



CINEMATOMEDIA



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## Film Database for Screenings

CINEMATOMEDIA

Teaching Democracy through Cinema

June 2024



CENTER  
OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
IN THEATRE  
STUDIES  
Athens- Greece

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# Introduction

## **CINEMATOMEDIA Empowers Youth through Cinema for Democratic Engagement**

2024 - 2025

### **Leveraging Cinema for Social Dialogue and Civic Participation**

CINEMATOMEDIA seeks to address the critical shortage of resources and training opportunities in youth work. By utilizing films as catalysts for critical thinking and social dialogue, the project aims to:

- **Empower Youth Organizations:** Provide training and resources for youth workers to effectively use cinema in their educational and engagement activities.
- **Enhance Digital Skills:** Improve the digital competencies of young people through collaborative film projects.
- **Promote Civic Participation:** Encourage young people to engage in democratic processes and social change through cinematic expression.

### **Key Project Activities**

1. **Film Research and Screenings:** Select and screen European and Middle Eastern films focused on democracy, peace, gender equality, inclusion, and the environment. Collaborate with VOD platforms and local cultural venues for screenings, featuring opening speeches and discussions.
  2. **Training and Methodology Development:** Create a comprehensive training program and method for teaching democracy through cinema, including training of trainers and e-learning modules.
  3. **Seminars and Film Creation:** Organize seminars to boost democratic competencies among young people, followed by the creation of short films by seminar participants.
  4. **Film Festivals:** Host local and online film festivals to showcase project films, culminating in a final festival where the best films will be awarded.
- Collaboration Across Seven Countries**

CINEMATOMEDIA is a collaborative effort involving seven countries: Greece, Germany, France, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia.

The organizations involved are:

- [Centre of Higher Education in Theatre Studies \(COHEDU\) - Greece](#)
- [Action Synergy - Greece](#)
- [EUth Wonders e.V. - Germany](#)
- [Chabibeh Sporting Club – Lebanon](#)
- [I Dare for Sustainable Development - Jordan](#)
- [Have A Dream - Egypt](#)
- [Promotion & Support to the Development of Local Initiatives \(P.A.D.I.L\) - Tunisia](#)
- [Rencontres Audiovisuelles - France](#)

### **Harnessing the Power of Cinema**

CINEMATOMEDIA is dedicated to using the transformative power of cinema to inspire and educate young people, equipping them with the tools and knowledge necessary for active civic participation and democratic engagement. Through this project, we aim to create a vibrant, engaged youth community united by a shared commitment to democratic values and social change.

# How to use this booklet

The film database is divided into seven primary categories, with each category having subcategories to classify movies and documentaries in more detail. The arrangement is based on production dates to provide a chronological narrative that aligns with the discussed topic or theme. Our partner organization, in collaboration with affiliated youths, curated the selection of films. These films are not only captivating but also hold educational value by emphasizing the themes being explored. While some films have accessible viewing links, finding online platforms to screen certain titles may present challenges.

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# Categories and sub-categories:

- I. War and Politics
  - A. Palestine
  - B. Lebanon
  - C. Egypt
  - D. Aftermath
  - E. From around the world
- II. Gender
  - A. Person With Disability
  - B. Sexual assault and HIV+
  - C. En Sport
  - D. Roles and norms
  - E. Domestic Violence
- III. Family: dysfunctional or functional, we do not know!
- IV. Timeline of Exile: displacement, refugees, immigration
- V. Identity and belonging
- VI. Environment
- VII. Life goes on...
  - A. Mental health and wellbeing
  - B. People mobility
  - C. Life as we know it

**The Nakba: The Palestinian  
Catastrophe of 1948**

One of the most jarring and important events of recent Islamic history has been the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

**This conflict is multifaceted,**

complex, and is still one of the world's most problematic issues in international relations. One aspect of this conflict is the refugee problem.

**Over 700,000 Palestinians**

became refugees that year, in what is known as the "Nakba", which is Arabic for catastrophe.

1948

# I. War and Politics

## A. Palestine

### 1. Al-Nakba (1948), 2013, Documentary series.

*“The Nakba did not begin in 1948. Its origins lie over two centuries ago....”*

A series on the Palestinian ‘catastrophe’ of 1948 that led to dispossession and conflict that still endures. So begins this four-part series on the ‘Nakba,’ meaning the ‘catastrophe,’ about the history of the Palestinian exodus that led to the first Arab Israeli war in 1948, and the beginning of the Israeli occupation to Palestine.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 4 hours</li><li>• Series of documentaries</li><li>• Country of origin: Palestine, Qatar’s production</li><li>• Depicting real life events and peoples’ stories.</li><li>• Documentary</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Occupation</li><li>• Revolution</li><li>• Colonization</li><li>• Migration and displacement</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• Geopolitical</li><li>• Historical context</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
|---|--|

Link: [Watch it here](#)

### 2. Resistance Why, 1971, Documentary.

In the title of the film, Ghazi asks about the resistance, its history, struggle, and importance, and examines the goals of the Palestinian struggle. All his interlocutors stressed the need for an independent and democratic Palestine to exist and defend it with arms. Why the Resistance has a rich archive of photos and scenes taken in Palestinian refugee camps. Ghazi drew us a map of Palestine and from it determined how Palestinians were expelled from their homes, whether by land or sea. The film brings the tradition of armed cinema (alternative or third) to Lebanon, creating through it the spirit of the Palestinian struggle and asking how, by reading the past, we know what is happening in the present.

In 1970, Christian Ghazi and Nouredine Chatti met with several Arab political figures, especially Palestinians living in Lebanon, resulting in this piece of armed (alternative or third) cinema that captures a crucial cross-section of the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon in 1970. The film features footage of Ghassan Kanafani, Sadiq Jalal El-Azm, Nabil Shaath and other personalities who share their vision of the Palestinian revolution, tracing its history back to the early 20th century. These testimonies describe the many strikes and popular protests that took place in Palestine under the Ottoman occupation, followed by the British colonization and the settlement of the Israeli state/occupation to Palestine in 1948. They enumerate the objectives of the struggle, emphasizing the necessity for a free and democratic Palestine, defended through armed or non-armed struggle by all its citizens, men, and women of various affiliations.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 57 minutes</li><li>• Country of origin: Palestine</li><li>• Depicting real life events and peoples' stories.</li><li>• Documentary</li><li>• Director: Christian Ghazi</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Occupation</li><li>• Revolution</li><li>• Colonization</li><li>• Migration and displacement</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• Geopolitical</li><li>• Historical context</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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Trailer link: [Watch it here.](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

### 3. Women beyond borders, 2004, Documentary.

The documentary explores the lives of three remarkable Palestinian women - Kifah Afifi, Fadwa Toukan, and Samiha Khalil - who defied societal norms and political barriers to carve out their own paths. Through their stories, the film underscores the importance of resilience, empowerment, and the pursuit of justice, all of which are integral to fostering democratic ideals within diverse communities. As agents of change, these women exemplify the potential for individuals to challenge systemic injustices and advocate for a more inclusive and equitable society, echoing the principles that underpin the research tool's mission.

The film explores the lives and works of some of the women who have joined in the fight for their Palestinian homeland. We learn of young resistance fighter Kifah Afifi's experience as a survivor of the 1982 Shatila massacre in Lebanon when she was just twelve years old. She tells about fighting the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon in the 1990s and of her imprisonment in the Khiam detention facility, which was run by Israel's occupation auxiliary militia, the South Lebanon Army.

Director Chamoun also explores the pioneering contributions of other Palestinian women, such as activist Samiha Khalil, also known as Um Khalil, who spoke out against the Balfour Declaration and the British occupation of Palestine at an international women's demonstration in 1936, when she was just thirteen years old. She founded the welfare organization Inaash al-Usra in her garage in 1965 and ran for president against Yasser Arafat in 1996, earning twelve percent of the vote.

Key events:

- War in Gaza and South Lebanon (October 2023)
- Constant occupation of Shebaa Farms South Lebanon

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 58 minutes</li> <li>• Country of origin: Lebanon</li> <li>• Depicting real life events and peoples' stories.</li> <li>• Documentary.</li> <li>• Director: Jean Chamoun</li> </ul>	<p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupation</li> <li>• Civil war</li> <li>• Migration and displacement</li> <li>• Power</li> <li>• Freedom</li> <li>• People</li> <li>• Historical context</li> <li>• Cultural context</li> </ul>
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#### 4. The time that remains, 2009, Film.

Fuad, a gunsmith, witnesses the destruction in Nazareth after the Israeli takeover in 1948. Years later, his son Elia grows up defiant of the Israeli occupation and has trouble accepting the change.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 109 minutes.</li> <li>• Country of origin: Palestine and France (production).</li> <li>• Depicting real life events and peoples' stories.</li> <li>• Drama film.</li> <li>• Director: Elia Suleiman</li> </ul>	<p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupation</li> <li>• Revolution</li> <li>• Colonization</li> <li>• Migration and displacement</li> <li>• Freedom</li> <li>• Geopolitical</li> <li>• Historical context</li> <li>• Cultural context</li> </ul>
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Trailer link: [Watch here](#)

Link: [Watch here](#)

## B. Lebanon

### 1. Ninety, 1978, Documentary.

Through the insightful dialogue between Bagdadi and Mikhail al-Neaimy, viewers are presented with a nuanced understanding of critical issues shaping the region's socio-political landscape. By delving into topics such as war, sectarianism, and education, "Ninety" offers a valuable resource for fostering dialogue and promoting awareness among the youth about the complexities of democracy and social justice within the Euromed context. The film features a long encounter by Bagdadi with Mikhail al-Neaimy, the Lebanese author. The latter answers the questions of Bagdadi about his private life, education, and ideas, about politics and the environment, Mount Lebanon, the war, women, and sectarianism

#### Key events:

- The battles of Tayouna on October 14th, 2021.
- The battles of Kahhale (9th of August 2023).
- The continuous Ein el remmeneh/Tayyouneh disputes.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 90 minutes</li><li>• Country of origin: Lebanon</li><li>• Depicting real life events and peoples' stories.</li><li>• Genre: Documentary.</li><li>• Director: Maroun Baghdadi</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Religion</li><li>• Civil war</li><li>• People</li><li>• Democracy</li><li>• Environment</li><li>• Geopolitical</li><li>• Historical context</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
|--|--|

### 2. War on War, 1984, Film.

The movie depicts the devastating effects of war on a city and its people, illustrating the chaos, destruction, and suffering that result from violent conflict. By witnessing the aftermath of war through the camera's lens, viewers may gain

a deeper understanding of the human cost of conflict and the importance of seeking peaceful resolutions to societal disputes.

The camera wanders through streets standing witness to a war that has destroyed a city and an entire nation. Baghdadi goes to war against the Lebanese civil war, exploring different locations and situations in a country faced with its own demise. The poetic text raises questions of life and death through contrasting images of violent death and the will to live.

Key events:

- The battles of Tayouna on October 14th, 2021.
- The battles of Kahhale (9th of August 2023).
- The continuous Ein el remmeneh/Tayyouneh disputes.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 25 minutes</li><li>• Country of origin: Lebanon</li><li>• Depicting real life events and peoples' stories.</li><li>• Won the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 1987.</li><li>• Director: Maroun Baghdadi.</li></ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Religion</li><li>• Civil war</li><li>• Crime</li><li>• People</li><li>• Democracy</li><li>• Geopolitical</li><li>• Historical context</li></ul> |
|---|---|

### 3. West Beirut, 1998, Feature film.

West Beirut follows the adventures of three teenagers - Tarek, Omar, and May - as they roam the streets of Beirut in 1975, during the early stages of the civil war. Through their eyes, the film captures the spirit of resilience, friendship, and hope amidst the chaos of war, highlighting the importance of individual agency and the pursuit of peace.

In April 1975, a young Lebanese boy named Tarek witnessed a massacre of Palestinians by the Phalangists. Shortly thereafter, the civil war breaks out; Beirut is partitioned along a line separating the Muslim-Christian mixed West Beirut from the quasi-Christian East Beirut. After the line was created, Tarek is now considered to live in West Beirut, as he is Muslim himself and is in high school, making Super 8 movies with his friend, Omar. At first the war was a lark, Tarek's school, situated in East Beirut, has closed and is no longer accessible to West Beirut residents, getting from West to East is impossible. His mother wants to leave the country, but his father refuses. Tarek spends time with May, an

orphaned Christian girl living in his building. By accident, Tarek goes to an infamous brothel in the war-torn Zeytouni Quarter, meeting its legendary madam, Oum Walid. He then takes Omar and May there. Family tensions rise.

Later, and as he comes of age, the war moves inexorably from adventure to a nationwide tragedy. A compilation of films and images from the war plays, showing Yasser Arafat, the Israeli invasion, Hafiz al-Assad, and the American intervention. The film ends with Tarek breaking down crying while listening to his father play a guitar, and remembering the good times he had before the war. West Beirut explores themes of democracy, conflict resolution, and inclusion through the lens of a coming-of-age story set during the Lebanese Civil War. It portrays the experiences of young people navigating the complexities of war-torn Beirut and seeking freedom and self-expression amidst political turmoil.

Key events:

- The battles of Tayouna on October 14th, 2021.
- The battles of Kahhale (9th of August 2023).
- The continuous Ein el remmeneh/Tayyouneh disputes.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 105</li><li>• Country of origin: Lebanon</li><li>• Director: Ziad Doueiri</li><li>• It was screened at various film festivals including Cannes Film Festival and Toronto International Film Festival.</li></ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colonization</li><li>• Civil war</li><li>• Crime</li><li>• People</li><li>• Democracy</li><li>• Geopolitical</li><li>• Historical context</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
|---|--|

Trailer link: [Watch here](#)

Link: [Watch here](#)

## C.Egypt

### 1. Egypt we are watching you, 2007, Documentary.

The film talks about the role that ordinary citizens play in shaping and securing their democracy through the story of three women who start a grassroots



movement (Shayfenkom) to educate and empower the public by raising awareness about the meaning of democracy during Egypt's first multi-party presidential election. Three women, unable to sit by while their country is on the brink of drastic change, start a grassroots movement to educate and empower the public by raising awareness about the meaning of democracy. They name their campaign Shayfeen.com, which means to "we are watching you."

Key events:

- Egypt's 2024 Presidential Elections
- Egypt's 2020 Parliament elections
- Egypt joined the BRICS-led New Development Bank after
- The Egyptian government ratified its accession into
- The multilateral development bank in 2023.
- EGP devaluation in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 52 Mins</li><li>• Country of origin: Egypt</li><li>• Depicting real life events and peoples' stories.</li><li>• Documentary.</li><li>• NGO funded by the why foundation.</li><li>• Director: Leila Menjou and Sherief Fahmy.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elections</li><li>• Demonstrations</li><li>• Revolution</li><li>• Politics</li><li>• Media</li><li>• People</li><li>• Democracy</li></ul> |
|--|---|

Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 2. Tahrir: the good, the bad and politician, 2011, Documentary.

Tahrir 2011 documents the Egyptian revolution in Tahrir Square, specifically focusing on the passionate demonstrations that led to the arrest and trial of President Hosni Mubarak. Shot from the perspective of the demonstrators, the film captures the immediacy and intensity of the protests, showcasing the people's struggle for democracy and social justice. It also examines the violent response of the police towards the demonstrators and provides insight into Mubarak's regime and his tactics for retaining power. This documentary focuses on the events of the Egyptian revolution in Tahrir Square, portraying themes of democracy through peace and political inclusion, and communication.

The film showcases how the Egyptian people, through peaceful demonstrations and civil resistance in Tahrir Square, demanded democratic reforms and an end

to authoritarian rule under Hosni Mubarak. Despite facing violence and repression from the government, the protesters remained committed to achieving their goals through non-violent means, highlighting the power of peaceful resistance in promoting democratic change.

It portrays the diversity of the Egyptian population participating in the revolution, including individuals from different socioeconomic backgrounds, ages, and political affiliations. By following the stories of various demonstrators, the film illustrates how the movement for change transcended societal divisions and united people from all walks of life in their quest for political inclusion and representation.

The documentary captures the significance of communication and media in shaping public perception and mobilizing collective action during the revolution. It highlights the role of social media platforms and citizen journalism in disseminating information, organizing protests, and amplifying the voices of dissent against the Mubarak regime. Additionally, the film underscores the importance of effective communication within the protest movement itself, as demonstrators shared their grievances, demands, and aspirations for a more democratic Egypt.

#### Key events:

- Egyptian revolution in Tahrir Square leading to the arrest and trial of President Hosni Mubarak.
- Ongoing political and social unrest in Egypt following the revolution.
- Efforts towards democratic reforms and struggles for human rights in Egypt.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 90 Min.</li><li>• Country of origin: Egypt</li><li>• Depicting real life events and peoples' stories.</li><li>• Picked up by Venice Film Festival (Out of competition)</li><li>• Director: Tamer Ezzat, Ayten Amin, Amr Salama.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrations</li><li>• Revolution</li><li>• Politics</li><li>• Power</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• Economic</li><li>• Media</li><li>• Democracy</li></ul> |
|---|---|

Trailer link: [Watch here](#)

Link: [Watch here](#)

### 3. Ehh El Ebara ... What's going on?!, 2012, Drama film.

An industrious young man faces the test of revolution and displays a wide array of contradictory emotions, from fear to curiosity and from hope to bitterness.

Key events:

- Re-election of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi for a third term in April 2023
- Possible policy changes to the national pension system or early retirement options
- Potential launch of programs to improve youth employment or entrepreneurship

- Duration: 15 minutes.
- Country of origin: Egypt
- Drama film.

Topics and cross-cutting issues:

- Revolution
- Power
- Freedom
- Law and order
- People
- Democracy

Link: [Watch it here](#)

### 4. The square, 2013, Documentary.

In February 2011, Egyptians, particularly young ones, showed the world the way people demanding change can drive an entire nation to transformation. The result was a profound movement toward democracy that is still evolving across the Arab world. A documentary that vividly captures the Egyptian Revolution of 2011, focusing on the intense struggle for democracy. It follows activists at Tahrir Square as they challenge authoritarian rule through largely peaceful protests, despite violent crackdowns. The film showcases the crucial role of social media and independent journalism in mobilizing support and highlights the diverse voices within the movement, including significant participation by women.

The Square, a film by Jehane Noujaim (Control Room; Rafea: Solar Mama), looks at the hard realities faced day-to-day by people working to build Egypt's new democracy. Catapulting us into the action spread across 2011 and 2012, the film provides a kaleidoscopic, visceral experience of the struggle. Cairo's Tahrir Square is the heart and soul of the film, which follows several young activists. Armed with values, determination, music, humor, an abundance of social media, and sheer obstinacy, they know that the thorny path to democracy only began

with Hosni Mubarak's fall. The life-and-death struggle between the people and the power of the state is still playing out.

Key events:

- 2021 Egyptian parliamentary elections
- 2022 Egypt's hosting of the 2022 African Cup of Nations
- 2023 Egyptian presidential election

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 1 hour and 45 minutes</li><li>• Country of origin: Egypt.</li><li>• Documentary.</li><li>• Director: Jehane Noujaim</li><li>• The Square premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, where it won the Audience Award for World Cinema Documentary. In addition to, the Toronto International Film Festival</li></ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revolution</li><li>• Politics</li><li>• Power</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• Media</li><li>• People</li><li>• Historical context</li></ul> |
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Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

## D. Aftermath

### 1. La Haine, 1995, Drama.

Is a French drama that explores the lives of three young men in the aftermath of a riot in the Parisian suburbs. It focuses on their struggles with poverty, racism, and police brutality. The tensions between marginalized youth and authorities in suburban Paris. Its raw portrayal of social injustice and the struggles of disenfranchised communities.

Key events:

- **Social Unrest and Protests:** Massive strikes and protests erupted across France in November and December 1995 in response to proposed government reforms to social welfare and pension systems by Prime Minister Alain Juppé. The strikes, involving millions of workers from various sectors, paralyzed transportation and public services, marking one of the largest waves of social unrest in France since May 1968.

- **Rise of Extreme Right-Wing Politics:** The 1995 presidential election saw the emergence of Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the far-right National Front party, as a significant political figure. Le Pen's strong showing in the first round of voting, where he secured nearly 15% of the vote, underscored growing concerns about immigration, nationalism, and xenophobia in French society.
- **Paris Metro Bombing:** In July 1995, a bomb exploded in the Paris Metro at the Saint-Michel station, killing eight people and injuring dozens more. The attack, attributed to the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), a militant Islamist organization, heightened fears of terrorism and prompted increased security measures in France and across Europe.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 98 minutes.</li> <li>• Country of origin: France</li> <li>• Inspired by real-life riots and social unrest in France.</li> <li>• Drama.</li> <li>• Won Best Director at the Cannes Film Festival and many more international awards.</li> <li>• Director: Mathieu Kassovitz.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revolution</li> <li>• Minorities</li> <li>• Migration and displacement</li> <li>• Power</li> <li>• Freedom</li> <li>• People</li> <li>• Democracy</li> </ul> |
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## 2. Return to Homs, 2013, Documentary.

Intricately weaves themes of democracy's struggle amidst conflict, where inclusion becomes a rallying cry. Through the lens of communication, it unveils the voices of Syrian citizens yearning for change. Amidst the chaos, the film subtly underscores the environmental toll of war, urging reflection on the cost of conflict. In its raw authenticity, it beckons young minds to contemplate the essence of peace, democracy, and the human spirit. subterranean hospital.

Is a documentary that follows the journey of two young men, Abdul Basset Saroot and Ossama al-Homsi, amidst the Syrian conflict in the city of Homs. Initially part of the peaceful protest movement against the Assad regime, they find themselves drawn into the armed resistance as the conflict escalates. The film provides a raw and intimate portrayal of their experiences, capturing the brutality of war, the complexities of the opposition movement, and the personal sacrifices made in the pursuit of freedom and justice. Through their stories, "Return to Homs" offers a poignant insight into the human cost of conflict and the resilience of the Syrian people.

## Key events:

- July 25th Events
- Omar Al-Abidi and Political Developments
- Tunisian Socio-Economic Challenges

- Duration: 1 hour and 34 minutes. Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Country of origin: Syria
  - Civil war
- Depicting real life events and people's stories.
  - Shows life
- Secured funding from the Sundance Documentary Fund and the IDFA Bertha Fund, and gained acclaim at festivals like Sundance and Cannes
- Director: Talal Derki.

Link: [Watch it here](#)

### 3. Love and War at the Rooftop, 2015, Filmed comedy-theater play.

From the Trenches to Center Stage follows the remarkable journey of young adults from the divided communities of Bab El Tebbeneh and Jabal Mohsen in Tripoli. In the aftermath of conflict, MARCH Lebanon brings them together to craft a comedy play inspired by their own experiences. As former adversaries, they navigate the challenges of collaboration, ultimately forging deep bonds of friendship and understanding. Through humor and creativity, they shed light on the resilience of the human spirit and the power of reconciliation, offering a beacon of hope for their war-torn city.

The theater play serves as a platform for conflict resolution by bringing together individuals from opposing sides of a longstanding conflict and providing them with a creative outlet to express themselves. Through collaborating on the play, participants engage in dialogue, teamwork, and empathy-building exercises, fostering understanding and reconciliation. By showcasing their shared humanity and common experiences through storytelling, the play challenges stereotypes, promotes empathy, and offers a path towards healing and peacebuilding within the community.

**Key events:**

- Long-standing disputes between Jabal Mahasen and Beb el tebbeneh communities.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 40 minutes</li><li>• Country of origin: Lebanon</li><li>• Depicting real life events and people stories.</li><li>• Genre: comedy and filmed theater play.</li><li>• Director: Lucien Bourjeily</li></ul>	<b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Religion</li><li>• Coup d'etat</li><li>• Civil war</li><li>• Power</li><li>• Geopolitical</li><li>• Historical context</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul>
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Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

## 4. Matar Naem, 2023, short animation.

The impact of war on a port city and on people. Ekin Koca's story takes place in the aftermath of a conflict on the shores of the eastern Mediterranean. The inhabitants of a port city try to resume their routine, but their calm is disturbed by the sudden arrival of a storm. This animated short follows several characters and explores their evolution through different key moments before the rain, during the rain, during the storm and after the storm.

**Key events:**

Police brutality, presidential elections, pension reform strikes.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 4:35 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: France</li><li>• Animation.</li><li>• Director: Ekin Koca</li></ul>	<b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• War</li><li>• People</li></ul>
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Link: [Watch it here](#)

## E. From around the world

### 1. The Hour of Liberation has Come, 1974, Documentary.

The documentary captures the democratic and feminist guerrilla movement in Dhofar against the British-backed Sultanate of Oman. It explores themes of democracy, gender equality, and inclusion within the context of conflict

resolution and historical narrative. In the late 1960s, Dhofar revolted against the British-backed Sultanate of Oman, in a democratic, feminist guerrilla movement. Director Heiny Srour and her team capture this rare record of a now mostly forgotten war.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 65 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Lebanon.</li><li>• Depicting real life events and people stories.</li><li>• Documentary.</li><li>• Picked up by Cannes Film Festival.</li><li>• Director: Heiny Srour and her team crossed 500 miles of desert and mountains by foot, under bombardment by the British Royal Air Force, to reach the conflict zone and capture this rare record of a now most forgotten war.</li></ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Occupation</li><li>• Revolution</li><li>• Coup d'etat</li><li>• Colonization</li><li>• War</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• Historical context</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 2. O Thiasos, 1975, Historical drama.

Directed by Theo Angelopoulos, intricately weaves themes of democracy, peace, and conflict resolution through the journey of a traveling theater group during Greece's political turmoil. "O Thiasos" (The Travelling Players) is a Greek historical drama that follows a group of travelling actors who tour Greece between 1939 and 1952, during which the country experiences dictatorship, World War II, and the Civil War. The film explores their personal and political lives through this tumultuous period.

Key events:

- 1974 Turkish Invasion of Cyprus: A significant conflict affecting Greece and Cyprus.
- 1974 Greek Military Junta: End of the military dictatorship.
- 1975 Establishment of the Third Hellenic Republic: Transition to democracy.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 230 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Greece.</li></ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elections</li></ul> |
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- Depicting real life events; the film's events are directly tied to Greece's historical context from 1939 to 1952.
- Historical drama.
- Produced by Theo Angelopoulos Productions.
- Screened at Cannes Film Festival; received international acclaim.
- Occupation
- Revolution
- War
- Politics
- Power
- Freedom
- Democracy

### 3. Lion of the Desert, 1981, Drama film.

In 1929, Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini (Rod Steiger) was still faced with the 10-year-long war waged by patriots in the Italian colony of Libya to combat Italian colonization and the establishment of "The Fourth Shore"—the rebirth of a Roman Empire in Africa. Mussolini appoints General Rodolfo Graziani (Oliver Reed) as his sixth governor of Libya, confident that the eminently accredited soldier and fascist Grande can crush the rebellion and restore the dissipated glories of Imperial Rome. Omar al-Mukhtar (Anthony Quinn) leads the resistance to the fascists. A teacher by profession, a guerrilla by obligation, Mukhtar had committed himself to a war that cannot be won in his own lifetime. Graziani controls Libya with the might of the Regio Esercito (Royal Italian Army). Tanks and aircraft are used in the desert for the first time. The Italians also committed atrocities - killing of prisoners of war, destruction of crops, and imprisoning populations in concentration camps behind barbed wire.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 173 minutes.</li> <li>• Country of origin: Libya.</li> <li>• Drama film.</li> <li>• Director: Moustapha Akkad.</li> </ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revolution</li> <li>• Colonization</li> <li>• War</li> <li>• Politics</li> <li>• Power</li> <li>• Freedom</li> <li>• Historical context</li> <li>• Cultural context</li> </ul> |
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Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 4. Underground, 1995, Comedy Drama.

It explores themes of political conflict, social upheaval, and the impact of war on individuals and society. Set against the backdrop of Yugoslavia's turbulent history, the film explores the issues of democracy, inclusion, and communication amidst political unrest and social division. It follows the lives of two friends, Marko and Blacky, during and after World War II in Yugoslavia. Blacky leads a group of underground resistance fighters while Marko collaborates with the Nazis for personal gain. As the war ends, Blacky and his group are led to believe that the conflict is ongoing, leading to years of isolation and manipulation underground.

### Key events:

- **Siege of Sarajevo (1992-1995):** The capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, endured a brutal siege from April 1992 to February 1996, during which Bosnian Serb forces besieged the city, resulting in extensive civilian casualties and humanitarian suffering. The siege of Sarajevo symbolized the brutality of the Bosnian War and garnered international attention.
- **Ethnic Cleansing and War Crimes:** Throughout the Bosnian War, all sides engaged in ethnic cleansing campaigns, targeting civilians based on their ethnicity or religion. Massacres, rapes, and other atrocities were committed, including the Srebrenica massacre in July 1995, where Bosnian Serb forces killed thousands of Bosnyaks (Bosnian Muslim) men and boys. These war crimes shocked the world and led to calls for international intervention.
- **Dayton Peace Accords (1995):** Negotiated in November and December 1995 in Dayton, Ohio, USA, the Dayton Peace Accords aimed to end the Bosnian War and set up a framework for peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The agreement divided the country into two entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska, and created a central government structure. The Dayton Peace Accords brought an end to the fighting but left many underlying issues unresolved.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Duration:</b> 163 minutes.</li><li>• <b>Country of origin:</b> Yugoslavia.</li><li>• <b>Depicting real life events;</b> it is a fictional film but is set against the backdrop of historical events.</li><li>• <b>Comedy Drama.</b></li><li>• <b>Director:</b> Emir Kusturica.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• War</li><li>• Politics</li><li>• Power</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• Crime</li><li>• People</li><li>• Democracy</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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It premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 1995, where it won the prestigious Palme d'Or, the highest prize awarded at the festival. Additionally, the film was also selected as the Serbian entry for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 68th Academy Awards. Its success at Cannes and other international film festivals helped propel it to global recognition.

## 5. Kingdom of heaven, 2005, Feature film.

In medieval France, Balian, a blacksmith who is haunted by his wife's recent suicide after the death of their unborn child, meets a group of Crusaders who visit his village. Their leader introduces himself as Balian's father, Baron Godfrey, and asks him to return with him to the Holy Land, but Balian declines. Later that night, Balian kills his half-brother, the town priest, after discovering that he ordered Balian's wife's body beheaded before burial. The next day, Balian joins his father's group, hoping to gain salvation for himself and his wife in Jerusalem. They are soon confronted by soldiers sent to arrest Balian, during which many are killed, and an arrow strikes Godfrey. Reaching Messina, they have a contentious encounter with Guy de Lusignan, a prospective future king of Jerusalem who intends to break the fragile alliance between the Crusader states and Sultan Saladin with help from the brutal anti-Muslim Templar Knights. A night before the departure, Godfrey knights Balian and orders him to protect the helpless before succumbing to his arrow wound.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 194 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: multiple countries.</li><li>• Feature film.</li><li>• Director: Ridley Scott</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Religion</li><li>• War</li><li>• Politics</li><li>• Power</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• Democracy</li><li>• Geopolitical</li><li>• Historical context</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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Trailer link: [Watche it here](#)

Link: [Watche it here](#)

## 6. The last note, 2017, Historical Drama.

It investigates the themes of justice, reconciliation, and the impact of historical events on individuals and society. Set in post-World War II Greece, the film explores issues of democracy and communication as characters grapple with the

aftermath of war and the pursuit of truth and closure. It recounts the true story of the execution of 200 Greek resistance fighters by the German occupying forces in 1944 in retaliation for the killing of a German general. Decades later, a filmmaker sets out to uncover the truth behind the event, seeking justice for the victims and reconciliation for the survivors.

Key events:

- **Presidential Elections:** In January 2017, Greece's parliament elected Prokopis Pavlopoulos for a second term as President of Greece. Pavlopoulos, a former Minister of the Interior and professor of administrative law, was re-elected with broad political support, reflecting the country's efforts to keep stability amid economic and political challenges.
- **Macedonia Name Dispute:** The long-standing dispute between Greece and the Republic of Macedonia over the latter's name stayed a prominent issue in 2017. The Greek government continued its efforts to find a mutually acceptable solution to the dispute, which centered on concerns about the use of the name "Macedonia" and its implications for Greek identity and history. Diplomatic negotiations and discussions between the two countries intensified throughout the year, drawing international attention to the issue.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Duration:</b> 117 minutes.</li><li>• <b>Country of origin:</b> Greece</li><li>• <b>Depicting real life events;</b> it is based on true events surrounding the Nazi occupation of Greece during World War II and the later quest for justice and reconciliation.</li><li>• <b>Historical Drama.</b></li><li>• <b>Picked up by Thessaloniki International Film Festival.</b></li><li>• <b>Director:</b> Pantelis Voulgaris</li></ul> | <p><b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• War</li><li>• Politics</li><li>• Power</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• Law and order</li><li>• Crime</li><li>• People</li><li>• Democracy</li><li>• Historical context</li></ul> |
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## 7. Margarethe 89, 2023, Short animation drama.

This movie takes place in East Germany, during the cold war. The Federal Republic of Germany regime was not a democracy, thus showing us the

importance of freedom. Leipzig, 1989. Margarethe, a young punk opposed to the East German regime, is detained in a psychiatric hospital. She dreams of breaking out to join the man she loves - a punk musician named Heinrich. Though the regime's days may well be numbered, the Stasi informants are more present than ever.

- Duration: 18 minutes.
  - Country of origin: France.
  - Key events: Police brutality, presidential elections, and pension reform strikes.
  - Short animation drama.
  - Picked up by Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival.
  - Director: Lucas Malbrun.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Demonstrations
  - Historical context

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)



59<sup>th</sup> Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
Panorama



# Strella

a film by panos h. koutras

## II. Gender

### A. Person With Disability

#### 1. Engelchen Flieg, 2003, Drama film.

It explores inclusion and equality through the story of a family raising a daughter with a disability. The film might portray their struggles for equal access to education and societal acceptance, highlighting the importance of removing barriers and embracing differences within families. The movie centers around a family's life after the birth of their daughter Pauline. Michael, a caricaturist, and Hanna, an actor, live a carefree life with their son Patrick. However, their world turns upside down when Pauline is born with a severe physical disability due to a medical error. The film explores the challenges they face as they navigate their new reality

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 88 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Germany.</li><li>• Drama film.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Politics</li><li>• Minorities</li><li>• Power</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• Media</li><li>• People</li><li>• Democracy</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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#### 2. Vincent will ans Meer, 2010, Tragicomedy.

It explores themes of inclusion and acceptance for people with Tourette Syndrome. Vincent, the protagonist, struggles with his tics and social interactions, highlighting the challenges faced by individuals with Tourette's. The film also portrays the importance of support systems and finding one's place in the world. Vincent, a young man with Tourette Syndrome, feels stifled by the restrictions in a treatment center. After his mother's death, he escapes with a fellow patient, Marie (who struggles with anorexia), and a quirky roommate, Alexander (with OCD). Together, they embark on a chaotic road trip to fulfill his mother's final wish of scattering her ashes by the sea.

- Duration: 97 minutes (about 1 and a half hours).
  - Country of origin: Germany.
  - Tragicomedy.
  - Production: Olga Film GmbH (Daughter of Constantin Film).
  - Director: Ralf Huettner.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Politics
  - Minorities
  - Power
  - Freedom
  - Media
  - People
  - Democracy
  - Cultural context

### 3. L'envoûtement, 2023, Drama.

This movie can help us see how society treats people with disabilities, how they contribute to society, and how feelings play in relationships. In a horticultural facility that welcomes and employs people with disabilities, Bruno, and Céline, both mentally disabled, live in perfect harmony. Until the day Lucie joins the team of educators.

- Duration: 45 minutes.
  - Country of origin: France.
  - Drama
  - Picked up by Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival (2024).
  - Director: Nicolas Giuliani.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- People
  - Environment, ecology, and natural resources

Link: [Watch it here](#)

## B. Sexual assault and HIV+

### 1. 678, 2010, Drama.

It explores the issue of sexual harassment in Egypt, focusing on the lives of three women who are victims of such harassment. The film sheds light on the challenges women face in a society where such behavior is widespread, and it highlights the struggle for gender equality and women's rights. By portraying the harsh realities of sexual harassment and its consequences, "678" sparks important conversations about gender inequality, women's rights, and the need for societal change. The film serves as a catalyst for raising awareness and challenging attitudes towards harassment, encouraging viewers to reflect on



their own roles in combating such behavior and advocating for a more inclusive and fair society.

Key events:

- 2021 Egyptian parliamentary elections
- 2022 Egypt's hosting of the 2022 African Cup of Nations
- 2023 Egyptian presidential election

- Duration: 1 hour and 40 minutes. Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Country of origin: Egypt.
- Depicting real life events and people stories.
- Drama.
- Succeeded in winning two awards from the 47th Chicago International Film Festival in America.
- Director: Mohamed Diab.
- Sexual harassment
- Gender inequality
- Woman's rights
- Social classes
- Legal system

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 2. Asmaa, 2011, Film.

It tells the story of a woman living with HIV in Egypt and her struggle against societal stigma and discrimination. Through her journey, the film addresses issues of healthcare, inclusion, and the importance of communication in breaking down stereotypes and prejudices. It intimately explores the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS in Egyptian society through the lens of its titular character, a courageous woman living with the virus. The film depicts Asmaa's journey as she confronts discrimination, challenges societal misconceptions, and strives to assert her humanity and dignity in the face of adversity. Through her story, "Asmaa" poignantly highlights the urgent need for greater awareness, empathy, and acceptance towards individuals living with HIV/AIDS, sparking important conversations about the impact of stigma on those affected by the disease and the importance of breaking the silence surrounding it.

Key events:

- 2021 Egyptian parliamentary elections
- 2022 Egypt's hosting of the 2022 African Cup of Nations
- 2023 Egyptian presidential election

- Duration: 1 hour and 36 minutes. Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Country of origin: Egypt.
- Depicting real live events and people stories.
- Drama film.
- The film gained five awards from the Film Society Film Festival
- Director: Amr Salama.
- HIV/AIDS Stigma
- Healthcare Access
- Family Dynamics
- Human Rights
- Social Justice
- Public Health Awareness
- Empowerment and Resilience

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

### 3. A tin tale, 2011, Drama film.

This film sheds light on the harsh realities faced by women, highlighting the urgent need for gender equality. Through Mona's journey, the film exposes the inequalities, exploitation, and societal pressures that women often endure, emphasizing the importance of empowering women and creating a fairer society for all. In "A Tin Tale" we follow the tumultuous life of Mona, whose journey spirals from a coerced marriage to a much older abusive man to her descent into the dark underworld of prostitution and crime. Faced with societal double standards and personal tragedies, Mona navigates through a series of traumatic events, including betrayal, exploitation, and loss. As she grapples with her past and present choices, Mona's story unfolds as a poignant exploration of survival, resilience, and the harsh realities of life on society's margins.

Key events:

- **Murder of Nayera Ashraf:** 21-year-old student stabbed 19 times in Mansoura by Mohamed Adel, who had harassed her for a year after she rejected his marriage proposal. Despite filing restraining orders and reporting threats, authorities neglected her case.
- **Stabbing of Salma Bahgat:** 20-year-old university student fatally stabbed at least 15 times in Zagazig by a fellow student after rejecting his marriage proposal. The trial of the suspect is pending.
- **Violence Against Mary Magdy:** 35-year-old woman reported her husband for violent assaults, facing social pressure and initially receiving no legal action. After leaking surveillance footage, her husband was arrested, but she stays fearful due to lack of legal protection and unable to obtain a divorce.

- Duration: 22 minutes
- Country of origin: Egypt.
- Drama/film.
- Director: Aida El-Kashef.

Topics and cross-cutting issues:

- Minorities
- Freedom
- Law and order
- Crime
- Media
- People
- Cultural context

Links: [Watch it here](#) and [Watch it here](#)

#### 4. Nichts, was uns passiert, 2023, Film.

The movie tackles the sensitive topic of consent and sexual assault. It explores the complexities of a one-night stand that turns into a situation where the woman feels violated, while the man claims it was consensual. Anna and Jonas meet through their university friends and have a casual one-night stand. However, the next day, Anna grapples with the realization that she feels violated. The film explores the aftermath through interviews with Anna, Jonas, and a podcaster, highlighting he-said-she-said dynamic and the challenges of navigating consent and boundaries.

- Duration: 90 minutes (about 1 and a half hours).
- Country of origin: Germany.

Topics and cross-cutting issues:

- Politics
- Power
- Freedom
- Media
- People
- Historical context
- Cultural context

### C. En Sport

#### 1. A Woman's Goal, 2011, Short film.

This short film was directly tackling the aspect of both topics mentioned above, as the targeted group was women in Afghanistan who cannot perform what they like in a free manner, with the least of struggles. The movie has an insight into their private and professional life as football players. It was done by the German - Afghani journalist Lela Ahmadzi.

In Afghanistan women are not granted the opportunity to freely develop in many levels of society. Football gives women in Afghanistan the chance to build confidence and a new quality of life unknown to them before. Fear of attack is an ever-present threat. That is why the women's team is accompanied by security detail and train every other day on ISAF's military base in Kabul. Therefore, it is not unusual for the women to be forced to interrupt practice for the landing of a military helicopter at midfield. The young women's parents, while supporting their daughter's wishes to play football, are also concerned with their safety and future. In a patriarchal society, like Afghanistan, football is considered inappropriate for women. Between this tension of excitement for sports and the traditional roles that Afghan women have in society, rests my photography.

For the love of football, these women put their lives at risk. They learned to play in the Afghan women's national team. Sabera lives outside of Kabul. Every other day she makes a two-hour long journey through the perilous streets of Afghanistan. She says, "My parents have taken many risks, so I can play football. They support my wish, and our team provides information about women's football.

- Duration: 10 minutes.
  - Country of origin: Germany and Afghanistan.
  - Depicting real life events and people's stories.
  - Documentary.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Power
  - Freedom
  - People
  - Cultural context

Director: Lela Ahmadzai creates content and shares knowledge to connect people – her work is about people and their stories with topics such as conflicts, gender and war crimes and deals with political and social issues of our time. Born and raised in Kabul, Lela came to Germany at the age of 17. In 2009, she completed her master's degree specializing in photojournalism and documentary photography at Hanover University of Applied Sciences and Arts. Her photographs have been published in numerous international magazines such as Der Spiegel, Los Angeles Times, Standard, Courier International, ARD, Arte, BBC Pashto and many other outlets and have been shown in international exhibitions, including the Willy-Brandt-Haus, World Press Photo, Amsterdam, Fotoistanbul, KOLGA Tbilisi Photo, Photo Kabul, "Mediterranean Biennial Sakhnin" Israel, "Futebol", Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro. In 2014, her multimedia short film "Silent Night - The Kandahar Massacre" was honored with the World

Press Photo Award in the Short Feature category. Lela Ahmadzai has been working for Handbook Germany: Together since 2016, initially as a freelance multimedia content creator and now as the head of the multimedia team.

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 2. Wadjda (2012), 2012, Feature film.

It tells the story of a young girl in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, who dreams of owning a bicycle, a desire that is considered inappropriate for a girl in her conservative society. The film explores themes of gender justice and the struggle for female empowerment in a patriarchal society. It highlights the importance of communication and inclusion in challenging traditional norms and advocating for gender equality. The film highlights the struggles of a young girl challenging gender norms in Saudi Arabia. Her desire to own a bicycle stands for her fight for gender equality, highlighting the systemic barriers women face in patriarchal societies. The film emphasizes inclusion by focusing on Wadjda's fight to assert her rights and individuality in a restrictive environment. It underscores the need for societies to be inclusive, allowing everyone to pursue their aspirations without discrimination.

It illustrates the importance of communication in advocating for change. The protagonist's interactions highlight how dialogue can raise awareness about gender issues and push for societal transformation, despite the limitations imposed by a conservative society. While not directly political, the film explores democratic values through Wadjda's quest for autonomy and self-expression. Her peaceful efforts to assert her rights reflect principles of conflict resolution and advocacy for change through non-violent means. The film is relatable to young audiences as it centers on a young girl's dreams and struggles. Themes of resilience, empowerment, and pursuing one's dreams resonate with youth, making the film engaging and inspiring for young viewers.

- Duration: 1 hour and 38 minutes.
  - Country of origin: Saudia Arabia.
  - Feature film.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Gender Justice
  - Inclusion
  - Communication
  - Democracy through peace and conflict resolution

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

Depicting real life events that are deeply rooted in real-life cultural and social contexts of Saudi Arabia. The film's narrative and themes are inspired by the everyday experiences of women and girls in the country, reflecting societal norms, challenges, and the push for gender equality.

It premiered at the Venice Film Festival in 2012, where it received critical acclaim. The film also screened at various other international festivals, including the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) and the Telluride Film Festival. The film received funding from multiple sources, including Razor Film Produktion (Germany), Rotana Studios (Saudi Arabia), and support from the Saudi government. This backing was crucial in bringing the first feature-length film shot entirely in Saudi

Director: Haifa al-Mansour drew on her subjective experiences and observations of Saudi society to create an authentic portrayal of the struggles and aspirations of women in a conservative environment. While the story of Wadjda is fictional, it resonates with the real-life pursuit of freedom and equality by many women in Saudi Arabia.

### 3. Lift like a girl, 2020, Documentary.

From a scrappy, vacant-lot training site in Alexandria, Egypt to the Olympic Games, 14-year-old Zebiba ("raisin" in Arabic) stands at the precipice between childhood and weightlifting champion - guided only by her dedicated yet relentless coach, Captain Ramadan, and her own competitive edge. Can she make the leap? Zebiba's real name is Asmaa Ramadan. Although her last name is Ramadan as the Captain's, she is not his daughter. It is just a coincidence or not that they share the same last name, since the two share an incredibly special relationship. It was Captain Ramadan Who nicknamed her Zebiba (meaning Raisin in Arabic), because when she first started training, she was so little and as tiny as a raisin.

Key events:

- Egyptian parliamentary elections.
- 2022 Egypt's hosting of the 2022 African Cup of Nations
- 2023 Egyptian presidential election

- Duration: 1 hour and 32 minutes. Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Country of origin: Egypt.
- Social movement

- Depicting real life events and people’s stories.
- Documentary.
- Director: Mai Zayed.
- Youth activism
- Authoritarianism
- Social media and technology

It was shown in various international festival, as it took part in the documentary film competition of the Toronto International Film Festival in Canada in its world premiere, and it was also shown at the New York Doc Festival, “the largest documentary film festival in the United States of America.”

It won the Golden Dove Award for best film in the German Film Competition at the DOC Leipzig Festival in Germany. It also won the Best Direction Award from the Seoul International Children’s Film Festival in South Korea. It also won three awards from the Cairo Film Festival, namely the Pyramid Award. Bronze, the Isis Award and the Audience Award Youssef Sherif Rizkallah. He also won the Best Documentary Film Award in the Critics’ Awards for Arab Films, which is organized by the Arab Cinema Center at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival, and 160 critics from 63 countries voted.

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

#### 4. The Swimmers, 2020, Film melodrama.

Addressing topics such as family dynamics, gender in sports, cultural identity, athletes' struggles, social and economic challenges, and ethical dilemmas. Through its narrative, the film offers an insight into the complexities of achieving dreams in a competitive sporting landscape, while also highlighting broader societal issues. It is a story of two sisters navigating the challenges of competitive swimming while confronting family dynamics, gender biases, and personal sacrifices.

Through their journey, they learn about resilience, perseverance, and staying true to oneself.

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 2 hours 14 minutes.</li> <li>• Country of origin: USA and United Kingdom.</li> <li>• Film, Melodrama.</li> <li>• Picked up by BFI London Film Festival/Toronto International Film Festival/Cairo International Film Festival.</li> <li>• Director: Sally Al-Husseini</li> </ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power</li> <li>• Freedom</li> <li>• People</li> </ul> |
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Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)  
Link: [Watch it here](#)

## D.Roles and norms

### 1. Dar Joued translated as "The Men's House, 2013, Feature film.

The film centers on the lives of several women living in a traditional Tunisian house. Each woman faces unique personal and social challenges within the confines of a patriarchal society. The house serves as a place of confinement and refuge, symbolizing broader societal constraints and women's resilience. Through their interconnected stories, the film explores themes of gender inequality, tradition versus modernity, and the power of female solidarity in their struggle for equality and personal freedom.

The struggle for gender equality and women's rights in the context of Tunisian society. The traditional house, known as Dar Joued, becomes a symbol of both confinement and resistance, where women navigate their lives within the constraints of a patriarchal system while striving for personal freedom and social justice. It portrays the compelling stories of its female inhabitants who challenge societal norms and stereotypes by asserting their rights and supporting each other in a male-dominated environment. Through their experiences, the film highlights the ongoing struggle for basic human rights and freedoms in Tunisia, reflecting broader issues of gender justice and cultural change.

#### Key events:

- Presidential elections in Tunisia.
- Social protests and movements for gender equality.
- Economic challenges and reforms.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 1 hour and 45 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Tunisia.</li><li>• Drama film.</li><li>• It was picked up by Carthage Film Festival.</li><li>• Director: Salma Baccar, she is a pioneering Tunisian filmmaker known for her focus on women's issues and her contributions to Tunisian cinema. She has been</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gender Justice</li><li>• Minorities</li><li>• Power</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
|--|--|



instrumental in bringing women's narratives to the forefront in a traditionally male-dominated industry.

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

## 2. Espace, 2014, Short documentary.

This movie talks about gender equality and how space is divided between people. With the use of a sketch, a little girl explains how space and games are divided up at playtime, particularly between boys and girls, and how this poses a problem for her daily. Despite her various attempts to solve the problem, she cannot find a solution, especially as it goes unnoticed by other children and adults alike, who do not seem to be affected. We discover the subtleties of the geopolitics of public space on the scale of a schoolyard.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 14 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: France</li><li>• Documentary.</li><li>• Picked up by Cinéma du Réel.</li><li>• Director: Eléonor Gilbert.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Occupation</li><li>• Power</li><li>• People</li><li>• Geopolitical</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 3. Ibn Bnoot: virgin male, 2015, Short Dark Comedy.

A dark comedy exploring how life in Egypt would change if social roles were reversed, giving women authority over men. It challenges the usual roles of men and women in Egypt by showing a world where women are in charge and men follow. This makes people think about how society sees men and women and why it is important for everyone to be treated equally. Even though it seems like the focus is on women leading, the movie wants Egyptian men to think about how they see gender roles and why it is important for everyone to have the same opportunities. Using humor, the film starts conversations about how we think about gender and encourages everyone to think about creating a fairer society.

Key events:

- In 2021, courts sentenced at least four women social media influencers to two and five years in prison for morality-related offenses for their online videos and posts.
- In 2021, Edrak Foundation for Development and Equality said that it recorded 813 incidents of violence against women and girls - more than double the number recorded in 2020, which was 415.
- In 2022, incidents of violence against women reached to 1,006.
- In the first quarter of 2023, 51 murder-suicide incidents involving women have been reported, forming 92.1% murders and 7.9% suicides.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 5 minutes.</li> <li>• Short documentary.</li> <li>• Country of origin: Egypt.</li> <li>• Short Dark Comedy.</li> </ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media</li> <li>• People</li> <li>• Cultural context</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

## 4. The Cave, 2019, Documentary.

*"The film should put people in an uncomfortable position to look through the terrible reality around us"*

Oscar nominee Feras Fayyad ("Last Men in Aleppo") delivers a courageous story of the Syrian war with his powerful new documentary, *The Cave*. For besieged civilians, hope and safety lie underground inside the subterranean hospital known as the Cave, where pediatrician and managing physician Dr Amani Ballour and her colleagues Samaher and Dr Alaa have claimed their right to work as equals alongside their male counterparts, doing their jobs in a way that would be unthinkable in the oppressively patriarchal culture that exists above. Following the women as they contend with daily bombardments, chronic supply shortages and the ever-present threat of chemical attacks, *The Cave* paints a stirring portrait of courage, resilience, and female solidarity.

The struggle for basic human rights and freedoms in the context of the Syrian war. The underground hospital, known as the Cave, becomes a symbol of resistance against oppression and a place where individuals can exercise their right to access medical care despite the surrounding conflict. *The Cave* portrays the remarkable story of Dr. Amani Ballour and her female colleagues who challenge gender norms and stereotypes by working as equals alongside their male counterparts in the subterranean hospital.

Key events:

## Syria: civic war, peace conflicts, humanitarian crisis

- Duration: 1 hour and 42 minutes.
  - Country of origin: Syria and USA.
  - Picked up by the International Film Festival, Best World Cinema Sarasota Film Festival, a Peabody Award, and the Critics' Choice Award
  - Director: Feras Fayyad, in an interview, Fayyad said his purpose in making the film was to create documentary evidence that could be used to seek justice for innocent victims of the civil war.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Civil war
  - War
  - Migration and displacement
  - Power
  - Democracy
  - Cultural context

## E. Domestic Violence

### 1. Khalil, 2022, Drama short film.

The tender tale of Khalil finding solace in a rescued fish amidst domestic violence underscores the need for inclusive support systems and safe environments for individuals facing adversity. Khalil's journey highlights crucial issues related to communication and environmental well-being by showcasing domestic violence and fostering hope in turbulent realities.

#### Key events:

In Lebanon, while not extensively highlighted, the issue of domestic violence persists, often receiving limited attention from media and the community. Recent years have seen numerous cases of murders stemming from disputes, with men tragically taking the lives of their wives or children, shedding light on the urgency of addressing this pervasive issue.

- Duration: 18 minutes.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Power

- Films/documentaries was produced in specify the year: 2022
- Country of origin: Lebanon.
- Drama short film.
- Freedom
- People
- Environment
- Cultural context

Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 2. Close, 2022, Film

Exploration of gender equality and inclusion, coupled with themes of communication and social perception. It revolves around Remi and Leo, as they navigate their lives in their neighborhood. As Remi and Leo confront various challenges and conflicts involving characters portrayed by Émilie Dequenue and Léa Drucker, they form a bond that shapes their journey of self-discovery and connection.

Key events:

**Measures to Combat Gender-Based Violence:** Belgium has implemented various measures to address gender-based violence, including the launch of a national action plan in 2020. This plan includes initiatives to enhance support services for victims, improve prevention efforts, and strengthen the legal framework for combating gender-based violence.

- Duration: 104 minutes (about 1 hour 44 minutes).
- Country of origin: Belgium.
- Inspired by a real-life social situation.
- Picked up by Academy Awards nominee for best international film amongst other awards and festival participations.
- Director: Lukas Dhont.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
  - Minorities
  - Freedom
  - People

FROM ZEINA DACCACHE,  
THE DIRECTOR OF SCHEHERAZADE'S DIARY



THE DOCUMENTARY FROM

# 12 ANGRY LEBANESE

AN ARTISTIC PROJECT PRESENTED BY THE INMATES OF ROUMIEH PRISON

### III. Family: dysfunctional or functional, we do not know!

#### 1. Under the Bombs: That El Kasef, 2007, Drama film.

It sheds light on the struggles of civilians during times of conflict, emphasizing the importance of peace, conflict resolution, and resilience in the face of adversity. Tahet El Kasef follows the story of a family living in a war-torn region, navigating the challenges of survival and resilience amidst continuous bombardment. Through their journey, the film explores themes of community solidarity, the impact of war on civilians, and the pursuit of peace.

Key events:

- Explosion of Beirut Port.
- Constant fights and tension between Chiyah and Ein Rimmeneh residents

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Lebanon</li><li>• Depicting real live events and people's stories.</li><li>• Drama film.</li><li>• Selected for the Cannes Film Festival.</li><li>• Director: Ahmad Makki is a Lebanese filmmaker known for his poignant portrayal of human experiences in times of conflict. His directorial vision brings authenticity and emotional depth to the narrative, amplifying the voices of those affected by war.</li></ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• War, political, occupation</li><li>• Freedom, power, migration, and displacement</li><li>• Law and order, Crime</li><li>• Media</li><li>• People</li><li>• Democracy</li><li>• Environment</li><li>• Geopolitical</li><li>• Historical context</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

#### 2. Kynodontas, 2009, Psychological thriller.

"Kynodontas" (Dogtooth) is a Greek drama film that tells the story of a dysfunctional family whose children are kept isolated from the outside world by their overprotective parents. The children are taught incorrect meanings for words, making it impossible for them to communicate properly with the outside world, should they ever try to escape.

Kynodontas is linked to the theme of democracy through its depiction of an authoritarian family structure that contrasts sharply with democratic ideals, highlighting the importance of freedom, gender equality, and inclusion by showcasing the extreme consequences of their absence. The film's exploration of controlled communication within the family underscores the value of open dialogue and conflict resolution. Its unique and provocative narrative, combined with its critical view of repressive environments, appeals to young audiences by challenging them to think critically about these significant social issues.

#### Key events:

In May 2021, Caroline Crouch, a 20-year-old British woman, was murdered in her home in Athens. Initially, her husband, Babis Anagnostopoulos, claimed that she was killed during a home invasion. However, it was later revealed that Anagnostopoulos himself had killed her and staged the robbery to cover up his crime. This case highlighted issues of domestic violence and the failure to protect victims within dysfunctional family settings.

In early 2022, the death of 9-year-old Georgina Daskalaki in Patras drew national attention. Her mother, Roula Pispirigou, was accused of poisoning her with ketamine. The case exposed severe family dysfunction and alleged long-term abuse. The investigation revealed a pattern of suspicious deaths within the family, raising concerns about child protection services and systemic failures in identifying and preventing familial abuse.

Although the initial crime occurred in 2018, the ongoing legal proceedings and societal impact were prominent through 2021 and 2022. Eleni Topaloudi, a university student on the island of Rhodes, was raped and murdered by two young men. The case underscored the pervasive issues of gender-based violence and the need for better support systems for young women facing abuse within dysfunctional family environments. It led to widespread public outcry and calls for legal reforms to protect victims of domestic and gender-based violence.

- Duration: 94 minutes (about 1 and a half hours).
- Country of origin: Greece.
- Inspired by themes of control, family dynamics, and psychological manipulation.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
  - Power
  - Freedom
  - People

- Psychological Thriller.
- Cannes Film Festival won the Un Certain Regard prize; funded partially by the Greek Film Center.
- Director: Yorgos Lanthimos.

### 3. 12 Angry Lebanese, 2009, Documentary.

12 Angry Lebanese portrays the journey of a diverse group of Lebanese inmates participating in a prison therapy session, where they confront their personal biases and grudges. The film explores themes of conflict resolution, reconciliation, and understanding across societal divides, reflecting the broader context of peacebuilding and democracy, environment and inclusion. The documentary follows a theater director who introduces the inmates to the concept of theater therapy, encouraging them to reenact their own stories and grievances. As they delve into their pasts and confront their emotions, they begin to find common ground and empathy for one another, challenging their preconceptions and prejudices.

#### Key events:

- Economic crisis leading to the increase in crime rates.
- Corruption cases were revealed among politicians and high rank government positions.
- The cessation of work on prisoners' cases and their prolonged duration, adding to it the absence of a rehabilitation program.

- Duration: 1 hour 21 minutes.
- Country of origin: Lebanon

#### Topics and cross-cutting issues:

- Politics, revolution, coup d'etat
- Power, Freedom
- Law and order, Corruption, crime, economic, inflation
- People, geopolitical, Democracy, Environment, Cultural context

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

Was picked up by various film festivals including Toronto International Film Festival, Dubai International Film Festival, Doha Tribeca Film Festival, Abu Dhabi



Film Festival, Carthage Film Festival. These festivals provided platforms for showcasing the film and potentially contributed to its financing and distribution.

**Director:** Zeina Daccache, holds significant importance and value due to her pioneering work in using theater as a tool for rehabilitation within Lebanese prisons. Daccache's approach to documentary filmmaking goes beyond mere storytelling; she actively engages with marginalized communities and uses her craft to amplify their voices and advocate for social change.

#### 4. A separation, 2011, Fictional narrative film

It explores themes of family, morality, and social justice within the context of contemporary Iranian society. Through the story of a married couple facing a moral dilemma regarding the care of their daughter and the consequences of their decisions, the film raises questions about ethics, responsibility, and the complexities of human relationships. It follows the lives of Nader and Simin, a couple in Tehran, whose marriage is strained by conflicting desires regarding their daughter's future. When Nader hires a caregiver for his elderly father suffering from Alzheimer's disease, a series of events unfold that challenge their moral values and test the bonds of family and community.

**Key events:**

**Divorce Law Reforms:** In 2013, Iran's parliament passed a series of reforms to the country's divorce laws, aiming to address issues related to family disputes and marital breakdowns. The reforms included measures to streamline divorce proceedings, protect the rights of women and children, and provide greater access to legal aid for individuals navigating the divorce process. This event sparked debates about family law, morality, and social justice within Iranian society.

**Women's Rights Protests:** In 2018, Iranian women took to the streets to protest against compulsory hijab laws, demanding greater personal freedoms and gender equality. The protests, known as the "Girls of Revolution Street" movement, garnered international attention and sparked discussions about women's rights, autonomy, and the role of religion in Iranian society. These events reflected broader concerns about morality, social justice, and human rights in contemporary Iran.

**Child Custody Battles:** In 2016, a high-profile case involving a custody battle over a child between divorced parents captured headlines in Iran. The case raised questions about parental rights, the welfare of children, and the complexities of family relationships in Iranian society. It also highlighted the challenges faced by individuals navigating the legal system and seeking justice in family disputes.

- Duration: 123 minutes (about 2 hours).
  - Country of origin: Iran.
  - A fictional narrative film.
  - Picked up by Golden Bear, Berlin International Film Festival.
  - Director: Asghar Farhadi.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Power
  - Freedom
  - People
  - Cultural context

## 5. The hunt, 2012, Film

Is a Danish psychological drama about Lucas, a kindergarten teacher who is falsely accused of sexually abusing a child. The accusation spreads like wildfire, leading to his social ostracism and personal turmoil. The impact of false accusations on an individual's life within a supposedly democratic society. Its gripping narrative and ethical dilemmas resonate with young audiences, sparking discussions about the importance of fairness, empathy, and critical thinking in addressing social conflicts.

Key events:

Copenhagen Zoo Giraffe Controversy: In February 2014, Copenhagen Zoo sparked international outrage when it euthanized a healthy giraffe named Marius to prevent inbreeding. The decision, followed by the public dissection of the giraffe in front of zoo visitors, generated heated debates about animal rights, ethics in zoos, and Denmark's approach to wildlife conservation.

- Duration: 115 minutes (about 2 hours).
  - Country of origin: Denmark.
  - Addresses themes of hysteria, mob mentality, and the fragility of reputation.
  - Drama thriller.
  - Nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.
  - Director: Thomas Vinterberg
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Law and order
  - People
  - Democracy
  - Cultural context

## 6. Very Big Shot, 2015, Drama film.

It explores themes of corruption, power dynamics, and morality within the context of the criminal underworld and political landscape in Lebanon. The film provides a satirical commentary on the challenges of navigating ethical dilemmas in a society rife with corruption and inequality. It follows the story of three brothers who run a small-time drug-dealing business in Beirut. When they get caught in a police raid, they devise a plan to use their drug money to fund a legitimate business - a bakery. However, as their bakery becomes successful, they find themselves drawn deeper into the world of crime and corruption, leading to moral dilemmas and unexpected consequences.

- Duration: 1 hour 47 minutes.
  - Country of origin: Lebanon.
  - Drama film.
  - Was screened at various film festivals including Toronto International Film Festival and Dubai International Film Festival
  - Director: Mir-Jean Bou Chaaya is a Lebanese filmmaker known for his bold storytelling and social commentary. His background in addressing contemporary issues in Lebanon through cinema adds depth and relevance to the film's exploration of corruption and power dynamics.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Corruption, Politics
  - Power, freedom
  - Law and order
  - Money laundry
  - Drugs
  - Corruption
  - Crime
  - Economic
  - Inflation
  - People, Democracy, Cultural context, Environment

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)  
Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 7. Afterlov, 2016, Drama film.

Is a Greek drama-comedy about Nikos, a musician who is asked to house-sit a friend's luxurious villa. He invites his ex-girlfriend Sofia to spend the summer with him, leading to a series of emotional and humorous encounters as they confront their past relationship. This setup underscores the importance of communication in resolving conflicts and understanding different perspectives, while also highlighting issues of gender dynamics within relationships. The film's appeal to young audiences lies in its relatable portrayal of romantic struggles and the introspective journey of its characters.

Key events:

**Greek Bailout Referendum:** A major political event where Greeks voted on whether to accept bailout conditions set by creditors. (2015)

- Duration: 94 minutes (about 1 and a half hours).
  - Country of origin: Greece.
  - Premiered at the Locarno Film Festival, won Best Film in the International Competition
  - Director: Stergios Paschos.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Occupation
  - Power
  - Freedom
  - People

## 8. I, Daniel Blake, 2016, Film

I, Daniel Blake address's themes of social justice, bureaucracy, and the human impact of government policies. Through the story of Daniel Blake, a middle-aged carpenter navigating the complexities of the British welfare system, the film sheds light on issues of inequality, inclusion, and communication in contemporary society. It follows the struggles of Daniel Blake, a Newcastle carpenter who is denied disability benefits after suffering a heart attack. As he tries to navigate the bureaucratic maze of the welfare system, Daniel forms a bond with a single mother, Katie, and her children, who are also facing poverty and hardship. Together, they confront the challenges of poverty, inequality, and dehumanizing bureaucracy in modern Britain.

Key events:

In 2017, reports surfaced regarding delays and errors in the implementation of a government welfare reform program, resulting in hardships for claimants struggling to navigate the system. Throughout 2016, charities reported a surge in demand for food bank assistance, highlighting the growing reliance on emergency food aid among individuals and families facing financial difficulties. Concerns were raised about the fairness of welfare sanctions, with instances of

individuals being penalized unfairly and experiencing destitution as a result, particularly evident in 2015.

- Duration: 100 minutes (about 1 and a half hours).
  - Country of origin: England.
  - It is a fictional film but reflects the harsh realities faced by many individuals navigating the welfare system in the UK.
  - Won the Palme d'Or at Cannes amongst other awards and festivals.
  - Director: Ken Loach.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Politics
  - Power
  - Economic
  - Democracy

## 9. La belle et la meute, 2017, Feature film.

A college student seeks help after a brutal assault but faces a bureaucratic nightmare when she reveals that her perpetrators are police officers. During a student party, Mariam, a young Tunisian woman, meets the mysterious Youssef and leaves with him. A long night will begin, during which she'll have to fight for her rights and her dignity. But how can Justice be made when it lies on the side of the tormentors? During a student party, Mariam, a young Tunisian woman, meets the mysterious Youssef and leaves with him. A long night will begin, during which she'll have to fight for her rights and her dignity. But how can Justice be made when it lies on the side of the tormentors?

Key events:

Tunisia: violence, pre-election, police.

- Duration: 1 hour and 40 minutes.
  - Country of origin: Tunis.
  - Fiction thriller
  - Picked up by Festival du film francophone, Festival du cinéma méditerranéen, Festival Lumières d'Afrique, Festival de Cannes, Journées cinématographiques de Carthage, Festival du cinéma, Oscars.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Power
  - Freedom
  - Law and order
  - Crime
  - Democracy
  - Media

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

## 10. Capernaum, 2018, Feature film.

A poor young boy runs away from his house after his parents marry off his underage sister. Later, he sues them in court for bringing him into the world. It tells the story of Zain (Zain al-Rafeea), a Lebanese boy who sues his parents for the "crime" of giving him life. The film follows Zain as he journeys from gutsy, streetwise child to hardened 12-year-old "adult" fleeing his negligent parents, surviving through his wits on the streets, where he meets Ethiopian migrant worker Rahil, who provides him with shelter and food, as Zain takes care of her baby son Yonas in return. Zain later gets jailed for committing a violent crime, and finally seeks justice in a courtroom.

With his family grappling with extreme poverty, forever indebted to their ruthless landlord, the sad twelve-year-old boy, Zain, is forced to fend for himself in the squalid and overcrowded slums of Beirut. Unable to save his eleven-year-old sister, Sahar, from an uneasy arrangement, Zain will soon find himself all alone in a faceless city, ending up at a small amusement park to befriend another lost soul: the Ethiopian cleaner and mother of one, Rahil. But, in this grim and hostile world, there is no room for dreamers--and as a horrifying discovery is the last straw--a rabid desire for retribution possesses Zain and his bloodthirsty knife demands justice. Who is to blame when love becomes hate, and life turns into an unendurable torment?

The village signifies an importance, Capernaum used to be part of the Sea of Galilee in Historic Palestine.

Key events:

- **Refugee Crisis:** Lebanon continued to grapple with the influx of Syrian refugees fleeing the ongoing civil war. With estimates of over one million refugees residing in the country, this placed immense strain on Lebanon's infrastructure, economy, and social cohesion, leading to tensions and challenges in providing adequate support and resources.
- **Waste Management Crisis:** The "You Stink" movement gained momentum in response to the government's failure to address the country's waste management crisis. Mass protests erupted across Lebanon, particularly in Beirut, demanding government accountability, improved public services, and solutions to the environmental and health hazards posed by the accumulation of garbage on the streets.
- **Women's Rights and Gender Equality:** Lebanon saw increased activism and awareness around women's rights and gender equality during this period.

Several high-profile cases of gender-based violence and discrimination sparked public outrage and calls for legal reforms to better protect women's rights and promote gender equality in Lebanon's patriarchal society.

- Duration: 126 minutes (about 2 hours).
  - Country of origin: Lebanon.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Minorities
  - Migration and displacement
  - Power
  - Law and order
  - Cultural context

Capernaum is both the highest-grossing Arabic and Middle Eastern film of all time, after becoming a sleeper hit at the international box office with over \$68 million worldwide, against a production budget of \$4 million. Its largest international market is China, where it became a surprise blockbuster with over \$54 million.

The film was selected as the Lebanese entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the 91st Academy Awards. It made the December shortlist in 2018, before being nominated for the Academy Award in January 2019.

Director: Nadine Labaki She is known for demonstrating everyday aspects of Lebanese life and covering a range of political issues such as war, poverty, and feminism. She is the first female Arab director to be nominated for an Oscar in the category for Best Foreign Language Film for her third directorial effort, Capernaum (2018).

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 11. Yomeddine (Judgment Day), 2018, Feature film.

A Coptic leader sets out with his apprentice in search of their families. However, their journey turns out to be far more tedious than they expected. Beshay is a man who has recovered from leprosy but left with extensive scarring: he makes cash by scavenging for sellable items from the local garbage dump. Bashay is played with relaxed candour and without prosthetics by non-professional Rady Gamal. The feature was in fact developed by the director AB Shawky from his earlier documentary short entitled The Colony, about the Abu Zaabal leper colony, just outside Cairo. Bashay has been raised in the colony as a Christian, and evidently

married to a woman who has depression which has been insensitively and negligently treated.

- Duration: 1 hour 37 minutes.
  - Country of origin: Egypt.
  - Picked up by Cannes film festival.
  - Director: Abu Bakr “A.B.” Shawky is an Egyptian-Austrian writer and director.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Religion
  - Minorities
  - Migration and displacement
  - Power
  - People
  - Democracy
  - Environment, ecology, and natural resources

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

## 12. Systemsprenger, 2019, Drama film.

Highlights the struggles of a child in the foster care system who doesn't fit the mold. Benni's disruptive behavior challenges the system's ability to provide her with the care and support she needs. It raises questions about societal expectations and the lack of resources available for children with complex needs. Nine-year-old Benni is a whirlwind of emotions and unpredictable behavior. Having been through multiple foster homes and institutions, she struggles to find a place where she feels safe and understood. The film follows her journey as she clashes with caregivers and authority figures, yearning for a stable family environment and the love of her mother.

- Duration: 121 minutes (about 2 hours).
  - Country of origin: Germany.
  - Systemsprenger was screened at many film festivals, including the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale) where it won the Alfred Bauer Prize.
  - It also received international recognition at festivals like the Toronto International Film Festival and the Sundance Film Festival.
  - Director: Nora Fingscheidt
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Politics
  - Power
  - Freedom
  - Media
  - People
  - Cultural context



### 13. Oskars Kleid, 2022, Tragicomedy.

The movie explores themes of inclusion and acceptance as it follows a separated father, Ben, who must learn to accept his son Oskar's identification as a girl (Lili) and his preference for wearing a yellow dress. It touches on communication within families and the challenges of breaking down traditional gender roles. Ben's life is disrupted when his ex-wife needs him to care for their children, Oskar, and Erna. Oskar, however, throws him a curveball by refusing to take off his favorite yellow dress and insisting on being called Lili. Ben struggles to adjust to this new reality, navigating his own confusion and societal pressures, while learning to accept and support his child.

- Duration: 90 minutes (about 1 and a half hours).
  - Tragicomedy.
  - Director: Hüseyin Tabak.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Politics
  - Minorities
  - Power
  - Freedom
  - Media
  - People
  - Democracy
  - Cultural context

### 14. The film's title is Goodbye Julia, 2023, Feature film.

Goodbye Julia follows the story of Mona, a northern Sudanese retired singer in a tense marriage, who is wracked by guilt after covering up a murder. In an attempt to make amends, she takes in the deceased's southern Sudanese widow, Julia, and her son, Daniel, into her home. Unable to confess her transgressions to Julia, Mona decides to leave the past behind and adjust to a new status quo, unaware that the country's turmoil may find its way into her home and put her face to face with her sins.

Key events:

- Military dominance, economic struggle, and popular uprisings.
- 4th Civil War in Sudan (launched in March 2023)

- Duration: 120 minutes (about 2 hours).
  - Country of origin: Sudan.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Elections
  - Religion
  - Civil War
  - Politics

- Inspired by real events.
- The film received support from the Beirut-based Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC), The El Gouna Film Festival in Egypt, the Malmö Swedish Arab Film Festival, and the Red Sea Fund in Saudi Arabia.
- Women Education
- Minorities
- Power / Abuse of power
- Law and order Corruption Crime Economic
- Media People
- Historical context Cultural context

## 15. Un pincement au coeur (English title: Linda and Irina), 2023, Short film.

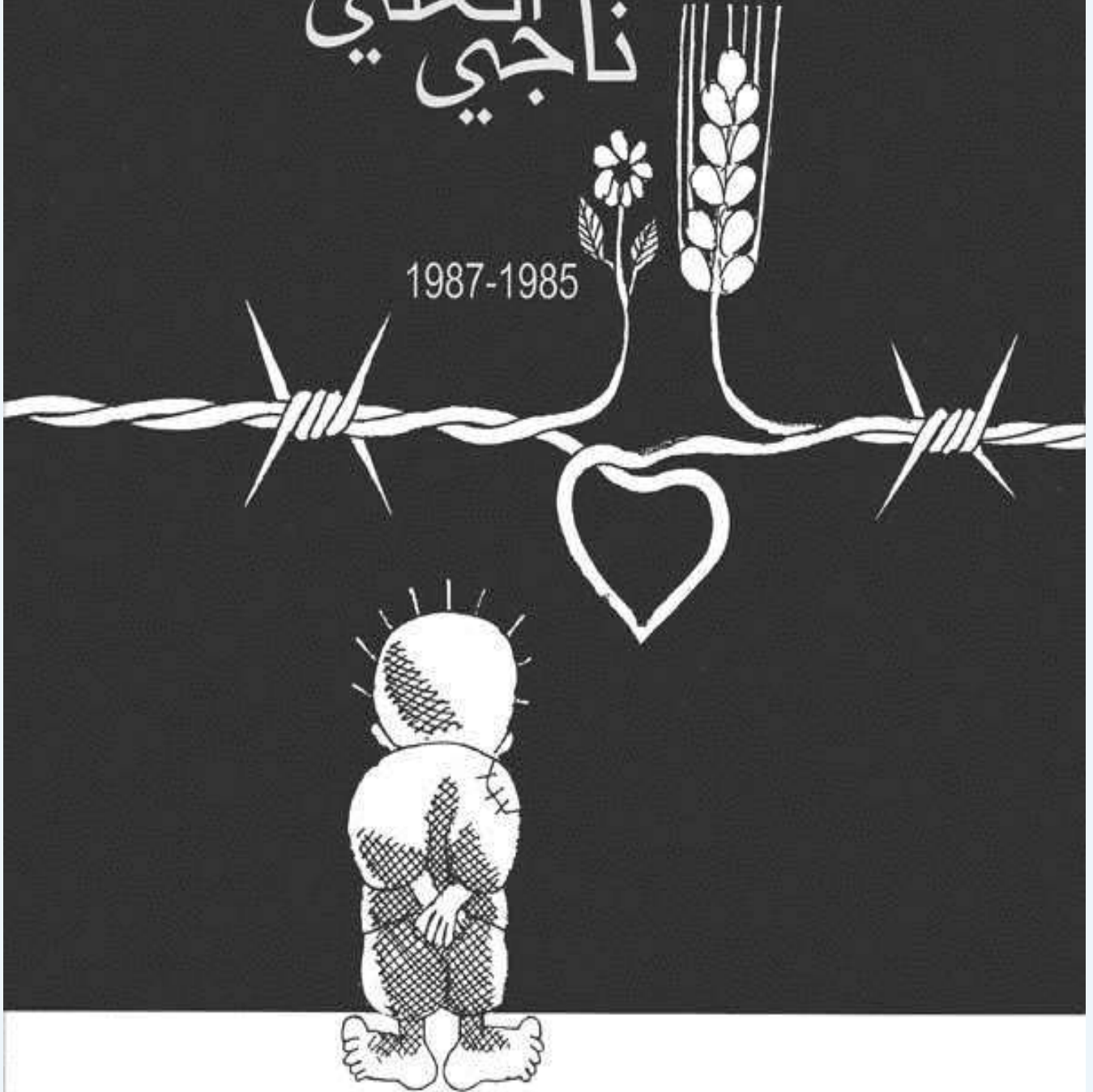
It is June 2021 and the end of the school year at the Hénin-Beaumont high school. Linda and Irina are best friends. Between TikTok videos and science classes, they confide in each other about their family, their future, and other teenage preoccupations.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 38 minutes.</li> <li>• Country of origin: France.</li> <li>• Picked up by Festival Côté Court de Pantin.</li> </ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media</li> <li>• People</li> </ul> |
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Link: [Watch it here](#) (PSW: UPAC280923!)

# ناجي العلي

1987-1985



## IV. Timeline of Exile: displacement, refugees, immigration

### 1. Cherkess (1900), 2010, Feature film.

The film story covers the arrival of immigrant Circassians to Ottoman Transjordan in the year 1900. Dostoyevsky said 'Beauty will save the world'... and this film is based on such a feeling. The film shows the various aspects of two cultures, the Bedouin and the Circassian, who were thrown together unwillingly by historical providence, creating a perfect recipe for controversy and violence but saved by the miraculous powers of innocent, unexpected love. This is a story of two young souls who fall passionately in love and by doing so create the opportunity for conflict and bloodshed... as well as for potential harmony and peaceful coexistence; the quintessence of drama, when the pendulum could swing in either direction. It shows the various aspects of two cultures, the Bedouin and the Circassian, who were thrown together unwillingly by historical providence, creating a perfect recipe for controversy and violence but saved by the miraculous powers of innocent, unexpected love.

Story of the encounter of two diverse cultures (Bedouin & Cherkess) in the year 1900 during the Ottoman period in the territory now known as Jordan. Conflicts arose over land and water rights and during these conflicts an impossible love story which amplifies the difference between the two cultures

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 2 hours.</li><li>• Film, Drama.</li><li>• Country of origin: Jordan.</li><li>• Director: Mohy Quandour.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People</li><li>• Geopolitical</li><li>• Historical context</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#) and [Watch it here](#)

### 2. Tous les autres s'appellent Ali, 1974, Drama film.

The film revolves around the romance that develops between Emmi, an elderly German woman, and Ali, a Moroccan migrant worker in postwar the Federal Republic of Germany.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 93 minutes (about 1 and a half hours).</li> <li>• Country of origin: Egypt</li> <li>• Drama film.</li> <li>• Director: Rainer Werner Fassbinder. He is one of the main figures of the New German Cinema.</li> </ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration and displacement</li> <li>• Freedom</li> <li>• People</li> <li>• Cultural context</li> </ul> |
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### 3. Naji (1987), 2021, Short film.

The movie intertwines themes of identity, belonging, and the impact of conflict on individual lives. Through Naji's journey, the film explores how personal struggles intersect with larger social and political dynamics, prompting reflection on the interconnectedness of individual experiences and collective challenges in the pursuit of peace and understanding. It follows the journey of Naji grappling with their sense of identity and belonging in conflict and displacement. Leaving behind loved ones and familiar surroundings, they embark on a quest for peace and understanding, questioning why they and others must bear the consequences of others' mistakes and conflicts. Through introspection and encounters with different perspectives, Naji confronts the complexities of loss, longing, and the enduring ties to their homeland, seeking resolution to the unanswered questions surrounding their displacement.

Key events:

The ongoing migration of refugees and their struggles in Lebanon.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 3 min</li> <li>• Director: Ammar el Saleh uses puppets to convey his message in short films, with each puppet embodying a distinct character and narrative.</li> </ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revolution</li> <li>• Coup d'état</li> <li>• War</li> <li>• Politics</li> <li>• Migration and displacement</li> <li>• Power</li> <li>• Freedom</li> <li>• Law and order</li> <li>• Economic</li> </ul> |
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- Inflation
- People
- Democracy

#### 4. Frontiers of Fears and Dreams, 2001, Documentary.

The movie is about the story of two Palestinian girls from Chatilla camp in Lebanon and the Dheshia camp in Palestine, through the experience of those refugee girls we penetrate to the heart of their forgotten generation. The filming happened at the same time as the liberation of south Lebanon from the Israeli occupation and the start of the Aqsa uprising. We live with Mona and Manar the cruelty of alienation and the power of reunion through the wire fence, which break the isolation and simulate the future. Through their experiences, the film sheds light on the interconnectedness of democracy, communication, and justice in the context of conflict and displacement.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 56 minutes.</li> <li>• Country of origin: Lebanon.</li> <li>• Depicting real life events and people's stories.</li> <li>• Got picked up by several documentary festivals and won several awards.</li> <li>• Director: Mai Masri is a highly regarded Lebanese filmmaker known for her powerful and socially relevant documentaries and narrative films.</li> </ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupation</li> <li>• Revolution</li> <li>• People</li> <li>• Democracy</li> <li>• Geopolitical</li> <li>• Historical context</li> <li>• Cultural context</li> </ul> |
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#### 5. Nirgendwo in Afrika, 2001, Drama Comedy Film.

Nowhere in Africa (original title: "Nirgendwo in Afrika") is based on the autobiographical novel of the same name by Stefanie Zweig. The film received critical acclaim and won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2003. The film explores themes of inclusion as the Redlich family navigates their integration into Kenyan society. They must learn to communicate and connect with the local people, overcoming cultural differences and language barriers. It also touches on themes of gender equality, particularly through the character of Jettel, who undergoes personal growth and empowerment as she adapts to her unique environment. Effective communication is a recurring theme in the film, as

the characters learn to express themselves and understand each other across cultural and linguistic divides.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 2 hours 21 minutes.</li><li>• Drama comedy film.</li><li>• Its dramatic narrative and emotional depth place it firmly within the drama genre.</li><li>• It was picked up by many international film festivals and won several awards including the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film (2003), Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), and several other awards.</li></ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Religion</li><li>• Occupation</li><li>• Colonization</li><li>• Civil war</li><li>• War</li><li>• Politics</li><li>• Identity</li><li>• Geopolitical</li><li>• Historical context</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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## 6. To You Wherever You Are, 2001, Documentary

After “Letter from a time of exile,” the director is back in Lebanon where he discovers that his dreams about his country are an illusion and that the exile in your own homeland is by far the worst exile. Through his experience, themes of disillusionment, exclusion, and the need for effective communication appear, reflecting broader societal challenges within Lebanon.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 52 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Lebanon.</li><li>• Documentary.</li></ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Religion</li><li>• Revolution</li><li>• Coup d'état</li><li>• Civil war</li><li>• Politics</li><li>• Power</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• Law and order</li><li>• Corruption</li><li>• Crime</li><li>• Economic</li></ul> |
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Won several awards, including the Best Arab Film Award at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival and the Best Feature Film Award at the Lebanese Film Festival.

Additionally, it received recognition at international film festivals for its powerful storytelling and poignant exploration of the lingering effects of war on individuals and families.

**Director:** Samer Daboul is a talented Lebanese filmmaker who uses his craft to shine a light on important social and political issues. His documentaries and narrative films offer poignant insights into the human experience and the challenges faced by individuals living in conflict-affected regions.

## 7. Die Migrantigen, 2001, Comedy drama.

The film follows four Turkish men living in Vienna, Austria. They stand for different experiences and perspectives on immigrant life. There's Yusuf, a taxi driver yearning to reconnect with his roots, Hasan, a struggling actor caught between cultures, Ibrahim, a nightclub owner grappling with family expectations, and Adem, a young man navigating the complexities of teenage life and his Turkish heritage. Through their personal stories and comedic situations, the film explores themes of cultural clashes, the search for belonging, and the challenges of integration. The film explores the concept of inclusion through the lens of cultural identity. The four protagonists navigate a world where they are neither fully accepted by their German peers nor entirely connected to their traditional Turkish upbringing. It highlights the generational gap between the immigrant parents, who hold onto their traditions, and the second-generation children, who are more assimilated into German society.

- Duration: 98 minutes (about 1 and a half hours).
  - Country of origin: Germany.
  - Comedy drama.
  - Director: Arman T. Riahi.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Religion
  - Politics
  - Minorities
  - Migration and displacement
  - Power
  - Freedom
  - Democracy
  - Historical context
  - Cultural context

## 8. Almania: Welcome to Germany, 2011, Comedy Drama Film.



The film was released in 2011 and tells the story of a Turkish-German family spanning three generations. The narrative is centered around the experiences of the grandfather, Hüseyin Yılmaz, who immigrated to Germany from Türkiye in the 1960s, and his family's journey towards understanding their identity and sense of belonging in Germany. It explores the cultural clashes and challenges faced by immigrants as they try to integrate into German society while supporting their cultural identity. The film portrays the struggles of the older generation, who often feel torn between their Turkish roots and their children's desire to assimilate into German culture. Through the Yılmaz family's experiences, the film investigates themes of inclusion, acceptance, and belonging. It highlights the importance of understanding and respecting diverse cultural backgrounds while also emphasizing the common humanity that unites us all.

- Duration: 1 hour 41 minutes.
  - Country of origin: Germany
  - Comedy drama film.
  - Won the Audience Award at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2011
  - Director: Yasemin Şamdereli, the director, won the Best Director award at the German Film Awards (Lolas) in 2011.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Religion
  - Politics
  - Minorities
  - Migration and displacement
  - People
  - Democracy
  - Geopolitical
  - Historical context
  - Cultural context

## 9. Wir Sind Jung, Wir Sind Stark, 2014, Feature film.

The movie is set in the city of Rostock in 1992 and is based on the real-life events of the Rostock-Lichtenhagen riots. It depicts the escalating tensions between the local German population and immigrants, particularly Vietnamese guest workers and asylum seekers from the Middle East. The story unfolds through the perspectives of different characters, including a young Vietnamese woman, a disillusioned German politician, and a group of far-right extremists.

It provides a poignant exploration of the complexities surrounding immigration, xenophobia, and identity in Germany. It offers ample material for discussions on multiculturalism, integration challenges, and the rise of far-right ideologies. This film could serve as a powerful educational tool for promoting empathy, understanding, and dialogue about the experiences of immigrants and the social dynamics in contemporary Germany. You could develop interactive activities such as group discussions, role-playing exercises, or creative projects that

encourage participants to explore different viewpoints and engage critically with the themes presented in the film.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 2 hours 7 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Germany.</li><li>• Feature film.</li><li>• Director: Burhan Qurbani.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Politics</li><li>• Minorities</li><li>• Migration and displacement</li><li>• Crime</li><li>• Media</li><li>• People</li><li>• Democracy</li><li>• Geopolitical</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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## 10. The Man Who Sold His Skin, 2020, Feature Film.

It follows the story of a Syrian refugee who agrees to have his back tattooed by a famous artist, turning his body into a valuable piece of art. With his new status as a living artwork, he gains the ability to travel freely, but he soon realizes the actual cost of his decision as he grapples with questions of identity, freedom, and exploitation. It explores the complex themes of migration and displacement, offering a poignant portrayal of the struggles faced by refugees. Through the protagonist's journey, the film sheds light on the harsh realities of limited freedom of movement and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals in pursuit of a better life. Additionally, the protagonist's decision to sell his body as a piece of art serves as a powerful metaphor for the intersection of power and freedom. It prompts viewers to ponder the implications of personal agency, the commodification of human lives, and the sacrifices made in the pursuit of liberty. Thus, the film serves as a thought-provoking exploration of the price one pays for freedom in a world marked by power imbalances and systemic injustices.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 1 hour 44 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Tunisia</li><li>• Director: Kaouther Ben Hania</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Power</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• Democracy</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

## 11. D'Oran à Almeira, 2023, Short film.

Aghilas, a young Algerian, is consumed by a life that no longer offers him anything in his native country. The prospect of a better life pushes him and a group of harragas to embark on a dangerous crossing.

- Duration: 6 minutes.
- Country of origin: France.
- Director: Lina Saïdani.

Topics and cross-cutting issues:

- Minorities
- Migration and displacement

Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 12. La voix des autres, 2023, Short film.

The movie centers around refugees. It is important to question how states include and treat refugees in our societies. Rim is a Tunisian interpreter working in France on asylum procedures. Every day, she translates the stories of exiled men and women, whose voices raise questions about her own history.

- Duration: 30 minutes.
- Short film.
- Picked up by the International Amiens Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival
- Director: Fatima Kaci is a screenwriter and director trained at La Fémis. She was awarded the Lights on Women prize at Cannes.

Topics and cross-cutting issues:

- Minorities
- Migration and displacement
- Power
- Globalization

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#) (psw: Sayonara23)



# V. Identity and belonging

## 1. Die Welle, 2008, Drama Thriller.

A high school history teacher, Rainer Wenger, conducts a social experiment to explore the allure of fascism. He shows a movement called "Die Welle" (The Wave) emphasizing discipline, order, and community. Initially intended as a harmless exercise, the movement gains momentum and starts to control students' behavior and their interactions with outsiders. As the experiment spirals out of control, Rainer struggles to dismantle it before it causes lasting damage. The film explores themes that relate to inclusion by highlighting the dangers of exclusion and group thinking. Conformity vs. Individuality; the experiment creates a sense of belonging within the "Wave" movement, but it comes at the cost of individual identity and critical thinking. This raises questions about the importance of fostering inclusion while also encouraging healthy dissent and independent thought.

- Duration: 106 minutes (about 2 hours).
  - Country of origin: Germany.
  - The film is loosely inspired by the "Third Wave" experiment conducted by California history teacher Ron Jones in 1967. The experiment aimed to prove how easily fascism could take root in a democratic society.
  - Drama thriller.
  - Picked up by the Sundance Film Festival in 2008.
  - Director: Dennis Gansel
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Demonstrations
  - Occupation
  - Revolution
  - Coup d'etat
  - Politics
  - Power
  - Democracy
  - Historical context
  - Cultural context

## 2. Son of Sofia, 2017, Drama Film.

Is a Greek drama about an 11-year-old Russian boy, Misha, who moves to Athens to live with his mother, Sofia, and her new Greek husband. The film explores themes of identity, belonging, and cultural clash through the eyes of a young boy. It explores inclusion through the lens of a young protagonist navigating familial and cultural complexities in Athens. Its emotive storytelling and visual language offer a compelling narrative for young audiences, fostering discussions on

communication and identity within a relatable context. The film's nuanced exploration of personal growth and belonging resonates with youth, making it an engaging choice for sparking dialogue on democracy, equality, and the challenges of modern life.

Key events:

- 2016 Refugee Crisis: Ongoing impact of the refugee situation in Greece.
- 2015 Greek Bailout Referendum.
- 2015 Election of Alexis Tsipras.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 111 minutes (about 2 hours).</li><li>• Country of origin: Greece.</li><li>• Inspired by the social and cultural integration challenges faced by immigrants in Greece.</li><li>• Drama film.</li><li>• Won the Best International Narrative Feature at the Tribeca Film Festival.</li><li>• Director: Elina Psykou.</li></ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minorities</li><li>• Migration and displacement</li><li>• Power</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• People</li><li>• Democracy</li><li>• Historical context</li></ul> |
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### 3. Hussies, 2022, Drama social commentary.

Is a contemporary Greek film exploring the lives of a group of young women navigating their way through the complex social and economic landscape of modern Athens. A young protagonist navigating societal tensions and personal growth. It addresses gender equality and inclusion, depicting characters from diverse backgrounds and highlighting their struggles and triumphs in a changing world. "Son of Hussies" engages young audiences, prompting reflection on communication and identity.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 95 minutes (about 1 and a half hours).</li><li>• Country of origin: Greece.</li><li>• Draws on current socio-economic issues in Greece.</li><li>• Drama social commentary.</li><li>• Picked up by Thessaloniki Film Festival (2022)</li></ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minorities</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• People</li></ul> |
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- Director: Despina Mavridou

#### 4. Taarafou or in English “Get to know each other,” 2022, Theater play comedy.

"Ta3arafou" is a poignant play inspired by the lives of 18 young individuals from diverse backgrounds in Beirut. Through humor, tension, and heartfelt encounters, they tackle pressing issues like fear of the other, misconceptions, and bullying. Facilitated by a Lebanese NGO-March Lebanon, these amateur actors unite to explore their identities and transform personal struggles into a powerful performance that celebrates unity amidst diversity. The theatre play "Ta3arafou" intricately intertwines its theme of identity and diversity with the experiences of its amateur actors. Drawing inspiration from their real-life stories, the play confronts societal issues like fear, misconceptions, and violence, while also delving into the characters' personal journeys of self-discovery. Through engaging dialogue and tense encounters, the play challenges audiences to reconsider their feelings and biases, fostering a deeper understanding of the complexities of Lebanese society. "Ta3arafou" serves as a powerful platform for dialogue and reconciliation, celebrating the strength found in unity amidst diversity.

##### Key events:

It is not merely an event but a broader concept encompassing the environment, situation, and cultural and approaches stemming from Lebanon's diverse cultural tapestry mentalities. With increasing polarization and growing friction, mainly: the fear and lack of trust in one another and the exclusion and marginalization of large segments of the population.

- Duration: 70 minutes.
- Country of origin: Lebanon
- Theater play, comedy.
- Director: Yahya

##### Topics and cross-cutting issues:

- Societal issues
- Religion
- Civil war
- Environment
- People
- Democracy
- Cultural context
- Geopolitical
- Historical context

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)



# الكيلو ٦٤

( K i l o 6 4 )



A film by: Amir El-Shenawy

Produced by Digital Tales Productions, Red Star for Production and Distribution, BluePrint Productions    Producer: Mohamed Taher, Karim El-Shenawy  
Co-Producer: Amir El-Shenawy    Director of Photography: Mohamed Taher    Editor: Badr Dahi    Music: Karim Younis    Sound Mixing: Ahmed Adnan  
First Assistant Director: Ahmed Abdelsalam    Poster Design: Disco Arcade





# VI. Environment

## 1. Here Comes the Rain, 2010, Feature film.

It follows the journey of a young woman living in a coastal village as she navigates the complexities of her community's response to environmental degradation and political unrest. Against the backdrop of a changing climate and social upheaval, she becomes a catalyst for change, inspiring her peers to act and advocate for democracy, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. It explores themes of democracy through its portrayal of societal challenges and personal struggles in the face of political turmoil and environmental crises. The film highlights the importance of resilience, community empowerment, and environmental stewardship in fostering democratic values and promoting social change.

Key events:

It relates to the historical context in Lebanon and the case of kidnapped individuals during the Lebanese civil war.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 1 hour 38 minutes</li><li>• Country of origin: Lebanon.</li><li>• Feature film.</li><li>• It was screened at the Beirut International Film Festival.</li><li>• Director: Bahij Hojeij.</li></ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Religion, Politics, civil war</li><li>• Power, Freedom</li><li>• Democracy</li><li>• Environment</li><li>• Geopolitical</li><li>• Historical context</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

## 2. Just eat it: A food waste story, 2014, Documentary.

This movie looks at the global problem of food waste and explores the impact of this phenomenon on the environment, the economy and society. The documentary follows Grant Baldwin and Jenny Rustemeyer, who decide to live exclusively on wasted food for six months. Through their experience, they highlight the enormous amount of perfectly edible food that is thrown away every

year. The film explores diverse aspects of food waste, from farms and supermarkets to individual households.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 73 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Canada.</li><li>• Documentary.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic</li><li>• Environment, ecology, and natural resources</li><li>• Gas</li><li>• Water</li></ul> |
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Won the Best Documentary Award (Leo Awards at British Columbia), the People's Choice Award at Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival (Amérique du Nord) and screened in several documentary festivals.

Director: Grant Baldwin, director of "Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story," is known for his environmental documentaries that raise awareness about critical issues like food waste and sustainability. His work, including "The Clean Bin Project," uses a personal approach to make complex topics accessible and engaging. His award-winning films, such as "Just Eat It" which received awards at the Hot Docs and Leo Awards, are making a significant social impact by educating and inspiring audiences to adopt more sustainable practices. Baldwin and Jenny Rustemeyer (the producer) are influential figures in the zero-waste movement, inspiring more responsible lifestyles.

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

### 3. Killo 64, 2018, Documentary.

The journey of an ambitious pharmacy graduate who shifts career and starts a farming business at Kilo 64 off Cairo-Alexandria desert road. It follows the main character (Wael El-Shenawy)'s journey from pharmacy to farming, showing how his story reflects a growing trend of eco-friendly entrepreneurship after the revolution. It highlights the challenges and rewards of sustainable farming on his family's reclaimed land, emphasizing the importance of individual action in promoting environmental and social progress.

Key events:

- Egypt hosted COP27 in 2022.

- The National Initiative for Smart Green Projects (NISGP) was launched in 2022.
- In 2022, the MOIC and Egyptian agriculture ministry signed an agreement to update the Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy 2030 and prepare a medium-term action plan. The strategy will be integrating the current SADS with interlinkages between agriculture, water, land use, climate change, agro-industry, input supply, food security and nutrition.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 76 minutes.</li> <li>• Country of origin: Egypt</li> <li>• Documentary.</li> <li>• Picked up by several film festivals such as Cairo International Film Festival (2018), Malmo Arab Film Festival (2018), Goldsmiths Film Festival (2020).</li> <li>• Director: Amir El-Shenawy.</li> </ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupation</li> <li>• Economic</li> <li>• Inflation</li> <li>• People</li> <li>• Environment, ecology, and natural resources</li> <li>• Climate</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Cultural context</li> </ul> |
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Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

#### 4. Nightshift, 2021, Short film.

Zein, a young man in his mid-20s, seems content with his job as a customer service representative for an internet service provider. During one of his shifts, way past midnight, he receives a call from a customer, Akram. Complaining about a malfunction, Akram's frustration starts growing. His dissatisfaction with the process gradually becomes an abusive rant, during which he lashes out at Zein, exposing to him the drudgery of his work, his powerlessness, and the ugliness of his life.

Key events:

- The Egyptian government has launched programs aimed at increasing youth employment and improving social security for retirees.
- Initiatives for Youth: There could have been programs launched to improve youth employment or entrepreneurship.
- Egypt has a large and growing youth population. This can be seen as both a challenge (high unemployment) and an opportunity (workforce potential).

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 14 minutes.</li> <li>• Country of origin: Egypt.</li> </ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupation</li> </ul> |
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- Picked up by Cleveland International Film Festival, Ajyal Film Festival, Gold Coast International Film Festival, and other film festivals.
- Director: Karim Shaaban.
- Power
- Law and order
- People

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 5. La nuit blanche, 2022, Short animation.

Beth, a courageous arborist, and her colleagues spend an exhausting night in the heart of the countryside, trying to save their orchards at all costs from the destructive frost announced that very morning. Arboriculture and climate change are linked to democracy; arborists must follow the laws, and climate change depends on what societies do. The future of the planet depends on what states do.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 4 minutes.</li> <li>• Country of origin: France.</li> <li>• Short animation.</li> <li>• Picked up by Anima (the Brussels International Animation Film Festival).</li> </ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment, ecology, and natural resources</li> </ul> |
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Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 6. Au 8ème jour, 2023, Short Animation.

It took seven days to create the world, but only one to disrupt its balance.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration: 8 minutes.</li> <li>• Country of origin: France.</li> <li>• Short animation.</li> <li>• Picked up by Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival.</li> </ul> | <p>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment, ecology, and natural resources</li> <li>• Climate</li> </ul> |
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Link: [Watch it here \(PSW: pole3d\\_jour8\)](#)

## 7. Tête en l'air, 2023, Short film.

Alfonso, a young squirrel, always has his head in the clouds. He loves watching them and sometimes takes snapshots of them. His parents and friends find it hard to take his hobby seriously. But cloud-gazing is not always easy – Alfonso sometimes must be as brave as some of the great explorers of our times...

- Duration: 11 minutes.
- Country of origin: France.
- Short film.

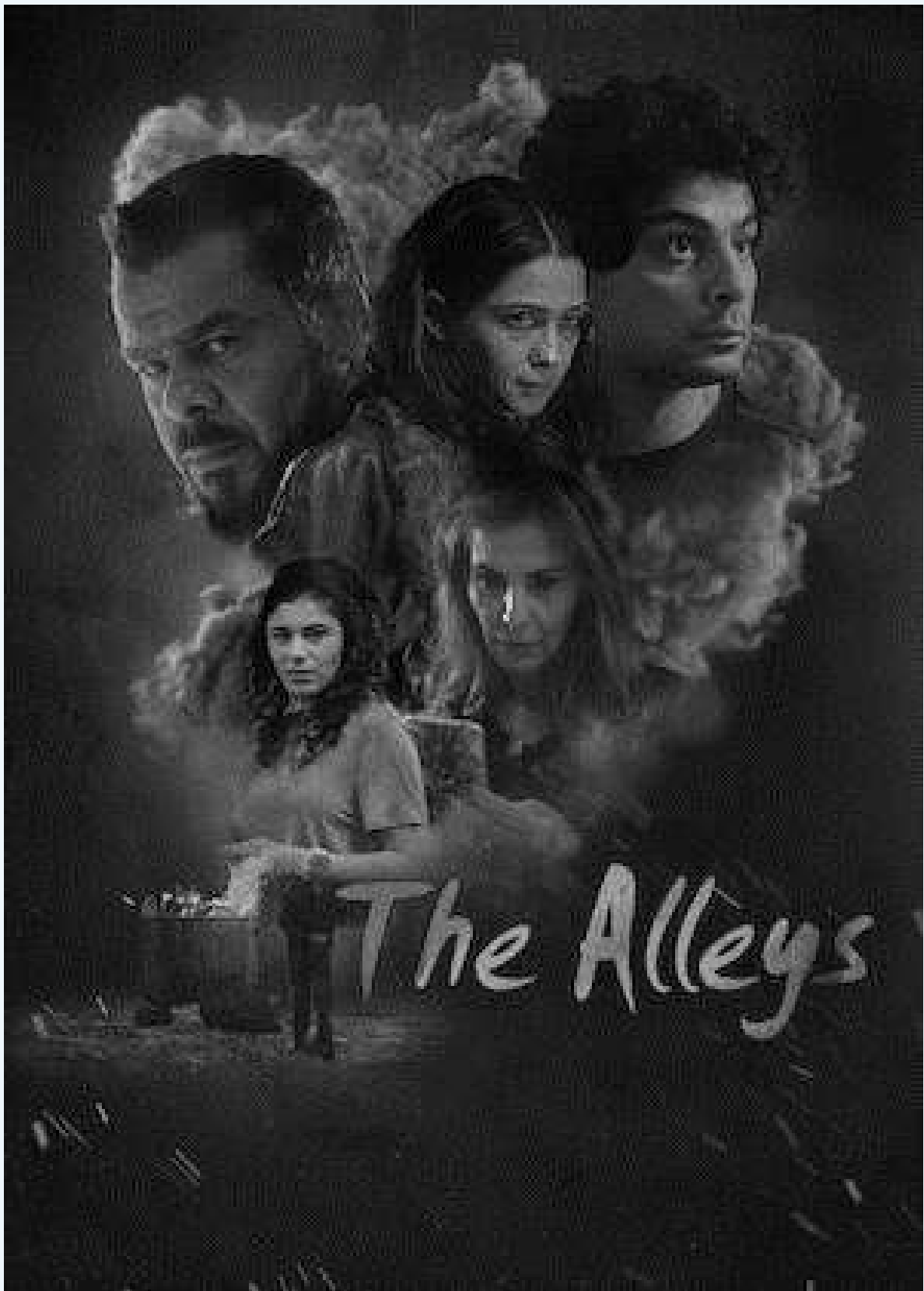
Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 8. Charbon de terre, 2024, Short Animation.

In the countryside of the distant past, in the mines and factories, these men of the past share the same sorrows, the humbleness of everyday life.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 13 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: France.</li><li>• Short Animation.</li><li>•</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environment, ecology, and natural resources</li><li>• Climate</li><li>• Historical context</li></ul> |
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Link: [Watch it here](#)



## VII. Life goes on...

### A. Mental health and wellbeing

#### 1. Zelal, 2010, Documentary.

The film is about the world of psychiatry and "madness". An invitation to probe into one of Egypt's least exposed areas: the world of psychiatry and "madness". The daily detention of those who have gone to the other side of society. The film is a foray into this world of outcasts and recluses.

- Duration: 90 minutes (about 1 and a half hours).
  - Country of origin: Egypt.
  - Documentary.
  - Participated in several film festivals, Centre Cinématographique Marocain, Dubai Media and Entertainment Organisation in association with Dubai Film Market (Enjaaz), Fonds Francophone de Production Audiovisuelle du Sud, Fonds Sud Cinéma, and MISR International Films
  - 2010 Nominee Venice Horizons Award, 2010 Nominee Muhr Arab Award, and the winner of 2010 Winner FIPRESCI Prize.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Drugs
  - Corruption
  - People

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

#### 2. Doaa, 2023, Short Film.

Doaa is a girl suffering from obsessive-compulsive disorder, which struck her after the death of her father. Doaa believes that everyone around her wants to get rid of her. She even cuts herself off from her friends, and when they come to her house, she complains to them about her mother, and the suffering increases after her family understands what she is going through.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 15 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Egypt.</li><li>• Short film.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minorities</li><li>• Law and order</li><li>• People</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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Link: [Watch it here](#)

## B. People mobility

### 1. Walled Citizen, 2020, documentary.

Despite living between walls and carrying one of the world's weakest ranking passports, a Palestinian filmmaker tries to travel the world in search for freedom.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 60 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Palestine.</li><li>• Documentary.</li><li>• Director: Sameer Qumsiyeh.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Occupation</li><li>• Revolution</li><li>• Colonization</li><li>• War</li><li>• Politics</li><li>• Power</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• People</li><li>• Democracy</li></ul> |
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Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

## C. Life as we know it

### 1. Das Leben der Anderen, 2006, Political thriller film.



The movie tackle's themes of government surveillance, freedom of expression, and the power of art. It highlights the oppressive nature of a totalitarian state that controls information and communication. We see the Stasi officer, Wiesler, grappling with his role in silencing others and the impact it has on individuals and society. Set in East Berlin during the Stasi era (1984), the film follows Captain Gerd Wiesler, a Stasi agent tasked with spying on a famous playwright, Georg Dreyman, and his acting girlfriend, Christa-Maria Sieland. As Wiesler delves deeper into their lives, he becomes increasingly disillusioned with the Stasi's methods and starts to question his loyalty.

- Duration: 137 minutes (about 2 and a half hours).
  - Country of origin: Germany
  - Director: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarc
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Power
  - Freedom
  - Law and order
  - Democracy
  - Cultural context

While the story is fictional, it is heavily inspired by the real-life activities of the Stasi, the secret police of East Germany. The film captures the atmosphere of fear and paranoia that existed under such a regime.

Political thriller with dramatic elements.

The film was initially rejected by the Berlin International Film Festival but gained widespread recognition after its premiere. It won many awards, including the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

## 2. Bolteya al Ayma, 2008, Film.

An invitation to probe into one of Egypt's least exposed areas: the world of poor people. The daily detention of those who have gone to the other side of society. The film tells the story of a widowed fish merchant named "Baltia," played by Abla Kamel, who resists a plan led by a group of investors to seize El Max Beach in Alexandria and expel the fishers from it.

- Duration: 90 minutes (about 1 and a half hours).
  - Country of origin: Egypt.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Minorities
  - Law and order
  - Corruption
  - People

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

### 3. Blessed benefits, 2016, Feature film.

Ahmad, a construction worker, is arrested for using a client's down payment to help his cousin in a deal involving 10 brand-new laptops and they hope to make a small profit from it. Due to customs procedures, the imported laptops are not released in time. Unable to do the job or pay the money back, Ahmad is sentenced to three months in prison for fraud. Far from all the obligations of the outside world, where food and drink are not a worry, where new friendships are struck, and where no cell phones are ringing, Ahmad gradually feels something that he never felt before – liberty. Halfway through his sentence his biggest worry becomes losing this liberty after his release and having to deal with a bigger debt.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 83 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Jordan</li><li>• Feature film.</li><li>• Picked up by Toronto International Film Festival.</li><li>• Director: Mahmoud Almassad.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law and order</li><li>• Crime</li><li>• Economic</li><li>• Inflation</li><li>• People</li></ul> |
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Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

### 4. Adults in the room, 2019, Feature film.

Is based on the book by Yanis Varoufakis, offering an inside investigating of Greece's budgetary crisis and the intense negotiations between the Greek government and the European Union. The film portrays the political turmoil and economic struggles faced by Greece during this period, delving into the complexities of power dynamics and international relations. The film directly addresses the theme of political crisis and economic turmoil, depicting the challenges and conflicts arising from Greece's financial instability and the austerity measures imposed by the EU. It focuses on the political and economic negotiations between Greece and its creditors, shedding light on the intricate web of power struggles and ideological clashes that shaped the country's response to the crisis.

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| <b>Duration: 2 hours 4 minutes.</b> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> |
|-------------------------------------|---|

Country of origin: Greece.  
Feature film.  
Director: Costa-Gavras

Politics  
Power  
Freedom  
Economic  
Democracy  
Historical context  
Cultural context

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

## 5. The Alley, 2021, Feature film.

In a claustrophobic East Amman neighborhood, where gossip and violence run rampant, Ali, a hustler who pretends to be a businessperson, has a secret relationship with Lana. Their romance is kept hidden until one day Lana's mother, Aseel, is blackmailed with a video of the young couple. Hoping to avoid public embarrassment, Aseel discreetly convinces Abbas, a ruthless gangster, to put a stop to it... but things do not go so smoothly. Their lives start to intertwine and collide not just with each other, but with the other residents living amongst the same Alleys.

- Duration: 156 minutes (about 2 and a half hours).
  - Country of origin: Jordan.
  - Feature film.
  - Mention: Bassel Ghandour.
- Topics and cross-cutting issues:
- Law and order
  - Drugs
  - Corruption
  - Crime
  - People
  - Cultural context

Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 6. Nightshift, 2021, Short film.

Zein, a young man in his mid-20s, seems content with his job as a customer service representative for an internet service provider. During one of his shifts, way past midnight, he receives a call from a customer, Akram. Complaining about a malfunction, Akram's frustration starts growing. His dissatisfaction with the process gradually becomes an abusive rant, during which he lashes out at Zein, exposing to him the drudgery of his work, his powerlessness, and the ugliness of his life.

## Key events:

- The Egyptian government has launched programs aimed at increasing youth employment and improving social security for retirees.
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 14 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Egypt.</li><li>• Short film.</li><li>• It was picked up by several film festivals such as Cleveland International Film Festival, Ajyal Film Festival, Gold Coast International Film Festival, and others.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Occupation</li><li>• Power</li><li>• Law and order</li><li>• People</li></ul> |
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Trailer link: [Watch it here](#)

Link: [Watch it here](#)

## 7. Ich bin dein Mensch, 2021, Sci-Fi dramedy.

While not the focus, the film indirectly touches on gender roles and expectations in relationships. It explores how a woman (Alma) interacts with a male-presenting robot (Tom) designed to be her ideal partner. These dynamic challenges traditional notions of what constitutes a fulfilling relationship and raise questions about emotional connection and artificial intelligence. A key theme is communication between humans and artificial intelligence. The film explores the challenges and possibilities of interaction, displaying how Tom's programming and Alma's emotional responses create a complex communication dynamic.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 105 minutes (about 2 hours).</li><li>• Country of origin: Germany.</li><li>• Sci-Fi dramedy.</li><li>• The film premiered at the 71st Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale) in 2021.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Power</li><li>• Freedom</li><li>• People</li><li>• Historical context</li><li>• Cultural context</li></ul> |
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## 8. Hanging Gardens, 2022, Feature film.

When a young Iraqi rubbish picker rescues an American sex doll from the Baghdad dumps, he crosses into a perilous red zone, where friends become enemies, and nothing is certain in an explosive mix of love, war, and madness.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 1 hour 57 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: Iraq.</li><li>• Feature film.</li><li>• Picked up by several film festivals.</li><li>• Director: Ahmed Yassin Al Daradji</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Occupation</li><li>• War</li><li>• Politics</li><li>• Law and order</li><li>• People</li><li>• Democracy</li></ul> |
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Trailer: [Watch it here](#)

## 9. Et si le soleil plongeait dans l'océan des nues, 2023, Short film docufiction.

Beirut, Lebanon. On the waterfront's construction site, security agent Raed must prevent passing-by walkers from accessing the seaside. Yet as the horizon becomes more stifled each day by the construction, Raed makes peculiar encounters - mere dreams, or symbols of his desires?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 20 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: France and Lebanon.</li><li>• Short film docufiction.</li><li>• Picked up by Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law and order</li><li>• Corruption</li><li>• Crime</li><li>• Democracy</li></ul> |
|---|--|

Link: [Watch it here](#) (PSW: EtsileDEF)

## 10. Skatepark, 2023, Short film.

No one has ever seen a skateboarder on this skatepark in the Loiret region. This remote village spot is deserted. But if you hang around for a while, you enter the

realm of teenagers, an adult-free empire where relationships are made and broken according to the rhythm of the seasons.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Duration: 35 minutes.</li><li>• Country of origin: France.</li><li>• Short film.</li></ul> | <b>Topics and cross-cutting issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People</li><li>• Democracy</li></ul> |
|--|--|

Link: [Watch it here](#) (password: FACEB2023)



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