

PALESTINE AND NEIGHBOURS IN TAMPERE FILM FESTIVAL 5.-9.3.2008

News from the Middle East consists of daily flow of images on TV. The pictures of war do not, however, tell much about the way people lead their everyday lives, experience their reality. This is why the Tampere Film Festival turns its gaze towards the Middle East.

Palestine and Neighbours –programme consists of five unconditional screenings of films from Palestine and other countries from the Middle East, like Israel, Lebanon and Jordania. The most of the films are documentaries but there are also fictions and experimental films. Noteworthy majority of the films exhibited in Tampere, are directed by women. Festival is honored to have two visionary women directors **Alia Arasoughly** and **Najwa Najjar** as guests. Also man director **Hazim Bitar**, from Jordania, is a member of International Jury.

Palestine and Neighbours 1: 5.3. 14.00 Tullikamari K6 / 8.3. 18.00 Plevna 5 L12
Palestine and Neighbours 2: 6.3. 22.00 Tullikamari T19 / 9.3. 16.00 Plevna 5 S7
Palestine and Neighbours 3: 7.3. 20.00 Plevna 6 P20
Palestine and Neighbours 4: 7.3. 10.00 Hällä P28 / 9.3. 12.00 Plevna 5 S5
Palestine and Neighbours 5: 8.3. 22.00 Plevna 6 L21

Besides the films shot in Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, and Jordan, the events in the area serve as a backdrop for many other films, too. **John Smith's Hotel Diaries** series, depicting the presence of the Middle East and its history, and their capacity to pervade even the most sterile of hotel rooms, could be granted an "associate membership" to the Festival's Middle East screening. After the screening, Smith, an author **Mark Cosgrove** and festival director **Jukka-Pekka Laakso** will discuss.

>> John Smith: Hotel Diaries: 8.3. 14.00 Hällä L31.

Palestine and the Middle East –topic is exhibited also in International competition 5; **Maher Abi Samar's Moujarad raiha** (2007) from Lebanon, John Smith's *Dirty Pictures* (2007) is shotted in Jerusalem ja **Lior Geller's Roads** (2007) from Israel, and in competition 8: **Meyar Al Roumi's Le voyage de Rabia** (2006) from Syria.

International competition 5: 6.3. 20.00 Plevna 2 T6 / 7.3. 12.00 Plevna 5 P9
International competition 8: 7.3. 18.00 Plevna 2 (P5) / 8.3. 10.00 Plevna 5 (L8)

Besides the screenings Tampere Film Festival organizes an open discussion "Palestine and neighbours, filmmakers tell" in Werstas Auditorium, on Friday 7 March at 6pm. Participants are Najwa Najjar, Alia Arasoughly, Hazim Bitar and John Smith.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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