



Chicago Palestine Film Festival
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12th ANNUAL CHICAGO PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL
April 20-May 2, 2013

TWO WEEKS OF PALESTINIAN FILMS IN CHICAGO!!

The Chicago Palestine Film Festival is pleased to announce our 12th Annual Film Festival has just started and relishing on the momentum of our SOLD OUT Opening Night films, “When I Saw You” and “Nation Estate,” the festival will continue showcasing award winning films about Palestine from around the globe through Thursday, May 2nd at the Gene Siskel Film Center and School of the Art Institute of Chicago. We are the world’s longest running festival dedicated solely to bringing the stories of Palestine to Chicago through film. With over 200 films showcased to date, every year the festival strives to bring together films about Palestine that engage, enlighten and entertain our audiences and leave you inspired.

This year we are pleased to be featuring 19 amazing films at two venues in the Chicago area. Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., Chicago, IL and School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 280 N. Columbus Drive, Chicago, IL. Both venues are located in downtown Chicago and offer audiences a wonderful setting to enjoy films by world renowned artists.

An exciting array of events continue for this year’s festival. Our SOLD OUT red carpet Opening Night Premiere, Saturday April 20th at the Gene Siskel Film Center featured the Chicago Premiere of “**When I Saw You**,” by Annemarie Jacir, the first-ever film submitted for Oscar consideration from the Palestinian Territories, which was preceded

by **Nation Estate**, by Larissa Sansour. Audiences raved about the films and it set the tone for an outstanding list of films to follow.

On Thursday, April 25th, we're hosting "The Outer Orbit Series" at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Our comedy night features an introduction to filmmakers that took on a fun look into Palestinian life with "The Cup Reader" and "Jean Wejnoon." **The Cup Reader** director, Suha Araj, creates this humorous film about a young woman who has the mystic ability to look into the women of the town's future through the eyes of a Turkish coffee cup. Some women get what they came for, some women don't. You'll have to catch the film to find out their fate. "**Jean Wejnoon**" is a wild ride inside one family's lunacy and in this hysterically funny film we follow the filmmaker as he comes to terms with his family's demons and attempts to confront his own.

If its intrigue and mystery you're looking for, check out Gene Siskel Film Center's films, "**Uncle Nashaat**" and "Alone." Uncle Nashaat is a personal look into the journey of the filmmaker, Aseel Mansour, and the quest to find out information about his uncle's death by the hands of the Israeli army in 1982. Also showing that night, "**Wahdon (Alone)**," a short film inspired by a poem by Lebanese writer Tala Haidar and based on the true story of a French activist. Both of these films will also be shown on Thursday, April 25th at 8:15pm.

Oscar nominated documentary film, "**5 Broken Cameras**" will be showcased at the Gene Siskel Film Center, Friday, April 29th & Saturday, April 30th. It's an award winning documentary on a Palestinian farmer's chronicle of his nonviolent resistance to the actions of the Israeli army. It's an extraordinary work of both cinematic and political activism.

Following the success of our red carpet premiere, our Closing Night celebration, will be sponsored by NAAP-Chicago and will offer free middle-eastern food, Palestinian-inspired sweets, and music. Guests can mingle will be able to mingle with members of the production team of the award winning documentary film, "**My Neighbourhood**" prior to the film. Noted as "one of the best documentaries about the Israeli Palestinian conflict," it's a film that represents The Chicago Palestine Film Festival's mission: to highlight extraordinary films about Palestine to the Chicago community. After the film, a discussion with the filmmakers and audience will also take place adding another element for audiences to understand the nature of how such films were made.

Our Chicago Premiere closing night feature film is the Award Winning, "**Habibi**" by Director Susan Youssef. Named one of "25 New Faces" to watch by Filmmaker Magazine in 2010, this film brings romance to Palestinian cinema. A love story set in Gaza, it's the first feature fiction filmed there in 15 years.

We look forward to hosting these extraordinary films and bringing them to our Chicago community. A complete list of all other films being featured can be found on our website at www.palestinefilmfest.com.

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