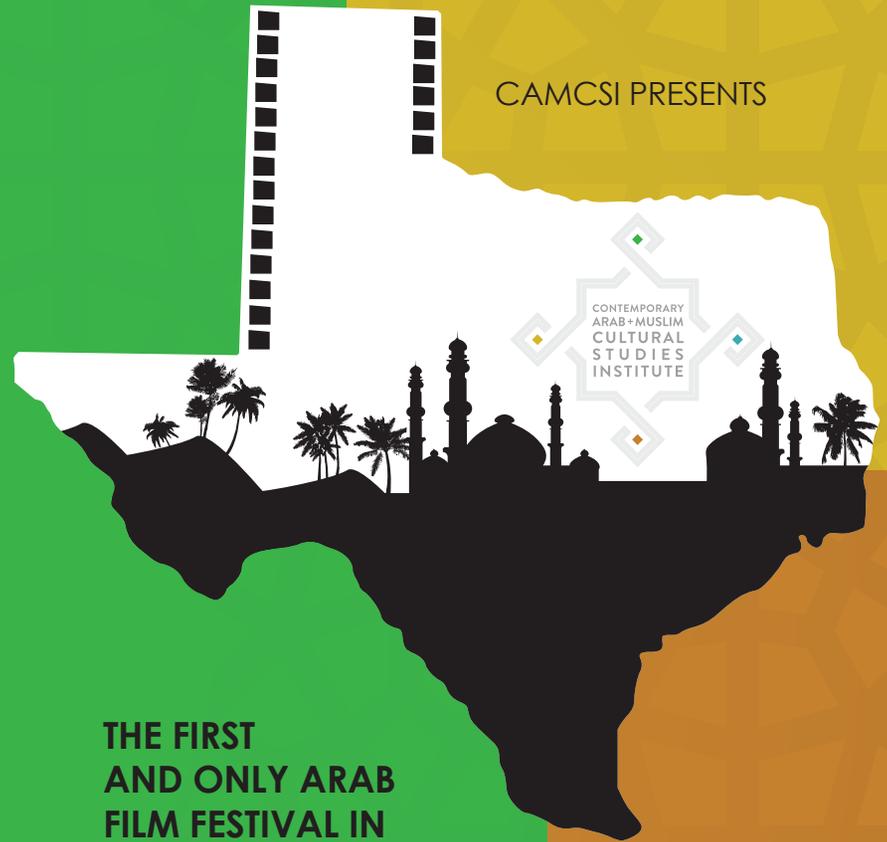




/arabfilmfestivaltexas

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CAMCSI PRESENTS



THE FIRST
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APRIL 19 - 21, 2013
ANGELIKA FILM
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مهرجان الفيلم العربي
ARAB FILM FESTIVAL
TEXAS

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About CAMCSI

The Contemporary Arab and Muslim Cultural Studies Institute (CAMCSI) is an interdisciplinary institute composed of faculty drawn from the visual arts, social sciences, and humanities at the University of North Texas. CAMCSI serves UNT as the coordinating body and primary source of support for the various courses and academic programs that cover the Arab and Muslim worlds, which include the Arab states, Iran, Turkey, central and south Asia and other parts of the world with Muslim communities and its diaspora.

The CAMCSI mission is to foster interdisciplinary research on cultural issues in the contemporary Arab and Muslim worlds and to promote mutual understanding and dialogue both regionally and globally.

About AFF Texas

The Arab Film Festival Texas has been conceived to further the CAMCSI mission of creating meaningful dialogue and educational advancements in the understanding of contemporary Arab and Muslim cultures. The Arab Film Festival Texas seeks to present films offering glimpses of the realities of Arab life and to provide a forum for discussing questions raised by those films. The films' ideas range from modern traditions, family and identity, to the role of women in Arab society.

The Arab Film Festival Texas will be an annual event for CAMCSI with the hope that the event will generate national and international recognition for the scope and excellence of Arab filmmaking.

مهرجان الفيلم العربي
ARAB FILM FESTIVAL
TEXAS

AFFT promo video

Sponsors

Directed, Shot, and Written by **David Hamilton**
Produced by **Tania Khalaf**

Featuring
Jonathan Hill
Khalil Jabari
Natalia Kozba
Logan Luster

Special thanks to Jasmine's Mediterranean Grill in Denton for the use of location, props, and people in the production of the promo.



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AFRAH

From the festival director

Sunday @ 8:00 pm

Thank you all for joining us here at the Arab Film Festival Texas. In putting this festival together my hope was that we can show Texans a side of the Arab world that doesn't get seen very often. The Arab world contains so much humor and heart and bringing that to the forefront has always been very important to me, especially in Texas where I have lived for almost 10 years after immigrating from Lebanon. After discovering that Texas does not have an Arab film festival I knew launching one was something I wanted to do. As a filmmaker myself, I have traveled and screened at Arab film festivals across the globe and have experienced first hand how rewarding the experience can be, not only for the filmmaker, but for the community. The films that I would experience contained universal themes told in humorous and entertaining ways and their appeal extended to people of all races and beliefs. Collecting these award-winning films and bringing them to Texas in a celebration of Arab culture had the potential to paint a different picture and deepen the understanding of an often misunderstood cultures. I look forward to meeting all of you.

Tania Khalaf
Arab Film Festival Texas Director



The Virgin, the Copts, and Me

Director: Namir Abdel Messeeh
Language: Arabic
Subtitles: English
Country: Egypt/France
Running Time: 85 min

Namir is a French filmmaker of Egyptian origin. One day at home in Paris, his mother, a Copt (Egyptian Christian), attempts to convince him of miraculous apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Egypt's Coptic community. Skeptical, Namir travels back to Egypt to get to the bottom of this bizarre phenomenon. Everyone interferes with his plan to capture the explanation of the mystery on film: his overcritical parents and his financially concerned producer. On his journey, Namir rediscovers his past and, against the will of his mother, reconnects with long lost relatives. In the end, an unexpected occurrence leads Namir to success.

Sunday @ 5:30 pm

Festival team



Teta, Alf Marra (Grandma, A Thousand Times)

Director: Mahmoud Kaabour
Language: Arabic
Subtitles: English
Country: UAE/Qatar/Lebanon
Running Time: 48 min

"Teta, Alf Marra" is a poetic documentary that puts a feisty Beirut grandmother at the center of brave film exercises concocted by her grandson to commemorate her many worlds before they are erased by the passage of time and her eventual death.



Tania Khalaf
Founder &
Festival Director



Hanny Lee & Sara Masetti
Festival Coordinators &
Social Media Managers



David Hamilton
Creative Director



Tareq Faroun
Marketing & Promotions
Manager



Nada Shabout
CAMCSI Director



Tiffany Floyd
CAMCSI Coordinator

AFFT proudly presents

"A New Lens on the Arab World"

Saturday @ 2:00pm FREE

Join visiting filmmakers and local scholars for what promises to be a lively and fascinating discussion as we open the floor to talk about the dual role of media in reinforcing and breaking down Arab stereotypes.

Panelists include:

Dr. Nada Shabout (Associate Professor Art Education and Art History, UNT & Director of Contemporary Arab and Muslim Cultural Studies Institute)

Dr. Mahmood Sadri (Sociology Professor, UNT & TWU)

Dr. Nancy Stockdale (Associate professor of History, UNT)

Julia Meltzer (Filmmaker, Fulbright Scholar)

Fawaz Al Matrouk (Filmmaker)

Moderated by:

Sara Masetti (Filmmaker & MFA Candidate, Radio-TV-Film, UNT)

Hussain Fadwani (Project Nur Social Justice Organization, UNT)



41 Days

Director: Ahmed Abdelaziz
Language: Arabic
Subtitles: English
Country: Egypt
Running Time: 21 min

Seven year-old Youssef is forced to endure a forty-day period of mourning when all he wants to do is watch football.



The Hookah Experience

A brief look at the smoking customs of today's generation.

Director: Ahmed Abdelaziz
Language: English
Running Time: 2 min

Sunday @ 2:00 pm



Habibi

Director: Susan Youssef
Language: Arabic
Subtitles: English
Country: Palestine
Running Time: 85 min

Two students in the West Bank are forced to return home to Gaza, where their love defies tradition. Qays is so smitten with Layla that he graffiti's the town in love poetry from Majnun Layla, a 7th-century Arabian poem. But Majnun Layla means 'Madman for Layla' and Layla's family believes Qays is crazy. They insist she marries a more stable, conventional man. The couple is forced into secret meetings and, ultimately, a dreadful choice between happiness and survival.

A hit at Venice, Toronto and Dubai, this daring film is an epic tragedy about a star-crossed couple determined to use love as their compass to navigate an ugly world.



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Schedule

Saturday @ 8:30 pm

FRIDAY
APRIL 19

6:30PM Opening ceremony
+ reception

8:00PM OPENING FILM

The Light In Her Eyes*

Documentary. 85 min. Syria.
*Filmmaker in attendance.

SATURDAY
APRIL 20

2:00PM Panel Discussion "A New Lens on the Arab World"

Join us for a free panel discussion on the dual role of media in reinforcing and breaking down stereotypes of the Arab World. This lively discussion will include visiting filmmakers and scholars.

3:30PM **The Invisible Policeman**
Documentary. 60 min. Palestine/UAE.

5:00PM **12 Angry Lebanese**
Documentary. 85 min. Lebanon.

8:00PM **To Rest in Peace***
Narrative. 18 min. Kuwait/USA.
*Filmmaker in attendance.

Uncle Nashaat
Documentary. 70 min. Jordan/Palestine.

SUNDAY
APRIL 21

2:00PM **Habibi**
Narrative. 85 min. Palestine.

5:00PM **41 Days**
Narrative. 21 min. Egypt.

The Hookah Experience*
Documentary. 3 min. Texas.
*Filmmaker in attendance.

Grandma, A Thousand Times
Documentary. 48 min. Lebanon/Qatar/UAE.

8:00PM CLOSING FILM
The Virgin, The Copts, and Me
Documentary. 85 min. Egypt/France.



Uncle Nashaat

Director: Aseel Mansour
Language: Arabic
Subtitles: English
Country: Jordan/Palestine
Running Time: 70 min

Nashaat is a Palestinian fighter who was killed by the Israelis in 1982. When Aseel, Nashaat's nephew, comes across a fact that makes him doubt the circumstances of his uncle's death, he embarks on a quest to find the truth. Not only does this quest lead him to disturbing facts, but it also makes him understand the real reasons behind his broken relationship with his father during his childhood.

Sunday @ 8:00 pm

Friday @ 8:00 pm



To Rest in Peace

Director: Fawaz Al-Matrouk
Language: English
Country: Kuwait/USA
Running Time: 18 min

Occupied Kuwait, 1990. Two dead bodies lie in the street. Day after day, everyone passes them by, afraid to stop. Except one man.



The Light in Her Eyes

Director: Julia Meltzer/Laura Nix
Language: Arabic
Subtitles: English
Country: Syria
Running Time: 85 min

Houda Al-Habash, a conservative Muslim preacher, founded a Qur'an school for girls in Damascus 30 years ago. Every summer, her female students immerse themselves in a rigorous study of Islam. A surprising cultural shift is under way—women are claiming space within the mosque. Shot right before the uprising in Syria erupted, *The Light in Her Eyes* offers an extraordinary portrait of a leader who challenges the women of her community to live according to Islam, without giving up their dreams.

Saturday @ 3:30 pm

Saturday @ 5:00 pm



The Invisible Policeman

Director: Laith Al-Juneidi
Language: Arabic
Subtitles: English
Country: Palestine
Netherlands/UAE
Running Time: 59 min

The divisions and conflicts of the West Bank city Hebron are reflected in the sharp rift between the public and private life of Abu Sa'eed, a lieutenant in the Palestinian National Authority Police Department. In uniform, he's an authority figure and protector; out of uniform, he's just another disempowered Palestinian man helpless to protect his large family from daily indignities and abuses. This compassionate portrait looks for hope amid the harsh realities of a caring father's predicament.



12 Angry Lebanese

Director: Zeina Daccache
Language: Arabic
Subtitles: English
Country: Lebanon
Running Time: 85 min

A theatre director specializing in working with disadvantaged and traumatized people, Zeina Daccache struggled to set up Lebanon's first prison-based drama project in the country's notorious Roumieh Prison. For 15 months, 45 inmates, some completely illiterate, found themselves working together to present an adaptation of the famous stage play '12 Angry Men', here re-named '12 Angry Lebanese'. Through their newfound creative outlet, we witness the prisoners coalesce into a slick, professional ensemble. Inspiring and honest, this account of the prisoners' journey demonstrates the positive effect of art therapy and the positive effect on some of the most ostracized individuals in society.