

MEDIA RELEASE

BOLD AND POWERFUL FILMS AT THE ARAB FILM FESTIVAL ZURICH

Zurich, October 28, 2016 - From November 16 to 20, 2016, the third edition of the Arab Film Festival Zurich will be presenting a wide selection of current films from the Arab world at Filmpodium Zurich. This year, the festival will devote a special focus to Syrian cinema as well as panel discussions about the current situation of filmmakers in Syria and Algeria.

From November 16 – 20, 2016, the 3rd Arab Film Festival Zurich will present some 30 films reflecting the multifaceted culture of the Arab world. Dramas, comedies, documentaries, and short films will take us back to the colonial era and the processes of emancipation of the time, tell of the impact of the Arab Spring on the powerful and the powerless, and explore the status of women in the Arab world before and after the upheavals. Films like the documentary "Socotra - The Hidden Land" about a Yemeni island spirit their audience to unknown and wondrous places, where magic and superstition are still part of everyday life. Others, such as the roadmovie "From A to B" from the United Arab Emirates, take us on an adventurous journey from Dubai to Beirut, where three young men suddenly find themselves between the lines. The Egyptian film "Nawara" portrays the fates of both rich and poor during and after the revolution in Egypt, and the short film "Libyan Stories: Mission Impossible" depicts the Kafkaesque situation of Libyan students during the realization of their movie. The documentary "Yallah! Underground" follows various young musicians from the cities of Beirut, Cairo, Amman, Haifa and Ramallah, profiling a new generation of young Arabs, whose controversial art challenges the autocratic regimes in the Middle East. The great variety of the films at the festival provides exciting insight into the whole range of current film production in Arab countries.

Focus on Syria, Panel Discussions and School Screenings

In its third edition the Arab Film Festival Zurich will once again stimulate intercultural dialogue, and with its diverse program, which includes two panel discussions focusing on Algeria and Syria, as well as school screenings, the festival will present a multifaceted picture of recent events and developments in Islamic countries. From November 16-20, 2016, visiting Arab filmmakers will talk about their work.

The festival as a place for exchange and dialogue

The Arab Film Festival Zurich is a non-profit film festival, organized by the association International Arab Film Festival Zurich IAFFZ and the Filmpodium in Zurich. The first edition of the festival in 2012 met with great interest from the public and the media. Since then it has been introducing audiences to

a representative selection of outstanding current films from different Arab countries. The festival intends to contribute to a differentiated view of the Arab culture beyond the daily news in the media. Most films will be replayed at the Filmpodium after the festival until 15 December 2016. Some films will go on to be screened in other Swiss cinemas.

Contact for media

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Pictures and press kits

Please find film stills and links to trailers etc. in the press area on our website www.iaffz.com

Interviews with filmmakers

Many filmmakers will be visiting the festival to present and discuss their work. By beginning of November the guest list should be complete. Journalists and producers interested in conducting interviews are kindly asked to contact the press office.