

MEC Audio Visual Lending Library Film Descriptions

- 500 Dunam on the Moon (2002, color, 48 min, Arabic, Hebrew, and French with English subtitles, VHS & DVD). Ayn Hawd is a Palestinian village that was captured and depopulated by Israeli forces in the 1948 war. In 1953 Marcel Janco, a Romanian painter and a founder of the Dada movement, helped transform the village into a Jewish artists' colony, and renamed it Ein Hod. This documentary tells the story of the village's original inhabitants, who, after expulsion, settled only 1.5 kilometers away in the outlying hills. This new Ayn Hawd cannot be found on official maps, as Israeli law doesn't recognize it, and its residents, deemed "present absentees" by the authorities, do not receive basic services such as water, electricity or an access road. Rachel Leah Jones' filmmaking debut is a critical look at the art of dispossession and the creativity of the dispossessed.
- Abouna (Chad, 2002, 84 minutes, Chad Arabic and French with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun. Eight-year-old Amine and fifteen-year-old Tahir's world is shattered when they awake one morning to find that their father has deserted them and their mother. The brothers leave their poor Chad village and head for the Cameroon border to begin their journey in search of him. Soon after, they are stunned to see what they believe to be an image of their father onscreen at a local movie house. After getting caught for stealing the reel of film, their weary mother sends them away to a Koran school to learn discipline. All the while, Amine and Tahir are determined to escape and continue their search in this devastatingly powerful, magnificently photographed drama from director Mahamat-Saleh Haroun. A triumphant follow-up to his international award-winning *Bye Bye Africa*.
- About Baghdad (Iraq, 2004, color, 90 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Bassam Haddad. In July of 2003, exiled writer and poet, Sinaan Antoon, returned to his native Baghdad with a team of independent filmmakers, artists, and poets to document the effects that decades of oppression, war, sanctions, and occupation have had on his city. The result is a fascinating mosaic of opinions, perspectives, desires, and memories that offers a picture far more complex than the limited one presented by mainstream US media. About Baghdad pays tribute to the brave people of Baghdad as they struggle to come to terms with the tragic fate of their beloved city.
- About the Jews of Yemen: A Vanishing Culture (1986, color, 77 min, English, VHS). Directed by Johanna Spector. During their 2000 year long sojourn in Yemen, Jews developed special traditions, customs, ceremonies, art, music, and dance. Dr. Johanna Spector's stunning documentary captures this rich culture as it is practiced today in modern Israel. The film includes beautiful footage of traditional Yemenite celebrations, culminating in the magnificent pre-wedding ceremony of a young bride.
- ADC 11th National Convention: Toujan Al-Faisal (VHS) -- No Description Available.
- Adliye -- The Ethnography of a Turkish Law Court (1985, color, English, VHS). Directed by June Starr. Good research film. Discussion of the law court accompanies footage of the law court but without people. Better suited to viewing for research than for the classroom.

- *Adrift on the Nile* (1971, black and white, 115 min, Arabic with English and French subtitles, VHS). Directed by Hussein Kamal -- Based on the novel by the Nobel Laureate Naguib Mahfouz, this 1971 production offers a revealing look at the Egyptian elite on the eve of the 1967 War. By this time, Nasser had ushered in an age of enormous social change, leaving the sons and daughters of the old bourgeoisie high and dry. Arabic with English and French subtitles.
- *Afghan Nomads: The Maldar* (VHS, 1974, 21 min, color, 16mm, Study Guide). This film portrays interactions between nomadic pastoralist and townspeople (part of the *Afghanistan Faces of Change Series*)
- *Afghan Village* (1974, 45 min, color, VHS, Study Guide). View of daily life in a northern village of Afghanistan. (part of the *Afghanistan Faces of Change Series*)
- *Afghan Women* (1974, 45 min, color, VHS, Study Guide). Activities of a group of women in northern Afghanistan. (part of the *Afghanistan Faces of Change Series*)
- *Afghanistan: The Unconquered Spirit* (60 min, English, VHS). Produced by the BBC as an overview of both recent and earlier attempts to defend Afghanistan from outside British and Russian control.
- *Alexandria, Why?* (1978, 133 min, Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). The first film in Chahine's autobiographical Alexandria trilogy, *Alexandria, Why?* was a (widely banned) revelation in Arab cinema for its use of first-person narrative and for testing boundaries of cultural identity. In 1942, as Rommel's army nears Alexandria, some cheer the victors, Jews prepare to flee, and a vengeful aristocrat buys British soldiers to seduce and kill them--until he falls in love with one young captive. A young student (Chahine's avatar) adores Shakespeare and Hollywood, dreaming of studying filmmaking in the USA, but as he discovers the lies of European occupation and Americanization, and experiences a sexual awakening, he profoundly reevaluates his identity and allegiances.
- *Ali Zaoua: Prince of the Streets* (Morocco, 2003, color, 98 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Nabil Ayouch. Ali, Kwita, Omar, and Boukber are a group of street urchins living on the hard streets of Casablanca. Their lives are filled with violence, begging, and indifference. The bond of friendship and family that the boys create between themselves is challenged when Ali is senselessly killed at the beginning of the film. Not wanting him to be buried in a potter's field if they report his death to the police, the boys decide to give Ali a proper burial on the private island he often dreamed of. *Ali Zaoua* captures the power of dreams and presence of hope despite the harsh circumstances.
- *All Colors of the World* (*Dunyanin Tum Renkleri*) (VHS) -- No description available.
- *Amazing Grace* (Israel, 95 min, 1993, VHS). Eighteen years old Jonathan leaves the home of his "refugee from the sixties" mother to live with his friend Mickey. But Mickey, a handsome, arrogant, bed-hopping youth is hardly ever at the apartment. Jonathan then meets Thomas who has returned to Israel after many years in New York. Thomas believes he has HIV, but he is hiding this fact. Thomas and Jonathan develop a hesitant relationship. Jonathan placed all his hope for happiness in his new friend. Thomas, distant and secretive, knows that their relationship is necessarily transient.

- American Muslim Teens Talk (USA, 2004, color, 30 min, English, VHS). Made in conjunction with the television programs PBS Frontline: Muslims & Muhammed: Legacy of a Prophet. Thrust into the media spotlight post-9/11, Muslim teenagers have faced suspicion and often, intolerance. This video features nine teens in a first-person look at modern Muslim-American youth who illustrate the diversity that is Islam: African-American, American Caucasian, Middle Eastern, from the Asian Subcontinent and Africa.
- Ancient and Modern: The Fall and Rise of the Middle East (1984, color, 24 min, VHS). This film probes the question: "Why did the Middle East begin to decline just as the Renaissance in Europe began?"
- Ancient Nubia: Egypt's Rival in Africa (color, 13 min, VHS). This short film traces the rise and fall of the Ancient Nubian Kingdom and civilization, its role as a crossroads for trade between Africa and Egypt, and its shifting power locus down the River Nile.
- Apple (Iran, color, 85 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Samira Makhmalbaf. This is the winning film debut by the great Iranian director Mohsen Makhmalbaf's daughter, Samira Makhmalbaf, who was 17 years old when she made this film. The Apple tells the true story, using the actual people who lived this tale, of two 12 year-old twin girls in Tehran - Zahra and Massoumeh, who have been confined to their home all their life. Their mother is blind and their father is a strict religious man who is concerned about their honor should they be left on their own or subjected to the sinful influences of the outside world while he is out of the house. Consequently the girls have been locked in their home for twelve years, live unbathed, can scarcely walk, and can only speak in inarticulate grunts. The neighbors, concerned at the situation, inform the health and welfare authorities who examine the situation and warn the man that the girls will be taken into care if their circumstances do not improve. When the social worker returns to check on the girls however, she finds them once again locked-up by their father. Even when freed, the girls are initially unable to function in a world they have no conception of and return to the only place they are familiar with – their backyard. The social worker needs to employ stronger measures to ensure their freedom and development.
- Arab and Jew: Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land (1989, color, 120 min, VHS, Study Guide). Directed by Robert Gardner. A 2 hour PBS special based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book of the same title by David Shipler. The program looks at (1) history and claims to the land, (2) war, terrorism and military occupation, (3) stereotypes and prejudice, and (4) attempts to overcome bigotry and teach tolerance.
- The Arab Gulf States (2002, color, 50 min, VHS). Traveler Megan McCormick visits 3 of the 6 Arab Gulf States. She starts her journey in the battle scarred Kuwait traveling onto the U.A.E., visiting glittering Dubai and the oil industry capital Abu Dhabi. She ends her journey in biblical Oman in search of Frankincense and the Empty Quarter, one of the last great wildernesses on earth.
- Arab Stereotypes, Part One - RKO's Aesop's Fables: Gypped in Egypt (USA/UK, 1998, 44 mins, English and silent with English title cards, VHS).
- Arab Stereotypes, Part Three - George Melies: Palace of the Arabian Nights (USA/UK, 1998, 58 mins, English and silent with English title cards, VHS). These videos feature a collection of documentary films, cartoons, and early silent era films that provide

examples of some of the extreme stereotypes of the Arab world that were common in western media and entertainment during the first half of the twentieth century.

- Arab Women at Work (27 min, VHS). This is an excellent film for breaking down visual stereotypes of Arab Women. This tape is from a conference on development in the Arab World, and includes interviews with participants in the conference.
- Arabia: The Quest from the Past (60 min, color, VHS). This film reviews the ancient and modern history of the Arabian Peninsula. Distributed by the Saudi Cultural Mission.
- Arabs in America (1981, color, 28 min, VHS). This film provides an overview of the history of Arab immigration to Arab immigration to America.
- Arabs, Muslims, and Islam (USA, 2004, color, 40 min, English, VHS). Part of the Teacher's Discovery series. "Suddenly, we needed to know. We needed to know the human face of one billion real Muslims. Not the Muslims of documentaries, or of TV news, but the everyday people. Seven of us entered the Muslim world with just 23 days to complete this film. We had no script. We were strangers arriving with no introductions. The families had never heard of us hours before filming. They opened their homes to us. This is what we found.
- Aramco at Fifty (color, 60 min, VHS). This film traces the Arab American oil Company from the first team of engineers and researchers that braved the Saudi desert in search of oil in the mid 1930's, to the current processes and technological advances of the modern-day oil industry in Saudi Arabia. Produced by Aramco.
- Art and the Islamic World (1993, color, 33 min, VHS). This film was directed and produced by Art Historian, Walter Demney, for the Middle East Institute. It is an excellent survey of Islamic art - calligraphy, architecture, ceramics, metalwork, miniature painting, scientific drawings of plants, water clocks, and fountains.
- Art of the Book: Persian Miniatures from the Shahnameh (1975, color, 30 min, VHS). This film provides an overview of three centuries of Shahnameh painting. An example of oral recitation from coffeehouse is included.
- Atalia: War Widow (Israel, 1985, color, 90 min, Hebrew with English Subtitles, VHS). Directed by Akiva Tevet. 1973. Israel on the eve of war. On an agricultural kibbutz, two young men, Ofer and Mati, join a crack unit of the army. In their tightly-knit community, Ofer's girlfriend reaches out to her "adopted" Kibbutz mother, Atalia. Atalia, widowed in a war twenty years earlier, has never recovered from the sense of abandonment and alienation her loss caused her. Defiant, she loves the men of the kibbutz who use her, breeding jealous hatred among their women who perceive her as a threat. Meanwhile, to his disappointment, 18-year old Mati is rejected by their small community for health reasons from the serving in the army, just as Atalia is rejected by their small community for her social rebelliousness. In their loneliness, sharing a sense of rejection and abandonment, 40-year old Atalia and Mati find each other. With the war as a tragic background, their passion for each other grows, scandal erupts and tempers flare around them. Yet, their burning love for each other gives them the strength to escape the society which, without pity, excludes them.

- Atatürk (1998, 2 40 min segments, English, VHS). Directed by Tolga Ornek. This documentary about the life and career of Turkey's first president, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, intersperses interviews along with archival footage of World War I, the Turkish War of Independence, and Atatürk's fifteen years as president of Turkey until his death in 1938. The passion of both Atatürk's public and private life, as a single parent to six adopted daughters, a loyal friend and a leader of critical international importance, is reflected in part through his private collection of books, memoirs, and photographs. Interviews with scholarly and military experts give insights into Atatürk as a military and political leader, exploring issues of his personal psychology and motivations. This is an excellent and original piece of work by Turkish filmmaker, Tolga Ornek and has received critical acclaim.
- Bab El Oued City (1994, 93 min, Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Merzak Allouache. Boualem is a young man who works the local bakery's graveyard shift in the Bab El-Oued district of Algiers. One morning, shortly after the bloody riots of October, 1988, he commits an unthinking act which jeopardizes the entire district: Unable to stand the noise from one of the many rooftop loudspeakers broadcasting the propaganda of a local fundamentalist group, he rips the speaker out and throws it away. The extremists, led by Said, regard this act as deliberately provocative and aim to make an example of the culprit.
- Bahrain - Gateway to the Gulf (20 min, color, VHS). This video provides a brief overview of Bahrain.
- Bahrain - The Pearl of the Arabian Gulf (23 min, color, VHS). This is a tourist's introduction to Bahrain. Nonetheless it is a good portrayal of the rich archaeological past, the geographical setting in the Persian Gulf and current activities on the island.
- [Bam 6.6](#): Humanity Has No Borders (55 min, color, DVD). Directed by Jahangir Golestan-Parast. This is the story of the human condition. The film weaves together stories of survival, loss, and healing, as we explore the humanity of the Iranian people through the prism of the devastating 2003 earthquake that struck at the heart of Bam, an ancient Iranian village.
- Baran (1999, color, 96 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Majid Majidi. In a Tehran building site, a 17-year-old Iranian named Lateef is known for more than his playful antics than his hard work. Then things take an unexpected turn when an Afghan coworker falls from the building and the worker's son, Rahmat, enters the scene to become the new provider for his family. But even as Lateef finds himself irreversibly drawn to Rahmat, it's not until the revelation of Rahmat's secret (that he is actually a young woman, posing as a man) that both of their lives are forever changed.
- Bashu, The Little Stranger (1986, color, 120 min, Persian, VHS). Directed by Bahram Beizai. A film by Persian director, Bahram Beizai, Bashu is the story of the touching relationship between a lost boy and a war widow, set against the backdrop of the Iran-Iraq war. Despite differences in nationality, language and culture, it is a shared commitment to kindness and compassion that helps these two to form the alliance that alludes their respective nations. Starring Sussan Taslimi and Adnan Afravian.
- Beggars and Noblemen (1991, 92 min, Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). The setting is Cairo, June 1945. Gohar, a former university professor, encounters a young prostitute

an empty brothel and kills her in a moment of insanity. Assigned to the case, police inspector Nour El-Din stays on Gohar's trail hoping for a confrontation and a confession of the crime. In this remarkable adaptation of the novel by Albert Cossery, both the detective and the criminal are faced with startling realizations as one closes in on the other.

- **Benaat Chicago (Daughters of Chicago)** (1996, color, 30 min, English, VHS). Directed by Jennifer Bing-Camar and Mary Zerkel -- Arab-American teenage girls on the southwest side of Chicago discuss their lives and communities.
- **Bent Familia** (Tunisia, 1997, color, 105 min, Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Nouri Bouzid. Aida and Amina are old friends who, now in their early thirties, have re-connected after a long separation. Their reunion provides an opportunity to examine their lives and relationships. Amina appears to be happily married while Aida has chosen divorce but still takes in male callers. Their friendship with the ambitious Fatiha, an Algerian refugee living in Tunisia, sparks a desire in the two friends to work at overcoming their respective societal limitations. While Fatiha is on the threshold of a new life in Europe, Amina searches for the strength to stand up to her overbearing husband. Relying on each others' strength and energy, the three friends take charge of their lives in this moving examination of the power and beauty of friendship between women. "A sort of Tunisian *A Doll's House*." – Mark Harris, Vancouver International Film Festival.
- **Berlin Jerusalem** (1989, 85 min, DVD). Directed by Amos Gitai. This moving drama of the birth of Israel focuses on two women - Else Lasker-Schuler, a German poet, and Tania Shohat, a Russian revolutionary. They meet first in Berlin, where utopian ideals and fear of the Nazis force their escape to Palestine. Re-united in Jerusalem, they confront a harsh reality in the city idealized in their dreams.
- **Between Two Worlds** (1985, color, 50 min, VHS). This film by Abdullah Hammoudi portrays the manners, beliefs and ideas which Arabs share today, set against the image of the Arabs' unique medieval society. The film explores the life of a man from Fez, Morocco from his traditional childhood to a diplomatic career. Part 9 of 10 from *The Arabs--A Living History Series*.
- **Blackboards** (2003, 85 min, Kurdish with English subtitles, DVD). A group of male teachers cross the mountainous paths of the remote Iranian Kurdistan region. They wander from village to village in search of students, carrying large blackboards on their backs, sometimes using them as shelter, camouflage and as shields for gunfire. One teacher ventures away from the group and meets up with a group of young boys who are carrying contraband across the border. Another teacher comes upon a group of old refugees who want to return to their village in Kurdistan, which was chemically attacked by the Iraqis. The teachers must also face other hardships and obstacles along the way, including unseen enemy helicopters and gunfire. Samira Makhmalbaf's award-winning film is a visually powerful and compelling depiction of a group of people who must battle for survival every day of their lives.
- **Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi** (2003, 94 min, DVD) - Directed by Shemi Zarhin. Shlomi takes care of everyone. He feeds his grandfather, bathes him and listens to his fictitious stories from World War II. He reminds his older brother to take his medication on time and intently listens to his pornographic thoughts. He calms his quick-tempered mother and mediates between her and his hypochondriac father who was thrown out of the house

after cheating on her. He looks after his older sister's twins and makes sure she keeps going back to her husband who can't tell between the identical babies. And most of all, Shlomi makes sure to make everyone happy by cooking their favorite dishes. Shlomi knows – they'll eat and calm down. Because his home is a battlefield and Shlomi runs around between everyone, making peace. But no one in the family really sees Shlomi. Even Shlomi doesn't see Shlomi. Until one day a routine math test arouses the suspicions of Shlomi's math teacher and school principal. After meeting and talking with him, they realize that a very unique personality is hiding behind this neglected and dormant boy. With their help and the help of Rona the gardener with whom he falls head over heels in love, Shlomi discovers himself.

- The Bride Market of Imilchil (Morocco, 1988, 58 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Steffen and Christian Pierce. For three days each September men and women gather in front of the Imilchil shrine, choose mates, and marry in a nearby tent. The uniqueness of the tradition has become so popular that even the Moroccan government itself promotes the ritual as a tourist attraction. Beautifully capturing the essence of the Bride Market, this film questions the presence of Western observers, including the filmmakers themselves. It also challenges our views on relationships and moral structures between Arabs and Westerners.
- Broken Wings (2002, 82 min, DVD). Directed by Nir Bergman. This is a realistic drama that takes place in a middle-class Israeli neighborhood and involves the Ulman family - Dafna and her four children. The father has recently died under trivial circumstances and his death has left the family hurting, and in economic straits. It is the beginning of September, the first day of school. In most families this occasion generates excitement; for the Ulmans it produces one crisis after the other. As the day starts their stories develop and intertwine. The five-year-old girl suffers from feelings of abandonment, the ten-year-old boy tries to break the world record in the free jump (into an empty swimming pool), the teenage boy has quit school and works handing out flyers disguised as a mouse. The two women try to function as mothers. One of them, however, is herself only 17 years old.
- The Broken Wings (1962, 90 min, Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Lebanese artist/poet Khalil Gibran reveals the same artistry and wisdom that have enshrined his name in the hearts of millions. With great sensitivity and lyricism, Gibran describes his youthful passion for his first love, Selma Karamy, the beautiful girl from Beirut. But theirs was a love doomed from the beginning: Social conventions and family tensions eventually force Selma to marry another man. American audiences got their first taste of this sensitive adaptation in the late sixties. Since then, all film prints were lost or destroyed ... only to be recovered recently in a church in Beirut. A film of great historical and artistic value.
- Brothers and Others (US, 2002, color, 54 min, English, DVD). Directed by Nicolas Rossier. The atrocities witnessed by the world on September 11th were hateful acts committed by terrorists who choose to view their victims not as human beings but as symbols of a perceived evil. By jailing thousands of Arabs and Muslims without evidence or due process, is the Patriot Act perpetuating the cycle of hate and ignorance which claimed so many innocent lives? Brothers and Others chronicles the impact of 9/11 on Muslims and Arabs in America. We follow immigrants and Americans as they struggle in the heightened climate of hate, FBI and INS investigations, and the economic hardships

that erupted following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

- **Building a Nation** (1985, color, 50 min, VHS). Since its independence in 1962, Algeria has been in the process of industrialization. This film discusses the effect of industrialization upon a traditional farm and peasant-based economy and upon the quality of day to day life as services and facilities have tried to keep pace with the rush to the cities. Part 8 of 10 from *The Arabs: A Living History Series*.
- **Cairo: 1001 Years of Art and Architecture** (VHS). This video series, in four parts, takes the viewer into the environs and actual space and sound of the great heritage of Islamic art and architecture in Cairo. Previewed at the annual MESA Convention in November 1999, this is a wonderful scholarly overview and experience of medieval Cairo. The overview is accompanied by three sections of extensive historic and artistic detail, suitable for art history, related coursework, and academic research of individual mosques and buildings.
- **Cairo: The City Victorious** (1983, color, 55 min, VHS). Lured by the prospect of a better and more exciting life in Cairo, a young man leaves the village. Through his life we see the struggle and hopes of villagers and city workers.
- **Camondo Han** (2005, Turkey, 35 min, English and Turkish with English subtitles, DVD) Director Peter Clasen documents Camondo Han, a battered and neglected apartment building in Galata which was one of Istanbul's architectural treasures. The tragic history of its Jewish owners and waves of social change it has witnessed are brought to life by the experiences of the locals, who reflect all aspects of contemporary Turkish life. Dr. Oktem of Oxford University raves, "A thrilling visual anthropology, bringing to life the complex fabric of the past."
- **Canticle of the Stone** (1990, 110 min, VHS). Two Palestinians, now in their 40s, had barely fallen in love nearly twenty years ago when he was imprisoned for political activity and she ran off to the United States to forget. Now, in the mist of the Intifada, she comes back to Jerusalem to study the meaning of sacrifice in Palestinian society and finds him released from prison. Against a backdrop of daily resistance and repression, they will love each other again, filling the gaps in their histories, their memories, and their passion.
- **Celebrating the Prophet in the Remembrance of God: Sufi Dhikr in Egypt** (1997, 39 min, VHS). This film describes in detail the spiritual and social aspects of the controversial practice of Dhikr among Sufis in Egypt, including such topics as spiritual content of chants, the quality of singers, gender roles in participation, and the place of the ritual in as both a religious act and as a form of entertainment.
- **Century of Stereotypes: Depicting Arabs** (VHS) Contents include: *The Cinematic Arab: a Century of Stereotypes*; Excerpts from films depicting Arabs (*Outpost in Morocco*, *Sahara*, *Jewel of the Nile*, *Ishtar*, *The Little Drummer Girl*).
- **The Challenge** (color, VHS). This film follows the building of two new industrial centers in Saudi Arabia. Distributed by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- **Checkpoint** (Israel, DVD, 80 min). Over three million Palestinians live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which has been under Israeli military authority since 1967. Israeli director Yoav Shamir documents the impact of the enforced boundaries known as

"checkpoints" on the Israeli border, guards drafted to monitor them, and the Palestinians citizens who must pass through them daily. Shot in a cinema verite style, a style of documentary filmmaking that stresses unbiased realism, the film shows these anonymous, one-time encounters between both sides and the lasting political, social, and cultural effects. *Checkpoint* gives a chilling look at the destructive impact on both societies.

- *Children of Fire* (color, 50 min, VHS). Intimate portraits of a five year old boy and an eleven year old girl in Nablus give a personal perspective to the Palestinian intifada. The film maker, Mai Masri, is originally from Nablus.
- *Children of Heaven* (1999, 88 minutes, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Majid Majidi. When Ali loses his sister Zahra's school shoes, this young pair dream up a plan to stay out of trouble: they'll share his shoes and keep it a secret from their parents! But if they're going to successfully cover their tracks, Ali and Zahra must carefully watch their step on what rapidly turns into a funny and heartwarming adventure. An award-winning film that was also a nominee for the Academy Award as Best Foreign Language Film in 1998.
- *Chronicles of a Disappearance* (1996, color, 88 min, Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Elia Suleiman. The film is a personal meditation upon the spiritual effect of political instability on the Palestinian people, their psyche and their identity. As such, it is an invaluable contribution to the struggle for peace in the region.
- *The Circle* (Iran, 2000, color, 91 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Jafar Panahi. A woman gives birth to a baby girl. Little does she know, but she and her daughter are already unwanted. Three women are released from prison and their need for money leads them to take desperate measures. An unmarried woman seeking an abortion is rejected from her father's house by the violent threats of her brothers. Their crimes are vague, their guilt or innocence unimportant. Their paths cross, the suspense of their intrigues heightens. Their plights are often too tragically similar. Their world is one of constant surveillance, bureaucracy and age-old inequalities. But this stifling world cannot extinguish the spirit, strength and courage of the circle of women.
- *Circle Within the Square* (2000, color, 52 min, English, VHS). The stunning visual legacy of Islam's greatest architect. The genius of Mimar Sinan's classic Ottoman style is illustrated in this profile of his life and work. His magnificent mosques and palaces, bridges and hundreds of public buildings have influenced architecture through the ages. The great 16th century architect Mimar Sinan rose from humble beginnings to become chief architect to the Ottoman ruler Suleyman the Magnificent. This beautiful film traces the development of Sinan's unique Islamic style in the context of his times- and highlights some of the 500 known buildings he designed during his amazing career. The famous domed structure of his masterpiece - the Selimiye Mosque in the Turkish town of Edirne- is recognized throughout the world as the solution to the classic architectural puzzle of the Circle Within the Square.
- *Cities of Light: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain* (2007, color, English, DVD) Over a thousand years ago, the sun-washed land of southern Spain was home to Jews, Christians, and Muslims, living together and flourishing. Their culture and beliefs intertwined, and the knowledge of the ancients was gathered and reborn. Here were the very seeds of the Renaissance. But this world too quickly vanished ... Greed, fear, and intolerance swept it away. Puritanical judgments and absolutism snuffed out the light of learning. Within a

few centuries, the fragile union of these people dissipated like smoke. The time of tolerance was lost, forever.

- **The Clay Bird** (2002, 98 minutes, Bengali with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Tareque Masud. A visually stunning, culturally fascinating, politically timely film based on the director's own childhood, **THE CLAY BIRD** has been called one of the most important works to come out of the Muslim world. Set against the backdrop of Pakistan during the turbulent 1960s, a family is ripped apart by religious beliefs and civil war. Anu, a shy young boy from rural East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), is sent away by his father Kazi, an orthodox Muslim, to a Madrasah. Far from his family and the warmth of his region's vibrant Hindu festivities, Anu struggles to adapt to the Islamic school's harsh monastic life. As political divisions in the country intensify, a split develops between moderate and extremist forces within the Madrasah. In the village, these same tensions create a growing divide between the stubborn Kazi and his increasingly independent wife, Ayesha. **THE CLAY BIRD** is an authentic and loving portrait of Bangladesh, showing the country in all its color and complexity – its seasonal beauty, rich folkloric traditions, extraordinary music, and pluralistic culture. Touching upon themes of religious tolerance, cultural diversity, and the complexity of Islam, Tareque Masud's poignant film has a universal relevance in a crisis-ridden world.
- **Close to Home** (2005, 99 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Vidi Bilu and Dalia Hager. Two young, different female soldiers patrol the anxious streets of Jerusalem, questioning Palestinians and looking for suicide bombers. The rebellious one finds the army demeaning; the controlled one is obedient. Under intense pressure, against a backdrop of any-minute-now terrorist attacks, a friendship takes hold and roles reverse.
- **The Closed Doors** (1999, 105 min, Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Atef Hetata. The movie touches on several taboos in contemporary Egyptian society, examining their social and political implications. Set during the Gulf War, it tells the story of Mohamad, a highly impressionable young man who embraces fundamentalist ideas as a way of dealing with the confusion of adolescence and sexual awakening.
- **CNN: The Oslo Accords** (includes Rabin's speech) (VHS).
- **Color of Paradise** (Iran, 2000, color, 90 min, Farsi with English, French, and Spanish subtitles, DVD). Directed by Majid Majidi. Mohammed joyfully returns to his tiny village on Summer vacation from the Institute for the Blind, unaware of his widowed father's intentions to disown him in order to win the hand - and dowry - of a local woman. With the wedding swiftly approaching, Mohammed's future hangs precariously in the balance as his father struggles against his destiny, unable to see the wonder of life and love that's so clear to his son.
- **Conquest of Darkness** (Qahir al-Zalam) (VHS). An Egyptian feature film about Taha Hussein's education
- **Control Room** (DVD) (86 min). Documentary on the al-Jazirah television station. Control Room is a rare film that is both timely and timeless: timeless because it explores the ancient and complex relationship between the Western and Arab worlds, timely because it reveals how satellite television has changed the way wars are reported - from news providers, driven by the patriotism of their audiences, to Army information officers,

driven by military objectives.

- *The Cow (Gaav)* (Iran, 1971, black and white, 100 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD & VHS). Directed by Dariush Mehrjui. Influenced by Italian neo-realism, *The Cow* has the beauty and simplicity associated with the great films of that movement. In a small village in Iran, Hassan cherishes his cow more than anything in the world. While he is away, the cow mysteriously dies, and the villagers protectively try to convince Hassan the cow has only wandered off. Grief stricken, Hassan begins to believe his is his own beloved bovine.
- *Crimson Gold* (2003, color, 97 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Jafar Panahi. Based on true events and written by acclaimed director Abbas Kiarostami, *Crimson Gold* is the story of Hussein, a humble pizza deliveryman who feels continually humiliated by the injustices he sees all around him. When his friend Ali finds a receipt for a stranger's necklace purchase, Hussein is stunned by its exceptionally high cost. He knows that his pitiful salary will never be enough to afford such a luxury. Soon after, he and Ali are refused entry to an uptown jewelry store because of their scruffy appearances; his rage over this slight sets off a series of events. But Hussein will taste the luxurious life for one night before his deep feelings of humiliation push him over the edge.
- *Crossing The Bridge - The Sound of Istanbul* (2006, 90 minutes, German/Turkish with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Fatih Akin. In his follow-up to the critically acclaimed film *Head-On*, director Fatih Akin's documentary introduces an international audience to the diversity and uniqueness of the historic and recent expressions of musical creativity in the heart of Istanbul, discovering a broad spectrum ranging from modern electronic, rock, and hip-hop to classical "Arabesque".
- *The Crusades* (color, 4 videos, approx. 50 min each, VHS). Directed by Alan Ereira and David Wallace. -- This chronicle of the Crusades is filmed on location throughout Europe and the Middle East. It traces the 200 years of the Crusades and demonstrates how they left a legacy of distrust between East and West that continues to shape our world today. Narrator Terry Jones lends a light touch throughout.
- *The Cycle (Daireh-i-Maneh)* (color 103 min, VHS). Story of a young man's corruptive relationship with blood racheleers in Tehran co, 1976. Based on Saedi's 1972 novel *Gur va Gahvarah*.
- *The Cyclist* (1989, color, 75 min, VHS). Renowned Iranian director Mohsen Mahmalbaf directs this film about an Afghan refugee who undertakes a bicycle marathon to pay his wife's medical expenses.
- *Dances of Egypt* (color, VHS). This film discusses the social and cultural significance of different styles of dance in modern Egypt. Glimpses into the dancing of Cairo, Alexandria and Upper Egypt are presented as well as the urban and folkloric musical traditions.
- *Dark Holiday* (1989, color, 96 min, VHS). This drama, based on a true story, chronicles the terrifying experiences of an American divorcee who went on vacation to Turkey. As she tried to leave she found herself wrongfully accused of smuggling antiques. To her horror, she is sent to a dreaded Turkish prison.

- *The Day I Became a Woman* (Iran, 2003, color, 88 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Maziye Meshkini. The stories of three women enslaved by love in Iran. On the morning of the day she turns 9, Havva is kept from joining her friends to play outside of the house. She is warned by her mother and grandmother that she has become a woman. Learning that she was born at noon, Havva insists she should be given another hour to go out as a girl one last time. A young woman is competing in a women's biking race on an island as she is persistently pursued by her husband, in-laws, and the elders of her clan. While riding their horses to catch up with her, they all try to persuade her to return to her family life. An old lady in a wheelchair lands in an island airport and hires a local young boy to assist her in a shopping spree, in search of what she's always needed.
- *Death of a Princess* (1980, color, 92 min, English, VHS). This docudrama of the alleged public execution of a Saudi princess and her lover for adultery caused a diplomatic furor in 1980 in the US and Europe. An earnest reporter, played by Christopher Ryder, attempts to find out the "truth" of many conflicting tales leading to the execution.
- *Dervishes: Lovers of God* (color, 27 min, VHS). Sufi orders in Turkey. "Footsteps of Abraham" Series.
- *Deserted Station* (Iran, 2002, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD) Directed by Alireza Raisia from a story by Abbas Kiarostami. On a pilgrimage to Mashad from Tehran, a couple's transportation breaks down, far from any major town. The husband, a photographer, seeks help at a nearby village and encounters a teacher who offers to help. Whilst the husband and teacher go off to find a spare part, the wife, who used to be a teacher, takes over the teaching lessons in the village. It is clear that the children live there, in this strange deserted place, without any men, save the teacher and an old signal guard. As the day draws on, the children help to bring a new hope and life into the wife's heart.
- *Devarim* (1995, 90 min, DVD). The movie, based on the novel *Past Continuous* by Yaakov Shabtai, follows three main characters - Caesar, Yisrael and Goldman, who live their lives in a cycle while looking for meaning to their existence. Caesar womanizes obsessively, Goldman is on a constant search for the reason for his existence and Yisrael views himself as a pianist and artist. The film studies the main characters' relationships with their families and amongst themselves over a nine month period in Tel-Aviv.
- *Distant* (Turkey, DVD, 105 min). Winner of the Grand Prix and two Best Actor Awards at the Cannes International Film Festival, *Distant*, set in a wintry, contemporary Istanbul, is a profoundly beautiful film about detachment and isolation. Mahmut, a relatively successful commercial photographer, has been struggling to come to terms with the growing gap between his artistic ideals and his professional obligations. His workload, coupled with the lingering loss he still feels for his ex-wife, leaves him clinging to the obsessive routines of his solitary life. Without warning, Mahmut's distant relative Yusuf arrives in Istanbul determined to find a job. In need of a place to stay as he searches for work, Yusuf imposes himself on Mahmut, who resents the sudden intrusion, but nonetheless feels obligated to help his family. As the two men struggle to make a connection, communication is slowly reduced to the bare minimum; and their time together must come to an end. Buoyed by comic moments, *Distant* is an unforgettable and insightful meditation on the human condition and the bittersweet feeling of being

alive.

- *Divine Intervention* (Palestinian Territories and Israel, 2003, color, 90 min, Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Elia Suleiman. Heralded by critics from the New York Times, Washington Post, and Time Magazine as “One of the top ten films of the year,” “Blissfully surreal, a one-or-a-kind experience,” and winner of the Jury Prize at the Chicago International Film Festival and the Fipresci Prize at Cannes, Suleiman’s critically-acclaimed satire chronicles the absurdities of life and love on both sides of the Palestinian-Israeli border. Like his *Chronicle of a Disappearance* Suleiman mixes tragic comedy and deadpan irony to explore the contemporary lives and realities of Palestinians in both Israel and the Palestinian Territories.
- *Divorce Iranian Style* (1998, color, 80 min, English and Persian with English subtitles, VHS). A new documentary that goes where Western cameras have never before gone: into an Iranian divorce court. The film is directed by award-winning independent filmmaker Kim Longinotto (co-director of *DREAM GIRLS*, an expose of the Japanese all-woman musical theater company, which played at Film Forum) and Ziba Mir-Hosseini, an Iranian anthropologist and writer, based in London, whose specialty is women's rights and family law in the Mid-East. Her 1993 book, *Marriage on Trial: A Study of Islamic Family Law*, inspired Longinotto to collaborate with her on this production. Inside an Iranian divorce court, a stream of veiled women (some only teenagers, others elderly) make use of reason, wit, charm, and chicanery to get what they want above all else: a divorce. English and Persian with English subtitles.
- *Door to the Sky* (1989, color, 107 min, Arabic, VHS). This Sufi mystical tale from Moroccan director Farida Ben Lyziad explores issues of spirituality, gender and friendship in the context of a moving family tragedy. When the Westernized Nadia returns from Paris for her father's funeral in Fez, she is overcome by the Koranic chanting of Karina. Together, the two build a beautiful friendship and, moved by the power of their relationship, turn Nadia's father's palace into a shelter for Muslim women.
- *A Dream of Justice and Freedom* (1995, color, 52 min, English, VHS). Framed by the story of Hanan Ashrawi a former spokesperson for the PLO and key delegate on the 1991 Madrid negotiating team, this is a fascinating Palestinian narrative of contemporary "peace issues" that began decades ago. With archival footage and interviews with major Palestinian and some Israeli political figures, this video offers a history of Palestinians' efforts - the sidewalk news conference in Madrid, the "Palestinian Speech" - to be recognized as a people with legitimate rights and interests. This discussion is enriched throughout by early footage of and interviews with Ashrawi from her student days at the American University of Beirut; her term as dean at Birzeit University; and in her current role as founder of the watchdog group, the Commission for Citizens' Rights. A way to understand a part of Palestinian history through the work of one of its major women leaders.
- *Dreams of Hind and Camelia* (1987, color, 120 min, Arabic, VHS). Directed by Egyptian filmmaker, Mohamed Khan, director of *Kharag W'lam Ya'ud* (1984). Hind and Camelia are two housemaids who are abused both by their employers (who overwork them) and by their male relatives (who mistreat them). After many misfortunes and disappointments, they decide to strike out on their own. *Dreams of Hind and Camelia* offers a very convincing portrayal of the brutality and hopelessness that mark the lives of Cairo's poor,

especially its women. Starring Zaki, Naglaa Fathy and Ahmed Zaki.

- The Dreams of Sparrows (Iraq, 2004, color, 75 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Hayder Mousa Daffar. The Dreams of Sparrows is the first feature documentary from the IRAQeye Group, a collaboration between American and Iraqi filmmakers. After the capture of Saddam Hussayn, Daffar's search for the truth takes him through all walks of life in Iraq, and particularly into the heart of the arts community of Baghdad. As the film unravels, the interviews veer towards the politics of occupation and resistance, concluding with the battle over Falluja and the devastating death of one of the crew members. In somber self interviews made following the production, the filmmakers reveal the dramatic changes in their beliefs caused not only by the situation in Iraq, but also by the process of documenting it. Iraqi director Daffar and his team of contributing filmmakers share their vision of life in Baghdad under the US occupation.
- Driving an Arab Street (2002, color, 35 min, Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Arthur Hurley. The film follows Egyptian taxi drivers as they navigate the streets of Cairo and share their diverse perspectives on American and Egyptian society, culture, politics and the relationship between these two civilizations.
- The Druze (2003, color, 210 min, Arabic with French and English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Mohammed Abou Feleh. Compared to the other religions of Lebanon, the Druze, who originated in Egypt and settled in Syria, Palestine, and the mountains of Lebanon, have gone relatively unnoticed. They are members of a monotheistic Muslim sect that follows the teachings of Al-Hakim (985-1021), a Fatimid Caliph. Like most religious communities in the Middle East, Lebanese Druze have suffered the tribulations of political strife and foreign conquest. In spite of this, the Druze have preserved their traditions and religious beliefs, written between 1017 and 1043, for nearly one thousand years. Using rare footage, gripping interviews, and reliable historical documents, this fascinating documentary presents a vivid portrait of this little-known community.
- The Dupes (1972, 107 min, Arabic, VHS). An adaptation of the acclaimed novel *Men In the Sun* by Ghassan Kanafani, the screenplay for this black-and-white classic from Egyptian filmmaker Tewfik Saleh was co-authored by Kanafani himself.
- Echoes of Conflict (1991, 33 min; 29 min; 29 min; VHS). A new wave of young Israeli filmmakers is giving vibrant expression to the turbulent realities of a society in which struggles between Palestinians and Israelis cover every aspect of life. Echoes of Conflict is a trio of recent short films, all prize-winners at international festivals, placing Israel in the vanguard of political cinema. Echoes of Conflict is a small collection of three films by young Israeli filmmakers: Night Movie, directed by Gur Heller; Don't Get Involved, directed by Jorge Johanan Weller; and The Cage, directed by Amit Goren.
- Egyptian Peaks (VHS). This series provides brief overviews in three broad areas of interest: History, Geography, and Culture. Each program surveys the "peaks", or major contributions, of this ancient civilization. In each program, students from Colorado join tour guide Reynelda Muse in a brief visit to both ancient and modern Egypt.
- Egyptian TV Footage (VHS) -- No description available.
- Empty Quarter (1966, color, 50 min, VHS). This video re-enacts the post World War II trip of British explorer, Wilfred Thesiger and portrays Bedouin life and values. Based on

Thesigers' *Arabian Sands*, the film has a poetry quality as well as being a valuable historic portrayal of the Bedouin. (Print is somewhat faded).

- *Encounter Point* (2006, color, 85 min, DVD). Arabic and Hebrew, Subtitles in English, Arabic, Hebrew, French and Portuguese. Just when the world is losing hope about the possibility of resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict comes *Encounter Point*. Created by a Palestinian, Israeli, North and South American team, *Encounter Point* moves beyond sensational and dogmatic imagery to tell the story of an Israeli settler, a Palestinian ex-prisoner, a bereaved Israeli mother and a wounded Palestinian bereaved brother who risk their safety and public standing to press for an end to the conflict.
- *The English Sheik and the Yemeni Gentleman* (Yemen, 2000, color, 76 min, Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Bader Ben Hirsi. This lyrical film introduces us to Bader Ben Hirsi, a British-born Yemeni living in London after his parents' exile from Yemen. Bader returns to Yemen to rediscover his country, its people and traditions. Under the guiding hand of eccentric Englishman Tim Makintosh-Smith, who has been living as a Yemeni in the ancient city of Sana'a for the past 16 years, Ben Hirsi travels throughout his ancestral homeland.
- *The Extras* (1993, Syria, 100 min, Arabic, VHS). Award-winning film from Syrian director, Nabil Maleh. The moving story of the courtship of a young working-class couple in Syria as they struggle for privacy and intimacy under the watchful eyes of family and society. *Variety Magazine* called this film, "often funny and ultimately devastating." Starring Bassam Kousa and Samar Sammy.
- *Family Ties* (1983, color, 50 min, VHS). Discussions with Arab women and their families with a focus on a large extended family of Jordanians in Amman. Part of *The Arabs - A Living History Series*.
- *Fertile Memory* (West Bank, Palestinian Territories, 1980, color, 99 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Michel Khleifi. The first full-length film to be shot within the Palestinian West Bank Green Line, the film blends both documentary and narrative elements. A portrait of two Palestinian women whose individual struggles both define and transcend the politics that have torn apart their homes and lives. Grandmother Romia fights an unending legal battle with the Zionist authorities who confiscated her ancestral land in 1947. Sahar Khalifeh, a divorced novelist and young mother living in the West Bank, struggles to maintain a modern role for herself within the increasingly intolerant occupation community. Representing both contemporary Arab womanhood and vanguard Palestinian conscience, Sahar must balance the changes in her world after the Six Day War with the changes in herself since achieving personal emancipation. *Fertile Memory* is the feature debut of acclaimed director Khleifi whose *Wedding in Galilee* was a triumph of the Cannes Film Festival.
- *The Fifth Reaction* (2003, color, DVD, Farsi with subtitles and English, 107 minutes, DVD). Directed by Tahmineh Milani. From the controversial director of *Hidden Half* and *Two Women* comes another tale of clash between modernism and tradition in contemporary Iran. A progressive, recently widowed teacher and her conservative,

controlling father-in-law fight for custody of her two small children. According to tradition, Fereshteh should remain in her father-in-law's home with her children, which he sees as an opportunity to force her to marry his younger son, but she refuses. Afraid of losing custody of the boys, she decides to take them and disappear from her father-in-law's realm of control, aided by her women friends. Tahmineh Milani's film captures the tumult of a nation plagued by the conflicting philosophies of hard-line religious groups and an educated, cosmopolitan population.

- *Final Solution* (2003, color, DVD, Hindi/Gujarati with subtitles and English, 218 minutes, DVD). Directed by Rakesh Sharma. *Final Solution* is a study of the politics of hate. Set in Gujarat, India, the film graphically documents the changing face of right-wing politics in India through a study of the 2002 pogroms against Muslims in Gujarat. The film examines the aftermath of the deadly violence that followed the burning of 58 Hindus on the Sabarmati Express train at Godhra on February 27 2002. In "reaction" to that incident, some 2,500 Muslims were brutally murdered, hundreds of women raped, and more than 200,000 families driven from their homes. Borrowing its reference from the history of Nazism, the title of the film exposes what the film director calls 'Indian Fascism' and seeks to remind that "those who forget history are condemned to relive it." An incisive, unflinching look at Muslim-Hindu relations, and winner of numerous international film awards.
- *Five Pillars of Islam* (1984, color, 30 min, VHS). This film presents the five essential principles upon which Islam rests.
- *The Flying Camel* (Israel, DVD, 92 min). A charming comic escapade about a Jewish professor and an Arab garbage collector who embark on an exciting adventure in pursuit of their uncommon interests. The comedy escalates when a young nun encounters the unlikely duo and joins them in a madcap journey through a wild landscape of wit and imagination. A lilting allegory etched against the backdrop of modern Tel Aviv, *The Flying Camel* is a delightful celebration of the differences that distinguish us and the enduring friendships that emerge when we accept them.
- *Folk Music of Libya* (color, 10 min, 16mm, VHS). This good research film provides old footage of Libyan folkloric dance troupe (faded).
- *For Those who Sail to Heaven* (VHS) -- At the climax of the annual Opet festival in ancient Luxor, the barques of ancient Theban gods were pulled from Karnak to Luxor and then sailed back on the "waters of inundation." Today, the descendants of Luxor's patron saint, Sheikh Sidi Abu'l Hajjaj, continue this ancient ritual. In this movie, the families which pull the sheikh's boat describe the many Sufi rites captured in the film, including "zikr," the whirling to flutes and drums to achieve the ecstatic state called "malbus," and "mirmah," equestrian games which rekindle the spirit of battles fought long ago. In their eyes, these rites constitute an ancient legacy which they are bound to preserve.
- *Forbidden Marriages in the Holy Land* (1999, color, 66 min, Arabic and Hebrew with English Subtitles, VHS). Directed by Michel Khleifi. Exploring the lives and loves of eight mixed marriages from different generations and backgrounds, director Michel Khleifi uncovers the mutual intolerance of the Middle East's three monotheistic religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Among the defiant couples is a young Palestinian

musician living with his Israeli musicologist girlfriend, a fiery Palestinian woman married to a Kurdish Jew, and a Jewish woman who converted to Islam to be with her husband in Gaza. A daring and spirited expose, *Forbidden Marriages in the Holy Land* celebrates people who, in a region scarred by conflict and catastrophe, chose love instead of hate.

- *Forces of Change: Artists in the Arab World* (1994, 24 min, English, VHS). Filmed on location in over ten countries, this documentary introduces the viewer to the contemporary art movements of the Arab world through interviews with twenty artists who discuss their work.
- *Forget Baghdad* (Iraq/Israel, 2002, color, 112 min, English, Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Samir. *Forget Baghdad* offers a rare glimpse into a community which is little-known but extremely important in light of the current state of affairs in the Middle East. Those known as “Sephardis,” “Mizrahim” or “Arab Jews” – that is, people of Jewish religion and Arab culture – have long found themselves caught between warring worldviews. Uprooted virtually overnight at the founding of the modern Israeli state, many Sephardis lost first their homeland and then, with the escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, their cultural identity. This documentary offers an opportunity to hear how people negotiate the complex layers of the self.
- *Four Women of Egypt* (Canada/Egypt, 1997, 90 min, VHS) -- Amina Rachid was raised in a non-religious, Westernized, aristocratic household before embracing Socialism and fighting for social justice. Another deeply committed activist, Shahenda Maklad, a Muslim, was a student demonstrator in Egypt’s national movement who lost her husband to a political assassination before pursuing political office herself. Her mentor, Wedad Mitry, a devout Christian, is a militant nationalist leader and author. Their friend, Safynaz Kazem, is a political journalist and strict Muslim. These four women are the subject of this impressive documentary exploration of opposing religious, social, and political views in modern-day Egypt.
- *Frontiers of Dreams and Fears* (Palestine/USA, 2001, color, 56 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Mai Masri. Award-winning Palestinian filmmaker Mai Masri traces the delicate friendship that evolves between two Palestinian girls: Mona, a resident of the economically marginalized Beirut refugee camp and Manar, an occupant of Bethlehem’s al-Dheisha camp under Israeli control. The two girls begin and continue their relationship through letters until they are finally given the opportunity to meet at the border during the Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon. When the intifada suddenly erupts around them, both girls face heart-breaking changes in their lives. As in Masri’s earlier films, *Children of Shatila* (1998) and *Children of Fire* (1990), *Frontiers of Dreams and Fears* focuses on the difficult plight of Palestinian children while exhibiting an optimism that defies their unbearable circumstances.
- *Gabbeh* (1996, 75 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). One of the most critically acclaimed films of the year, *Gabbeh* is an epic tale of the forbidden passion that shapes the legend of a magical carpet. A folkloric carpet (*Gabbeh*), picturing a man and woman riding away on horseback is the prized possession of a nomadic elderly couple. When they sit to wash it on the bank of a creek, a beautiful young woman suddenly emerges from the carpet to join them. Once held hostage by the endless restraints of the family that fashioned the carpet, she reveals the secret of the carpet lies within the mysterious black-clad rider on the white horse. Month after month, season after season, he had

followed her family from afar, always present, always waiting, howling to her songs of love - longing for her to run away with him.

- **Geometry, Symmetry, Order - Islamic Patterns in Persian Tradition** (color, 20 min, VHS). Directed by Helen Graeff. This video explores the concept of Islamic decorative art. It illustrates the interplay of mathematics and geometry in Islamic art through a series of visual images depicting the characteristic elements of symmetry and order. These interrelationships are conveyed using a mixture of visual media (slides, film, animation) accompanied by narration with a background of Persian music. There are six main sections: geometric patterns, arabesque design, calligraphy, meaning and use of colors, patterns on monuments and objects and Islamic art in Persian tradition. This video can be used in a variety of classes such as math, art, design, religion, and history.
- **The Girl in the Sneakers** (1998, 88 minutes, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Rassul Sadr Ameli. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, strict laws govern public interaction between the sexes. Boys and girls who are not related can be picked up by the police for doing nothing more than simply enjoying a walk together in the park. 15-year-old Tadaie and her friend Aideen undergo such a humiliation. Tadaie's furious parents forbid her to ever see the boy, but the spirited Tadaie refuses to give in. She decides to leave home and thus begins a fascinating odyssey through the Tehran streets that are not without danger to this sheltered, upper-middle-class girl. The movie tells a beautiful story of youthful rebellion and its consequences. Made without any moral judgment, it is a lovely snapshot of first love and its subsequent disappointment.
- **The Glories of Islamic Art-Part 1: The Umayyads and Their Capital Damascus** (2007, color, 45 min, DVD). Looks at the achievements of the first Islamic dynasty, the Umayyads, who established their capital at Damascus. Their regime spread throughout greater Syria, and they left a rich architectural heritage. This includes two of the great surviving Islamic buildings, the Great Mosque of Damascus and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. The program emphasises how the early Islamic builders and architects used ideas and materials inherited from their Byzantine predecessors.
- **The Glories of Islamic Art-Part 2: Two Islamic Regimes in Cairo** (2007, color, 45 min, DVD). Cairo displays the glories of two of the great Islamic regimes - the Shi'ite Fatimids who swept in from the North African desert, and the Mamluks, slave soldiers who overthrew their masters to set up their own Sunni dynasty. Both have left behind impressive evidence of their strength. The program introduces a colorful cast of characters. The rebel governor Ibn Tulun spent all his tax takings on building one of the earliest and finest mosques, named after him, instead of passing the money on to his masters in Baghdad; the caliph Hakim won widespread Shi'ite admiration despite his cruel and despotic rule.
- **The Glories of Islamic Art-Part 3: The Ottomans and Their Capital Istanbul** (2007, color, 45 min, DVD). The Ottomans continued the theme of borrowing from, or adapting the work of their Byzantine predecessors. The two dominating buildings of historic Istanbul are the Blue Mosque and Haghia Sophia. The latter is a converted Christian cathedral, still containing the images of Jesus and Mary alongside the motifs of the early caliphs. The man mainly responsible for the conversion was the pre-eminent architect of Islam, Sinan. He was lucky enough to win the patronage of Suleiman the Magnificent, one of the richest and the most powerful of Ottoman rulers.

- *Good Kurds, Bad Kurds* (2001, color, 80 min, English, VHS & DVD). Directed by Kevin McKiernan. Filmmaker and acclaimed freelance journalist Kevin McKiernan went to northern Iraq to cover the uprising against Saddam Hussein. Just a few miles away, no one was covering the hidden war in Turkey. McKiernan determined he would report the story independently. *Good Kurds, Bad Kurds* brings sharp clarity to a complicated history, while providing disturbing insight into immigration practices and US foreign policy.
- *Grass - A Nation's Battle for Life* (1924, black and white, 70 min, VHS). In 1924, film makers Merian Cooper and Ernest Schoedsack filmed the migration of the Bakhtiari tribe of Iran (then Persia). Twice a year, more than 50,000 people and half a million animals surmounted seemingly impossible obstacles to take their herds to pasture. These obstacles include the raging and icy waters of the half-mile-wide Karun River and the side of the sheer, snow-covered rock face of the 15,000 foot Zardeh Kuh mountain. This is a restored and full-length version of the legendary silent film, complete with a new Iranian score. The original subtitles remain. Excellent historical footage.
- *The Ground Truth* (2006, USA, 78 min, English, DVD) Director and produced by Patricia Foulkrod, *The Ground Truth* is a searing documentary featuring the patriotic young Americans - ordinary men and women - who heeded the call for military service in Iraq. Hailed as "powerful" and "quietly unflinching," *The Ground Truth* stunned filmgoers at the 2006 Sundance and Nantucket Film Festivals. The terrible conflict in Iraq, depicted with ferocious honesty in the film, is a prelude for the even more challenging battles fought by the soldiers returning home - with personal demons, an uncomprehending public, and an indifferent government. As these battles take shape, each soldier becomes a new kind of hero, bearing witness and giving support to other veterans, and learning to fearlessly wield the most powerful weapon of all - the truth.
- *The Hajj* (1992, 29 min, English, VHS). Experimental ethnography of Turkish and Kurdish village women's lives - the empowerment of everyday life. This explores the meanings of domestic labor and the social power derived from marginalized activities at home.
- *Halfaouine, Boy of the Terraces* (Tunisia/France, 1990, color, 98 min, VHS). This is a coming of age story of a Tunisian boy by Tunisian film-maker Ferid Boughedir. The film is also a portrait of Halfaouine, the neighborhood during the period of the director's childhood.
- *Hamas Victory* (2006, color, 22 min, DVD). *HAMAS VICTORY* investigates the appeal of an officially terrorist organization both in the isolated, more traditionally Islamic oriented Gaza Strip, and in the secularized West Bank. The earlier Palestinian popular support of Yassir Arafat's "Fatah" movement has declined as its corruption and scandals punctuated the failure to achieve peace and prosperity, much less totally expel the Israelis - portrayed as alien and brutal occupiers. Beginning with its (ironically) Israeli supported development by the Muslim Brotherhood imported decades ago from Egypt and climaxing in its unanticipated sweep of democratic elections, this emerging force was born of a deep and furious hatred of Israel and its Western supporters. Can the West hope that it will become more pragmatic and recognize the need to negotiate with Israel? *HAMAS* hints at the answers in the words of those who supported it.
- *Hamoun* (Iran, 1990, color, 117 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Dariush Mehrjui. *Hamoun* is a psychological comedy/drama about a bumbling Iranian

intellectual, Hamid Hamoun. Trying and failing to complete a philosophical tract on love, Hamoun cannot seem to convince his wife Mashid, who is a successful artist, to love him either. Hamoun's refusal to accept reality, or grant Mashid a divorce, is both character study and metaphor for a condition of modern urban life in Iran. In 1997, a survey of Iranian film critics voted Hamoun as the best Iranian film ever made, an honor previously held by Mehrjui's *The Cow*.

- *Hamsin* (1983, 90 min, VHS). Directed by Daniel Wachsmann. Study of a Jewish landowner and his Arab worker as they work to build a dream ranch in Galilee. Tension builds when it is learned that Arab lands in the area are to be confiscated. An effort at reconciliation is made.
- *Head-On* (2004, Turkey, DVD, 118 min). One of the most critically acclaimed films of the year, *Head-On* follows two young Turkish-Germans who are forced into a marriage of convenience which ultimately blossoms into a bond of mutual admiration. Erotically charged, darkly funny, *Head-On* is a journey you won't forget.
- *Heart to Heart* (2003, 43 min, English and Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Conversations with Arab-Americans living in Philadelphia following the events of September 11, 2001. Directed by Fatema Chebchoub, a Moroccan living and studying in Philadelphia, this film addresses issues of democracy, identity, patriotism, and the reality of being an Arab-American in a post-9/11 American environment. Spanning a number of generations, ethnic and religious backgrounds, and social positions, the film gives voice to the complex and varied experiences of this diverse community who have come to make America and Philadelphia their home. Good for high school classroom use.
- *Hemlock* (2000, VHS) Directed by Behrooz Afkhami. Mahmoud Bassirat, a high-level manager in a factory, is informed by the general manager that unknown characters have offered him bribes to help them buy the factory. The general manager is subsequently hospitalized following a mysterious accident, and Mahmoud temporarily replaces him. During hospital visits to his general manager, Mahmoud becomes involved in an emotional affair.
- *Hijacking Catastrophe: 9/11, Fear and the Selling of American Empire* (2004, 64 min w/ 121 min additional footage, English, DVD). *Hijacking Catastrophe: 9/11, Fear & the Selling of American Empire* examines how a radical fringe of the Republican Party has used the trauma of the 9/11 terror attacks to advance a pre-existing agenda to radically transform American foreign policy while rolling back civil liberties and social programs at home. The documentary places the Bush Administration's false justifications for war in Iraq within the larger context of a two-decade struggle by neoconservatives to dramatically increase military spending in the wake of the Cold War, and to expand American power globally by means of military force. At the same time, the documentary argues that the Bush Administration has sold this radical and controversial plan for aggressive American military intervention by deliberately manipulating intelligence, political imagery, and the fears of the American people after 9/11. Narrated by Julian Bond, *Hijacking Catastrophe* features interviews with more than twenty prominent political observers.
- *Hyenas Under the Sun* (color, 100 min, VHS). This Tunisian film depicts the disruption of a traditional fishing town by the infiltration of a modern European tourist village.

- *I Exist* (USA, 2003, color, 56 mins, English, VHS). Directed by Peter Barbosa & Garrett Lenoir. A timely documentary about the lives of lesbian and gay Middle Easterners in the United States. Award winning directors Peter Barbosa and Garrett Lenoir deliver a piercing tour de force of the joys and pains of growing up gay and Middle Eastern. Touching and groundbreaking interviews shed light on the experiences of this community, once voiceless from the fear of shame and ostracism.
- *I Named Her Angel* (Turkey, 30 min, DVD) Directed by Nefin Dinc. This documentary film tells the story of a 12 year-old Turkish girl, Elif, learning the basics of her religion, Mevlevism. Mevlevi are also known as Whirling Dervishes in the Western World, and they are a part of a heterodox tradition of Islam. Elif attends the meetings at the religious den, listens to the spiritual leader about the matters of life, death, being human, Mevlana, Allah, etc., reads the books about her religion and also learns how to pray by whirling. This film follows Elif through the course of a year, witnessing her learning how to do the sema (whirling), how to wear the tennure (white robes that Mevlevi's wear during the religious ceremonies), about the position of women in this religion, performing at the centuries old Galata Mevlevi Temple, learning the teachings of Mevlana, the founder of Mevlevism. Mevlana is also known as Rumi and his poems are vastly popular in the Western World. The film attempts to show a different view of Islam through the eyes of a 12 year-old Turkish girl.
- *If You Make it Possible* (USA, 1996, color, 75 min, English and Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Lynn Feinerman. *If You Make it Possible* offers four uniquely personal, in-depth portraits of Israelis and Palestinians who have devoted their lives to the work of achieving non-violence and coexistence in the Middle East. The peace-makers featured are Nafez Assaily, co-founder of the Palestinian Center for the Study of Non-Violence and Director of the Library-on-Wheels project; Rabbi Menachem Fruman, who founded the Gush Emunim Religious Settler Movement; Father Bruno Hussar, founder of Neve Shalom/Wahat Al Salaam, a multi-faith, multi-race village, and Nabila Espanioly and Hannah Saffran, two women who have built a strong friendship together through their women's advocacy work in spite of the fact that Nabila is Palestinian and Hannah is Israeli.
- *Images of Saudi Arabia* (DVD) -- No description available.
- *In My Own Skin* (USA, 2001, color, 16 min, English, VHS). Directed by Jennifer Jajeh & Nikki Byrd. *In My Own Skin* sheds light on the complexities of the Arab American experience through candid, in-depth interviews with five young Arab women living in New York in the months following the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center. Taking us beyond common stereotypes and misconceptions, *In My Own Skin* gives us a glimpse of the conflicts, joys and pressures of being a member of two very different communities. Great for classroom use!
- *In This World* (2004, DVD, 88 min). *In This World* follows the hazardous journey of two Afghan boys as they travel from Pakistan through Iran, Turkey, Italy, France and the UK in search of refuge in London. A moving and dramatic story that reveals the desperate measures people take to escape persecution and the life-threatening conditions they find themselves in along the way.
- *Inch'allah Dimanche* (France, 2002, color, 98 min, French and Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Yamina Benguigui. In the aftermath of World War II,

France attempted to replenish its weekend work force by recruiting men from North Africa. In the mid-1970, the French government relaxed its immigration policy to allow the families of Algerian men to join them. Zouina is torn from her Algerian home with her three children and mother-in-law to rejoin her husband in France. She feels imprisoned between a distant husband, a hostile mother-in-law, and a neighbor afraid of Zouina's otherness. Zouina, though, begins to discover the contours of her new environment through her friendship with a cosmetics factory worker and her Sunday afternoon excursions with her children. Winner of the Firpresci Award at the Toronto Film Festival *Inch'allah Dimanche* is a deeply moving exploration of the difficulties of immigration, change and adaptation.

- *Inner Life* (1978, color, 30 min, VHS, Study Guide). This film examines Islamic mysticism and Sufism. (Traditional World of Islam Series)
- *The Inner Tour* (2002, 98min, English, Arabic & Hebrew with English Subtitles, DVD). Controversially divisive in the Israeli press for its sympathetic portrayal of Palestinian citizens, *The Inner Tour* (Official selection, Sundance Film Festival, 2002) is a fascinating and humanistic portrait of ordinary people caught up in one of the most emotionally painful and seemingly intractable national conflicts of our time. Just months before the second Intifada began in 2000, Israeli director Ra'anana Alexandrowicz filmed a group of West Bank Palestinians on a three-day bus tour to Israel, where many of the passengers once lived. Their weekend trip becomes an extremely charged journey of deep emotional distances and contradicting realities as the travelers interact with ordinary Israelis and visit places that they feel simultaneously rooted to and alienated from. Their contemplative observations of and encounters with the country they are visiting lie at the heart of this piercingly resonant documentary.
- *Inside Islam-Part 1: The Koran, the Sound that Calls Allah* (2007, color, 48 min, DVD). Filmed in Turkey, Lebanon and Iran, this episode profiles the origins and history of Islam by analyzing the teachings of the Koran. The most sacred book in Islam, the Koran serves as a guiding principle and dictates a Muslim's daily life. Among other topics profiled: Jihad, architecture of some important Mosques and selected history of Islam's relationship to Christianity.
- *Inside Islam-Part 2: Blue Islam on the Silk Road* (2007, color, 48 min, DVD). In this episode discover the Silk Road, the iconic trading route between Europe and Asia continues its renaissance through the teachings of Allah in Central Asia. Uzbekistan stood at the crossroads of Eastern and Western Civilization and developed into a Muslim Society. Discover the Silk Road's past and follow its majestic history.
- *Inside Islam-Part 3: Winds of Change and Chador* (2007, color, 48 min, DVD). Islamic societies are generally known for their restrictions on women's rights and freedoms; for example, polygamy, honor killings and the enforcement of wearing the Hijab and Chador. Since all cultural traits are created because of social needs in the region, is it right for outsiders to judge this practice? How do people currently living in the region accept these customs? What do today's Islamic women think of these traditions? What is the image of Islamic women in this ever-changing world?
- *Inside Islam-Part 4: Fez, Scent of Medieval Islam* (2007, color, 48 min, DVD). During the Middle Ages, Fez, once the crown jewel of Moroccan civilization, was the core of

Islamic Culture and education. At the Mosque Qaraouiye University some of the great scientists, mathematicians and mullahs studied and subsequently awakened Europe out of the darkness of the middle ages with their discoveries and inventions. Today, Fez is a bustling city with roads so narrow that donkeys are the only method of transportation.

- Inside Islam-Part 5: Light of Allah Shining Throughout Europe, Andalucia (2007, color, 48 min, DVD). In 711 A.D. the Moroccan Islamic army crossed the strait of Gibraltar and reached Tarifa, a port at the edge of the European continent, and began a rule of more than 800 years. Those years of Islamic rule left unique traces of its culture in the Andalusia region of Spain. Now, Southern Spain has a complex history having absorbed the influences from not only Islam but from the Romans and Christianity. Cordoba became a symbolic city mixing the various influences and now has a culture unique to Spain. Does that cultural development continue today?
- The Intifada (VHS) - PBS footage.
- Introduction to the Arab World (color, 48 min, VHS, Study Guide). This film introduces the people and places of the Arab world and addresses the most important concerns confronting the Arab world today - in a format designed for those with little or no prior knowledge of the region. This production is divided into three 15-minute sections, which may be viewed consecutively or interspersed with discussions or exercises. The "Overview" contrasts factors that unite all Arabs with those unique to each region in the Arab world. "Islam" presents the historical background and basic tenets of the social, cultural, political, and economic concerns of the Arab people today. A supplementary guidebook accompanies the videotape and includes the video script, notes to the script, a timeline, maps, classroom exercises, informational hand-outs on Arabic civilization, a glossary of terms, and an annotated bibliography of suggested introductory readings.
- Iran: Past, Present, and Future (1992, 32 min, VHS). This video provides a brief overview of Iran.
- Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers (2006, USA, 75 min, English, DVD)
Director Robert Greenwald (*Wal-mart: The High Cost of Low Price; Outfoxed; and Uncovered*) takes you inside the lives of soldiers, truck drivers, widows and children who have been changed forever as a result of profiteering in the reconstruction of Iraq. *Iraq for Sale* is the story of what happens to everyday Americans when corporations go to war. The film uncovers the connections between private corporations making a killing in Iraq and the decision makers who allow them to do so. "A horrifying catalog of greed, corruption and incompetence," writes the New York Times and the Huffington Post declares: "[Greenwald] has delivered a film that connects on both an emotional and an intellectual level. And, most importantly, it does so by letting the facts – and the victims of the war's privatization – speak for themselves."
- Iraqi Women (1994, color, 54 min, English, VHS). Iraqi Women-Voices from Exile provides a fascinating and rare look at the recent history of Iraq through the eyes and experiences of Iraqi women living in exile in Britain. The Arab world usually speaks to the outside with a male voice and Arab women's voices are rarely heard. This documentary features moving interviews with women about life in Iraq before Saddam

Hussein came to power, in the years of repression under his regime and through the Gulf War in 1991. As well as providing a forum for Iraqis to tell their own stories to a western audience, Iraqi Women-Voices from Exile also contributes to a process of Iraqi self-criticism.

- Iron Island (Iran, 2005, 90 minutes, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Mohammad Rasoulouf. A huge, abandoned oil tanker becomes its own world as squatters make their lives upon it. Presiding over this haphazard society is Captain Nemat (Ali Nassirian), a leader who's part visionary, part supply sergeant, part snake oil salesman. As he bounds up and down the tanker's halls and stairways, he charmingly persuades the families living in rusted rooms to obey his rules while he hustles the goods they all need to survive. But this microcosm is threatened from within (the ship is slowly sinking) and without (the owners want to sell it for scrap metal), forcing Nemat to seek a radical solution. Meanwhile, Nemat's protege Ahmad (Hossein Farzi-Zadeh, *The Beautiful City*) has fallen in love with a girl who's already promised to marry another man. While *Iron Island* can be read as an allegory about life in the Muslim world, life on board the tanker feels organic and follows its own internal logic, making the movie vivid and vital. The movie's political conundrums feel implacably real and have no easy or absolute solution. But Nassirian is the movie's core; he holds *Iron Island* together with the same unquenchable drive that Nemat uses to hold together his ship-bound kingdom. Altogether, a rich and compelling film.
- Isfahan of Shah Abbas (1976, color, 28 min, VHS). Narrated by Oleg Grabar, this video views buildings and monuments in Isfahan, Iran during the Safavid period.
- Isaf Khamsa wa Khamseen (Ambulance 55) (Egypt, color, Arabic, no subtitles, VCD & DVD). The adventures of 2 paramedics and an E.R. doctor. Starring Ahmad Helny, Mohamed Saad, Ghada Adel.
- Islam, Asia, and Modernity (2005, DVD) A three-day conference to explore the changing politics, practices, and representations of Islam in Asia; how these changes are studied, documented, taught, and represented in the academy and the media; and how these practices affect politics, society, and culture in Muslim Asia.

Volume 1 - Islam Asia, and Modernity

"Introduction" by Anand Yang, "Whither the Umma? Community, Identity, and Empire: The Muslims of Late Imperial Russia" by Azade-Ayse Rorlich, "Sir Sayyid's Enigma of Arrival: Empire and the Realm of the Secular" by David Lelyveld, "Ulama, Women's Rights, Muslim Laws and the Islamic State in Malaysia" by Norani Othman, "Discussant: Clark Lombardi; Chair: Kent Guy

Volume 2 -Gender Sexuality, and the Body in Asian Muslim Societies

"Purity and the Muslim body Politic: Women's Mosques, Gate-Keeping and Gender Equality in Central China's Hui Muslim Communities" by Maria Jaschok, "Majlis: A Discourse Analysis of a Shiite Ritual in Pakistan" by Huma Haq, "Gender, Bodies, and Deference: Reproducing Hierarchy in Central Asia" by Marianne Kamp, Discussant: Chandan Reddy, Chair: K. Siviramakrishnan

Volume 3 -Islamic Arts and National Culture

"Reforming Kyrgyz Islam: Nomadic Customs vs. Islamic Shari'a" by Elmira Kochumkulkizi, "National and Regional Arts: Translating Islam into Local Cultures in

Indonesia" by Endo Suanda, Discussant: Francisco, Chair: Dan Waugh

Volume 4 -The Crisis of Masculine Identities in Post Soviet and Post 9-11 Muslim Asia
"Muslim Masculinity in post-Soviet Space after 9-11" by Jakob Rigi; "Modern States, Governance and Crisis of Muslim Masculinity in Southwestern and Central Asia" by Nazif Shahrani; "Masculinization/Arabization vs. Feminization/De-Arabization" by Ulil Abshar Abdalla; Discussant: Carlo Bonura; Chair: Tani Barlow

Volume 5 -Education and Islamic Legal Subjects in Asia
"Public Education and the Reproduction of Religious Intolerance: The Case of Bangladesh" by Imtiaz Ahmed; "Islamic Subjects in school: the end of faith-based initiative?" by Gardner Bovington; Discussant: Kristen Stilt; Chair: Steve Hanson

Volume 6 -Asian Islam and the Politics of Knowledge
"How does the March 2005 Revolution in Kyrgyzstan Transform the Discussion of Islam for the Historians of Central Asia?" by Ali F. Igmen; "Islam and the Politics of Secularism in India" by Partha Chatterjee; "Moderate and Extreme Islam in Southeast Asia: Origins and Contemporary Relevance" by Sumit Mandal; Discussant: Laurie Sears; Chair: Cabeiri Robinson; Closing Comments: Ziauddin Sardar Anand Yang

- Islam 600-1200 (color, 26 min, VHS). This film is part of a television series on the history of the world, based on the Times Atlas of World History. This film documents the spread of Islam from Mecca to North Africa and Spain, Central Asia, Asia, and Africa. It has very good map sequences on the spread of Islam. It discusses the beginning of Islam in Mecca, the Ummayyad and Abbasid caliphates, the Sunni--Shia split, the advance of the Seljuks, the founding of Baghdad and the Beit al Hikma (the house of wisdom). Be aware that there are too many film clips of the desert and angry Muslims (Iranians and Afghans), the background series on the history of the world, based on the Times Atlas of World History. This film documents the spread of Islam from Mecca to North Africa and Spain, Central Asia, Asia, and Africa. It has very good map sequences on the spread of Islam. It discusses the beginning of Islam in Mecca, the Ummayyad and Abbasid caliphates, the Sunni--Shia split, the advance of the Seljuks, the founding of Baghdad and the Beit al Hikma (the house of wisdom). Be aware that there are too many film clips of the desert and angry Muslims (Iranians and Afghans), the background music is often very western and inappropriate, and the numbers of Muslims should be updated. Nonetheless, it is a useful film for the classroom.
- Islam in America (color, 52 min, VHS). The five are sections filmed in various areas of the U.S. - Cedar Rapids, Los Angeles, Houston, Quincy and Dorchester, MA and Toledo, Ohio, and examine the five pillars of Islam. This unique video introduces the viewer to Islam not as a strange foreign religion but as the spiritual and institutional place for a wide variety of Americans. In the various cities of America we see glimpse of mosques and Islamic centers and their congregations. In one significant sequence, the significance of the Haji for Malcolm X is portrayed. There is perhaps too much emphasis on Islam and prisoners and ex-prisoners - but this is a good point of discussion with students.
- Islam: A Pictorial Essay (color, 90 min, VHS). This program on Islam is divides into four parts: doctrine; history and culture; life of the Prophet and the Faith; and arts and sciences.
- Islam: Empire of Faith (2000, color, 163 min, English, DVD). Directed by Robert Gardner. Between the fall of Rome and the European voyages of discovery, few events

were more significant than the rise of Islam. Within a few centuries, the Islamic empires blossomed, projecting their power from Africa to the East Indies, and from Spain to India. Inspired by the words of the Prophet Muhammed, and led by caliphs and sultans, this political and religious expansion remains unequalled in speed, geographic size and endurance. This DVD tells the spectacular story of the great sweep of Islamic power and faith during the first 1000 years - from the birth of the Prophet Muhammed to the peak of the Ottoman Empire under the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent. Historical reenactments and a remarkable exposition of Islamic art, artifacts, and architecture are combined with interviews of scholars from around the world to recount the rise and importance of early Islamic civilization. Increasingly, scholars and historians are recognizing the profound impact that Islamic civilization has had on Western culture and the course of world history.

- Islamic Science and Technology (1984, color, 30 min, VHS). This video reviews the many contributions of Islamic science in the fields of astronomy, physics, medicine, and engineering.
- Jerusalem 1948 (1998, Palestine, color, 45 min, in English and Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). This video covers the events in Jerusalem and the major villages to the south and west in the period between 1947 UN Partition Resolution and the first truce between the Arab and Israel armed forces in June 1948. The film challenges the major myths surrounding the war of 1948 that resulted in Israeli statehood and Palestinian exile. The film aims not only to explain the historical complexity of the Palestinian Nakba in 1948, but to provide insight into the diversity of Palestinian camps, villages and cities in Palestine, Jordan and the USA as Palestinians tell the story of their lives in pre-1948 Jerusalem.
- Jerusalem Under Siege (1991, color, 15 min, VHS). This video shows in graphic detail the extent of the Israeli settlements besieging East Jerusalem and inside the Old City. Palestinian residents of the city, including the Palestinian leader, Feisal Hussein, explain the extent of the Israeli siege on their city. The documentary points out the importance of Jerusalem to Palestinians and its strategic location within the Occupied Territories.
- Jerusalem, Gates to the City (color, 31 min, VHS). Directed by Dani Wachsmann and Francois Abou Salem. -- Jerusalem is celebrated as a city of gates, ancient arches made of stone. But there are other gateways into the city; you can enter Jerusalem through the stories, creations, and daily routines. Amid the city's ancient monuments and shrines, there are people from many different religions, national and ethnic traditions, all trying to live ordinary lives under extraordinary conditions.
- Jerusalem: An Occupation Set in Stone (1995, 55 min, English and Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Produced by the Palestinian Housing Rights Movement, Jerusalem: An Occupation Set in Stone is a tribute to the thousands of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem without access to life's most basic amenities. Filmmaker Marty Rosenbluth details the devastating effects of Israel's urban planning policies that, according to many, aim to uproot the Palestinian presence in the Holy City.

- **Jews of Iran** (Iran, 52 min, Farsi and English with English subtitles, DVD) Directed by Ramin Farahani. For over 2700 years, Jews have lived in Iran. Although the 1979 revolution resulted in the majority of the Iranian Jews to leave the country, there are still 20,000 Jews living in Iran today. This film takes you on a rare journey through Iran's Jewish community from Tehran to Isfahan, and finally to Shiraz, where the infamous case against Jews accused of spying for Israel took place. Director Ramin Farahani illuminates the discrimination faced by Iranian Jews, while simultaneously revealing the rich culture and ancient history of their community, their strong relationship to their country, and their hopes for the future.
- **Job (Ayyoub)** (color, 110 min, Arabic, VHS). A wealthy Egyptian builder is struck by a debilitating disease just as he is about to start work on a huge project. His son assumes control of the company and starts relations with an adversary whom the father distrusts. His socially conscious wife becomes over-protective and shrewish. His daughter is the most understanding of his family as is a close friend from his University days, a doctor in public hospitals. As a wealthy man who has kept hidden some tawdry secrets of his rise to wealth Omar Shariff gives a fine, low-keyed performance. The illness he suffers makes him more reflective about his life and successes. Slowly, as he recovers, he decides to publish his diary as proof to himself of his transformation -- as a means of cleansing himself regardless of how it affects those around him. With Omar Sharif.
- **Journey to Iran: a Woman's Work** (VHS) -- No description available.
- **Journey to the Occupied Land** (1992, VHS) Producer-correspondent Michael Ambrosino examines the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza through a personal journey that explores the bitter and complex issues of land ownership, the scope and future of the Israeli settlements, the realities of Israeli military justice, and daily life under Israeli occupation.
- **Journey to the Sun** (1999, 104 min, Kurdish and Turkish with English subtitles, DVD). When Mehmet, a cheerful young man from western Turkey, meets Berzan, a Kurdish rebel, the two form an unlikely friendship. Their bond not only survives the dark political realities of contemporary Turkey, it is strengthened by them. The friendship inspires Mehmet to embark on a sweeping, spiritual journey across Turkey to his friend's Kurdish homeland. *Journey to the Sun* won the named Best Film and Ustaoglu was named Best Director at the Istanbul Film Festival, where the film also won the Audience Award and the International Critics' Award.
- **Kadosh** (1999, 117 min, DVD). Israeli filmmaker Amos Gitai leaped to international prominence with this handsomely photographed, beautifully acted morality tale through which the power struggle between the lives of secular and religious Jews the world over is dramatically brought to light. Set in the Mea Sherim quarter of Jerusalem, an enclave of the ultra Orthodox, *Kadosh* explores a hermetic world almost never seen on the screen. Here for ten years the pious Rivka (Yael Abecassis) has devoted herself to her husband Meir (Yoram Hattab), but their marriage remains childless. Presumed barren, she is rejected by her community, which prizes children above all else. The story that follows relates the harrowing fate of Rivka, and also her beloved sister Malka (Meital Barda) - in love with a young man who has fled the community to lead a secular life. A huge boxoffice hit in Europe, acclaimed at Festivals in Cannes, Toronto, New Delhi and Tokyo, *Kadosh* is both a powerful drama and an impassioned feminist polemic. As religious fundamentalism achieves new political significance in many countries around the world,

the questions at the heart of Gitai's compelling drama resonate far beyond the borders of Israel.

- *Kandahar* (Iran, 85 min, Persian/English with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Mohsen Makhmalbaf. "Best Picture of the Year!" - Richard Corliss, *Time Magazine*. Winner of the Jury Prize at the 2001 Cannes Film Festival, *Kandahar* is an epic tale of hope and courage, inspired by the true story of a woman's attempt to enter Afghanistan. Nafas, an Afghan-born Canadian journalist, returns to her homeland in a desperate attempt to reach her sister. Overcome with grief after being injured by a landmine and her despair over the Taliban's systemic oppression of women, she has vowed that she will commit suicide at the time of the next solar eclipse, only three days away. Clothed in the traditional head-to-toe burka, and posing as a subservient wife, Nafas' odyssey takes her across a dramatic desert landscape, where she encounters bandits, corpse-robbers, marooned exiles, overwhelmed Red Cross workers, hordes of landmine victims, and finally a wedding procession that brings her within eyeshot of Kandahar.
- *Karagoz* (color, 23 min, VHS). This video reviews the history of Turkish shadow puppets and showcases samples of performance. Produced by Istanbul University.
- *Kedma* (2002, 100 min, DVD). An Official Selection at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival, *Kedma* is renowned Israeli filmmaker Amos Gitai's powerful drama about a group of European Jewish refugees who arrive at Palestine in the critical year of 1948. Carried on the deck of the freighter *Kedma*, they come ashore to find not the Promised Land of milk and honey but a war-torn desert in the bloody throes of transformation into the state of Israel. Rescued from a British army ambush at beachside by *Palmach* Jewish guerillas, the *Kedma*'s ragged refugees are remade into soldiers expected to offer their lives to defend a nation that does not yet exist in a land they've never known. *Kedma* is both a journey to survival and a chronicle of rebirth. As Rosa and fellow Europeans engage Arab resistance and elude British pursuit, they transform from exiles to insurgents and from Jews to Israelis. Directed by Gitai in a near documentary realist style, *Kedma* is an intimate epic of "overwhelming passion" that "tells you all you need to know about why this war still rages on with no end in sight" (Time Out, New York).
- *Keepers of the Faith: The Jews of Jerba* (VHS). This video discusses Jewish culture on the Tunisian island of Jerba.
- *The Key* (1986, color, 76 min, Farsi with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Ebrahim Forouzesh. A charmingly suspenseful tale about a four-year-old and his toddler brother left at home alone. When the smell of burnt food attracts a neighbor, it's up to Amir Mohammed to find the extra set of keys to let her in.
- *Kippur* (2000, 110 min, DVD). Yom Kippur, October 6th, 1973, war breaks out. Weinraub and Russo "fly" by car to the Golan Heights to try to find their military reserve unit. Unsuccessful, they decide to latch on to an Air Force first aid team. They are dispatched immediately. The helicopter crew fly back and forth across the Golan carrying out the dead and wounded. Their excitement and fervor quickly turn to shock and exhaustion. At their base and during missions, they develop a closeness and intimacy. On October 11th, Weinraub's 23rd birthday, they are sent to Syria on a mission. Their helicopter gets hit and crashes, the crew is sent to the hospital. "Kippur" is a profound war movie, based on the director Amos Gitai's own Yom Kippur War experiences, that presents a personal cinematic documentation about one of the toughest times in Israel's

history.

- Knowledge of the World (1978, color, 30 min, VHS, Study Guide). This video focuses on early Muslim scholarship and education. Tradition World of Islam Series.
- The Land (1969, 30 min, Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Chahine's classic film, adapted from Abdel Rahman al-Sharqawi's well-known novel of the same name, was eight years in the making. Chronicling a small peasant village's struggles against the careless inroads of the large local landowner, The Land shows why political oppression does not necessarily lead to a sense of solidarity among the disinherited. This contemplative, epic film about feudalism in rural regions was named the best Egyptian film ever made in a recent poll of Egyptian film critics.
- Late Marriage (Israel, 2001, color, 100 min, Georgian/Hebrew with English Subtitles, DVD). Directed by Dover Kosashvili. In the tradition of such recent comedic hits as My Big Fat Greek Wedding and Monsoon Wedding, comes this sexy, funny and revealing satire. Unmarried at 31, Zaza is a blot on his family. Trotting him out before one potential bride after another, he never manages to tie the knot. Curious, his family investigates and soon discovers the reason for Zaza's reluctance...his secret relationship with divorcee Judith. Upset, the entire family decides to intervene, culminating in a hair-raising showdown in which Zaza's relatives burst into Judith's home and confront Zaza in front of Judith and her six-year old daughter Madonna.
- Late Summer Blues (1987, color, 101 min, VHS). In 1987 this film received unanimous acclaim in the Jerusalem Film Festival. It is set in 1970 during the War of Attrition at the Suez Canal. It chronicles the events in the lives of seven Israeli students during the summer following high-school graduation - a summer clouded by their impending induction into the army. The film juxtaposes the tragedy of war with the innocence and idealism of youth.
- The Leader and the Nation (VHS) -- Leaders of Saudi Arabia, as presented by the Ministry of Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, department of Information Affairs.
- Lebanese Political Parties: Hezbollah (Lebanon, 2003, color, 180 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Farid Assaf. Hezbollah (The Party of God) emerged in 1982 as a guerilla resistance army fighting against the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. Though primarily Shiite, the party has drawn support from a broad range of organizations both religious and political; its primary appeal was to the disenfranchised Shiite youth in Lebanon. Hezbollah has relied on the Iranian government for military and monetary aid and was added to the US State Department's list of international terrorist groups in 1997. The party has since gained political legitimacy in Lebanon, holds parliamentary seats, while its civilian branch runs schools, orphanages and a television station. This is part of a series documenting six of Lebanon's most influential and significant political parties, providing a comprehensive historical context for the parties, their founders, and members.
- Lebanese Political Parties: The Amal Movement (Lebanon, 2003, color, 180 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Farid Assaf. The Amal [Hope] Movement is the popular name for the Shiite political party otherwise know as "The Movement of the Disinherited." Founded in 1973 by Shiite cleric Mousa El-Sadr, the party draws its initial

political strength through its close ties with Iran. Amal evolved into a militia during the Lebanese Civil War, achieving national credibility during the reconciliation conferences in Geneva and Lausanne. The Amal Movement now holds a significant number of parliamentary seats, due largely to the number of people it represents and its successful resistance to the Israeli occupation of the south. This is part of a series documenting six of Lebanon's most influential and significant political parties, providing a comprehensive historical context for the parties, their founders, and members.

- **Lebanese Political Parties: The Kataeb Party** (Lebanon, 2003, color, 200 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Farid Assaf. The Kataeb Party (also known as The Phalange Party) was founded by Sheikh Pierre Gemayel in 1936. It quickly emerged as a nationalist youth movement and a champion of the Christian cause in Lebanon. Throughout the 1960s the party was considered one of the largest political organizations within Lebanon. In the 1970s, it evolved into a private militia under the leadership of Bashir Gemayel, the founder's son. Bashir was elected president in 1982, following Israel's invasion of Lebanon, but was assassinated eight days before he was to assume power. This is part of a series documenting six of Lebanon's most influential and significant political parties, providing a comprehensive historical context for the parties, their founders, and members.
- **Lebanese Political Parties: The Lebanese Forces** (Lebanon, 2003, color, 180 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Farid Assaf. In 1976, under the leadership of Bashir Gemayel, several Christian militias united under the banner of The Lebanese Forces. Their goal was to combat the Syrian presence in Lebanon and to counterbalance the perceived threat of armed Palestinian forces within the borders. Gemayel maintained close ties with Israel, visiting the nation on several occasions. It is also widely believed that he accepted military supplies and training from Israel. The Lebanese Forces received their official party license in the 1990s, but it was later revoked and the party eventually dissolved. This is part of a series documenting six of Lebanon's most influential and significant political parties, providing a comprehensive historical context for the parties, their founders, and members.
- **Lebanese Political Parties: The Progressive Socialist Party** (Lebanon, 2003, color, 180 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Farid Assaf. The Progressive Socialist Party was founded in 1949 by the respected Druze leader Kamal Joumblat. Due to its secular social justice platform, the party drew together disparate factions of the Lebanese populous and was able to claim 18,000 adherents in 1953. After the assassination of Joumblat in 1977, his son Walid took control of the party and steered it towards a more pro-Druze agenda. The Progressive Socialist Party continues to be the favored political party of the Druze and now has deputies in the Lebanese parliament. This is part of a series documenting six of Lebanon's most influential and significant political parties, providing a comprehensive historical context for the parties, their founders, and members.
- **Lebanese Political Parties: The Syrian Social National Party** (Lebanon, 2003, color, 180 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Farid Assaf. The Syrian Social National Party (SSNP) was established under clandestine circumstances by Antoine Saadeh in the early 1930s. Its primary objective was to unify the people of greater Syria. Throughout the 1930s, the SSNP attracted numerous followers by expanding into Syria, Jordan and Palestine. The party gained popularity for its resistance to the Israeli invasions of South Lebanon. After a brief division in the 1980s, the party was reunited over the

following decades and now has deputies in the Lebanese parliament. This is part of a series documenting six of Lebanon's most influential and significant political parties, providing a comprehensive historical context for the parties, their founders, and members.

- *The Legend of a Sigh* (Original title: *Afsane-ye Ah*. Iran, 1991, color, 105 min, Farsi with English Subtitles, VHS). Directed by Tahmineh Milani. This strikingly feminist film draws on the literature of Azerbaijan province. According to the legend, Ah is a handsome young man who materializes to succor those in need whenever he hears a heartfelt sigh. Milani's protagonist is a woman novelist, suffering from writer's block, who, with the help of Ah, experiences the lives of four women from different social strata. From a wealthy Tehrani who feels unfulfilled by her life, to a poor servant, to a Turkman wife unable to leave the house without her husband's permission, to a rebellious student, the film offers a fascinating portrait of a range of Iranian women and their problems.
- *Leila* (129 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Dariush Mehrjui. Reza and Leila, an attractive and affluent young couple deeply in love and recently married, discover that Leila is unable to conceive. Although Reza steadfastly insists that it matters not in the least, his mother feels otherwise: she is determined that her son have children and continue the family line. Invoking tradition, she convinces her daughter-in-law that Reza must, out of necessity, take a second wife to produce an heir. This provocative, eloquent and ultimately devastating story, from "Iran's longest-running cinematic master" (*Village Voice*), is a stunning portrayal of the clash between tradition and modern marriage; between manipulation and the power of love.
- *Lembi* (Egypt, color, Arabic, no subtitles, VCD). The highest revenue in the history of Egyptian Cinema. Starring Mohamed Saad, Abla Kamel.
- *The Letter: An American Town and "The Somali Invasion"* (USA, 2003, color, 76 min, English, DVD). Directed by Ziad Hamzeh. A firestorm of controversy erupts when Lewiston, Maine Mayor Larry Raymond sends an open letter to the 1,100 newly-arrived Somali refugees. He informs them that the city's resources are strained to the limit and asks them to tell other Somalis not to move to the city, a move interpreted as racism by some and a rallying cry by white supremacist groups across the nation. Documenting the ensuing cross-current of emotions and events, and culminating in an anti-immigrant rally convened by The World Church of the Creator and a counter demonstration involving nearly 4,000 Lewiston residents supporting ethnic and cultural diversity, Hamzeh explores what American news outlets have dubbed the "Somali invasion" of an insulated, predominately white former mill town struggling to maintain its equilibrium in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy.
- *Letter from Morocco* (1991, color, 26 min, VHS). Director/producer: Beverly Sechinger, University of Arizona. This is the personal documentary of former Peace Corps teacher and moviemaker, Beverly Sechinger who returns ten years later and her discussion with friends. This is a good introduction to Moroccan society that will hold the attention of high school and college levels and serve as the basis for discussion.
- *Life and Nothing More* (Original title: *Zendegi Va Digar Hich*. Iran, 1992 color, 91 mins, Farsi with English Subtitles, VHS). Directed by Abbas Kiarostami. This film investigates the aftermath of a devastating 1990 earthquake which killed some 50,000 people in Northern Iran. Kiarostami's search for two young actors who played central roles in *Where is the Friend's Home?* becomes the dramatic source of *Life and Nothing More*.

Father and son travel to Quoker, the hometown of the two boys, and along the way meet earthquake survivors who desperately and valiantly work to reconstruct their lives.

- *Lion of the Desert* (1991, color, 158 min plus 32 min documentary, color, VHS). The year is 1929 and dictator Benito Mussolini [Rod Steiger] is still faced with the 20 year long war by Bedouin patriots to combat Italian colonization and the establishment of "The Fourth Shore" - re-birth of a Roman Empire in Africa. Anthony Quinn plays Omar Mukhtar, the teacher who leads the resistance. This film is valuable as an illustration of Italian colonialism in North Africa and a good contrast to that of the French and the British. The documentary on how the film was made makes this even more valuable for the classroom.
- *Living Islam, Vol. 1: Foundations* (1993, color, 50 min, VHS). This is an introduction to the essentials of Islam and the life of Mohammed. Examples range from Timbuktu illustrating how Mohammed converted nonbelievers to other areas of the world where Muslims balance religion and life.
- *Living Islam, Vol. 2: The Challenge of the Past*. By examining three major empires, Ottoman, Mughal, and Safavid, this segment attempts to show how history affects the differences in Muslim thinking today.
- *Living Islam, Vol. 3: Struggling with Modernity*. This program looks at tensions within the Islamic countries as they try to reconcile faith with modern practices.
- *Living Islam, Vol. 4: Paradise at the Feet of Mother*. This section considers the family and explores the position of women in Egypt, Iran, and Indonesia.
- *Living Islam, Vol. 6: The Last Crusade*. As Muslim societies face pressure for change, there are some who propose changes by peaceful means and others through violence. Examples from Jerusalem, Cairo, Tehran, and Kadvna illustrate these problems.
- *The Lizard* (Iran, 2004, color, 117 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Kamal Tabrizi. *Marmoulak* (The Lizard) touches a nerve like no Iranian film has done before. *Marmoulak* is a compelling tale of a thief, whom in his quest to escape from prison, discovers that it's the actions of a man that's important and not his garb, and that even a thief can inspire people to do good for their fellow man. Reza Marmoulak is a thief who is convicted for armed robbery and sentenced to life in prison. Due to an injury Marmoulak is placed in a hospital room with a cleric, whose garb he steals to wear as a disguise in order to escape his life in prison. The movie is a touching story on the occurrences that take place during the course of Marmoulak's adventures as an imposter, and the important lessons of life that he indirectly instills in all of us.
- *Lost Boys of Sudan* (2003, color, 87 min + extras, English, DVD). Filmmakers Megan Mylan and Jon Shenk follow two teenage Sudanese refugees on an extraordinary journey from Africa to America. In the late 80s, Islamic fundamentalists in Sudan waged war on the country's separatists, leaving behind over 20,000 male orphans, otherwise known as "lost boys." Of the survivors who found their way to refugee camps, some were chosen to participate in a resettlement program in America. The "Lost Boys of Sudan" narrate their story in real-time, without the use of voice-over narration, during their first year in the US. Winner of the Truer Than Fiction Independent Spirit Award and the Golden Gate Award at the San Francisco International Film Festival, this film offers a gripping and

sobering peek into the myth of the American dream.

- **Lover's Wind: An Iranian Tale** (color, 85 min, VHS). This film by the National Film Center is based on a story by Albert La Morisse. It is a delightful aerial tour of the Iranian countryside through the eyes and words of "a wind". This little wind (who later becomes "the lovers wind") has a bad relative who drives him to join other winds to travel around Iran. They visit Isfahan and see wind towers. Then they go to Susa, which represents all cities destroyed by wind and repopulated by nomads, wanderers like the wind. Then it is on to Persepolis, Mashhad, Qom, the unpopulated city deserts, Zoroastrian towers of silence, the Persian Gulf, oil refineries, Mount Damaviand, Tehran, Caspian provinces, and the Turkmen area in the northeast of Iran. There are wonderful views of the antelope, onager, wild sheep and fox. The film has an excellent soundtrack of Iranian instruments and song.
- **Mahmoud Darwich: As the Land is the Language** (1997, 60 min, English and Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Simone Bittone. This film, which follows Darwich from the Cisjordanian desert to Paris via Cairo and Beirut, tracing the path of his exile from Israel, sets out to understand this popular fervor and share the emotion distilled by Darwich's words and inimitable rhythm. It not only allows the viewer to appreciate his work in its totality, but also places it in a political, historical and cultural context.
- **The Making of the Arabs** (1983, color, 50 min, VHS). An introduction to the Arab world. The Arabs - A Living History Series.
- **Man and Nature** (1978, color, 30 min, VHS). This video focuses on traditional technology from agricultural methods to architecture. Traditional World of Islam Series.
- **Man in our House, A** (1961, 159 min, VHS, English and French subtitles). Directed by Henri Barakat. Based on the famous novel by Ihsan Abdel Qoddous, this 1961 classic is set prior to the 1952 revolution and stars the legendary Omar Sharif in one of his most memorable roles. Sharif plays Ibrahim, a member of the underground resistance who seeks refuge from the so-called "political police" by taking shelter in the home of a civil servant and his family.
- **Man of Ashes** (1986, 109 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Nouri Bouzid. Like any groom, Hachemi is anxious about his approaching marriage, but not for the usual reasons. Anonymous alleyway graffiti challenging the manliness of his best friend, Farfat, overshadow the upcoming ceremony. Hachemi's concern is for himself as well as his friend, because he and Farfat share a childhood secret: as apprentices they were both molested by Ameer, the carpenter who trained them. While Farfat makes plans to run away to Tunis, a nervous Hachemi makes a more personal journey of self-discovery.
- **The Maronites** (2003, color, 275 min, Arabic with French and English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Mohammed Abou Feleh. Constituting the largest Catholic Christian group in the Middle East, the Maronites of Lebanon are devout followers of Saint Maron (d. 410) of Antioch. The Maronites were particularly influential in the creation of the modern state of Lebanon and its independence from the French in 1948. Despite various instances of oppression and persecution throughout their history, the Maronites have managed to remain a dominant force in Lebanese political and cultural life. Using rare footage and insightful interviews, this absorbing documentary traces the history of this ancient

community to modern day Lebanon, capturing its substantial contributions to the religious and cultural diversity of the Middle East.

- *Marooned in Iraq* (Iran, 2002, 97 min, Kurdish with English subtitles, DVD). During the Iran-Iraq war, an aging Iranian-Kurd musician hears that his wife, a singer with a magical voice who deserted him for his best friend and fled to Iraq, is in trouble. He cons his two sons into accompanying him on the search for her, and they embark on an adventure filled with music, romance and danger. Acclaimed Iranian director Bahman Ghobadi's (*A Time for Drunken Horses*) award-winning film uses humor and wit to dramatize the plight of the Kurdish people.
- *Maryam* (USA, 2002, color, 90 min, English, DVD). Directed by Ramin Serry. It's 1979 and Mary, an Iranian-American teenager, pursues fun and romance in the New Jersey suburbs. Her biggest problems are simply trying to fit in, and dealing with her strict father who forbids her to date and live life like a normal teenager. Mary's world is radically transformed, though, when Ali, her fundamentalist Muslim cousin, comes to live with her family at the same time that Americans are taken hostage in Iran. American backlash against Iranians and Ali's disclosure of the family's dark history force Mary to come to terms with her own unique, culturally divided identity.
- *Master Musicians of Jajouka* (1983, color, 60 min, VHS). The musical performance at weddings in a Saint's tomb, in homes and in the village square shows the rich music; history of the Moroccan village of Jajouka. The musicians and their music have been affected by western culture. The process is described by the musician, Paul Bowles, Timothy Leary and Brion Gysin.
- *The May Lady* (1998, 88 minutes, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Rakhshan Bani-Etemad. A delicate and sensitive family drama about a divorcée confronting contradictory desires – her own need for adult love and companionship and her ability to maintain a stable relationship with her only child. Successful documentary filmmaker Forough Kia is at a turning point. She's involved with a doctor whom she cares for deeply. But her rebellious teenage son Mani resents the presence of another man in her life. As Forough interviews women from all walks of life for a television report on "the exemplary mother," she wonders where she fits in. This bold examination of the universal tension between motherhood, womanhood and professional life marked an important challenge to the social norms and cultural expectations of Iranian society in the late Nineties.
- *Merchant of Art* (1986, color, VHS). Recitation of the Bani Hillal epic by an Upper Egyptian poet. Produced by folklorist, Susan Slymovics, Brown University.
- *The Message: The Story of Islam* (color, 172 min, plus 45 minute documentary, VHS). Directed by Moustapha Akkad. Set in 7th century Mecca, film portrays the beginnings of Islam. In Mecca powerful leaders are in conflict with Mohammed who attacks injustices in their way of life. Mohammed, after his vision of the Angel Gabriel calls to the people of Mecca to worship one God, not the 300 idols of the Holy Shrine, the Ka'bah. The leaders of Mecca persecute and torture Mohammed and his followers who are forced to find sanctuary in Mecca. The Battle of Badr and Uhud are portrayed as well as the reentry of Mohammed's army to Mecca and the subsequent destruction of the idols or the Ka'bah and the dedication of this holy place to the worship of one God. Accompanied by

a documentary of the making of the film. (Cast: Anthony Quinn, Irene Papas)

- Mideast: Arts, Crafts, and Architecture (1977, color, 18 min, VHS). Rugs, tiles, leather, calligraphy, and architecture.
- Mideast: Economic Development (1974, color, 18 min, VHS). Impact of oil on the region.
- Mideast: Islam - The Unifying Force (1977, color, 17 min, VHS). History, beliefs and practices of Islam.
- Mideast: Land and People (1977, color, 20 min, VHS). Lands, people, and lifestyles.
- Mideast: Pioneers of Science (1977, color, 20 min, color, VHS). Knowledge and scientific discoveries from the ancient and Islamic Middle East.
- The Milky Way (Israel, 1997, color, 104 min, Arabic and Hebrew with English Subtitles, VHS). Directed by Ali Nassar. In 1964, in a small Arab village in the Galilee, villagers living under military rule must cope with the delicate co-existence of social ritual and deep, unhealed wounds. The village is fiercely ruled by the Mukhtar, who fundamentally serves the interests of the Israeli Military Governor, instead of those of his own people. These are tough times for the villagers - some are bitter and spiteful, while others are weary of power struggles. The narrative centers around such incidents as the military commander's discovery that one of the villagers is issuing forth work permits, and the killing of the Mukhtar's son.
- The Mirror (1998, 95 minutes, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD) Directed by Jafar Panahi. A girl with her arm in plaster, comes out of school one day and doesn't find her mother meeting her. lost in the hustle and bustle of Tehran, her journey back home turns into a dazzling exercise on the nature of film itself. Jafar Panahi has wrapped a blunt political critique inside the layers of a deceptively simple film.
- Mirror of Kings: Tales from the Kalila Wa Dimna (color, 12 min, VHS). Animated film based on a 14th century Mamluk manuscript. Distributed by Smithsonian Institution.
- A Moment of Innocence (1996, 75 min, DVD). Directed by Mohsen Makhmalbaf. A poetic and often comic re-construction of an incident that dramatically affected the lives of two people. In 1974, director Mohsen Makhmalbaf, then a 17-year-old rebel against the Shah's regime, stabbed a young policeman during a botched attempt to steal the cop's gun. Makhmalbaf spent five reflective years in prison, and was freed after the Islamic revolution. While making an earlier film, Makhmalbaf again met the policeman, who showed up and declared he wanted to be an actor. The director would use this reunion as a springboard to A Moment of Innocence. In re-creating their violent encounter for film, it becomes clear that each man had a unique perspective on the events of that fateful day.
- Al Motazawegoon (The Married Couples) (Egypt, color, Arabic no subtitles, VCD). The story of two married couples from different socio-economic backgrounds. Starring Samir Ghanim, George Sidhom, and Shereen.
- The Mountain (color, 32 min, VHS). Directed by Hanna Elias. Filmed in the Arab villages of Jish and Kafer-Beram in northern Israel, this drama focuses on the topic of elopement as an escape from pre-arranged marriage. The film is an excellent example of

the strength of a tradition important to both Christian and Muslim Arabs. A significant work by a young Palestinian graduate from UCLA film school who struggles to come to terms with the West and his own traditions.

- **Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet** (2002, color, 116 min, English with English and Arabic subtitles, DVD). Directed by Omar Al-Qattan. *Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet* tells the story of the seventh century prophet who changed world history in 23 years, and continues to shape the lives of more than 1.2 billion people. Three years in the making, the film takes viewers not only to ancient Middle Eastern sites where Muhammad's story unfolds, but into the homes, mosques and workplaces of some of America's estimated seven million Muslims to discover the many ways in which they follow Muhammad's example.
- **Musical Instruments of the Arab World** (color, 3 parts each 15 min, Study Guide, VHS). For grades K-6. An Overview. Close-up of Arabic and Western Instruments.
- **Muslims: An In-Depth Look at What It Means to Be A Muslim in the 21st century** (2002, color, 120 min, English, DVD). Produced and written by Graham Judd & Elena Mannes. The events of September 11th left many Americans asking how such atrocities could be perpetrated in the name of religion: specifically Islam. Misconceptions and lack of understanding dominate America's perception of Islam, the world's second largest and fastest growing religion. Filmed in Egypt, Malaysia, Iran, Turkey, Nigeria, and the United States, *Muslims* explores the influence of culture and politics on religion, and provides deeper understanding of the political forces at work among Muslims around the world. The film emphasizes Islam's kinship with Christianity and Judaism, and looks at diverse interpretations of Islam among the Muslim people.
- **My Country, My Country** (Iraq, 2006, 90 minutes, English, Arabic and Kurdish with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Laura Poitras. Working alone in Iraq over eight months, American filmmaker Laura Poitras follows Iraqi physician Dr. Riyadh—father of six and Sunni political candidate -- for an unforgettable journey into the heart of war-ravaged Iraq in the months leading up to the January 2005 elections. An outspoken critic of the occupation, Dr. Riyadh is equally passionate about building democracy in Iraq. Yet all around him, he sees only chaos, as his waiting room fills each day with patients suffering the physical and mental effects of ever-increasing violence. Dramatically interwoven into his personal journey is the landscape of U.S. military occupation, Australian private security contractors, and the U.N. officials who orchestrated the elections. Luminously photographed and emotionally complex, *MY COUNTRY, MY COUNTRY* captures the downward spiral of one man caught in the tragic contradictions of the U.S. occupation of Iraq and its project to spread democracy in the Middle East.
- **My Michael** (1975, 95 min, VHS). Directed by Dan Wolman. Two intelligent young adults find each other and marry in a divided Jerusalem of the late 1950's. Michael, a responsible and hard-working scientist is comfortable in the arrangement, in contrast to Hanna who finds herself unfulfilled by the petit-bourgeois life she is leading. A rendering of the Amos Oz novel.
- **Naguib Mahfouz** (1997, 20 min, English, VHS). Directed by Rancka Mouloudi. This film recounts aspects of "Naguib Mahfouz's life": his wife, friends, characters of his international films, youth, Egyptian street subculture and his great love, the river Nile.

- Naim and Jabar (1974, color, 50 min, VHS, Study Guide). A portrait of two adolescent boys from Northern Afghanistan (before the civil war) who are close friends. .Afghanistan - Faces of Change Series.
- Naji Al-Ali: an Artist with a Vision (1999, 52 min, VHS). Directed by Kasim Abid. Emerging from humble beginnings in the refugee camps, for over 30 years Naji al-Ali was an uncompromising critic of a regressive Arab political culture and of Western intervention in Arab affairs. Interviews with leading Arab journalists and poets, former jailmates, his wife, and others give us insight to his unrelenting commitment to his people, and into his subtly satirical cartoons that stirred the hearts of millions of refugees. Naji al-Ali, examines the forces that shaped Naji as an artist, as a human being, and shows how his experiences mirror those of other exiled Palestinians.
- Al-Nakba: The Palestinian Catastrophe, 1948 (56 min, color, English, VHS). Documentary on the birth of the Palestinian refugee problem.
- Nargess (Iran, 1992, color, 100 min, Farsi with English Subtitles, VHS). Directed by Rakhshan Bani-Etemad. "Nargess comes as a surprise mainly for its exceptionally honest look at characters who live outside strict Islamic law...Director Bani-Etemad, on her fourth feature film, uses the gangster genre to tell the tragic tale of a love triangle. Afagh is an aging thief who has lost her beauty and is in danger of losing her rakish young lover, Adel. When Adel meets Nargess, the angelic daughter of a poor family, he resolves to break with his old life and go straight, but finding an honest job proves too hard, and he goes back to the old gang for one last burglary." Deborah Young, Variety.
- Nazreh: A Muslim Woman's Perspective (USA, 2003, color, 55 min, English, VHS). Directed by Farah Nousheen. The word Nazrah is the Arabic word for Perspective. Nazrah: A Muslim Woman's Perspective is a documentary exploring the multiple personalities of a diverse group of Muslim women concerning the cultural, religious, historical, social, and political aspects of Islam and their personal identities within it. The documentary films interviews, discussions, debates, classrooms, and public events related to Islam. By creating situations in which Muslim women can freely engage in open dialogues about complex issues - such as interpreting Islam from their own unique perspectives, discussing global news central to the Islamic sphere, demanding equal rights, and questioning the misleading stereotypes of Muslim women in the Western world - the film captures a vast array of thoughts and ideas.
- The Need (Original title: Niaz. Iran, 1991, color, 81 min, Farsi with English Subtitles, VHS). Directed by Alireza Davudnezhad. "One of those rare works in which the perfect rendering of simple elements produces a small, unforgettable masterpiece. The film's two main characters are boys poised between childhood and manhood. Both are poor. The boy through whose eyes we experience the drama has lost his father in the war and seems to have only the bleakest prospects until a relative finds him a choice apprentice's position in a print shop. There's a catch, though. Another boy coveting the same spot has also been taken on, with the proviso that after a trial period, the better of the two will get the job permanently. Thus begins a fierce if somewhat covert rivalry that results in workplace sabotage, fighting and then, very surprisingly, friendship. The exemplary, understated acting and Davudnezhad's elegantly spare direction produce a film as trenchant and moving as any neorealist classic." Godfrey, Cheshire, Film Comment.

- Neve Shalom (1997, color, 3 min, VHS). CBS interview showing the innovative programs at Kibbutz Neve Shalom located outside of Jerusalem. This is a working kibbutz to which both Israeli and Palestinian families belong and where members from a variety of backgrounds live, learn and work together.
- New Knowledge for Old (color, 50 min, VHS). Within forty years Kuwait went from a community of traders, fishermen and pearl divers to one where scholars and scientists come to share in the new technological opportunities. The film links the current scientific endeavors of Kuwait to the scientific and cultural heritage of the Arabs. Abdulhamed Sabra, historian of science at Harvard, narrates and directs. Making of the Arab Series.
- Night of the Jackal (1990, Syria, 104 min, Arabic, VHS). Directed by renowned Syrian filmmaker Abdellatif Abdul-Hamid is set in a small Syrian village, the film chronicles the effects of Westernization and war on family life. Abu Kamel is the head of a peasant family and the absolute ruler of his little kingdom. His only fear is the jackals that haunt the village at night, keeping him awake with their howling. Whistling can easily keep them away. The problem? Abu Kamel's wife is the only one in the family who can produce the high-pitched sound!
- Nightline in the Holy Land (VHS). From NBC Nightline Series. 1a - 4/25/89 (1 hour), Israel as strategically, intelligence and culture ties, PLO profile and their aims; 1b - 4/27/89 (1 hour), Biblical history of region. Israel pre and post 1947 (as told by Israelis and Palestinians) 2 - 4/26/89, A town meeting in front of an audience of 780 Israelis and Palestinians 3a - 4/28/89 (1 hour), PLO influence and leadership 3b - 4/29/89 (1 hour), Discussion with two men who have shared the burden of leading Israel in past 4 years. Children of Israel/Children of Palestine.
- Nina's Tragedies (2003, 107 min, DVD). Birth. Death. Life. Love. Marriage. Divorce. Infatuation. Passion. Joy. Heartbreak. And dancing Hassids! Welcome to the topsy-turvy world of "Nina's Tragedies," writer/director Savi Gabizon's serio-comic look at an Israeli teenager's coming-of-age and his attraction to his beautiful but emotionally fragile Aunt Nina. Winner of 11 Israeli Academy prizes as well as Best Film and Best Screenplay awards at the Jerusalem International Film Festival, "Nina's Tragedies" takes place over an intensely emotional six months in the life of 14 year-old Nadav (Aviv Elkabets). The film unfolds through a series of funny and touching journal entries in which Nadav reminisces about this turbulent period in his family's history--from his high-strung Uncle Haimon's (Yoram Hattav) untimely death to the passing of his estranged, deeply religious father, Amnon (Shmil Ben-Ari). After Haimon is killed in a terrorist attack, Nadav is asked by his wild, recently divorced mother Alona (Anat Waxman), to move in with her sister, Nina (Ayelet July Zurer), to provide comfort while Nina mourns the death of her new husband, Haimon. By turns profound and whimsical, sexy and surprising, "Nina's Tragedies" is ultimately about unconditional acceptance--and the power of love to heal.
- Noah at 17 (1982, 86 min, VHS). It is 1951 and Noah, a seventeen-year-old struggles for personal autonomy as an ideological debate over the future of kibbutz socialism tears her family apart. Should she finish high school or follow her youth movement friends to kibbutz? Will Israel's labor movement follow Moscow blindly or turn its attention to the West? This sophisticated allegory penetrates the very essence of the bond which fused the personal and the political in the early years of the State.

- *Nomad and City* (1978, color, 30 min, VHS, Study Guide). Lifestyles of nomads and city dwellers. Traditional World of Islam Series.
- *Omar Gatlato* (1976, color, 90 min, Arabic, VHS). A watershed film, "Omar Gatlato" held a mirror up to Algerian male culture and the mirror cracked. The title refers to the expression "gatlato al-rujula," or, roughly, "machismo killed him," and the film's mordant insights into male posturing and alienation in Algerian society animate this bit of folk wisdom. In mock documentary style, a young man recounts with wry commentary a typical day in his life in the Bab el-Oued quarter of Algiers, while the camera playfully shows a different story. In following Omar and friends in their pursuit of happiness, the film examines with shrewd humor the gang values of urban youth - their passion for popular culture (soccer, "Hindoo" movies, Rai concerts), their hidden fear of women, and their social insecurity in an environment where they are marginalized.
- *On Boys, Girls and the Veil* (Egypt, 1995, color, 72 min, Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Yousry Nasrallah. Director Nasrallah takes us on an exquisite tour of a subject normally over-dramatized by the West. Taking the debate beyond the simplistic approach, young men and women talk candidly about the "hijab" - the veil worn by Middle Eastern women - and its social implications. Most of the youths regard the head scarf not primarily as a religious obligation, but as a social construction that symbolizes a girl's respectability or sexual innocence. When talking amongst themselves, however, the young men acknowledge a double standard between the sexes.
- *On Orientalism* (1998, color, 40 min, VHS). Edward Said's book "Orientalism" has been profoundly influential in a diverse range of disciplines since its publication in 1978. In this engaging interview he talks about the context within which the book was conceived, its main themes, and how its original thesis related to the contemporary understanding of "the Orient."
- *On the Road to Damascus* (2007, color, 22 min, DVD). Everywhere in Damascus there are portraits of Hafaz and Bashar al Assad the father-son dynasty that's ruled this country with an iron fist for more than 35 years. But now their official portraits have been joined - even upstaged - by posters of a bearded Lebanese cleric: Hassan Nasrallah, leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah, self proclaimed victor of a month long war that shattered the myth of Israel's invincibility. The yellow flags of Hezbollah fly everywhere. A victory for Nasrallah, it has been greeted as a victory for all Syria - which along with Iran provided him with arms, money and advisers. Now, former Presidential adviser turned regime critic Ayman Abdel Nour, fears the growing power of Islamic extremists who are attempting to exploit the mood. "I assure you something, now the biggest danger for the regime in the eyes of the top regime people, is radical Islam."
- *Or (My Treasure)* (2004, Israel, 100 min, in Hebrew with English subtitles, DVD). Winner of the 2004 Cannes Film Festival Camera D'Or for best debut film, Keren Yedaya's directorial debut combines uncompromising realism with compassionate storytelling. A harrowing urban chronicle and a subtle coming of age journey, *Or* tells the story of a high school student, Or, and her mother, an aging prostitute (played by Ronit Elkabetz of *A Late Marriage*). *Or* is a truly modern tragedy that plays out inside dark apartment blocks, under cold neon lights and in shadowy back alleys. The film captures the intimacy of a daughter-mother relationship, sidestepping preachy social outrage and knee jerk moralizing, while savagely indicting street prostitution as the degrading

modern-day slavery that it is.

- Orient/Occident (1984, color, 30 min, VHS). Relations of Islam and the West from the Crusades to the Algerian revolution.
- Ottoman Empire: 1280-1683 (color, 26 min, DVD/ VHS). Film chronicles the emergence of the Ottoman empire, from its origin to its decline and eventual defeat.
- Oveissi - Iranian Painter in the US (VHS) From the beginning of Ovissi's journey as an artist, he has merged on canvas his passion and admiration for his Persian heritage along with his love of beauty and artistic expression. Remarkably, Ovissi is able to work with diverse media while at the same time fulfill his artistic vision. One of Ovissi's greatest loves is creating limited edition silk scarves that blend modern design with motifs and designs of ancient Persia. Ovissi has had over 15 books published in various languages and has been traveling and exhibiting his work for the last five decades. Ovissi's works can be seen in both private and public collection, all over Europe, Asia and the United States.
- The Painted Truck (1972, color, 28 min, VHS). Shows the tradition of truck painting in Afghanistan.
- Pakistan: Living With Geography (1992, 15 min, English, VHS). Intended for use in secondary and high schools, this introduction to Pakistan contains well-chosen and accurate information about daily life in various geographical areas, omitting the Sind. Based on slides rather than live footage, this is a competent overview from scholars at the University of Wisconsin.
- Palestinian National Costume - Munayyer Collection (1980, 70 min, English, VHS). A presentation of a unique collection of traditional Palestinian bridal and ceremonial costumes of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, modeled to the beat of Arabic music. This film includes over 30 complete costumes from all parts of Palestine. The first half, featuring models, is useful for seeing how the dresses and headdresses were worn together and the distinctive styles of each region; while the second half includes close-ups of various stitches, patterns and accessories. Useful, if spare narration on the characteristics and history of the clothing and jewelry.
- Paradise Now (2005, Palestine, Israel, 91 min, in Arabic with English subtitles, DVD) Directed by Hany Abu-Assad (*Rana's Wedding*) and nominated for Best Foreign Film by the Academy Awards, *Paradise Now* tells the story of two life-long friends who grew up in the occupied territory of the West Bank and are called to duty to carry out a suicide mission. Highly acclaimed and widely controversial, the film lays bare the humanity and the horror of those who come to such a point in their life. Filmed on location in the territories, the crew faced the real-life realities of living under occupation, coming under attack by both Israeli occupying forces and suspicious Palestinian factions. Abu-Assad's film asks viewers to contemplate the being(s) behind the bomb and the social realities in which they live.
- Patterns of Beauty (1978, color, 30 min, VHS). Traditional art forms and their role in Muslim life. Traditional World of Islam Series.

- **Peace, Propaganda, and the Promised Land: US Media and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict** (2004, 80 min w/ 480 min additional footage, Arabic, English, French, Hebrew & Spanish subtitles, DVD). *Peace, Propaganda & the Promised Land* provides a striking comparison of U.S. and international media coverage of the crisis in the Middle East, zeroing in on how structural distortions in U.S. coverage have reinforced false perceptions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This pivotal documentary exposes how the foreign policy interests of American political elites--oil, and a need to have a secure military base in the region, among others--work in combination with Israeli public relations strategies to exercise influence over how news from the region is reported. Through the voices of scholars, media critics, peace activists, religious figures, and Middle East experts, *Peace, Propaganda & the Promised Land* carefully analyzes and explains how--through the use of language, framing and context--the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza remains hidden in the news media. At its core, the documentary raises questions about the ethics and role of journalism, and the relationship between media and politics. Interviewees include Seth Ackerman, IDF Major Stav Adivi, Rabbi Arik Ascherman, Hanan Ashrawi, Robert Fisk, Neve Gordon, Rabbi Michael Lerner, Karen Pfeifer, Alisa Solomon, and Gila Svirsky. (Note: This documentary is a well-done, but highly partisan look at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. If used in the classroom, you may want to supplement it with other videos or materials for balance.)
- **People of the Wind** (1976, color, 110 min, VHS). Directed by Anthony Howarth. Film chronicles the Bakhtiari migration in which a half a million nomads navigate the Zagros mountains annually in search of seasonal pastures.
- **Persian Music and Poetry - Mohammad Reza Shajerian in Concert** (1991, color, VHS). Mohammed Reza Shajerian, leading Iranian classical singer, in concert.
- **Persian News: May 11** (VHS) -- TV footage.
- **Pilgrimage to Mecca** (color, VHS). Ritual activities on during the Hajj.
- **Power of the Word** (1983, color, 50 min, VHS). Khalida Saida is the director of this video on poetry and theater in the Arab world. *The Arabs - A Living History Series*.
- **Price of Change** (1982, color, 26 min, VHS, Study Guide). Changing attitudes to work, the family, sex, and women's place in Egyptian society.
- **Private** (2004, 90 min, English, Hebrew & Arabic with English Subtitles, DVD). Directed by Saverio Costanzo. Mohammad, his wife and their five children live in a large, isolated house located mid-way between a Palestinian village and an Israeli settlement. Viewed as a strategic lookout point, the house is forcefully taken over by Israeli soldiers, who confine Mohammad and his family to a few downstairs rooms in daytime and a single room at night. Against his wife's wishes, Mohammad decides to keep the family together in the house until the soldiers move on, creating division among his kin and a precarious relationship with the soldiers.
- **Promised Land** (2004, 87 min, DVD). A night in the Sinai desert. A group of men and women keep warm around a campfire under the moonlight. The women come from Eastern Europe. The men who normally mind their herds in the area are Bedouins. Tomorrow they will secretly cross the border. Tomorrow, Diana and the others will be beaten, raped and auctioned off. They will be passed from one hand to another,

merchandized by Anne into Hanna's hostess club, victims of an international network of trafficking women. One night in the club, Diana meets Rose. She asks her for help. Their encounter is a sign of hope in the women's descent into hell.

- **Raging Dove** (Israel, Palestinian Territories, US, 2001, color, 90 min, English, Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Duki Dror. "I'm the only Arab-Israeli-Palestinian-Muslim-Baptist-American World Champion I know." Welter-weight boxing champion Johar Abu Lashin could have been the most well-known boxer of his time, if only he had not made some mistakes with flags. Born in Nazareth, Abu Lashin was destined to live a life full of paradoxes. Waving the Israeli flag after winning his first World Title, he flew the Palestinian one after wining his next five years later. Turning both Israelis and Palestinians against him Abu Lashin moved to Johnson City, Tennessee to raise horses and settle down with his wife, a local boxing manager. With dreams of peace sweeping through the region in the 1990s, Abu Lashin planned a dramatic comeback both in the ring and in his personal life. He set plans for two World Title fights, one in Nazareth and the other in Gaza, in hopes of winning the hearts of both Israelis and Palestinians and becoming a unifying figure for both sides as they attempt to negotiate a peaceful resolution to their bloody conflict.
- **Rana's Wedding** (Palestine, 2002, color, 86 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Hany Abu-Assad. Shot on location in East Jerusalem and Ramallah, Palestinian director Abu-Assad offers a romantic and compelling portrait of love under occupation and everyday life turned upside down. When Rana is faced with an ultimatum – choose a husband from a list of eligible, respectable men or leave for Egypt – she goes searching for a lover of her own choosing. Moving across checkpoints to the West Bank, fining a wedding dress in a war zone, and settling family differences all in just ten hours, Rana finds that in Jerusalem, love has many roadblocks. Roger Ebert gives it a thumbs-up, "[Rana's Wedding] gives a more complete visual picture...than we ever see on the news."
- **Rare Glimpses: Dances from the Middle East, Part 1** (color and black and white, 60 min, VHS). Dancer Ibrahim Farrah presents a glimpse of Middle Eastern dance: (1) A Coney Island dancer at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. (2) A Guedra performance in a Moroccan Village in 1955. (3) A Guedra choreographed by Mr. Fasrah and performed in New York. (4) A family of Bedouin gypsy dancers in Lebanon.
- **Rats: Of Mice and Men** (19 min, English, VHS) -- No description available.
- **Retracing History: The Sindbad Voyage** (color, 54 min, VHS). Sindbad the Sailor is one of the most famous characters from the Arabian Nights. This video shows the voyage of a ship built with traditional techniques. It sails 6,000 miles from Oman to India to China. Four actual Sindbad tales are woven into the account of the voyage, a device which serves to locate the stories geographically. The four tales are illustrated with miniatures.
- **Return to the Land of Wonders** (Iraq, 2004, color, 88 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Maysoon Pachachi. Not long after the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, filmmaker Maysoon Pachachi returns to her home city of Baghdad after 35 years. She accompanies her father, 80-year-old Adnan Pachachi, who is returning to head the committee responsible for drafting Iraq's temporary constitution and Bill of Rights. We follow this tortuous process, with its arguments over wording changes demanded by US leaders in Washington and compromises made to satisfy Iraqi sectarian interests. Moving

between the political sphere and everyday life on the streets, *Return to the Land of Wonders* offers a unique glimpse into the resilience of the Iraqi people as they struggle to sustain their lives without succumbing to despair and defeat.

- *Rivers of Fire* (1991, color, 40 min, VHS). This tape highlights water conflicts in the Middle East. Turkey is damming the Tigris and the Euphrates, which provide water for Iraq and Syria. Spiraling population in all involved countries exacerbate the need for water. This film is a good film to give an international example to U.S. water problems.
- *Riyadh* (60 min, color, VHS, HS/C). Highlights of Saudi Arabia's capital city. Distributed by the Saudi Cultural Mission.
- *Road to Hell: Kanan Makiya* (1992, color, VHS). In November 1991, shortly after the establishment of a safe-haven zone in northern Iraq, Kanan Makiya traveled to northern Iraq to see the archive of documents seized by Iraqi rebels. Makiya was accompanied by a BBC filmmaker who filmed his investigation of the Iraqi government's campaign of "ethnic cleansing" (Anfal) of Iraqi Kurds, an investigation made possible by the information in the documents. The film, "The Road to Hell", was aired in January 1992 on BBC and then on PBS as a Frontline documentary under the title "Saddam's Killing Fields." On April 27, 1993, it received the Edward R. Murrow Award For Best Television Documentary On Foreign Affairs in 1992. The film stressed the importance of the documents as an information resource on the legacy of abuse in Iraq and argued the case for their collection and removal from the country for safekeeping. It shows the archive in its original state: mounds of files and records randomly stacked on the floors of buildings that were previously occupied by the Iraqi government, covered with dust and vulnerable to deterioration. The importance, volume and condition of these documents drew attention to the urgency of preserving and studying them as an invaluable historical record.
- *The Road to Love* (Morocco, 2002, color, 70 min, French and Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Remi Lange. Slow-burning and smart, French director Remi Lange's *The Road to Love* is a romantic tale of self discovery that also offers a fascinating historical take on homosexuality in northern Africa. French-Algerian sociology student Karim is having trouble finding interviewees for his term project, a video documentary on homosexual relationships in Islamic cultures. As his research progresses he meets Farid, a handsome flight attendant. In Farid, Karim believes he has found an ideal subject for his film...but he soon begins to admire more than just Farid's insight. When Karim learns that some cultures have accepted and encouraged same-sex unions, he finally begins to face his own sexuality. Set in scenic locales from Paris to Marseilles to Marrakech, *The Road to Love* is a shrewd and honest tale of desire.
- *Routes of Exile: A Moroccan Jewish Odyssey* (90 min, VHS). This film looks at the remnant of the Jewish community left in Morocco, shot on location.
- *Rumi: The Wings of Love* (2002, color, 34 min, VHS). Directed by Shems Friedlander. Nearly eight centuries after his death, Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi, Sufi master and mystical poet, is ever present in the whirling ceremony of today's Mevlevi dervishes. In this video, Rumi's universal words and essence are seamlessly interwoven with his history and story of awakening. Shems Friedlander has been given unprecedented access to document sacred ceremonies. The Halveti zikir, Mevlevi semas, and the Gharib or

secret sema were filmed in Cairo, Istanbul, and the Garden of Rumi in Konya.

- *The Runner* (1984, color, VHS). This is the story of a street urchin living in a rusty abandoned ship on the shore of the Persian Gulf and battling for both his existence and to win a race against his peers.
- *Rush to War: Between Iraq and a Hard Place* (2006, USA, 86 min, English, DVD) Written, produced and directed by Robert Taicher and winner of the 2005 Audience Choice Award for Favorite Documentary at the East Lansing Film Festival, *Rush to War* is an historical documentary that examines the issues surrounding the September 11th attacks and American foreign policy. Following the invasion of Afghanistan and the Administration's un-anticipated war with Iraq, Taicher interviewed a number of government officials, foreign policy experts, and journalists, including Senator George McGovern; former Chief UN Weapons Inspector Scott Ritter, General Anthony Zinni; authors and academics Mark Danner, Rashid Khalidi, Zia Mian, Samantha Power, and Howard Zinni. Includes commentary from Noam Chomsky, Richard Clarke and Thomas Friedman. Among the issues explored are: the Cold War and CIA interventions from the 1950s-70s, America's involvement with the Afghan resistance against the Soviet Union, and the US's two wars with Iraq, with particular emphasis on the current administration's policies and actions in the war on terror, including the Patriot Act at home and torture abroad, and its consequences for global security in the 21st century.
- *Saints and Spirits* (1977, color, 26 min, VHS, Study Guide). Islamic experience of women from Marrakech, Morocco.
- *Salah al-Din* (1963, 180 min, Arabic, VHS). An epic, three-hour film in CinemaScope named after the 12th Century Sultan who, as the film begins, is preparing to liberate Jerusalem from its Christian Crusader occupiers. It was scripted by Naguib Mahfouz and the poet and progressive writer, Abderrahman Cherkaoui, and a parallel between Saladin and President Nasser is easily drawn. Saladin is shown as an educated and peaceable man - at one point he is asked to give clandestine medical help to Richard (the Lion Heart), shot by an arrow, and later he tells him: "Religion is God's and the Earth is for all ... I guarantee to all Christians in Jerusalem the same rights as are enjoyed by Muslims." Arabic/180 min.
- *Samt* (Jordan/USA, 2003, color, 30 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). As the world fixes its attention on political tensions in the Middle East, everyday residents of the Kingdom of Jordan live out their lives. The things that matter most to people go on in the shadow of war. *Samt* is a simple story about a Jordanian family and a group of young people who attend a youth conference. The story concerns Ashtar, a young Jordanian woman from a traditional family who wants to involve herself in progressive politics and culture. Meanwhile, her brother Jihad takes a more traditional approach. Verité filmmaker Rob Nilsson (Cannes winner *Northern Lights*, previous Fest hits *Chalk*, *Stroke*, and *Winter Oranges*) delves deep into Jordanian culture, politics, and everyday life to capture the drama of this brother and sister, which doubles as a larger examination of the clash between modernization and ancient tradition. Nilsson's film began as an invite from Princess Farah to do filmmaker workshops in the improvisational style of his famous San Francisco "Tenderloin" district acting ensemble that became his "Nine at Night" film series. With very little post-production sound work remaining, the presentation here is, at the behest of the director, a "work in progress."

- *Satin Rouge* (Tunisia, 2002, color, 95 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Raja Amari. A Tunisian widow takes an unlikely journey of self-discovery. While investigating a suspected liaison between her headstrong teenaged daughter and a cabaret musician, Lilia becomes drawn to an exhilarating nightclub netherworld of Rubenesque bell dancers and nocturnal pleasure-seekers. In trading her shapeless housedresses for sequins and satin, she begins to emerge from her cocoon of melancholy and loneliness.
- *Saudi '84* (28 min, color, VHS). Portrait of modern Saudi Arabia. Produced by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- *Saudi Antiquities* (color, 30 min, VHS). Highlights of prehistoric, ancient, and early Islamic history. Distributed by the Saudi Cultural Mission.
- *Saudi Arabia - A Child's Kingdom* (5 min, VHS). This child's eye view of Saudi Arabia and how Saudi children's lives share similar elements of how children in Saudi Arabia are like children everywhere throughout the world.
- *Saudi Arabia '94* (1993, color, 45 min, VHS). This new series is in three parts (1) Saudi Arabia in development, (2) The Nation (4 segments) and (3) The Heritage (4 segments). Most Saudi Arabian films have emphasized the spectacular development that has occurred in the country since the discovery of oil. This film is distinctive in that it includes Saudi Arabian cultural heritage along with the new. These are segments on the Heritage Festival, horses and falcons and the family. The distinctive message about women in Saudi Arabia is their absence in the film. The section on sports will be of interest after Saudi Arabian World Cup participation. Produced by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- *Saudi Arabia: A Country in Motion* (color, 15 min, VHS). This film attempts to challenge some of America's misconceptions about Saudi's and Saudi life by providing rare glimpses into the lives of individual Saudi's caught up in one of the fastest and most profound transformations in history. The film raises a number of key questions such as: Can a society absorb such rapid change? Must a nation accept the values of the West along with its technology? Will Saudi Arabia experience the political turmoil that oil wealth brought to its neighbor Iran?
- *Saudi Arabia: Historical Highlights* (color, 15 min, VHS). History of Saudi Arabia beginning two thousand years ago.
- *Saudi Arabia: Political Perspectives* (color, 15 min, VHS). Considers oil as a source of power and problems, interdependent relationship between Saudi Arabia and the West, Saudi government and house of Saud, role of the military, and foreign policy goals.
- *Saudi Arabia: Religion and Values* (color, 15 min, VHS). Focuses on the life and teachings of Mohammad, influence of Islam on daily life and values, Islamic law and punishment fear of growing Westernization and materialism.
- *Saudi Arabia: Women and the Family* (color, 15 min, VHS). Considers social segregation of men and women, women's education and career possibilities, comparison of role of women in Saudi Arabia and the West, and the stability of the extended family.

- Sayyadati al-Gamilah (My Fair Lady) (Egypt, color, Arabic no subtitles, VCD). The Egyptian version of My Fair Lady starring Shweekar and Fodad El Mohands, Egypt's most famous couple of the 1960's.
- Secret Ballot (Iran, 2002, color, 105 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Babak Payami. Winner at five international film festivals, including Best Director at the Venice Film Festival, Secret Ballot is a satirical comedy that humorously sheds light on the universal discrepancies of the voting process and gender differences. It's Election Day on a remote island off the coast of Iran and a ballot box is parachuted to shore. An unnamed soldier is assigned to escort a female bureaucrat to gather votes. Together they embark on a chaotic journey, turning the island upside down desperately seeking anyone's vote. There is more to the 'secret ballot' than the two could ever imagine.
- Sects and Violence: Fragmentation within Religions (color, 28 min, VHS, Study Guide). Examines sectarian differences among Jews, Muslims, and Christians with examples from Lebanon and Israel. Encyclopedia Britannica Series.
- Secularism: The Turkish Experience (Turkey, 110 min, 2004, DVD, English). Directed by Omer Baristiran. A documentary on the role of secularism and religion in Turkish history, politics and society. Includes an interactive transcript, historical timeline, glossary, and extended bibliography.
- Seeds of Peace (60 min, color, VHS). Morely Safer interview for "60 min" a summer camp in Maine that has launched an innovative initiative to bring together Palestinian and Israeli youth. Seeds of brings Arab and Israeli teenagers together before fear, mistrust and prejudice blind them from seeing the human face of their enemy. Seeds of Peace goes beyond international agreements and treaties. It reverses the legacy of hatred by nurturing lasting friendships that become the basis for mutual understanding and respect. By training these young leaders in conflict resolution skills, Seeds of Peace helps them become the seeds from which an enduring peace will grow.
- Selves and Others: A Portrait of Edward Said (USA, 2003, color, 54 min, English, DVD). Directed by Emmanuel Hamon. Known as one of America's great contemporary intellectuals and a prominent spokesperson for the Palestinian cause in the US, Said died in September, 2003, at the age of 67. Shortly before his death, a French film crew spent several weeks with him and his family. The result is Selves and Others, an intimate documentary that offers a glimpse at some of Said's final reflections on the themes that dominated his work.
- Shadow of the West (1983, color, 50 min, VHS). Edward Said on the course of European involvement with the Near East from the Crusades to the modern period. The Arabs - A Living History Series.
- Shadows of Turkey and the Witches (1986, color, 30 min, VHS). A Turkish Shadow puppet play adapted to English - with commentary.
- Shahrbanoo (Iran/USA, 2002, color, 57 min, Farsi with English Subtitles, VHS). Directed by Hamid Rahmanian. Shahrbanoo is an unlikely story: An American woman, Melissa, visits her new husband's family - which happens to live in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Tehran. Melissa is befriended by Shahrbanoo who has been moonlighting as her mother-in-law's housekeeper for more than a quarter of a century

without the knowledge of Shahrbanoo's own family. Shahrbanoo invites Melissa to a family gathering where she is treated to an intense cultural exchange about subjects ranging from women's place in society to American foreign policy.

- *Shalom of Safed* (1988, 28 min, color, VHS). Directed by Daniel Doron and Arnold Engle. Shalom of Safed was a humble watchmaker who lived in Safed in the Galilee. At the age of fifty-eight, he began to paint and was almost immediately acclaimed as a great and unique folk artist. This video presents the artist at work and explores the scope and detail of his paintings, as well as the spiritual and physical sources of his inspiration.
- *The Shape of the Future* (2005, 105 min., color, DVD). Directed by L. Allen Scheid. In July 2005, *Shape of the Future* became the first TV series ever simultaneously broadcast on Israeli, Palestinian, and Arab Satellite TV. The series explores - on a very human level - how Israelis and Palestinians might make peace. The emphasis is on building the future, not on reliving the past. "Groundbreaking." - Associated Press. (A printed lesson plan to accompany this DVD can be mailed to you at no extra cost.)
- *Siege* (black and white, 95 min, VHS). Directed by Gilberto Tofano. This feature film deals with the predicament of a war widow, Tamar, who loses her husband during the Six Day War. Her husband's friends do not want his memory to be forgotten, and this forces her into the role of ever-mourning widow. Tamar, who lives with her young son, attempts to break away from the past and form new relationships and normalize her life. This film depicts the human predicament in times of war - in this case in an Israeli context.
- *The Silence* (Iran, 1998, color, 75 min, Farsi, English Subtitles, VHS+DVD). Directed by Mohsen Makhmalbaf. From one of Iran's most celebrated filmmakers, comes *The Silence*, a hypnotic symphony of visual and aural rhythms. *The Silence* follows the life of Khorshid, a blind, 10-year-old boy who experiences the world through sound. Living with his mother in a small village in Tajikistan, Khorshid earns money tuning musical instruments. Nadereh, the beautiful young protégée of the instrument maker for whom Khorshid works, acts as his eyes, fetching him every day at the bus stop and leading him through the streets to his destination. Sometimes on the way, a conversation or melody attracts Khorshid's attention and he loses himself in the compelling harmonies of the city and everyday life. About to lose his job and his home, Khorshid creates a world where he can be happy; where hypnotic sounds and the music of the world shows him how to experience life.
- *Silences of the Palace* (1996, color, 127 min, VHS). Directed by Moufida Tlatli. As represented in this film, the patriarchs of the French-supported Tunisian elite marry within their own class, but enjoy as concubines the women who serve the household and who live downstairs. In adolescence, Alia, the child of an upstairs-downstairs relationship, becomes increasingly aware of her own mother's predicament in this power dynamic without fully comprehending why she cannot escape from it. As an adult, Alia herself does not feel liberated, even by the musical talent which has given her a career; she must confront her own past--her upbringing in the downstairs palace--before she can come to terms with her mother's life and death, and thereby free herself. In this subtle, almost understated film, there is much that is conveyed without words: the silences are eloquent.
- *Sinbad Collection: Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger* (1977, 114 min, English, VHS). The trilogy of Charles H. Schneer/Ray Harryhausen *Sinbad* films came to a close with this 1977 installment, *Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger*. Patrick Wayne (son of John) took over

duties as the mythical sailor, with Jane Seymour and Taryn Power. Our seafaring hero Sinbad pines for the lovely Princess Farah, but their marriage must be approved by the Princess' brother and heir to the throne, Prince Kassim. This would be much easier to do had the Prince not recently been turned into a baboon. It seems an evil sorceress named Zenobia has her own ideas about who should ascend to the throne, and she's taken steps to ensure her choice. To save the Prince and wed the Princess, Sinbad is forced to undertake a dangerous voyage to find the wizard Melanthius, the only mage capable of reversing the baboon spell. In classic Sinbad fashion, the journey is hindered by a bevy of Harryhausen's "Dynamation" creations, including a giant walrus, three banshees, a minotaur-like Trog and a saber-toothed tiger.

- Sinbad Collection: The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958, 88 min, English, VHS). The first of the famed Charles H. Schneer-produced Sinbad movies, *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad* brought the legendary sailor into combat with a variety of creatures, all brought to life by the stop-motion magic of special effects guru Ray Harryhausen. In this 1958 screen adventure, Sinbad and his men sail to the island of Colossa and find trouble with a man-eating cyclops. Facing certain death, the crew is rescued by the bald Sokurah the Magician and his young genie Baronni. Sokurah returns with Sinbad and his men to Baghdad, but the evil magician wants to return to the magical island for further booty.
- Sinbad Collection: The Golden Voyage of Sinbad (1974, 106 min, English, VHS). The mythical Arabian sailor's golden voyage begins when one of his men shoots down a bat-winged homunculi, which drops a gold medallion onto the ship's deck. Sinbad begins wearing the medallion, which gives him strange dreams about a black-robed villain and a woman with an eye tattooed on her palm. A return to the swashbuckling adventure of 30's serials and 50's B-movie matinees, *The Golden Voyage of Sinbad* was a surprise success. A final Charles H. Schneer/Ray Harryhausen Sinbad movie followed in 1977, *Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger*.
- *Smell of Camphor, Fragrance of Jasmine* (2000, 93 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). In this audacious black comedy, Bahman Farjami, a filmmaker who has not directed for twenty years due to censorship, experiences a strange set of coincidences that convince him that the Angel of Death must be near. As a means of confronting his fears, he decides to make a film about his own funeral. As he researches the funeral, rites of his country and culture, Farjami glimpses a side of Iranian society which he was not aware of. In the midst of this, his view is shaded by his own mounting family problems. Through a series of fiascos leading to a comic and cathartic roller-coaster ride that culminates in a Fellini-esque dream so intense that it may lead to his actual death.
- *The Stones of Eden* (1964, 25 min, English, DVD) What the creator, William Furman, has produced is a seductively photographed, impressionistic, superficial, but appealing vignette of rural Afghan agricultural life as revealed through a greatly telescoped year with a single Afghan family, whose natural photogenic qualities suffer, at times to an uncomfortable degree, from romantic overdirection. To these fragmentary glimpses of rural life, continuity is injected by means of the narration, the content and tremulous delivery of which are frequently embarrassingly sentimental. (Description taken from 1968 review of film by William Trousdale)
- *The Story of Islam* (1977, 120 min, English, VHS). It is the 7th century in Mecca, where powerful leaders are in conflict with the Prophet Mohammed, who attacks their way of life and the injustice it produces. Despite bitter opposition from the leaders of Mecca, the Prophet and his faithful followers meet secretly to listen to the revelations of the word of

God. The leaders respond with persecution, forcing the Muslims to leave Mecca and take sanctuary in Medina. After a revelation from God, the Prophet agrees to take arms against Mecca and battle until justice reigns. The idols of Ka'bah are destroyed and the holy place is dedicated to the worship of one God.

- Street Life in Tehran, Three Shorts: Deadtime; The White Station; Tehran: The 25th Hour (Iran, 1999, color, 12 min, 9 min, 22 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD).
Deadtime: Directed by Seed Tarazi. This amusing and insightful film examines the seconds that become minutes that turn into hours spent waiting at traffic lights in the crowded streets of Tehran. It's a tightly edited portrait of people caught in the congestion of modern city life and the means they use to cope with it. There is no dialogue in this film. The White Station: Directed by Seifollah Samadian. A woman carrying an umbrella braves an unprecedented Tehran snowstorm in order to use public transportation. The simplicity of the action and motivation soon dissolve into a profound statement on the human condition. There is no dialogue in this film. Tehran: The 25th Hour. Directed by Seifollah Samadian. On the 29th of November 1998, moments after the Iranian national football team qualified as the 32nd team in the World Cup, the gloomy streets of Tehran were transformed into isles of joy as people united to celebrate the happiest day in the life of the modern Iranian nation; a day that would come to be known as "Sweet Saturday."
- Studying Literacy in Morocco (1989, color, 20 min, VHS). This film is provided by Prof. Daniel Wagner of the School of Education, University of Pennsylvania, and grows out of his studies of acquisition of literacy and Islamic schooling.
- Suleyman The Magnificent (1986, color, 57 min, VHS). Directed by Suzanne Bauman. This film focuses on the life and personality of Sultan Suleyman and explores the palaces and mosques of the Ottoman Empire.
- Suspended Dreams (1992, color, VHS). Directed by Jean Khalil Chamoun and Mai Masri. This M.T.C. Beirut production for BBC TV by Jean Chamoun and Mai Masri shows Beirut after the fighting depicted in War Generation - Beirut (1988). Through the eyes of two ex-militia fighters, a woman searching for her missing husband, and a playwright, Suspended Dreams tells the story of a Beirut community's struggle to rebuild their lives after 16 years of war.
- The Syrian Bride (2004, 97 min, DVD). Directed by Eran Riklis. Mona's wedding day may be the saddest of her life. Once she crosses the border into Syria, she will never be allowed back to her beloved family in the Druze village of Majdal Shams. Shot on location in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, *The Syrian Bride* is a powerful film about physical, mental and emotional borders and the courage it takes to cross them. Told with great humor and compassion, its story provides an emotionally stirring look at the human side of political conflict, focusing on the hopes and dreams of one family trapped in a no-man's land between two nations. Winner of the Montreal Film Festival.
- Tale of the Three Jewels (Palestine, 1995, color, 75 min, Arabic with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Michel Khleifi. The first feature to be filmed in the Gaza Strip, Tale of the Three Jewels is a moving parable made in the days following the Hebron massacre and before the arrival of the Palestinian Authority. It tells the story of Yussef, a 12-year-old boy who lives in an imaginary world of his own and often escapes from the surrounding violence to the beautiful Gaza countryside. One day he meets Aida, a ravishing gypsy girl with whom he falls in love. When Yussef declares his intention of

marrying her when they grow up, she tells him he must first find three jewels missing from her grandmother's necklace, which was brought from South America by her grandfather. From the acclaimed Palestinian director of *Wedding in Galilee* and *Fertile Memories*.

- *Tales from Arab Detroit* (1995, 46 min, Arabic and English with English subtitles, 46 min, VHS). With the focus on changing traditions in both the Arab Middle East and Arab immigrants in Detroit, this film addresses the generational and cultural gaps in today's Arab community life. The visit of Egyptian storyteller Shaykh Ghanim Mansour who performs parts of the *Sirat Bani Hilal* 100-year-old epic of migration triggers a nostalgia for older Arabs, a remembering of the traditional Arab values of love of land, love of tribe, and subjugation of the individual to the community. Younger Arab-Americans have varying reactions.
- *Tales from the Book of Kings: The Houghton Shahnameh* (1973, color, 30 min, VHS). A stunning telling of tales from the *Shahnameh* illustrated with beautiful miniatures.
- *Taste of Cherry* (Iran, 1997, color, 95 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Abbas Kiarostami. Iranian auteur Abbas Kiarostami's award-winning, international masterpiece, *Taste of Cherry*, is an emotionally complex meditation on life and death. Middle-aged Mr. Badii drives through the hilly outskirts of Tehran - searching for someone to rescue or bury him.
- *Taziyeh: An Introduction* (color, 13 min, VHS). Filmed from a slide presentation by David Barry.
- *A Team for Peace* (2007, color, 45 min, DVD). Behind the concept of the team is the powerful force of Johann Olav Koss, one of the greatest winter Olympians ever, and founder of children's charity, *Right to Play*, which promotes conflict resolution through sport in more than twenty impoverished countries. Can mutual respect and understanding be discovered on the soccer pitch? More importantly, can it be translated to off-field life in the tinder box of the Middle East? *A Team for Peace* is a true hero's journey as we watch to see if the children can overcome centuries of hate and emotionally documented personal tragedies in search of a peaceful future together.
- *Ten* (Iran, 2002, color, 94 minutes, Farsi with English Subtitles, DVD). Directed by Abbas Kiarostami. In *TEN*, celebrated Iranian writer-director Abbas Kiarostami (*Taste of Cherry*, *Through the Olive Trees*) once again casts his masterful cinematic gaze upon the modern sociopolitical landscape of his homeland - this time as seen through the eyes of one woman as she drives through the streets of Tehran over a period of several days. Her journey is comprised of ten conversations with various female passengers - including her sister, a hitchhiking prostitute and a jilted bride - as well as her imperious young son. As Kiarostami's "dashboard cam" eavesdrops on these lively, yet heart-wrenching road trips, a complex portrait of contemporary Iran comes sharply into focus.
- *The Tenants* (*Ejareneshinha*) (1985, color, English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Dariush Mehrju'i. "Set in a low-rise in the suburbs of Tehran, "The Tenants" is a surprising, albeit labored, social satire imported from Iran. Abbas is an apartment building manager in league with a realtor who plans to illegally evict the tenants and sell the building out from under them. But apartments, even with broken pipes and leaking sewage, are hard to find in the crowded metropolis, and the tenants, a tenacious and varied lot, won't budge. Then

a rival real estate agent persuades the tenants to band together and they hire a construction crew to start making badly needed repairs on the rapidly disintegrating property. The ensuing slapstick affords a mostly secular look at life in the Islamic republic, where the bickering just never seems to stop." [Washington Post]

- **Terrorism and Kebab** (1992, black and white, 105 min, VHS). Set in the El-Mugamaa building in Cairo, the center of the monolithic Egyptian bureaucracy, this smash-hit comedy denounces the absurdity of bureaucracy while it is also a dramatic parable on impotence. A father arrives at the building to request the transfer of his son to a school nearer his home. Things get out of hand when he is taken for a terrorist, leading up to his demand for the finest kebabs. Arabic with subtitles.
- **Threads of Time** (color, 26 min, VHS). Directed by Louise Mackie. A variety of handmade textiles traditions still exist in Fez, Morocco. They are particularly in demand for weddings and symbolize regional pride. This video shows the making and use of light different types of fabrics and clothing, interview.
- **Time of Favor** (2000, 101 min, DVD). Directed by Joseph Cader. Winner of six Israeli Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and highly acclaimed in its U.S. theatrical release, *Time of Favor* weaves an intricate tale of passion, loyalty and conspiracy amidst the contemporary political powder-keg. In a film the *New York Times* calls "an arthouse thriller," deft characterizations and a fine-tuned plot depict the people and stakes behind an Israeli settlement with a clarity and complexity not hinted at in today's headlines. From a peaceful desert sunrise on the Wailing Wall to a frantic chase through the 1800 year-old network of tunnels, *Time of Favor* raises issues of religious faith and duty to one's nation that are inextricably relevant to our lives today.
- **A Tree Cries For Rain - A Sephardic Journey** (30 min, VHS). Expelled from Spain in 1492, Jewish people carried with them only their memories and their medieval language, Ladino or Judeo-Spanish, to their exile in the Ottoman Empire. Now after over 500 years, the language and traditions are dying out. This film explores the life of Rachel Amado Bortnik, one of the last generation of Native speakers of Ladino, now living in the U.S. Through songs, photographs, looking and stories, Jewish life and customs in Turkey are remembered.
- **Truth, Lies, and Intelligence** (2007, color, 52 min, DVD). *Truth, Lies, and Intelligence* is a powerful, hard-hitting documentary which outlines the intelligence fraud and the devastating chain of events culminating in the invasion of Iraq led by America, Australia and Britain, chronicling the inside journey from 9/11 to the bombing of Baghdad. After scores of interviews with senior intelligence analysts, Iraqi refugees, Arab leaders, insurgent bombers and ordinary citizens - can there only be one conclusion? That the devastating chain of events culminating in the invasion, conquest and occupation of Iraq was a war based on a litany of lies and intelligence fraud.
- **Turkey's Sephardim: 500 Years** (color, 60 min, VHS). Directed by Lawrence Salzman. The film tells the story of Turkey's sephardic Jews as they are today. The film weaves together the images of ordinary people as well as the spiritual leaders - the schoolchildren, the housewife, the small tradesman, the fishmonger, the businessmen - to create the portrait of the community.

- Turkish Traditional Art Today (color, 40 min plus 10 min addendum, VHS). This video is a brief survey of traditional Turkish crafts. It complements the book by the same name by folklorist, Henry Glassie. The narration is at a minimum, the background is fine Turkish instrumental music.
- Turtles Can Fly (2005, 97 min, DVD). From acclaimed director Bahman Ghobadi comes the first film shot in Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein. "Heart-wrenching as well as spirit-raising" (*The Hollywood Reporter*), "Turtles Can Fly" mixes humor and tragedy to startling effect, resulting in a "very timely masterpiece" (*TV Guide*) about children struggling to survive in an endless war zone. On the Iraqi-Turkish border, enterprising 13-year-old "Satellite" (Soran Ebrahim) is the de facto leader of a Kurdish village, thanks to his ability to install satellite dishes and translate news of the pending US invasion. Organizing fellow orphans into landmine-collection teams so that they can eke out a living, he is all business... until the arrival of a clairvoyant boy and his quiet, beautiful sister.
- Two Women (Iran, 1998, color, 96 min, Farsi with English Subtitles, DVD). Directed by Tahmineh Milani. Country girl Fereshteh and city girl Roya, schoolmates at Tehran University in the early '80s, become friends when the former tutors the latter to pay her way through architectural school. Their friendship and innocent fun are clouded only by the presence of a young man who stalks the pretty Fereshteh, demanding she marry him. She brushes him off and the girls feel strong enough to disregard his advances, until one day he throws a bottle of acid at Fereshteh's cousin, mistaking him for her boyfriend. Blaming her for bringing disgrace onto the family, Fereshteh's father forces her to return home from university, which has been closed due to the turmoil following the Islamic revolution anyway.
- Umm Kulthum - A Voice Like Egypt (1996, color, 67 min, English and Arabic, VHS). She had the musicality of Ella Fitzgerald, the public presence of Eleanor Roosevelt and the audience of Elvis Presley. Her name was Umm Kulthum, and she became a powerful symbol, first of the aspirations of her country, Egypt, and then of the entire Arab world. This spectacular film documents the life of the legendary Egyptian singer. Her career also reflects an important period in Egyptian history, the Nasser era. This film is important not only for music but Egyptian cultural and political history. Born a peasant at the turn of the century, Umm Kulthum became a woman of great wealth and power, confidant of presidents and kings and, above all, President Gamal Abd al-Nasser's unofficial ambassador in the region. Four million people were on the streets of Cairo for her funeral in 1975. To this day, her cassettes outsell every other Arabic female vocalist. Narrated by Omar Sharif, Umm Kulthum, A Voice Like Egypt is the first documentary to bring Umm Kulthum to an American audience. The film puts her life in the context of the epic story of 20th century Egypt as it shook off colonialism and confronted modernity. The camera explores her astonishing connection with her audience, taking us into her village in the Nile Delta, and into the cafes, markets and streets of Cairo where she lived and worked.
- Uncovered: The War on Iraq (USA, 2004, color, 84 min, English, DVD). Directed by Robert Greenwald. Award-winning filmmaker and documentarian Robert Greenwald brings us this sobering and gripping, feature-length indictment of the government's case to lead us into war. We observe the dissection of the data provided by the administration through the eyes of former top CIA analysts, UN weapons inspectors, Pentagon officials, politicians, and many others from both sides of the aisle. This timely discussion brings up

tough issues and asks questions of the government that have yet to be answered.

- *Under the Moonlight* (Iran, 2001, color, 96 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Reza Mir-Karimi. Winner of the Special Jury Prize and Best Director at the 2001 Tokyo International Film Festival, *Under the Moonlight* tells the story of Seyyed Hassan a young seminary student who is about to don the clerical attire. While preparing for this honor, Seyyed's supplies are stolen by a small boy. In search of the culprit Seyyed sets out for the suburban area where he meets people who have never met a cleric and know nothing about this profession. Under such unfamiliar circumstances, Seyyed acquires a new understanding of society and human beings.
- *Under the Skin of the City* (Iran, 2004, color, 93 min, Farsi with English Subtitles, VHS). Directed by Rakhshan Bani-Etemad. Tuba, mother of four, is a hard-working factory worker who is forced with unexpected challenges that threaten her family and way of life. Her oldest son, Abbas works to obtain a foreign work visa, which he hopes will allow him the opportunity to provide more for his family, and win the affections of a pretty office girl. To make his final payment, he sells the family home, but when his travel plans fall apart, Tuba is forced to take drastic measures to save her house and her son.
- *Until When...* (Palestine/USA, 2004, color, 76 min, Arabic with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Dahna Abourahme. Dahna Abourahme, a New York based filmmaker who grew up in Abu Dhabi and Amman, follows four Palestinian families living in Dheisheh Refugee Camp near Bethlehem: Thirteen year old Fadi cares for his four younger brothers, the Hammashes are a close-knit family who pass on the lessons of life with humor and passion; Sana is a single woman who endures long commutes to do community work; and Emad and Hanan are a young couple trying to shield their daughter from the harsh realities of the occupation. They talk about their family histories in Palestine while looking to the future with humor, sorrow, frustration and hope.
- *Unity* (1978, color, 30 min, VHS). Islamic beliefs and early history. Traditional World of Islam Series.
- *Until Eternity...Sinan* (color, 30 min segments, VHS). This six-part series is a profound documentary about the life and works of Sinan, the chief architect under four Ottoman sultans beginning in 1388 with the Suleyman the Magnificent and continuing to 1588. Sections include (I) The Stone Masons of Agirnas, (II) Sinan's early life, (III) the Sehzade complex, the first of Sina's monumental works, (IV) Sinan at his peak including the Mevlana complex, and the Selimiye mosque, (V) Sinan's hydrological projects, and (VI) a summary of Sinan's work and the world of the 16th century.
- *Ushpizin (Guests)* (2004, 92 min, Hebrew with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Gidi Dar. Powerful, touching and amusing, *Ushpizin (Guests)* is a heartwarming and soul-stirring film. Big-hearted Moshe Bellanga (Shuli Rand) is down on his luck, so he and his loving wife Malli (Michal Bat-Sheva Rand) pray passionately for a miracle. Their prayers are answered .. in the form of a large sum of money that mysteriously lands on their doorstep. But the great "gift" leads to the arrival of two uninvited ushpizin, and Moshe and Malli are left wondering, have they found God's favor or is this just a test of their devotion? Winner Best Picture - Israeli Critics Award.
- *Vasfiye Is Her Name* (1985, color, 90 min, Turkish with English subtitles, VHS). Vasfiye marries Emin, who has been in love with her since their childhood. After the marriage,

Emin transforms into a brutal philanderer. Seeking some happiness of her own, Vasfiye begins a relationship with Ruestem. When Emin learns of her experiences, he attacks Ruestem and lands in prison. The film tells the life of Vasfiye woman from the view of four Anatolian men. The intensity of their "Machismo" differentiates them, but their shared perceptions of her life and her choices offer striking insights into the role of gender in Turkish culture.

- *Veiled Revolution* (1982, color, 26 min, Arabic with English subtitles, VHS, Study Guide). Egyptian women discuss history and reasons for and against veiling.
- *Vodka Lemon* (2003, 88 min, DVD). Directed by Hiner Saleem. Winner of the Best Film at the Venice Film Festival, *Vodka Lemon* is a bittersweet concoction with a kick. In the snowy badlands of post-Soviet Armenia, village life is nearing subsistence level. As one character says, "The only thing the Russians have left them is the one thing they didn't have before - their freedom." Forced to sell off possessions while awaiting money from his son, a former Red Army officer, can only count on one thing: daily trips to the cemetery to commune with his late wife. There, Nina, a beautiful widow, tends her husband's grave. On the bus back to the village, a tender romance blossoms. The miracle of *Vodka Lemon*, the third feature film by exiled Iraqi Kurd director Hiner Saleem, is that this portrait of an abandoned community is so magically upbeat. With its stunning, blinding-white vistas, its lovely Armenian score, and its Iosseliani-esque whimsy, the film celebrates its quirky characters and, at its heart, is a Chagall-like vision of love among the ruins.
- *Walk on Water (Lelekheth 'al ha-mayim)* (2004, 103 min, DVD). This enthralling award-winning film by internationally-acclaimed director Eytan Fox explores the motives, strengths, and ultimately, the humanity of an Israeli assassin sent to rectify a wrong committed five decades earlier. Eyal is a top assassin in the Israeli secret service. He has killed terrorists before, but this time he is sent to eliminate an aging former Nazi war criminal. During his mission, Eyal meets his target's granddaughter and grandson, who inadvertently help him uncover his own troubled history and face his demons, while they discover the ugly truth their family has hidden from them for decades. What began as a straightforward mission, has suddenly escalated in intensity and complexity - thrusting three very different people into a thrilling triangle of murder, friendship and fate.
- *Wall* (97 min, DVD). Simone Bitton etches a haunting portrait of one of the most profound geographical markers of our time - the wall of separation constructed by Israel that shields it from adjacent, conflicted Palestinian territories. With masterful restraint, Bitton both abstracts her subjects and extracts its key contradiction as a strangulating protector of life. With interviews from people living on both sides, and with a sharp and knowing camera, this absorbing documentary, in an exceptionally evenhanded manner, shows how the Wall is destroying one of the most historically significant landscapes in the world, while imprisoning one people and enclosing the other.
- *War Generation* (1988, 50 min, VHS, Study Guide). Beirut a film about war in Beirut as seen through the eyes of the generation of young boys growing up in war torn Lebanon. Jean Chamoun (Lebanese) and Mai Masri (Palestinian) make up the husband and wife team that worked on both sides of the "green line" - the physical and psychological barrier that divides east and west Beirut - to make the film.

- *Water, Wind and Dust (Ab, Bad, Khak)*(color, 74 min, VHS). Directed by Amir Naderi. A small boy searches for his missing family in a drought-stricken region of Southern Iran. He cannot find them and joins one of the groups departing from the famine area.
- *Ways of Faith* (50 min, VHS). Film by Ali el Meh. The daily experience of Islam in a rural Muslim community. Three expressions of Islam - orthodox, sufism, and reliance on barakah - are presented in one city, Umdurman, Sudan. The Arabs - A Living History Series.
- *We Are God's Soldiers* (color, 52 min, VHS). Film by Hanna Musleh. This documentary takes the viewer on a trip inside the Islamic movements in Gaza Strip. The film includes interviews with some leaders of Hamas who have since been expelled by Israel. The internal fighting among Palestinians is reflected in the story of two brothers (Issam and Ziad). Issam is a veteran supporter of the PLO's Fatah and his brother, Ziad, is a supporter of the Islamic movement.
- *West Beirut* (1998, color, 105 min, VHS). Directed by Ziad Doueiri. Omar and Tarek live through the first year of the war unconcerned, engrossed in their first love affair. But as they are gradually drawn into the escalating violence that surrounds them, their carefree adolescence comes to an abrupt and startling end.
- *Wheat Cycle* (1974, 16 min, VHS). The cycle of dry farmed wheat.
- *Where Is the Friend's Home?* (1989, 90 min, Persian, VHS). Directed by Abbas Kiarostami. A lyrical tale about a traveler searching for his friend's home, who finds himself on an excursion through places and moments of great beauty and wonder. The friends are the schoolmates Ahmad and Mohammad Reza. Mohammad Reza's careless attitude towards his homework has drawn several reprimands from their stern teacher, culminating in the threat of expulsion if he does not do his work. When Ahmad prepares to do his own homework, he finds that he has accidentally picked up Mohammad Reza's notebook. Fearing that his friend will be expelled if he cannot submit his lesson the next day, Ahmad defies his parents and sets out to find his friend's home in the neighboring village. Winner of the Bronze Leopard at the Locarno Film Festival.
- *The White Balloon* (VHS, color, 84 min, Persian with English subtitles, 1995). Directed by Jafar Panahi. A young girl's desire for a pretty goldfish her family cannot afford sparks an adventure in this wonderfully charming film, which won the Camera d'Or (best first film) at the 1995 Cannes Film Festival. With the shops about to close for the New Year holiday in Tehran, seven-year-old Razieh pleads with her mother to buy a big goldfish she has seen at the pet store. Razieh's brother Ali persuades their mother to give in and, with the family's last bank note in hand, Razieh gleefully sets out to buy her fish. But along the way, she meets up with snake charmers, a balloon salesman and a dry cleaner and loses her money. With the help of her brother, Razieh desperately tries to retrieve her money, buy the fish and get home before her parents find out what's happened. Co-winner of the International Critics' Prize at Cannes almost getting hit by a car this morning...fun...damn female drivers... *White Balloon* was acclaimed by audiences and critics at film festivals worldwide.
- *Why We Fight* (2005, 99 min, English, DVD). Directed by Eugene Jarecki. Grand Jury Prize winner at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, *Why We Fight* is an unflinching look at the anatomy of American war-making. Granted unparalleled Pentagon access, the film

launches a nonpartisan inquiry into the forces - political, economic, and ideological - that drive America to fight. Inspired by President Dwight Eisenhower's 1961 Farewell address in which he warned Americans about the dangers of the "military-industrial complex," filmmaker Jarecki weaves unforgettable stories of everyday Americans touched by war with commentary by a "who's who" of military and Washington insiders. Featuring John McCain, Gore Vidal, Richard Perle and others, *Why We Fight* explores a half-century of U.S. foreign policy from World War II to the Iraq War, revealing how, as Eisenhower warned, political and corporate interests have become alarmingly entangled in the business of war. On a deeper level, what emerges is a portrait of a nation in transition - drifting dangerously far from her founding principles toward a more imperial and uncertain future.

- *Wild Flowers (Zahrat al-Kundoul)* (color, 70 min, VHS). A Lebanese semi documentary about Shi'ah women in the South.
- *Will the Nile War Take Place?* (2007, color, 52 min, DVD). Potential conflicts are brewing between the nations that share the Nile River Basin. The days of the Nile only nourishing Egypt's great demand for water might be rapidly coming to an end. Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda are geographically located in the larger Nile basin and control the sources of the river. In recent years they have been demanding a greater share of the Nile's precious resource as demand comes closer to overtaking this finite supply. All 13 countries with access will have to come to agreements on how to share the Nile. Will this be the cause of the next war?
- *The Wind Will Carry Us* (France/Iran, 1999, color, 118 min, Farsi with English subtitles, DVD). Directed by Abbas Kiarostami. A filmmaker from Tehran travels to a remote mountain village secretly planning to record a local ritual ceremony surrounding an old dying woman. Upon his arrival, his crew is met by Farzad, a young boy from the town who at first becomes their guide but ultimately becomes their informant on the fate of the old woman. Convincing the locals that they are archeologists looking for buried treasure, the filmmaker attempts to befriend them with mixed results. As the rustling wind, golden light, and deep shadows of the village cast an alluring spell, the death watch drags on and the woman stubbornly clings to life, leaving the crew impatient.
- *The Witness Who Saw Nothing (Shahid ma shofsh haga)* (Egypt, color, Arabic no subtitles, VCD). A detective story that follows the investigation in the murder of a belly dancer. Starring Adel Imam.
- *Women in Islam* (1991, 139 min, VHS). This film considers women from an Islamic point of view - her position in society, her role, and her rights and obligations. Part I - Introduction (12 min), Status and Role of Women in Islamic Societies (17 min), Islam and the Education of Women (11 min), Women and Word (25 min), and Islamic Dress and Hijab (22 min). Part II - Polygamy (23 min), Divorce (12 min), and Conclusion (16 min). Women identified from Nigeria, Egypt, UK, Jamaica, USA, Pakistan, Ghana, Malaysia, Spain, Turkey, and Germany. (No Iranian women)
- *Women of Islam: Veiling and Seclusion* (USA, 2004, color, 50 min, In Urdu, Farsi, and Dari with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Farheen Umar. During the times of conflict with Islamic regimes, such as the recent war in Afghanistan, Western journalists and politicians tend to use the burqa (or veil) worn by some Muslim women as a symbol of oppression. They seem to suggest that, once these women have been freed from

oppressive Islamic rule, they will immediately cast off their veils and rejoice in wearing the latest fashions of the West. In reality, however, this has not been the case. Director Farheen Umar travels throughout the Middle East and the USA to talk with Muslim women and challenge the assumptions about the practice of wearing veils. This documentary explores the origins of these stereotypes and confronts misconceptions about the tradition of covering in Muslim society.

- *Women Under Siege* (1982, color, 26 min, VHS, Study Guide). Changing role of Palestinian women in southern Lebanon. Produced by Elizabeth Fernea/Women and Change Series.
- *The Wonder of Israel* (1997, 20 min, English, VHS). An energetic and informative video produced primarily for junior high school and high school students. This video covers the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, signing of the Interim Agreement, the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the election of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other historical events and points of interest. This is a wonderful resource for young adults to learn about Israel and the Middle East. It has won a number of awards: the CINE Golden Eagle, the Telly Award, a silver medal at the New York World Festival and a bronze medal from the National Education Media Network.
- *The Wooden Gun* (color, 91 min, Hebrew with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Ilan Moshenson. This Israeli film is set in the tense atmosphere of Tel Aviv in the 1950's and focuses on two rival groups of pre-teens whose behavior, motivated by their interpretations of the concepts of heroism, nationalism and friendship, raise hard questions. The film portrays first generation sabras (native-born Israelis), who are separated by a tremendous psychological gap from those who came to Israel from Europe, many of them Holocaust survivors.
- *Yana's Friends* (90 min, DVD). Directed by Arik Kaplun. *Yana's Friends* takes place in Israel in 1991, during the Gulf War. Yana, a young, beautiful and pregnant Russian immigrant is abandoned by her husband and left to fend for herself in the flat she shares with Eli, an Israeli wedding photographer with a passion for women. When the threat of Saddam Hussein's poison gas missiles forces Yana and Eli into the same sealed bedroom, they share their stories, sparks fly, and love blossoms.
- *Yellow Asphalt* (2000, 87 min, DVD). Directed by Dan Verete. As western culture gradually began to infiltrate the Judean desert, once the sole domain of the Bedouin tribes, the convergence of contemporary mores and ancient traditions was unavoidable. At the edge of modern Israel and the Bedouin way of life, three dramatic encounters between two very different societies set the stage for *Yellow Asphalt*: the tragic death of a Bedouin boy on the asphalt road cutting the desert in two; the impossible marriage between a German woman and her Bedouin husband and the forbidden love affair of a Bedouin maid and her Israeli employer. Shot on location in the exotic landscapes of the Judean desert with the participation of the Bedouin tribe "Jahalin," at the heart of *Yellow Asphalt* are tales of the human condition - of passion and deceit, carelessness and love, courage and selfishness, in which no one culture has a monopoly on virtue or vice.
- *Yol* (color, 115 min, Turkish with English subtitles, VHS). Directed by Yilmaz Guney. Yilmaz Guney's film about the experience of Turkish prisoners who return home on leave.

- Yom Yom (1998, 99 min, DVD). "Yom Yom" is a comedy of errors, that takes place in Haifa. Mosh (Moshe Ivgi) is the hero, an only child of 40, a hypochondriac who cares about nothing. Mosh works at the family bakery as life just passes him by. Mosh's relationships with his mother Hanna (Hanna Maron) is a real love affair - Hanna is an adorable pest married to Mosh's father, Yussef (Yussef Abu Warda), an Arab from Haifa. The film "Yom Yom" deals with the relationships between the main characters: Mosh, his parents Hanna and Yussef, his wife Didi, his close friend Jules, his lover Grisha and his doctor, Dr. Catharine Perrier.
- Yossi & Jagger (2004, 71 min, DVD). Yossi is a serious and strong-featured commander. Jagger is his free-spirited and boyishly handsome charge. They are both soldiers in the Israeli army, and they are in love. Based on a true story, Yossi & Jagger portrays their secret love, set in a remote army base along the Israeli-Lebanese border. In a time of strife and uncertainty, Yossi and Jagger find hope in their unforgettable and emotionally charged romance.
- Young Voices From the Arab World (1998, color, 30 min, English, VHS). Everyday aspects of Arab culture and society are conveyed through the lives of five young people from Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Kuwait and Morocco. They'll take you into their homes, schools, places of worship and favorite entertainment spots. Narration by noted radio personality Casey Kasem provides historical, geographical and other background information.