



birds  
eye  
view

2013

CELEBRATING  
**ARAB WOMEN**  
FILMMAKERS

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK, 7-8 MARCH  
FILM FESTIVAL, 3-10 APRIL 2013

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BIRDS EYE VIEW FILM FESTIVAL

# CELEBRATING ARAB WOMEN FILMMAKERS

Birds Eye View shines a light on the recent wave of work by female Arab directors making headlines at the world's leading film festivals. Celebrated for over a decade as a champion of women filmmakers across the globe, this year's BEV Film Festival is a unique opportunity to experience the rich, diverse and powerful voices of the Arab world's most inspiring women.

With compelling features, eye-opening documentaries, ground-breaking short films, insightful events, exclusive Q&As, cutting edge live music and a special edition of our Fashion Loves Film programme, plus our usual line-up of celebrity guests, awards, parties, galas & more.

Full programme information at  
[birds-eye-view.co.uk](http://birds-eye-view.co.uk)



## FEATURES

International Women's Day Gala:  
**WADJDA** preview + director Q&A

**Fri 8 March, 8.40pm, BFI Southbank**

Dir Haifaa Al Mansour, Saudi Arabia /  
Germany, 2012, 93 min

Wadjda's parents won't buy her a bicycle, so she determines to raise the money herself. And with her mother distracted by her husband's plans for a second wife, she has a chance. The first ever feature from Saudi Arabia, this inspiring and gently subversive film won the Satyajit Ray Foundation Award for 2013, presented at the Gala. *'Boundary-pushing cinema in all the best ways'* Telegraph



Opening Night Gala:

## WHEN I SAW YOU

UK premiere + director Q&A

Wed 3 April, 6.20pm, BFI Southbank

Dir Annemarie Jacir, Palestine / Jordan / Greece / UAE, 2012, 93 min

Winner: NETPAC Award, Berlinale 2013

Jordan, 1967: free-spirited young Tarek escapes a Palestinian refugee camp determined to go home, and is taken in by freedom fighters. When his mother follows, they begin a journey from helpless victimhood to the defiant possibility of hope. A masterful new work by Palestine's first female feature director. 'Beautiful, groundbreaking and deeply, deeply moving' *Huffington Post*. Presented with the support of The Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative.



Closing Night Gala:

HABIBI (Darling, Something's Wrong With Your Head) preview

Wed 10 April, 6.20pm, BFI Southbank

Dir Susan Youssef, Palestine / USA / Netherlands / UAE, 2011, 80 min

Winner: Best Feature, Dubai FF 2011

The first feature set in Gaza for over 15 years, this sweeping contemporary romance is based on a classic Arabic story often likened to 'Romeo and Juliet'. Young lovers Qays and Layla court controversy when Qays begins to graffiti poems of forbidden passion across the town. Set against the escalating Israeli-Palestinian conflict and featuring original Sufi poetry, this is a powerful retelling of a timeless tale.



## COMING FORTH BY DAY

UK Premiere + director Q&A

Sat 6 April, 6pm, BFI Southbank

Dir Hala Lotfy, Egypt / UAE, 2012, 95 min

Winner: Best Director, Abu Dhabi FF 2012

This ambitious, fiercely original debut has already caused a global stir and arrives fresh from its European premiere at the Berlin Film Festival. Haunting and oppressive, it follows the daily drudgery of an isolated woman dutifully caring for her sick father, as she hesitantly tries to escape to a life more her own. 'Cinema is more than ready for an exciting new female auteur from the Arab world... Lotfy might well be it' *Hollywood Reporter*



**YEMA** UK Premiere + director Q&A

**Sat 6 April, 6pm, Barbican**

Dir Djamilia Sahraoui, Algeria / France,  
2012, 90 min

**Winner: FIPRESCI Best Feature, Abu Dhabi FF 2012**

A Greek tragedy in a country at war with itself, Yema plays out Algeria's fratricidal civil conflict through an intimate family saga. Warda grieves for her son, killed by his Islamic insurgent brother, with only her beloved garden for company. But all is not as it seems in this searing modern drama, widely acclaimed for its Venice premiere and beautifully shot against staggering desert landscapes. *'Stunning... an epic tale recounted on a human scale'* Variety

**ON THE EDGE** UK Premiere

**Tue 9 April, 8.40pm, BFI Southbank**

Dir Leila Kilani, Morocco / France /  
Germany, 2011, 110 min

Two girls, Badia and Imane, spend their days peeling shrimp in a dreary Tangier factory. By night they plunge into the iniquities of the city, entertaining rich men and stealing what they can. Acclaimed for its Cannes premiere and driven by two exhilarating – and award-winning – central performances, this is an edgy, fast-paced snapshot of a city coming to grips with the global market and the desperation of its youth. *'Powered by a form of black magic... a team of explosive young actresses'* Guardian



# DOCUMENTARIES

## DAMASCUS ROOF AND TALES OF PARADISE + Q&A

Thu 4 April, 6.30pm, ICA

Dir Soudade Kaadan, Syria/Qatar, 2011, 52 min

There's a rich tradition of storytelling in Syria, passed from grandparents to grandchildren and filled with colorful imagery. Within the old city of Damascus, as modernisation changes the familiar landscape, will this cherished cultural heritage vanish amidst the rubble and disruption as a new city takes shape? Or can they yet be saved? A spellbinding journey through the art, architecture and vibrant stories that still - just - inhabit the heart of an ancient city.

Al Jazeera Documentary Channel Special Event.

## IN THE SHADOW OF A MAN

UK premiere + director Q&A

Fri 5 April, 6.30pm, BFI Southbank

Dir Hanan Abdalla, Egypt, 2011, 65 min

Winner: Best Documentary Director, Doha Tribeca FF 2012

'Deep down, the women in Egypt know the future is theirs...' In the wake of revolution, four women talk about their fight for the future and what it means to be a woman in Egypt. Internationally acclaimed at its Berlin premiere, this courageous, intimate and politically explosive film weaves together their stories of marriage, divorce, love and resistance against Egypt's greater struggle for freedom. **An absorbing portrait of a nation on the cusp of change... [and] a subtle tribute to the strength and resolve of the Egyptian woman** Variety Supported by Doha Film Institute.



## SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

UK premiere + director & producer Q&A

Sat 6 April, 3pm, BFI Southbank

Dir Eliane Raheb, Lebanon, 2012, 128 min

Maryam still grieves for her son, missing in action since the Lebanese Civil War. Assaad, an intelligence officer on the other side, has publicly acknowledged his culpability in the atrocities following a post-war amnesty. Through their stories and eventual meeting comes a haunting, intimate and instantly arresting account of the lives behind the rhetoric of 'reconciliation'. Are redemption and forgiveness ever really possible? **'Brilliantly capturing a nation's damaged soul... impossible not to be moved'** Variety



## A TALE OF TWO SYRIAS

London Premiere + director Q&A

**Sat 6 April, 4pm, Barbican**

Dir Yasmin Fedda, Syria / UK, 2012, 65 min

Salem is an Iraqi fashion designer in Damascus. Botrus lives a remote existence in a hillside monastery. This consistently insightful and unexpected documentary offers a unique perspective on what the dream of freedom means to two very different people in the face of a brutal regime, crafting a moving and vital snapshot of life in the year before Syria's uprising.



## THE LEBANESE ROCKET SOCIETY

London Premiere + directors Q&A

**Sat 6 April, 8.30pm, BFI Southbank**

Dir Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige,  
Lebanon / Qatar / France, 2012, 93 min

Winner: Best Feature Documentary, Doha  
Tribeca FF 2012

In 1961, a Lebanese university professor and his students launched their own improbable entry to the international space race. From disastrous rocket fuel experiments to test launches that united pan-Arabist optimism, this internationally acclaimed documentary excavates a forgotten moment in history and recalls the utopian possibilities that ultimately lost out to civil and regional conflict.

*'Fascinating... reminds you that the most improbable documentaries are often inspired by facts that you can't make up'* IndieWire.  
Supported by Doha Film Institute.



## AS IF WE WERE CATCHING A COBRA

UK premiere + director Q&A

**Sun 7 April, 3.45pm, BFI Southbank**

Dir Hala Alabadda, Syria / UAE / France,  
2012, 120 min

Initially intended to explore the tradition of caricatures and cartoons in Egypt and Syria, production on this film was suddenly halted by the insurgencies in both countries. The result, focusing on art as a vehicle for dissent, is an electrifying and passionate study of the fearless tenacity of Arab artists fighting for freedom and justice. *'Powerful... a striking viewpoint of a complex and constantly changing time'* Screen International



## EL GUSTO preview

**Sun 7 April, 4pm, Barbican**

Dir Safinez Bousbia, Algeria /  
UAE / Ireland, 2011, 88 min

A beautiful rhythmic cocktail of Arabic and European styles uniting Muslim and Jewish communities, Chaabi music was the heart and soul of cosmopolitan Algiers until the war of independence tore them apart. 50 years later, director Safinez Bousbia tracked down a group of friends for an extraordinary reunion concert. With a huge heart and a sensational soundtrack, this is a celebration of music's power to transcend national, social and religious boundaries.

'An Algerian variation on *The Buena Vista Social Club*... feisty and passionate' *Screen International*



## THE THREE DISAPPEARANCES OF SOAD HOSNI preview

**Sun 7 April, 8.50pm, BFI Southbank**

**Mon 8 April, 8.45pm, Hackney**

**Picturehouse** (+ intro by I am Dora)

Dir Rania Stephan, Lebanon, 2011, 70 min

**Winner: Best Documentary Director, Doha Tribeca FF 2011**

A haunting and beautiful meditation on the life of Egyptian screen legend Soad Hosni, star of 82 major features from 1959-1991, whose mysterious death in London in 2001 sent shockwaves through the Arab world. Using only archive footage from her films, this striking filmic montage creates a multi-faceted portrait of an iconic Arab actress and an elegy to Egypt's rich cinematic history. 'Beautifully conceived and expertly edited' *Variety*



## GAZA CALLING UK Premiere + director Q&A

**Mon 8 April, 8.30pm, BFI Southbank**

Dir Nahed Awwad, Palestine /  
Switzerland / UAE, 2012, 64 min

Samer lives in the West Bank, just one hour from his family in Gaza: they haven't seen each other for six years. Mustafa visited Gaza seven years ago, aged 18: his mother has been fighting to see him ever since. Considered 'infiltrators' in their own country, parents can only talk to their sons on the phone; sisters only see their brothers on the internet... An extraordinary glimpse of the daily reality for families torn apart and the struggle to stay connected.

# SHORTS

## DFI SHORT FILM SHOWCASE

Thu 4 April, 8.45pm, BFI Southbank

Tue 9 April, 6.40pm, BFI Southbank 89 min

Showcasing the best new work by up-and-coming filmmakers recently featured at the Doha Tribeca Film Festival, this is a great chance to see the new female talent making waves in the Arab film scene. From fiction to documentary, animation and art film, this is an impressive cross-section of work by a new generation on the cusp of international recognition.

Supported by Doha Film Institute as part of the Qatar UK 2013 initiative

## SMALL STORIES, BIG PICTURES

Sun 7 April, 2.45pm, Hackney Picturehouse

Sun 7 April, 6.40pm, BFI Southbank (+ Q&A with director Sabine El Chamaa) 87 min

Personal themes of family and relationships run through this powerful selection of short films by emerging female Arab directors from Tunisia to Lebanon and Iraq, including new work from the directors of recent breakthrough feature 'Ok, Enough, Goodbye'. From mothers and daughters to husbands and wives and even strangers meeting on the street, these films all tell intimate stories taking place against the background of huge social and political changes across the Arab world.



Lod, Israel (previously Al-Lydd, Palestine)

## Dor Guez—40 Days

12/04/13—31/05/13

Exhibition open Tues—Sat

11am—6pm FREE

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# SOUND & SILENTS

Continuing our trailblazing commissions for live silent film scores, by female musicians two cutting-edge Arab artists accompany silent films based on the 'Arabian Nights'.



## SUMURUN (One Arabian Night) LIVE SCORE BY AMIRA KHEIR

Thu 4 April, 6.10pm, BFI Southbank  
Sun 14 April, 6pm, Watershed (Bristol)  
Dir Ernst Lubitsch, Germany, 1920, 103 min

Sudanese jazz musician Amira Kheir leads a 5-piece band for this 'brilliant' (NY Times) fantasy-drama of forbidden love based on stories from the 'Arabian Nights'. This landmark silent film was a pioneering collaboration by renowned director Lubitsch and early Hollywood superstar Pola Negri. It is accompanied by a dynamic multi-instrumental ensemble fusing contemporary jazz and East African music.

### AMIRA KHEIR

A singer, musician and songwriter of Sudanese origin, Kheir has risen to critical acclaim for her first album 'View from Somewhere' and international appearances from Mali's Festival au Desert to the London Jazz Festival. 'Bold and poetic... beautiful and fearless' Songlines

## THE ADVENTURES OF PRINCE ACHMED LIVE SCORE BY BUSHRA EL-TURK

Thu 7 March, 8pm, Southbank Centre  
Fri 5 April, 7pm, Barbican  
Dir Lotte Reiniger, Germany, 1926, 65 min

A spellbinding new multi-cultural live score by rising star contemporary composer Bushra El-Turk, accompanying the world's first feature animation. With dazzling visual effects, sharp humour and an enchanting story from the 'Arabian Nights', it established Lotte Reiniger as a major cinematic pioneer, anticipating early Disney animations by over a decade. Featuring an innovative ensemble of classical Western and Middle Eastern instruments in a unique celebration of both traditions.

### BUSHRA EL-TURK

British-Lebanese composer El-Turk's award-winning work has won international acclaim and been performed by the LSO, BBC Symphony and London Sinfonietta. She is on attachment to the LSO Panufnik Programme.

The 2013 Sound & Silents commissions are supported by Arts Council England and the PRS for Music Foundation.

# FASHION LOVES FILM

ARAB FASHION ON FILM: PAST AND  
PRESENT + panel discussion

Tue 9 April, 6.30pm, ICA  
80 min

BEV's much-loved Fashion Loves Film turns a spotlight on the Arab world following new trends in the region and recent breakout films from the Gulf. Plus archive material charting the history of Middle Eastern fashion, up-to-the-minute accounts of the latest developments, and a discussion with leading industry and regional experts. This special programme promises new insight from the burgeoning Arab fashion sector and our usual heavy dose of glamour on and off screen!



# AWARDS & JURIES

Winners announced at our Closing Night Gala at BFI Southbank on 10 April. Jurors include:

**Best Feature:** Sally El Hosaini (Director, LFF Award-winner 'My Brother The Devil'), Nikki Baughan (Editor, movieScope) & Omar Al-Qattan (Qattan Foundation/Mosaic Rooms).

**Best Documentary:** Wendy Ide (Film Critic, The Times), Jenny Horwell (Producer, DocHouse) & Eva Weber (Sundance Institute Global Filmmaking Award-winner).

**Emerging Talent Award (short film):** Haifaa Al Mansour (Director, Venice Award-winner 'Wadja'), Gareth Evans (Time Out / Whitechapel Gallery), Rebecca Brand (Women in Film & Television).

## INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES

Alongside the public programme, from 3 to 6 April Birds Eye View presents a dedicated industry programme for international delegates. Co-hosted by the British Council, and with event partners including BAFTA, MoFilm, Coutts, the ICA, Al Jazeera and movieScope, the programme is aimed at filmmakers and industry representatives from across the MENA region, and includes workshops, seminars and networking as well as Festival screenings. For more information visit [www.birds-eye-view.co.uk/industry](http://www.birds-eye-view.co.uk/industry)

## FESTIVAL CREDITS

BEV Founder-Director Rachel Millward

Creative Director Kate Gerova

Producers Ben Monks & Will Young

Programmer Elhum Shakerifar

Marketing Officer Celia Turley

Festival Co-ordinator Emily Vermont

Festival Internship Joanna Duncombe

Delegates Co-ordinator Laura Kloss

Programme Advisors Özge Calafato

& Rémi Bonhomme

Publicity Organic Marketing

Graphic Designer Samar Maakaron

Trailer Director Lisa Ambjorn

With thanks to Soda Pictures, the Rolex Institute, Match Factory & Figa Films; plus huge appreciation for our army of volunteers without whom the Festival would not be possible.

## VENUES



## SUPPORTERS



## IN KIND SUPPORTERS



## CULTURAL AND MEDIA PARTNERS



Aesthetica

I am Dora x

## CALENDAR: 3-10 APRIL 2013

### WED 3 APRIL

6.20pm **BFI Southbank** Opening Night Gala:  
When I Saw You + Q&A (Feature)

### THU 4 APRIL

6.10pm **BFI Southbank** Sumurun (One  
Arabian Night) + live score by Amira  
Kheir (Sound & Silents)

6.30pm **ICA** Damascus Roof and Tales of  
Paradise + Al Jazeera Documentary  
Channel discussion event (Doc)

8.45pm **BFI Southbank** DFI Short Film  
Showcase (Shorts)

### FRI 5 APRIL

6.30pm **BFI Southbank** In The Shadow of A  
Man + Q&A (Doc)

7.00pm **Barbican** The Adventures of Prince  
Achmed + live score by Bushra El-  
Turk (Sound & Silents)

### SAT 6 APRIL

3.00pm **BFI Southbank** Sleepless Nights +  
Q&A (Doc)

4.00pm **Barbican** A Tale of Two Syrias + Q&A  
(Doc)

6.00pm **BFI Southbank** Coming Forth By Day  
+ Q&A (Feature)

6.00pm **Barbican** Yema + Q&A (Feature)

8.30pm **BFI Southbank** The Lebanese Rocket  
Society + Q&A (Doc)

### SUN 7 APRIL

2.45pm **Hackney Picturehouse** Small Stories,  
Big Pictures (Shorts)

3.45pm **BFI Southbank** As If We Were  
Catching A Cobra + Q&A (Doc)

4.00pm **Barbican** El Gusto (Doc)

6.40pm **BFI Southbank** Small Stories, Big  
Pictures + Q&A (Shorts)

8.50pm **BFI Southbank** The Three  
Disappearances of Soad Hosni (Doc)

### MON 8 APRIL

8.30pm **BFI Southbank**  
Gaza Calling + Q&A (Doc)

8.45pm **Hackney Picturehouse** The Three  
Disappearances of Soad Hosni +  
intro by I am Dora (Doc)

### TUE 9 APRIL

6.30pm **ICA** Arab fashion on film: past &  
present + panel discussion (Fashion  
Loves Film)

6.40pm **BFI Southbank**  
DFI Short Film Showcase (Shorts)

8.40pm **BFI Southbank**  
On The Edge (Feature)

### WED 10 APRIL

6.20pm **BFI Southbank** Closing Night Gala &  
Awards: Habibi (Feature)

## FULL PROGRAMME INFORMATION AT

**BIRDS-EYE-VIEW-CO.UK**



## VENUES & BOOKING

**BFI Southbank** £8.50-£11.00

Belvedere Rd, Southbank, London SE1 8XT  
020 7928 3232 | [bfi.org.uk](http://bfi.org.uk)

**Barbican** £10.50-£11.50

Silk St, London EC2Y 8DS  
020 7638 4141 | [barbican.org.uk](http://barbican.org.uk)

**Southbank Centre** £7.50-£15.00

Belvedere Rd, Southbank, London SE1 8XX  
0844 875 0073 | [southbankcentre.co.uk](http://southbankcentre.co.uk)

**ICA** £8.00-£10.00

The Mall, London SW1Y 5AH  
020 7766 1452 | [ica.org.uk](http://ica.org.uk)

**Hackney Picturehouse** £9.00-£10.00

270 Mare Street, London E8 1HE  
0871 902 5734 | [picturehouses.co.uk](http://picturehouses.co.uk)

\*Prices may be higher for special events