



Film

BAM presents *Contemporary Arab Cinema*, Sep 27—Oct 2, an overview of recent gems of Middle Eastern and North African cinema

August 30, 2019/Brooklyn, NY—From Friday, September 27 through Wednesday, October 2, BAM presents the second annual *Contemporary Arab Cinema*, a diverse program of films from across the Middle East and North Africa, showcasing the depth and variety of Arab cinema today. Grappling unflinchingly with issues of prejudice, women's rights, ethnic identity, sociopolitical upheaval, history, and tradition, these eclectic documentaries and narrative features are by turns personal, political, funny, and fervent dispatches from an ever-evolving region.

The series opens with Sameh Zoabi's *Tel Aviv on Fire* (2018), a charming satire set amid the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in which a slacker PA on a popular Palestinian soap opera begins pilfering plot points from an imaginative Israeli border guard, followed by a Q&A with director Zoabi. Other titles include Jawad Rhalib's *When Arabs Danced* (2018), a richly sensorial documentary on boundary-pushing Muslim dancers, actors, and artists at work, followed by a Skype Q&A with the director; Hajooj Kuka's *aKasha* (2018), a freewheeling feminist farce from South Sudan; Waad Al-Khateab's *For Sama* (2019), a SXSW Best Documentary-winning documentary chronicling the filmmaker's life in Aleppo during the civil war; and Mahmoud Ben Mahmoud's drama *Fatwa* (2018), in which a father returns to Tunisia following his son's death, and discovers the young man's involvement in an extreme Islamist organization.

Other films include Cyril Aris' *The Swing* (2018), a lo-fi, intimate portrait of a Beirut family's love and lies, followed by a director Q&A; Mohammad Saeed Harib's *Rashid & Rajab* (2019), an infectiously goofy body swap comedy, full of slapstick gags and sly observations on Emirati and Egyptian cultures, followed by a Skype Q&A with the director; Egyptian-Austrian director Abu Bakr Shawky's feature debut *Yomeddine* (2018), a luminous, bittersweet road movie about a leprosy survivor; Nadine Labaki's Cannes Jury Prize-winning neorealist stunner *Capernaum* (2018); Syrian documentarian Talal Derki's undercover portrait of a militantly fundamentalist father and son, *Of Fathers and Sons* (2017), followed by a Skype Q&A with Derki; Amr Gamal's *10 Days Before the Wedding* (2018), a heart-pounding, civil-war set romance, and the first Yemeni-made film to screen commercially in Yemen; and Ahmad Abdallah's *EXT. Night* (2018), a freewheeling meta-satire from one of Egypt's leading contemporary directors.

**For further press information, please contact:
Shelley Farmer at 718.724.8023 / sfarmer@BAM.org**

Contemporary Arab Cinema Schedule:

Fri, Sep 27

7pm: *Tel Aviv on Fire*

Sat, Sep 28

2pm: *When Arabs Danced*

4:30pm: *aKasha*

7pm: *For Sama*

9:30pm: *Fatwa*

Sun, Sep 29

2pm: *The Swing*

4:15pm: *Rashid & Rajab*

7:00pm: *Yomeddine*

Mon, Sep 30



Film

7pm: *Capernaum*

Tue, Oct 1

7pm: *Of Fathers and Sons*

9:30pm: *10 Days Before the Wedding*

Wed, Oct 2

7pm: *Ext. Night*

About BAM Film

Since 1998 BAM Rose Cinemas has been Brooklyn's home for film. Combining new releases with year-round repertory and specialty programming, the mission of BAM Film is to present nimble, responsive, and engaged film programming that centers marginalized artists and challenges prevailing narratives. The program continues BAM's tradition of presenting bold and adventurous work from adventurous artists to adventurous audiences. The four screen venue hosts festivals of films from around the world, often with special appearances by directors, actors, and other guests. BAM has programmed major retrospectives of filmmakers like Spike Lee, Chantal Akerman, Marlon Riggs, Jonathan Demme, and Claire Denis. Since 2009 the program has also produced BAMcinemaFest, New York's home for vital new work in American independent film.

Credits:

Leadership support for BAM Film programs provided by The Thompson Family Foundation

Support for A Year of Resistance, amplifying marginalized voices in cinema, provided by The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

BAM Rose Cinemas would also like to acknowledge the generous support of The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, Brooklyn Delegation of the New York City Council, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, and Bloomberg

Delta Air Lines is the Official Airline of BAM

The Brooklyn Hospital Center is the Official Healthcare Provider of BAM

Your tax dollars make BAM programs possible through funding from the City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. The BAM facilities are owned by the City of New York and benefit from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio; Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl; the New York City Council including Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Finance Committee Chair Julissa Ferreras, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, and the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council; and Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams. BAM would like to thank the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Assembly, Joseph R. Lentol, Delegation Leader; and New York Senate, Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

Special thanks to: Lina Matta & Odile Isralson/ANA Contemporary Arab Cinema; Nathan Faustyn/Strand Releasing; Michael Dicerto/ Sony Pictures Entertainment; Chris Wells/ Kino Lorber; Maya Anand, Debbie A. Acosta, Cordelia Sklansky/ Cohen Media Group; Dimpho Molebatsi, Khanyo Mjamba, Micaelyn Traut/ Big World Cinema; Dimitri Kimplaire/ Wallonie Image Production (WIP); Jawad Rhalib/ R&R Productions; Michael Tuckman Media; Amanda Sherwin/ Paladin Film; Carly N. Botero, Emily E. Rothschild/ PBS; Habib Bel Hedi/ Arts Distributions; Cyril Aris; Ghina Abdallah/ Image Nation; Joseph Samaan, Ghassan Nader, Dionyssi Samiotis/ Tanweer; Mohsen Alkhalifi/ Adenium Productions; Jessica Khoury/ Film Clinic Indie Distribution.

General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place (between Lafayette Ave and Hanson Place), houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas features first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming.



Film

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.