



MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

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Presenting challenging alternatives to mainstream representations of the peoples of the Middle East and the Middle East Diaspora, the titles in our collection document struggles against colonialism, occupation, gender oppression and unfair media representations. In this brochure, we feature new work by acclaimed independent filmmakers Jayce Salloum and Sonja de Vries.

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ABOUT TWN

Third World Newsreel (TWN) is an alternative media arts organization that fosters the creation, appreciation and dissemination of independent social issue film and video by and about people of color. In addition, TWN serves as a fiscal sponsor of independent film and electronic media productions, as well as artistic, educational and cultural projects. TWN also has a variety of workshops and classes throughout the year on film and video production.

TWN is supported in part by The National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Ford Foundation, the Funding Exchange, the North Star Fund and Manhattan Neighborhood Network, as well as individual donors.

Cover photo, Two Months to Home, Janice Ahn

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Get a 15% discount on all Middle East titles when you mention promo code **EBME08.**

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Refuseniks

ISRAEL/PALESTINE NEW 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. *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 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.

"Powerful, moving, inspiring. These are genuine heroes. the history, the statistics are sobering to any viewer. this film will contribute to solidarity between U.S. and Israeli soldiers of conscience." --Howard Zinn, historian, author, social activist.

DVD Sale: \$225

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 TelAviv/Yafo.

"Her Israel offers 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
VHS 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 the Gaza Strip.

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

DVD Sale: \$225

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 as if time had stopped for them. With both legal and financial prowess, Carmiel has been put to the test by the popular struggles of Ramia.

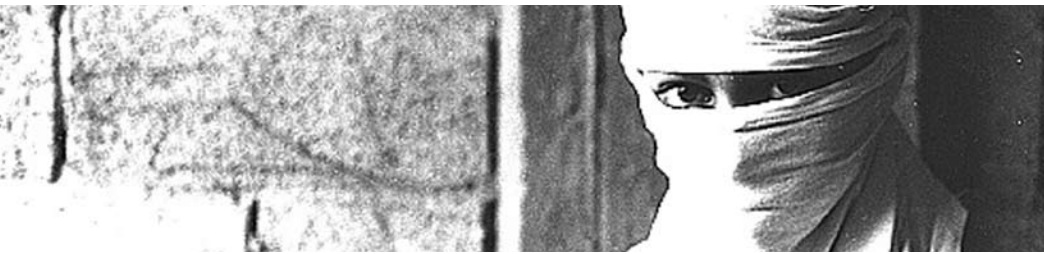
"This engaging video group, seeks to put in the spotlight what the establishment does not want to see. A timely, much-needed film."

*--Nahman Ingber, Film Critic
VHS Sale: \$225*

CHILDREN OF FIRE

Mai Masri, 1990, 50 min.

This film offers a rare view of the Intifada as seen through the eyes of Palestinian chil-



Children of Fire

dren. 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 and death and destruction have had on the children.

"A moving and beautifully directed documentary."

-- *The Sunday Times*

VHS 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. The video presents many of the issues that led to the First Intifada in 1988 as Arab and Jewish officials, activists and workers analyze the conflicts between Palestinian and Israeli sovereignty.

DVD Sale: \$175

**THE WORK OF JAYCE SALLOUM
NEW UNTITLED PART 3B: (AS IF)
BEAUTY NEVER ENDS**

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 and the testimony of

Abdel Majid Fadl Ali Hassan, a 1948 refugee living in Bourq El Barajneh camp. Working directly, viscerally, and metaphorically, *untitled part 3b* provides an elegiac response to the Palestinian dispossession.

DVD Sale: \$200

**THIS IS NOT BEIRUT/THERE WAS
AND THERE WAS NOT**

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

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

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

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*

DVD Sale: \$225

**LEBANON
NOBEL SACRIFICE**

Vatche Boulghourjian, 2002, 39 min.

Noble Sacrifice explores the nexus between mourning and militancy as expressed in the annual Shiite observance of Ashura. Participants in the procession engage in self-flagellation, bloodletting and other forms of self-inflicted torture to express the depth of mourning for the martyrdom of Shiite leader Imam Hussein in 680 AD. The history of the Imam related by preachers to crowds of lamenting worshippers is that of a just person suffering at the hands of heartless oppressors. In the contemporary context of war and occupation in south Lebanon, Ashura has been interpreted as an allegorical reflection of the present. Since Israel first occupied south Lebanon in 1978 and even after its withdrawal in May 2000, the spirit of self-sacrifice as embodied in Ashura has been transformed by circumstantial adversities to become a military tactic commonly referred to in the West as suicide bombing, locally recognized as martyrdom operations.

VHS Sale: \$175

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.

This series of shorts documents 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 recalls the story of her grandchild forced to leave home after the 1976 bombing of Beirut. She 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

Also Available

untitled part 3b

This Is Not Beirut/There Was and There Was Not

Up To The South

**AFGHANISTAN
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

AFGHANISTAN/ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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.

Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, 2007

"Ahn brings a human side to post-September 11, 2001 detentions in the U.S. through the story of Samira Rahman."--*Festival of Women's Film & Media Arts, NMWA*

DVD Sale: \$25

KABUL KABUL

Sedika Mojadidi, 2000, 46 min.

In *Kabul, Kabul*, filmmaker Sedika Mojadidi returns 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 irrec- oncilable impulses of memory, home, representation, loss, and desire in the face of a 10 year occupation and civil war that has left Afghanistan and its people devas- tated.

DVD Sale: \$225

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE JAGADAKEER...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 Film/Video Festival, 2002*

San Francisco International Film Festival, 2001

DVD Sale: \$225

MIDDLE EASTERN DIASPORAS 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 that wrecks the western media stereotype of Palestinians, and a display of a truly multicultural neighborhood. Part of the Call for Change Series.

DVD Sale: \$25

SAJ: MUSLIM IN AMERICA

Sam Pollard, 2006, 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.

DVD Sale: \$225

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.

DVD Sale: \$225

FAROUK ABDEL MUTHI: POLIT- ICAL PRISONER

Konrad Aderer, 2003, 9 min.

This is the story of Farouk Abdel-Muthi, a Palestinian human rights activist who found himself in immigrant detention after 9/11. In April 2002 Farouk was arrested by the Justice Department on the basis of a 1995 deportation order. But 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.

DVD Sale: \$125

MIDDLE EASTERN DIASPORAS



Kabul Kabul

I EXIST

Peter Barbosa, 2003, 56 min.

I Exist is a documentary exploring individual journeys of Lesbian and Gay people of Middle Eastern cultures living in the United States. The cultural and religious challenges that many Lesbian and Gay Middle Eastern people endure are unparalleled. Even with these challenges, stories of hope emerge and show that a family's love can always win over hatred and ignorance.

VHS Sale: \$225

I CALL MYSELF PERSIAN: IRANIANS IN AMERICA

Tanaz Eshaghian & Sara Nodjourni, 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 over 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.

VHS Sale: \$175

NAJEEB: A PERSIAN GIRL IN AMERICA

Tanaz Eshaghian, 2000, 26 min.

In 1979, about 80,000 Persian Jews fled their country after the Iranian Revolution took place. Since then, thousands of young

women have grown up in Iranian homes in the United States, where they negotiate the contradictions of their conservative, tradi- tional world at home and the America that lies outside their front doors.

VHS Sale: \$175

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 milieu 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
DVD Sale: \$25

ZULAIKHA

Sedika Mojadidi, 2000, 46 min.

An experimental portrait of an Afghan woman in Los Angeles in the wake of the attack on the World Trade Center and the war in Afghanistan. Exploring the relationships between image and voice, trauma and memory, the piece focuses on an interview with Zulaikha Wardak, an Afghan shopkeeper who shares her reactions to the bombings and her own memories of war in Kabul. Part of the Call to Media Action Series.

DVD Sale: \$30



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