

FilmFest '09 Sneak Preview

Documentaries

American Radical: The Trials of Norman Finkelstein (USA)

American Radical is the probing, definitive documentary about American academic Norman Finkelstein. A devoted son of holocaust survivors, ardent critic of Israel and US mid-East policy, and author of five provocative books including "The Holocaust Industry," Finkelstein has been steadfast at the center of many intractable controversies.

Desert in the Coffeehouse (USA)

This film asks two basic questions: "what do Americans think about the Middle East, and do they see America as an empire." Over 100 Minnesotans, interviewed in coffeehouses across the Twin Cities, reflect on these questions and on our relationship with people in the Middle East.

Dishonored (Pakistan)

Dishonored documents the remarkable story of Mukhtar Mai, a woman whose case of "(dis)honor" casts light on major problems within the judiciary system.

Egypt: We Are Watching You (Egypt)

The filmmaker of *Control Room* shines a spotlight on democracy in Egypt. Three women activists start a grassroots campaign to empower the public. Called Shayfeen.com – 'we are watching you' – they film the election process, capturing widespread violence and voter fraud, and broadcast the footage on their website.

Fashioning Faith (USA)

Filmmaker Yasmin Moll explores a new world of Islamic fashion: creative hijab for the modern Muslim woman. This is a topic sure to generate a lot of interest.

Transient: A Story of Assyrian Iraqi Refugees

Since the start of the Iraq war in 2003, over 4,700,000 Iraqis have been displaced from their homes due to violence and economic instability. This film tells the story of Assyrian Iraqi refugees in Syria.

Be sure to attend the

FilmFest Panel-Sunday November 22, 2009

11am-1pm

P2298 Incorporating Non-Traditional Visual Resources into Middle East Classes Using Middle Eastern Film in the Classroom (Year 3)

When introducing students to areas of the world with which they are unfamiliar or misinformed, visual images are an important supplement to lecture and stimulant for discussion. They are essential for today's media savvy and visually saturated students. While there is still a place for 30 or 60 minute films, they often consume too much class time or too much of a department budget. Maintaining student attention is challenging. New media sources available on the internet are more geared to students' viewing styles. This panel explores available resources and their use in the classroom.

Features



Photo courtesy of Gor Kirakosian

Big Story in a Small City (Armenia)

A comedy/tragedy, high brow/low brow, in-the-door/out-the-door, body snatching/cross-identity, this charming film will delight you. Loosely based on a true story, this Armenian language production is reminiscent of *Death at a Funeral*.



Photo courtesy of Zeigeist Films

Three Monkeys (Turkey)*

*Film screening sponsored by the Turkish Studies Association
Winner of the Best Director prize at Cannes, *Three Monkeys* tells a twisty, noirish tale that opens with an ambitious politician fleeing a hit-and-run accident. *Three Monkeys* mounts a caustic critique of the bourgeois family, riddled with hypocrisy yet stubbornly resilient.



The Sheltering Sky (USA)

Bernardo Bertolucci's classic filmmaking combined with Paul Bowles' famous story makes for an unforgettable cinematic experience. The film shows an insider/outsider view of the Middle East, particularly relevant in a post 9/11 world.

The MESA FilmFest Committee is still in deliberation to bring you the very best selection. Please visit the FilmFest page on the MESA website Annual Meeting pages for updated information.