

Center for International Studies Film Series 2008: *Women and the Middle East*

Inch'Allah Dimanche



French/Algerian director Yamina Benguigi brings us a passionate immigrant story of a woman struggling against old world traditions. Zouina leaves her homeland with her three children to join her husband in France, where he's been living for the past ten years. In a land and culture foreign to her, Zouina struggles to adjust to her new life but eventually discovers a rekindled sense of adventure sparked by her longing for freedom and experience. Winner of the International Critics Award at the Toronto International Film Festival and the Grand Prize at the Marrakech International Film Festival.

Discussing the film is Mériam N. Belli of the MIT History Department.

Friday, February 8, 2008
3-270
5:30-8pm



The Syrian Bride

The Syrian Bride is a film by director Eran Riklis, an Israeli Jew. Most of the cast of the Arabic-language film is Palestinian-Israeli, as is the screenwriter. But despite collaboration on and off the set, the movie's plot explores the Middle East conflict through lives fractured by the region's harsh political realities. It's about a Druze family in the Golan Heights, a Syrian territory the Israelis have occupied since 1967. Since then, the Druze in Golan have been cut off from the Druze in Syria. The religion is an 11th-century offshoot of Islam. When the family arranges to marry its daughter to a Druze from Damascus, the wedding must be held at the border.

A conversation with Anat Biletzki, fellow at CIS' Program on Human Rights and Justice will follow the screening.

Saturday, March 8, 2008- International Women's Day
6-120
5:30-8pm

My Home- Your War



Shot in Baghdad over three years that span the time before, during and after the invasion of Iraq, this profoundly moving film brings a perspective that has rarely been available to U.S. audiences. It combines insightful interviews with Layla Hassan and her family, vibrant scenes of Baghdad and intimate footage shot by Layla herself to paint a compelling picture of how the war has affected average Iraqis. As Islamic fundamentalism takes hold in the chaos of Baghdad, her shy teenage son turns to militancy, her once-progressive sister dons the veil, and whatever freedom Layla once had under Saddam Hussein's secular rule is steadily being eroded.

Examining the film will be Ban Al-Mahfodh, Program Coordinator at CIS.

Tuesday, April 8, 2008
6-120
5:30-8pm

Sponsored by the Center for International Studies and the MIT Lecture Series Committee

for more information, please contact Ban Al-Mahfodh at boniqa@mit.edu or 617.324.1220