

LE GRAND VOYAGE

Morocco, Dir. Ismaël Ferroukhi (2004, 108 min.)

Mar. 15 at 4 p.m., Family Theater

Tickets \$8

In this Arab road movie, Reda, a young French Moroccan, is reluctantly forced to drive from France in an old, battered car to take his elderly father on a pilgrimage to Mecca, along the way experiencing travails of the road and the clash of generations.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

French-Moroccan film director **Ismaël Ferroukhi** gained exposure with his 1992 short film *L'Exposé*, which won the Kodak Prize at the 1993 Cannes Film Festival. He then co-wrote the Cédric Kahn film *Trop de Bonheur* (1994). His directorial debut *Le Grand Voyage* won the Lion of the Future “Luigi De Laurentiis” Award for a First Feature Film at the 61st Venice Film Festival (2004).

Ismaël Ferroukhi will be available for a public discussion after the film.



WEDDING IN GALILEE (NOCE EN GALILEE)

Palestine, Dir. Michel Khleifi (1987, 113 min.)

Mar. 15 at 7:30 p.m., Family Theater

Tickets \$8

This gentle but complex film is a classic of Arab cinema and the first Palestinian film to appear in the Cannes Film Festival. A village elder receives permission for his son to have a traditional Arab wedding but only if the local Israeli commander attends.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Michel Khleifi is a Palestinian film writer, director, and producer who emigrated from Israel in 1970 and now resides in Belgium where he studied television and theater directing at the Institut National Supérieur des Arts du Spectacle (INSAS). He has directed and produced many documentary and feature films and received several prestigious awards, including the International Critics' Prize at the Cannes Film Festival and the Golden Shell at San Sebastián International Film Festival in 1987 for this film.

Michel Khleifi will be available for a public discussion after the film (to be confirmed).

Tickets at the Box Office, charge by phone (202) 467-4600, or order online at kennedy-center.org

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 AT 7:30 P.M.

A Summer in La Goulette (Un Été à la Goulette), Tunisia

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 AT 7:30 P.M.

The One Man Village (Samaan Bildayaa), Lebanon

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 AT 7:30 P.M.

Pomegranates and Myrrh (Al Mor Wa Al Rumman), Palestine

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 AT 7:30 P.M.

Adhen (Dernier Maquis), Algeria/France

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 AT 4 P.M.

Le Grand Voyage, Morocco

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 AT 7:30 P.M.

Wedding in Galilee (Noce en Galilee), Palestine



February 23–March 15, 2009

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Washington, D.C.

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Presented in cooperation with the League of Arab States.

Credits as of January 29, 2009

The One Man Village (Samaan Bildayaa)



**ARABESQUE:
Arts of the Arab World
Film Festival**

March 11–15, 2009

The Kennedy Center



مهرجان الفيلم العربي

Arab Film Festival

Curator: Sheila Whitaker

This series aims to provide a glimpse into the cinema of the Arab world. In the 1920s, Egypt was one of the first countries to embrace cinema, and in its heyday Cairo produced films to rival Hollywood and Bombay. Today, countries such as Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, with their French connection, provide fascinating examples of the energy and originality that cross-cultural co-production can generate. Diverse cultures and stories are explored (and, perhaps, preconceptions shattered) through these titles selected from the past and present, including the classic Tunisian comedy *A Summer in La Goulette* and the U.S. premieres of *The One Man Village* from Lebanon and *Adhen* from Algeria. Many of the directors will be present at *ARABESQUE* to talk about their films.

For more information and tickets, visit kennedy-center.org/arabesque

A SUMMER IN LA GOULETTE (UN ÉTÉ À LA GOULETTE)

Tunisia, Dir. Férid Boughedir (1996, 100 min.)



Mar. 11 at 7:30 p.m., Family Theater Tickets \$8

This delightful comedy recalls Tunis of the late '60s. Three teenage girl friends, one Muslim, one Jewish and one Christian, are determined to lose their virginity amidst the excitement of Claudia Cardinale coming to visit her home town.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Férid Boughedir is a Tunisian director, critic, film historian, and professor of film at the University of Tunis. He directed two documentary films presented in the official selection at the Festival de Cannes Camera d'Afrique (1983) and Arab Camera (1987). His first feature film, the renowned *Halfaouine* (1990), received several awards, including the Golden Tanit in the Journées cinématographiques de Carthage (JCC). He was also an official jury member in Cannes (1991), Berlin (1997), and Venice (1999), and Chairman of the Panafrican Festival of Cinema and Television of Ouagadougou (2001). ***Férid Boughedir will be available for a public discussion after the film.***

U.S. PREMIERE

THE ONE MAN VILLAGE (SAMAAN BILDAYAA)

Lebanon, Dir. Simon El Habre (2008, 86 min.)

Mar. 12 at 7:30 p.m., Family Theater Tickets \$8

This lyrical, poignant winner of the Dubai Film Festival Special Jury Documentary prize is the director's homage to his elderly uncle, the only remaining inhabitant of a village from which everyone fled during the 15-year civil war. El Habre's loving portrait of hardship and isolation also encapsulates the bitter harvest of civil war on countless villages and towns.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Born in Beirut, **Simon El Habre** graduated from the Academie Libanaise des Beaux-Arts in 2001, before directing commercials and news reports for channels including MBC, Al-Arabia, and Al-Jazeera, as well as editing a number of short films. *The One Man Village* is his directorial debut, also winning a

prize at the inaugural Dubai Film Connection 2007.

Simon El Habre will be available for a public discussion after the film.

EAST COAST PREMIERE

POMEGRANATES AND MYRRH (AL MOR WA AL RUMMAN)

Palestine, Dir. Najwa Najjar (2008, 95 min.)

Mar. 13 at 7:30 p.m., Family Theater Tickets \$8

Kamar, a Christian from Jerusalem, is now married and living in Ramallah where she enjoys dancing with a local troupe. But then her husband is arrested and in the emptiness that follows she finds herself drawn to the new dance choreographer. An East Coast premiere straight from Dubai and Sundance Film Festivals, it makes for an interesting pairing with the Palestinian classic *Wedding in Galilee*.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Najwa Najjar is a filmmaker living in Palestine who has worked in documentary and fiction. This, her first fictional feature, won the Amiens Scriptwriting Award and participated in the Sundance Scriptwriting Lab. Her previous works include several award-winning films shown at film festivals worldwide, including *Yasmine Tughani*, *Naim and Wadee'a*, *Quintessence of Oblivion*, *Blue Gold*, *A Boy Called Mohamad*, and *They Came from the East*. ***Najwa Najjar will be available for a public discussion after the film.***



U.S. PREMIERE

ADHEN (DERNIER MAQUIS)

Algeria/France, Dir. Rabah Ameur-Zaïmeche (2008, 93 min.)

Mar. 14 at 7:30 p.m., Family Theater Tickets \$8

This film deservedly won the Dubai Film Festival Special Jury Prize. Set in a run-down repair yard, the boss of a disparate and genial group of Muslim workers attempts to quell demands for more pay by providing an on-site mosque—but then mistakenly appoints the Imam without consulting them. This is a film of wonderfully cinematic and leisured storytelling which consistently engrosses.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Rabah Ameur-Zaïmeche was born in Algeria but grew up in Paris. In 1999, he founded Sarrazink Productions and in 2002 wrote, directed, produced, and played the lead role in his first feature film, *Wesh Wesh, What Happens?* He followed this highly praised debut with *Bled Number One* (2005), which premiered in the Un Certain Regard section of Cannes in 2006, winning the Prix de la Jeunesse. ***Actor Christian Milia-Darmezin will be available for a public discussion after the film.***