitations of conveying what is perceived in the visual medium.

*Palestine Remembered* will be screened alongside *Introduction to the End of an Argument...* by Jayce Salloum and Elia Suleiman (see p.21) and *Sedition* by Min Sook Lee (see p.34).



Director: Dominique Dubosc  
Duration: 38 min  
Year: 2004  
Type: Documentary/Art

Date: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 20:15  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

# RECOGNIZED



Director: Ori Kleiner  
Duration: 61 min  
Year: 2007  
Type: Documentary

Date: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: SOAS, KLT

Director's statement: "Bedouin usually appear in the Israeli collective consciousness as either "ethnographic" or "demographic" issues. Their representation by means of various objects - coffee, camels, tents, carpets - keeps most Israelis from seeing them as people with hopes and dreams, frustrations and fears, as possessing not only a past but a future as well. *Recognized* focuses on the fragmented experiences of Nuri al-Ukbi, Salman Abu Jlidan, Eid Al-Athamin, Ibrahim Abu Afash, and Samaher Abu Jlidan whom history has cast in the roles of protagonists antagonized by a state that has established itself upon their ancestral lands. *Recognized* is not a film about Bedouin, but about people forced into a role of Bedouin as the only identity the State of Israel allows them, and at the same time the very identity it systematically denies them. Substandard citizenship, coupled with daily existential obstacles posed by the State, are what this film is concerned with."

*Recognized* will be screened alongside *My Land* by Tone Andersen (see p.28).



Five women, returning to their devastated villages in southern Lebanon after the 2006 war, recount their experiences during the conflict. Five "existences" are profiled from the million or more Lebanese driven from their homes by the fighting. Layla, Haifa, Dina, Zeynab and Fatme speak with calm and pride while sitting in what remains of their homes. They tell of life under the bombings, about the meaning of having a house, and about their feelings on encountering the destruction on their return. Moreover, they describe their enduring will to resist as a daily and tenacious act of self-affirmation and self-preservation.

*R-Existence* forms part of a thematic session exploring the aftermath of the 2006 Lebanon war. It will be screened alongside *Smile! You Are in South Lebanon* by Dalia Al-Kury (see p.37) and *Welcome to Shatila* by Raad Raad (see p.45).



Director: Marco Pasquini  
Duration: 45 min  
Year: 2006  
Type: Documentary

Date: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

# SALT OF THIS SEA



Director: Annemarie Jacir  
Duration: 109 min  
Year: 2008  
Type: Fiction

Date: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 20:30  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

Soraya, 28, born and raised in Brooklyn, decides to return to live in Palestine, the country her family was exiled from in 1948. On arriving in Ramallah, Soraya tries to recover her grandparent's money, frozen in an account in Jaffa, but her attempt is rebuffed by the bank. She then meets Emad, a young Palestinian whose ambition, in contrast to hers, is to leave Palestine forever. Tired of the constraints that dictate their lives, Soraya and Emad know that in order to be free, they must take things into their own hands, even it means breaking the law. In this quest for life, we follow their trail through remains of Palestine.

This prize-winning film is the debut feature-length work from Annemarie Jacir (*Like Twenty Impossibles*); it premiered at Cannes last year to critical acclaim. Featuring Palestinian-American poet Suheir Hammad in her first lead role, and emerging Palestinian star Saleh Bakri, Jacir's film also picked up the Muhr Award for best screenplay at the 2008 Dubai International Film Festival.

*Salt of This Sea* will be screened alongside *60 Units of Time* by Raad Raad (see p.11).

The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with co-producer Sawsan Asfari, chaired by acclaimed novelist Nicholas Blincoe.

*Sedition* explores issues of youth and freedom of expression through the lives of young, politically progressive, Toronto-based spoken word artists Rafeef Ziadah and Boonaa Mohammad. A child of Palestinian refugees raised in Lebanon, Rafeef tells powerful and deeply moving stories of repression and resistance. Her spoken word pieces are haunting and defiant. Boonaa traces his roots to the Oromo people, an oppressed minority in Ethiopia. Raised in Canada by parents who fled their home country as refugees, Boonaa's opinions on topics such as racism, colonialism, and engagement in civic society are fresh and engaging. His energetic performances deliver his message to his audiences with a solid dose of humour. Both Rafeef and Boonaa pack their poetic punches with bull's-eye aim at the politics of exile and identity. Their words are spliced with the hypnotic beats of renowned Toronto musical group, LAL.

*Sedition* will be screened alongside *Palestine Remembered* by Dominique Dubosc (see p.31) and *Introduction to the End of an Argument...* by Jayce Salloum and Elia Suleiman (see p.21).



Director: Min Sook Lee  
Duration: 16 min  
Year: 2008  
Type:  
Documentary/Performance

Date: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 20:15  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

# SHADOW OF ABSENCE



Director: Nasri Hajjaj  
Duration: 84 min  
Year: 2007  
Type: Documentary

Date: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 20:45  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

This absorbing documentary explores the anxiety of Palestinian exile through an interrogation of relationships between place, home, and death. Bringing together fascinating footage, interviews, and testimonies from Palestinian families and comrades whose loved ones and friends have died and been buried in exile, director Hajjaj spans the globe, bringing extraordinary personal stories together from Vietnam to London. Each story is unique, personal, and often surprising; together these portraits of Palestinians and their resting places are about life not death - a life experienced in exile, in revolution, in flight, and in every corner of our world. Along with many others, the film tells of the burials of Palestinian exiles Naji el-Ali, Edward Said, and Ibrahim Abu-Lughod.

# SMILE! YOU ARE IN SOUTH LEBANON

While the politicians of the world are focused on saving Lebanon from a potential civil war and a failed election, director Dalia Al-Kury goes on a family visit to south Lebanon and focuses the lens on her animated uncle Rami, who would much rather be swimming, little Mariam who is learning how to walk, and Ali, the courageous farmer who is giving his banana tree a "Cesarean Section." The result is an intimate and vibrant family portrait, which exposes the strength of a brand of dark Lebanese humor - a resource which has helped this family and their compatriots cope with wars still too fresh in their memories. Al-Kury's snappy editing and eye for comedy provide us with a uniquely warm glimpse of southern Lebanon seen through one family's daily acts of labour and love.

*Smile! You Are in South Lebanon* forms part of a thematic session exploring the aftermath of the 2006 Lebanon war. It will be screened alongside *R-Existence* by Marco Pasquini (see p.33) and *Welcome to Shatila* by Raad Raad (see p.45).



Director: Dalia Al-Kury  
Duration: 50 min  
Year: 2008  
Type: Documentary

Date: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

# STATE OF SIEGE (ÉTAT DE SIÈGE)



Director:  
Constantin Costas-Gavras  
Duration: 115 min  
Year: 1972  
Type: Fiction

Date: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 18:15  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

Costas-Gavras (Z - 1969) has a deserved reputation for translating some of the most tumultuous political events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century into commercially successful but hard-hitting dramas. With *State of Siege*, he recounts the gripping true story of the kidnapping by Marxist Tupamaro guerrillas of US "regime change" consultant and torture expert Dan Mitrione in Uruguay in 1970. With Yves Montand playing Mitrione and an award-winning original score by Mikis Theodorakis, Costas-Gavras achieves a perfect balance between serious political cinema and absorbing storytelling. Hauntingly prescient, this account of CIA-led covert interventions and security-force "restructuring" programmes in Latin America was withdrawn when scheduled to screen at the opening of the American Film Institute, and is arguably only more powerful today in an era experienced by many as one of neo-colonialism and aggressive "regime-change" programmes involving the widespread use of torture.

# STRANGER IN MY HOME

*Stranger in My Home* relates the stories of eight Palestinian Jerusalemite families that were twice turned into refugees in their own city: in 1948 and again in 1967. After 40 years they recall the events that occurred in the Moghrabi Quarter of Jerusalem during the 1967 war and led to their second dispossession at the hands of the Israeli government. Each family then travels to see its original house which was seized and occupied in the war of 1948. Their original houses are located in the Baqa'a, Talbiyeh, Qatamon and Mosrarah neighbourhoods of what is now West Jerusalem. In some of the most moving and surprising scenes, several of these families are able to enter their former homes and enter into discussions with the Israeli occupants. Alongside these oral testimonies and personal experiences, the film enjoys an interview with the renowned Israeli architectural historian David Kroyanker who has researched and published authoritative studies on these houses and their painful histories.

*Stranger in My Home* will be screened alongside *Memory of the Cactus* by Hana Musleh (see p.27).



Director: Sahera Dirbas  
Duration: 37 min  
Year: 2007  
Type: Documentary

Date: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: SOAS, KLT

# TAKE ME HOME



Director: Mais Darwazah  
Duration: 54 min  
Year: 2008  
Type: Documentary

Date: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
Time: 16:00  
Venue: SOAS, KLT

Director's statement: "The home of the Palestinian today, is no longer defined by geographic borders; *Take Me Home* is a first person pilgrimage tracing the legacy of a family who helped establish revolutionary movements at a time when the Arab world's faith in the individual's freedom and autonomy was self-evident." The sweeping desert steppes of Jordan as it turns into Syria mark the first few moments of "home". The stirring score of a female vocal against the traditional tabla drum tells us where we are going. This is the journey one Jordanian-Palestinian woman takes whenever she crosses the border to visit her grandmother and great aunt in Damascus. The magic of her film is in its exploration of the concept of "home": As Darwazah makes the journey through the Jordanian-Syrian border, she is not "going home." The journey, visually punctuated by black and white family photographs of relatives in Palestine, and by archival prints of Palestinian exiles, soon discloses its truth: that this is no conventional homecoming.

*Take Me Home* will be screened alongside *We Like Life Tomorrow* by Ismail Habbash (see p.44).



*The View* is composed of one shot and some very carefully choreographed performances. Adopting an unusual visual logic, to say the least, the work confronts the audience with an awkward viewpoint. From the director's statement: "*The View* tells the story of an Israeli sniper who takes aim at an unsuspecting Palestinian couple. In the meanwhile, with a finger on the trigger, he kills time chatting over his radio with another soldier about life, death, and romance. The film explores the anatomy of violence in the absence of restraints."

*The View* will be screened alongside *Divine Intervention* by Elia Suleiman (see p.15).



Director: Hazim Bitar

Duration: 16 min

Year: 2008

Type: Fiction

Date: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April

Time: 16:00

Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

# THIS WAY UP



Director: Georgi Lazarevski  
Duration: 60 min  
Year: 2007  
Type: Documentary

Date: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

Just east of Jerusalem, the construction on the wall of separation continues a few metres from a senior citizen's home. Its unavoidable and spectacular progression gradually isolates the residents from the world of the living, as both visitors and staff face more obstacles with each passing day. A haunting soundtrack of bells and chimes accompanies elderly patients sleeping in wheelchairs, and silhouetted staff members walking down long hallways with glistening floors. In the gardens of Our Lady of Pains, certain individuals continue to protest the barrier wall construction due to feelings of rejection, anger or longing for their lost freedom. One man shouts his political views at the television news broadcast in the common room while two women war with each other over songs. Another man savours the sensual momentary pleasures of cigarettes, coffee, and fruit, as he silently strolls through the home, the garden, and the surrounding area. While presenting the painful sense of despair that rises in the home, this film also captures a sense of levity and hope in its use of rich colours and portrayals of simple pleasures.

*This Way Up* will be screened alongside *Open Heart* by Claire Fowler (see p. 30).

"Those were the days when girls were prettier; when eyes were in all colours, without any colour! What's different now? The camera, or the eyes?" asks Abdelsalam Shehadeh in this poetic and mesmerizing homage to the studio photographers of the 1950's - 70's. Set partly in a refugee camp in Rafah, this is a remarkable look back at fifty years of Palestinian and Arab history, through photographs, reportage and the voices of these photographers today. The portrait image has always been something to cherish, but Shehadeh shows that it has also been turned into a tool of control and object of fear through ID systems, and, of course, into a form of commemorating and remembering the missing and the dead. *To My Father* is a personal and moving film that confirms the talent of Gaza-born director Shehadeh (*Gaza, Another Kind of Tears, Rainbow*), who has worked all over the world as a director, cameraman and journalist. A photo here is not just a photo: it brings history to life.

This is the UK premier of *To My Father* and will be followed by a Q&A with director Abdelsalam Shehadeh.

The film will be screened alongside *John Berger Reads Ghassan Kanafani's Letter From Gaza* (see p.22).



Director:  
Abdelsalam Shehadeh  
Duration: 52 min  
Year: 2008  
Type: Documentary

Date: Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 20:30  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

# WE LIKE LIFE TOMORROW



Director: Ismail Habbash  
Duration: 31 min  
Year: 2008  
Type: Documentary

Date: Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
Time: 16:00  
Venue: SOAS, KLT

Director Habbash has produced some of the most exciting and original "social cinema" projects in Palestine over the past decade. Working with fiction and documentary, his work has consistently attended to the experiences of ordinary Palestinian people under occupation, offering them access to the video medium and bringing their voices unvarnished to the wider public in Palestine and abroad. In this new, bold project, he goes even further, inviting three Palestinian families to document their own daily lives. Having trained and equipped a family in Gaza, one in the rural outskirts of Jenin in the northern West Bank, and another in the cave-dwelling regions to the south of Hebron, Habbash edits and assembles three remarkable ten-minute portraits and presents us with a composite sketch of daily life for the ordinary people of Palestine, through their own eyes.

*We Like Life Tomorrow* will be screened alongside *Take Me Home* by Mais Darwazah (see p.40).

# WELCOME TO SHATILA

Famous throughout the world as the site of the 1982 massacres, the Shatila refugee camp in Beirut, is also, and firstly, a home to thousands of Palestinian refugees - survivors, children, fighters, merchants, artists, businessmen... This short from the Studio Camps collective consists of a portrait-montage of the camp as a vibrant space of daily life and daily struggle. It is one of two films by Ra'ed Ra'ed of the Studio Camps collective (see also *60 Units of Time*, p.11). The independent collective is comprised of Palestinian and Lebanese artists and creates experimental artwork and media across various genres and platforms. From their statement: "we work in collaboration with our peoples who deal with the burdens of imperialism and economic injustice every day. Most of our inspiration and work comes from the Palestinian Refugee Camps."

*Welcome to Shatila* forms part of a thematic session exploring the aftermath of the 2006 Lebanon war. It will be screened alongside *R-Existence* by Marco Pasquini (see p.33) and *Smile! You Are in South Lebanon* by Dalia Al-Kury (see p.37).



Director: Ra'ed Ra'ed  
Duration: 2 min  
Year: 2008  
Type: Art/Experimental

Date: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Time: 18:30  
Venue: Barbican, Cinema 3

In the wake of the recent assault on Gaza, the most vulnerable and impoverished population in the Middle East faces an absolutely critical humanitarian and political crisis. There are many ways in which the British public has already expressed its concern and support for the people of Gaza, and there are many ways in which the British public can lend their assistance in this hour of need. The PFF would like to draw your attention to two UK registered charities working closely to deliver different types of much-needed humanitarian support and invites you to consider supporting them in their work.

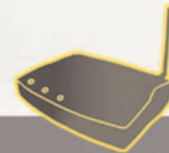
**MAP** (Medical Aid for Palestinians) has over two decades of experience working with local health services and professionals to bring emergency medical services as well as health development projects to Palestinians across the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is the preeminent UK-based organisation working in the field of health support and is well poised to deliver both immediate and long term services in the field of health.

It relies heavily upon the support of individuals to continue its crucial work.

**Palestine Connect** is a UK and Palestine registered charity which works in the fields of community education and IT training. It was founded 10 years ago to work in the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip and has since provided libraries, computer-training courses, and safe recreational facilities for refugee youth aged 6 and above. It is entirely run by local managers, teachers, and volunteers, with no administrative costs spent in the UK. Palestine Connect has provided over 20,000 courses to refugee youth since its foundation. It relies heavily upon individual donations to continue its work. The PFF has donated profits from its Festivals over the last 10 years to Palestine Connect and continues to support the charity.

Both organisations operate websites and can be contacted for further information:  
[www.map-uk.org](http://www.map-uk.org)  
[www.palestineconnect.org](http://www.palestineconnect.org)

palestineconnect funds and runs computer-aided learning centres in Palestinian refugee camps.  
palestineconnect is a grassroots charity that seeks to provide children a safe place to have fun and learn!



\_enabling.palestinian.children  
\_through.computer-aided.learning

# palestineconnect



## Get more information

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

## Make a contribution

I enclose a cheque of £15 ☐ £25 ☐ £100 ☐  
other £  towards palestineconnect's work.

**GIFT AID** I understand that to enable palestineconnect to reclaim the tax on my gift(s) I must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax deducted from my donations (currently 28p per £1 given). I also understand that I may cancel this declaration at any time, and once I have told palestineconnect of this cancellation, no further tax will be reclaimed after the date of cancellation. I will notify palestineconnect if I am no longer a UK tax-payer.

Signature  Date

## PLEASE RETURN TO:

Palestineconnect, 27 Old Gloucester Street London WC1N 3XX

# help us make a difference

## www.palestineconnect.org

info@palestineconnect.org | registered charity no. 1076231\*

\*palestineconnect is the new name for Enlighten

"I like coming to the centre because  
I get to use a computer by myself ...  
drawing is my favourite thing"

KAMAL, 9 YEARS OLD AND A PAINTSHOP PRO FAN.  
- Rafah Centre





Providing health and medical support to Palestinians for **25 years**

**Responding rapidly** to humanitarian crisis

Building health capacity for a **dignified future**



**Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)** is a British charity with offices in West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon.

As one of the first aid agencies to respond to the recent assault on Gaza, MAP's focus is on developing sustainable programmes guided by local need. We work to a philosophy that access to healthcare is the prime component of the fundamental human right to health.

**Donate Now:**

Call 0207 226 7691  
or visit [www.map-uk.org](http://www.map-uk.org)





**ArtSchool Palestine**

منتدى الفنون المعاصرة

**Residencies**

**Listings**

**Workshops**

**Talks**

**Exchanges**

**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.

#### **MAKE A DONATION**

**We need your help to continue our work and offer exciting opportunities for artists and audiences. Any contribution, however small, can play a vital role in supporting Palestinian Contemporary art.**

-  Support ArtSchool Palestine by:
-  Becoming one of ArtSchool Palestine members for an annual fee of £100.
-  Sponsoring one of our exciting activities such as the artist in residency programs, workshops or exhibitions.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT ARTSCHOOL PALESTINE:**

**AT [INFO@ARTSCHOOLPALESTINE.COM](mailto:info@artschoolpalestine.com) OR VISIT [WWW.ARTSCHOOLPALESTINE.COM](http://www.artschoolpalestine.com)**



# SOAS Language centre

- 57 languages of Asia and Africa
- Modern Standard Arabic
- Colloquial Egyptian Arabic
- Levantine Arabic
- Gulf Arabic
- Quranic Arabic
- Modern Hebrew
- Biblical Hebrew
- Daytime, evening, intensive and Diploma courses
- Experienced native-speaker teachers

SOAS Language Centre, School of Oriental and African Studies  
University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7898 4888 Fax: +44 (0)20 7898 4889  
E-mail: [languages@soas.ac.uk](mailto:languages@soas.ac.uk) Internet: [www.soas.ac.uk/languagecentre](http://www.soas.ac.uk/languagecentre)

### Friday 24<sup>th</sup>

**19:30** Laila's Birthday + Q&A  
**Barbican, Cinema 1** (Opening)

### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April

**16:00** Divine Intervention + The View  
**Barbican, Cinema 3**

### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April

**18:15** Laila's Birthday + Q&A  
**Barbican, Cinema 3**

### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April

**20:30** To My Father  
**Barbican, Cinema 3** + John Berger Reads  
Ghassan Kanafani  
+ Q&A

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

**17:00** NAKBA: Palestine 1948 + Panel  
**Barbican, Cinema 2**

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

**20:15** Introduction to the End of an Argument  
**Barbican, Cinema 3** + Palestine Remembered + Sedition

### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April

**18:30** R-Existence  
**Barbican, Cinema 3** + Smile! You Are in South Lebanon  
+ Welcome to Shatila

### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April

**20:45** Shadow of Absence  
**Barbican, Cinema 3**

### Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April

**18:15** State of Siege (État de Siege)  
**Barbican, Cinema 3**

### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April

**18:30** This Way Up + Open Heart  
**Barbican, Cinema 3**

### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April

**20:30** Friendship's Death  
**Barbican, Cinema 3** + A Space Exodus  
+ Q&A

### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

**18:30** "House Salad" (Salata Baladi)  
**Barbican, Cinema 3**

### Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

**20:30** Salt of This Sea + Q&A  
**Barbican, Cinema 3** + 60 Units of Time

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

**18:30** My Land + Recognized  
**SOAS, KLT**

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

**16:00** Edward Said in Conversation with  
**SOAS, KLT** Salman Rushdie - 1986

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

**18:00** Edward Said: The Last Interview  
**SOAS, KLT**

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

**16:00** We Like Life Tomorrow  
**SOAS, KLT** + Take Me Home

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May

**18:45** La Terre Parle Arabe  
**SOAS, KLT** + Arthur Balfour and Me + Q&A

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May

**18:30** Memory of the Cactus  
**SOAS, KLT** + Stranger in My Home

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

**18:30** A Summer Not to Forget + Panel  
**SOAS, KLT**

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May

**18:30** 5 Minutes From Home + Easy, Easy  
**SOAS, KLT**

The Festival runs for two weeks, in two venues. In the first week, it is held at the Barbican Cinema; in the second, it moves to SOAS, University of London. Tickets for the first week are available from April 1<sup>st</sup> through the Barbican box office and the websites of both the Barbican Cinema and the Palestine Film Foundation. SOAS screenings in the second week are unticketed and free.

Tickets for screenings at the Barbican Cinema cost £9.50 on the door, £7.50 in advance (£5 concession any time). Book three films or more and each ticket is reduced to £6 when you book online. Online booking saves you money and guarantees you don't miss out!

Barbican Box Office  
www.barbican.org.uk/film  
Tel: 0845 120 7527  
(10am - 8pm Mon-Sat. & 12 - 6pm Sun.)  
PFF (queries and contacts)  
www.palestinefilm.org  
E-mail: info@palestinefilm.org



Silk St.London EC2Y 8DS

Nearest tubes: Barbican,  
Moorgate, Liverpool St.

Box Office: 0845 120 7527



**School of Oriental  
& African Studies**

Thornhaugh St.

Russell Square  
London WC1H 0XG

Nearest tubes: Russell Square,  
Goodge St., Euston, Warren St.