



MIDDLE EAST STUDIES & MIDDLE EASTERN DIASPORA

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Our mission is to foster the **creation, appreciation and dissemination of social issue media made by or about people of color**. Today, TWN carries on the progressive vision of its founders, and remains the **oldest media arts organization** in the United States **devoted to filmmakers of color and their global constituencies**.

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*Get a 10% discount on all Middle East and Middle Eastern Diaspora titles when you mention promo code **EBME09**.*



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Cover Photo: *With Blood* by Juliana Fredman & Dan O'Reilly Rowe



NEW THE WAY NORTH: MAGHREBI WOMEN IN MARSEILLE

Shara K. Lange, 2008, 60 min

"I thought that in France life would be easier—it's the land of liberty. But it wasn't like that at all." --Fatima Rhazi

From Marseille come the stories of North African women making new lives for themselves in tense, complex, contemporary France.

Riots throughout France in November 2005 and the presidential election in 2007 are backdrops to this documentary about the women of the community organization Women From Here and Afar, and community activist Fatima Rhazi.

Fatima gave up a successful career as a sports photographer in Morocco and immigrated to France in order to protect her daughter from in-laws who would have taken her away. Itto, a young, newly immigrated bride, negotiates a new culture while raising her young

daughter. Hadja, a political asylum seeker from Algeria, is *sans papiers* (without papers). The documentary shows these women's struggles to cultivate alternative economic and social supports for themselves in a society that has historically ignored or misunderstood them.

"These women's lives in the context of a France that seemed on the brink of exploding, provide the opportunity for an "inside view" of part of one of the most consequential mass migrations in the world today as the Islamic population of Europe grows."

*Paul Stekler, Director of **Last Man Standing***

Arab Film Festival, San Francisco, 2008
Cinematheque de Tanger, Morocco, 2008
Austin Film Society, 2008

DVD Sale: 225.00



The Way North

NEW WHO GIVES KISSES FREELY FROM HER LIPS

Simin Farkhondeh, 2008, 41 min.

Inspired by the work of Sara Gomez and Cuban Imperfect Cinema, **Who Gives Kisses Freely From Her Lips**, weaves together fiction and documentary to tell the story of a filmmaker determined to make a film on temporary marriage, a taboo subject in Shia Iran. Salomé, conducts documentary interviews with real Iranians who have engaged in temporary marriage. They speak frankly about the pros and cons of this type of union as apposed to permanent marriage. In the process of learning about Salomé's alienation from the customs of her homeland, we learn about the complexities of the Shia' Islamic institution of temporary marriage.

DVD Sale: \$175



Who Gives Kisses Freely From Her Lips



NEW AWOL

Brigid Maher, 2005, 20 min.

Keisha Johnson, an African American women soldier, goes AWOL in Iraq after she flees a violent incident. On her "walkabout" journey, she encounters children who decide to help her. Keisha and the children grow to understand each other despite the political barriers that have torn their lives apart.

"Maher evokes a wealth of cross-cultural ambiguities and tensions generated by the war"

- Pat Aufderheide, Film Critic

National Museum of Women in the Arts,
Washington DC, 2007
Reel Women International Film Festival,
Los Angeles, 2007

DVD Sale: \$125

NEW WITH BLOOD: BIDAM

*Juliana Fredman & Dan O'Reilly-Rowe,
2006, 57 min.*

This documentary follows ordinary people's efforts to overcome extraordinary obstacles in pursuit of routine health care in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Shot on location with patients and health workers over seven months, this film offers a thought-provoking, compassionate perspective on life in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.



With Blood

Military checkpoints that lie between villages and cities often prevent the movement of ambulances and the infirm, forcing critical cases to take treacherous bypass routes through olive groves and over rocky, mountainous terrain. Medics, ambulance drivers, and doctors negotiate these shifting barriers in order to deliver care.



With Blood

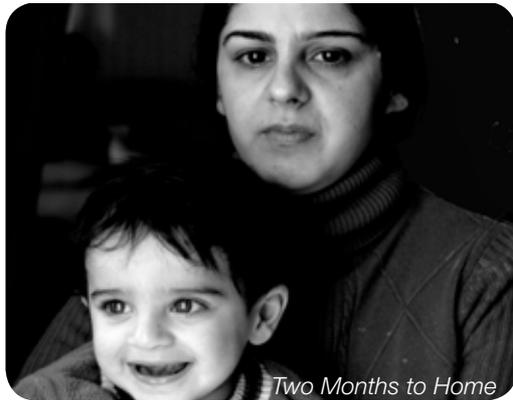
Resistance here comes not in the form of guns and bombs, but rather in the people's determination to continue to strive for life and health in the face of adversity. **With Blood** offers unique access to these often overlooked stories and explores how the conflict in the region exacerbates already difficult and traumatic situations.

"An important and powerful film. This story is told through the voices of people seeking medical treatment (including kidney dialysis and chemotherapy), and those trying to deliver it, and the obstacles they encounter by being in an occupied territory... Useful to those studying the Palestinians, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and global health care disparities. Recommended."

- Educational Media Reviews Online (EMRO)

Center of Contemporary Arab Studies,
Georgetown University, 2008

DVD Sale: \$225



TWO MONTHS TO HOME

Janice Ahn, 2006, 8 min.

Samira Rahman is an Afghan mother who narrowly escaped death at the hands of the Taliban just before September 11, 2001. Upon arrival in the United States, she is unduly held in a makeshift detention center for two months. Her husband and four children are elated and relieved when she is finally released and allowed to remain in New York City. Samira learns a hard lesson about life in the United States, the price of immigration, and the importance of finding strength in herself.

"Ahn brings a human side to post-September 11, 2001 detentions"

National Museum of Women in the Arts

Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, 2007

DVD Sale: \$25

LEST WE FORGET

Jason DaSilva, 2003, 80 min.

This documentary follows the events post-9/11, examining the roundups and racial attacks that occurred in the name of national security. The film contains stories told by individuals who have felt the severity of wartime racism in America and explores the sullied past in the hopes of creating lessons for a different future.

"This important film connects the alarming WWII internment of people of Japanese descent with recent events where people of Arabic, South Asian and Muslim origin became the new 'enemy aliens'."

San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival

Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, 2004
World Premiere, International Documentary Festival of Amsterdam (IDFA), 2003

DVD Sale: \$225



FAROUK ABDEL MUTHI: POLITICAL PRISONER

Konrad Aderer, 2003, 9 min.

In April 2002, Farouk Abdel Muthi, a Palestine human rights activist was arrested by the Justice Department on the basis of a 1995 deportation order. Partly because he was a stateless Palestinian, the INS has been unable to deport him. Here, Farouk tells his own story from Passaic County Jail, and speaks out against the injustices inflicted on Muslim immigrants since 9/11.

Middle East Studies Association Film Festival, 2004

DVD Sale: \$125



JUST RALPH

Clifton Watson, 2005, 11 min.

An alternately serious and humorous "day in the life" of Ralph, a Palestinian-American grocery store owner, whose Brooklyn store is the neighborhood drop in center. As the

2004 election approached, Ralph reflected on being a Palestinian and on voting for the first time, while the neighborhood chimed in. A short film that wrecks the western media stereotype of Palestinians, and a display of a truly multicultural neighborhood. Part of the Call for Change Series.

Documentary Fortnight, Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2007
Middle East Studies Association Film Festival, 2005

DVD Sale: \$25

SAJ: MUSLIM IN AMERICA

Sam Pollard, 2005, 56 min.

Sajda Abdul-Rahim, a college student living in New York City, talks about her religious upbringing as a Muslim and her quest for a less traditional and more personal spiritual connection with God. Part of the Call for Change Series.

Documentary Fortnight, Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2007
Middle East Studies Association Film Festival, 2005

DVD Sale: \$25





I EXIST: VOICES FROM THE LESBIAN AND GAY MIDDLE EASTERN COMMUNITY IN THE US

Peter Barbosa & Garrett Lenoir, 2003, 56 min.

The cultural and religious challenges that many Lesbian and Gay Middle Eastern people endure are unparalleled. ***I Exist*** shows the journey many take in learning how to join both their cultural heritage and sexual identity. Even with these challenges, stories of hope emerge and show that a family's love can always win over hatred and ignorance.

"Deep, insightful, and original."

- Peace & Justice Studies Association

"Gives voices to an invisible queer

Middle Eastern community in desperate need of recognition."

-Insideout, Toronto

Best Documentary, New York Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 2003
Best Documentary, Turin International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, 2003

DVD Sale: \$225

I CALL MYSELF PERSIAN: IRANIANS IN AMERICA

Tanaz Eshaghian & Sara Nodjoumi, 2002, 27 min.

From the Iran hostage crisis of '79 to the WTC attacks, images of hostile Iranians and Middle Easterners have been well-ingrained in the American psyche, but no informed images come to mind representing Iranians living on American soil. The Iranian Revolution took place in 1979, after which more than one million Iranians fled the country. Since then hundreds of thousands of Iranians have been living in the United States. ***I Call Myself Persian*** lets Iranian-Americans speak of how their identities are affected by being made to feel like outsiders in a country they now call home.

DVD Sale: \$175

NAJEEB: A PERSIAN GIRL IN AMERICA

Tanaz Eshaghian, 2000, 26 min.

Jewish young women of Persian descent grown up in Iranian homes in the United States, where they negotiate the contradictions of their conservative, traditional world at home and the America that lies outside their front doors.

Middle East Studies Association Film Festival, 2003

DVD Sale: \$175



KABUL KABUL

Sedika Mojadidi, 2000, 46 minutes

Kabul Kabul documents the filmmaker's journey back to Afghanistan after a 23 year absence. She recounts her struggle to reconcile the different levels of loss that many like her have experienced from the war. Her piece wrestles with the irreconcilable impulses of memory, home, representation, loss, and desire in the face of occupation and a civil war that has left Afghanistan and its people devastated.

Women in the Director's Chair, 2001
Afghan Physician's Conference, 2000

DVD Sale: \$ 225

ZULAIKHA

Sedika Mojadidi, 2000, 46 min.

A portrait of an Afghan woman in Los Angeles in the wake of the attack on the World Trade Center and the war in Afghanistan. Zulaikha Wardak shares her reactions to both events and her own memories of war in Kabul.

DVD Sale: \$30

WE TOO SING AMERICA

Yun Jong Suh, 2001, 12 min.

A poignant and revealing document of the thoughts, hopes and fears of Muslim, Arab-American and South Asian children in the context of a country calling for war and unconditional compliance after the events of September 11th. Part of the Call to Media Action Series.

Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2001
Middle East Studies Association Film Festival, 2003

DVD Sale: \$25



REFUSENIKS

Sonja de Vries, 2006, 56 min.

Refuseniks uses stunning archival footage, still photos and interviews to document the stories of Israeli men and women who refuse to serve in the military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. **Refuseniks** is a moving portrait of Israelis who have been willing to risk imprisonment in defense of their stands against the occupation by refusing to serve. They differ in spiritual and

*"At once troubling and uplifting, **Refuseniks** exposes a growing chasm between young and idealistic citizen-soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces and what the occupation compelled them to do... Sonja de Vries has created a beautiful, honest, and unforgettable film, required viewing for any one who refuses to accept easy answers about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."*

Joel Krieger, Prof. of Political Science,
Wellesley College



political beliefs, some are ardent Zionists, and some question and challenge the concept of Zionism, but all of them have come to believe that taking a stand is crucial to their own humanity and to the future of their country.

***Refuseniks** is a powerful testament to the courage and integrity of the young people who make up the refuser movement."*

Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman, Jewish Voice
for Peace

*"I found it very heartening and inspiring to meet so many Israelis in **Refuseniks** who went into the army, had their eyes opened and have found the courage to take the personal risk of refusing to serve.*

This is an important story that needs to be heard."

Debra Chasnoff, documentary filmmaker

DVD Sale: \$225

"Powerful, moving, inspiring... This film will contribute to solidarity between U.S. and Israeli soldiers of conscience."

Howard Zinn



HER ISRAEL

Marjan Tehrani, 2004, 57 min.

A documentary that follows three women, a Jewish-Israeli, a Jewish-Ukrainian and a Palestinian, through their daily lives in the bustling microcosm of Tel Aviv/Yafo.

"Entertaining ...beautifully made"
- Jewish Bulletin

"Tehrani presents a glimpse at the diverse reality of modern Israel."
- Sundance Channel

"An engaging, eye-opening view of what it's like to live in such a conflicted region: boyfriends cheat, babies need baths, grandmas tell granddaughters their outfits are too skimpy, and, on occasion, sudden instances of violence rock the streets – all of which is taken in stride."

- Cheryl Eddy, San Francisco Bay Guardian
Online

DVD Sale: \$225

FORBIDDEN TO WANDER

Susan Youssef, 2003, 35 min.

Forbidden to Wander chronicles the experiences of a young Arab American woman traveling on her own in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the summer of 2002. The film is a reflection on the complexity of Palestinian existence and the disturbing ordinariness of living under constant curfew. The film's title reflects this, as the Arabic words used to describe the imposed curfew "mane' tajawwul" literally translate as "forbidden to wander." This film is also the journey of personal discovery for the filmmaker, the wanderer who falls in love with a Palestinian man in Gaza.

Documentary Fortnight, Museum of
Modern Art, New York, 2004

DVD Sale: \$225



Forbidden to Wander

NOT IN MY GARDEN*Video '48, 2000, 50 min.*

In 1991, Israeli authorities attempted to evict the Arab residents of the Galilean village of Ramia. Public pressure delayed the eviction, but the neighboring city of Carmiel has all but swallowed up the village. Huge apartment houses have sprung up, while the people of Ramia, prohibited from building, have had to remain in crowded tin shacks. With both legal and financial prowess, Carmiel has been put to the test by the popular struggles of Ramia.

"This engaging video group, seeks to put in the spotlight what the establishment does not want to see. A timely, much-needed film."
--Nahman Ingber, Film Critic

DVD Sale: \$225**NAZARETH IN AUGUST***Norman Cowie, Ahmed Damian & Dan Walworth, 1986, 58 min.*

Surrounded by Jewish settlements and the encroaching Jewish city of Nazareth Elite, the life of Nazareth's 55,000 Arabs remains a daily struggle. This documentary shows Palestinian Arabs living as Israeli citizens and their efforts to gain equal rights. Arab and Jewish officials, activists and workers analyze the conflicts between Palestinian and Israeli sovereignty.

DVD Sale: \$175**CHILDREN OF FIRE***Mai Masri, 1990, 50 min.*

This film offers a rare view of the Intifada as seen through the eyes of Palestinian children. At age five, Fadi is already throwing stones, while for Hana, 11, the Intifada, is a new way of life which, 'has taught us to depend on ourselves.' Through deeply moving interviews we learn what a tremendous psychological impact the curfews, house demolitions, night raids, expulsions, school closings, death and destruction have had on the children.

"A moving and beautifully directed documentary."
-- The Sunday Times

VHS Sale: \$225*Children of Fire**Cinema Fouad***CINEMA FOUAD***Mohammed Soueid, 1994, 28 min.*

A documentary on the life and ambitions of a young Lebanese crossdresser. The video follows her journey from soldier to cabaret dancer in an effort to raise funds for her sex change operation. Shot in Beirut, **Cinema Fouad** weaves a complex and multi-layered story of sexuality, identity and desire and paints a compelling portrait of its subject.

DVD Sale: \$225**HOME***Akram Zataari, 1994, 33 min.*

Four shorts documenting the lives of Beirut women. **Make-up** (8 min) is a meditation on age, death and the cycle of life as a widow who lives

overlooking the Bashoura Cemetery reflects on the circumstances of her life. In **The Fountain** (10 min), the family of an Egyptian carpet maker living in the ruins of an old mansion gather round and tell stories. As the father repairs the fountain, they talk about the memories the mansion holds for them. In **Motorcycle** (8 min) a noble and wealthy man had no children to inherit his wealth - a woman who had worked as his servant is now the only one left to tell his story. In **Abdel-Halim** (7 min), Mrs. Jabr recounts the marriages, deaths and births that have happened in her house as her grandchild tells the story of her own wedding.

DVD Sale: \$225**JAGADEKEER... BETWEEN THE NEAR AND EAST***Tina M. Bastajian, 2001, 19 min.*

Jagadekeer is an Armenian word meaning fate, or literally, what is written on one's forehead. Memory, nostalgia, displacement, absence and reconnection are explored using the Armenian genocide as a point of reference and a visual/aural backdrop.

Women in the Director's Chair, 2002
San Francisco International Film Festival, 2001

DVD Sale: \$225



Introduction to the End of an Argument

INTRODUCTION TO THE END OF AN ARGUMENT/INTIFADA: SPEAKING FOR ONESELF... SPEAKING FOR OTHERS

Jayce Salloum & Elia Suleiman, 1990, 45 min.

Using clips from feature films, cartoons and network tv, this unique video provides a critique of the portrayal of Arabs in Western media. Collaborating images of Valentino, Barbara Eden, Golda Meir, Elvis Presley and Mr. Magoo, lead a barrage of found footage that is juxtaposed with text and location footage shot on the West Bank and in Gaza. It also points to the negative influence of Arab stereotypes on U.S. views and foreign policy.

"Suleiman and Salloum are skilled image makers, and their relentless send-ups of stereotype, racism and cultural ignorance are very entertaining and absorbing; they manage to cover just about every demented permutation of the problem"

Tony Reveaux, ARTWEEK

"Salloum and Suleiman have constructed an oddly wry narrative, mimicking the history of Mideast politics. Through key political phrases we see repetitive distortions transformed into foreign policy. The injustice, of course, is that this is our history of their struggle. Speaking for oneself... is a first attempt at making the image and the act one and the same."

Steve Seid, Pacific Film Archives

DVD Sale: \$225



I imagined that my house was speaking to me.
untitled part 3b

UNTITLED PART 3B: (AS IF) BEAUTY NEVER ENDS

Jayce Salloum, 2003, 11 min.

In this video essay about dystopia in contemporary times, Jayce Salloum presents raw footage documenting the 1982 massacre of the Sabra and Shatila refugee camp in Lebanon. Working directly, viscerally, and metaphorically, **untitled part 3b** provides an elegiac response to the Palestinian dispossession.

Part of **untitled**, a series of projects addressing social and political realities and representations, manifestations, and enunciations, focusing on borders/nationalisms/movements and subjectivity and the conditions of living between polarities of culture, geography, history, and ideology.

Sydney Arab Film Festival, 2007
Middle East Studies Association Film Festival, 2008

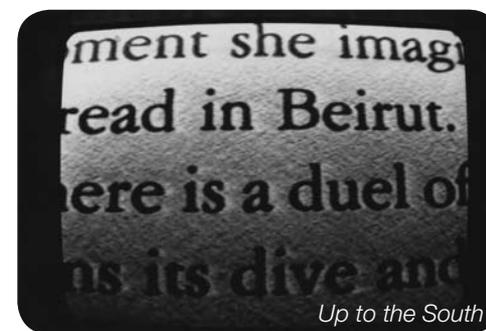
DVD Sale: \$200

THIS IS NOT BEIRUT/THERE WAS AND THERE WAS NOT

Jayce Salloum & Walid Ra'ad, 1994, 49 min.

A personal essay on the popular misrepresentation of Lebanon and Beirut which documents the filmmakers own experiences while working in Lebanon.

DVD Sale: \$250



Up to the South

UP TO THE SOUTH

Jayce Salloum, 1993, 60 min.

An oblique, albeit powerful documentary which examines the current conditions, politics and economics of South Lebanon. The tape focuses on the social, intellectual and popular resistance to the Israeli occupation, as well as conceptions of "the land" and culture, and the imperiled identities of the Lebanese people. Simultaneously, the tape self-consciously engages in a parallel critique of the documentary genre and its traditions.

DVD Sale: \$250



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