



DAFF

DUBLIN ARABIC FILM FESTIVAL
مهرجان دبلن للفيلم العربي

PRESENTED BY  **Dubai Duty Free** AND **Jumeirah**
STAY DIFFERENT™



1st **MAY 8 - 11, 2014**
DUBLIN ARABIC FILM
FESTIVAL

VENUE : LIGHTHOUSE CINEMA

GUIDE BOOK

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING WITHOUT WHOM **DAFF 2014** WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE

PRESENTED BY



PRINCIPAL SPONSORS

غرفة التجارة العربية الأيرلندية
Arab-Irish Chamber of Commerce



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WELCOME TO OUR 2014 SEASON

The Dublin Arabic Film Festival (DAFF), the first event of its kind in Ireland, is set to take place at the Light House Cinema, Dublin from May 8 to 11.

A unique opportunity to gain an understanding of Arabic culture and history, the Dublin Arabic Film Festival's mission is to enhance public understanding of Arab culture and provide alternative representations of the region and its people; a departure from the stereotypical images frequently encountered in the Western mass media.

We're thrilled that acting legend Omar Sharif will attend the inaugural festival as our guest of honour.

Describing our opening film *Monsieur Ibrahim*, Chicago Tribune movie critic Michael Wilmington said :

"Most movingly, *Monsieur Ibrahim* takes a provocative subject - friendship and love between a Jew and a Muslim - and makes it seem natural and wondrous. Too many movies, however entertainingly, drive people apart. Here is a little gem that opens up a page of flowers, speaking to us convincingly and inspiringly of amity and peace."

Similarly, I would hope that our carefully-selected programme of films does just that too.

Celebrating some of the best feature films the Arab World has to offer and the filmmakers behind them, the festival will appeal to both fans of Arabic films and cinema-goers previously unfamiliar with them, with a stellar line-up of new and older films.



From Ahmad Abdalla's *Rags and Tatters* to Francois Dupeyron's gentle French film *Monsieur Ibrahim*, exploring a Jewish boy's rite of passage and an old Muslim man's last journey, the films embrace a rich tapestry of narratives from across the region.

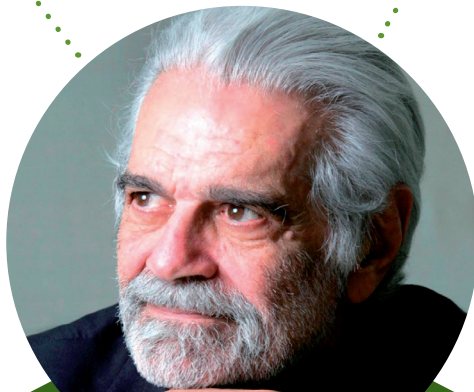
Providing realistic perspectives on Arab people, culture, art, history and politics, the festival will serve as an important platform for Arab filmmakers to reach out to a wider international audience.

The Festival would not be possible without your spirit and generosity. Presented by Dubai Duty Free and Jumeirah, other sponsors include the Arab-Irish Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Kildare Village, Hell's Kitchen , Tourism Ireland .

If you bring a love of good filmmaking and an open mind as to what Arab filmmakers can offer you, we will do the rest.

Zhara Moufid
Festival Director

OPENING GALA



OMAR SHARIF

Our guest of honour, acting legend Omar Sharif, has starred in films including *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Doctor Zhivago* and *Funny Girl*. In 2003, he received acclaim for his role in *Monsieur Ibrahim*.





MONSIEUR IBRAHIM

The screening of **Monsieur Ibrahim**, based on **Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt's** novel **Monsieur Ibrahim et les fleurs du Coran**, will be followed by a Q&A with our guest of honour **Omar Sharif**.

A friendship between a young Jew and an elderly Muslim is at the core of this warm-hearted demonstration of Omar Sharif's character-acting ability. In a working-class section of Paris in the 60s, and set to a unifying soundtrack of the times, they form an unlikely cross-generational, cross-cultural alliance. Sharif is, simply, superb.

Too many movies, however entertainingly, drive people apart. Here is a little gem that opens up a page of flowers, speaking to us convincingly and inspiringly of amity and peace.

Michael Wilmington, Chicago Tribune .

Career Golden Lion – Omar Sharif

Best Actor, Audience Award - Omar Sharif

2003 Venice Film Festival - Official Selection

2003 AFI Film Festival Lifetime Tributee - Omar Sharif

2003 Chicago International Film Festival - Best Actor, Pierre Boulanger

2003 Toronto International Film Festival - Official Selection

2003 Hamptons International Film Festival - Official Selection

2004 Miami International Film Festival - Official Selection

8:00PM / THURSDAY 8TH MAY / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

DIRECTOR : FRANÇOIS DUPEYRON

CAST : OMAR SHARIF, PIERRE BOULANGER, GILBERT MELKI

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN : FRANCE AND TURKEY

DURATION : 95 MINS

YEAR : 2003

LANGUAGES : FRENCH AND TURKISH (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

GUEST ATTENDING : OMAR SHARIF



RAGS AND TATTERS

After escaping years of incarceration, a nameless man tries to find his way home in a Cairo turned upside down by the protests of the Egyptian Revolution of January 25, 2011. As he revisits the family and country he has been separated from for so long, he finds that everything about life as he knew it has been irrevocably changed.

Egyptian film-maker Ahmad Abdalla has given us a complex, nuanced, humane drama about the Tahrir Square protests...It came home to me that contemporary Egyptian cinema may be giving us more information about the Egyptian uprising than we'll ever get from the TV news.

Peter Bradshaw
The Guardian

World premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival

6:00PM / FRIDAY 9TH MAY / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

DIRECTOR : AHMAD ABDALLA
CAST : ASSER YASSIN, AMR ABED, YARA GUBRAN, MOHAMED MAMDOUH, ATEF YOUSEF

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN : EGYPT
DURATION : 87 MINS
YEAR : 2013
LANGUAGES : ARABIC (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
GUEST ATTENDING : AHMAD ABDALLA



HORSES OF GOD (LES CHEVAUX DE DIEU)

8:10pm / FRIDAY 9TH MAY / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

DIRECTOR : NABIL AYOUGH
CAST : ABDELHAKIM RACHID, ABDELILAH RACHID, HAMZA SOUIDEK, AHMED EL IDRISSI EL AMRANI
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN : MOROCCO
DURATION : 115 MINS
YEAR : 2013
LANGUAGES : MOROCCAN ARABIC (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
GUEST ATTENDING : NABIL AYOUGH

Scorsese's Mean Streets and Bertolucci's The Conformist way back then.

Jonathan Demme

**Selected as Morocco's entry for Best Foreign Language Film at the 2014 Academy Awards.
 Competed in the Un Certain Regard section at the 2012 Cannes Film Festival.**

Yachine is 10 years old, he lives with his family in the slum of Sidi Moumen in Casablanca. His mother, Yemma, leads the family as best as she can. His father suffers from depression, one of his brothers is in the army, another is almost autistic and the third, Hamid, 13, is the boss of the local neighbourhood and Yachine's protector. When Hamid is sent to jail, Yachine takes up job after job, to seek freedom from the doldrums of violence, misery and drugs. Released from prison, Hamid, now an Islamic fundamentalist, persuades Yachine and his pals to join their "brothers". The Imam, Abou Zoubair, their spiritual leader, starts to direct their long-standing physical and mental preparation. One day, he tells them they have been chosen to become martyrs. The film is inspired by the terrorist attacks of May 16th 2003 in Casablanca.

Horses of God is simply one of the very most powerful pictures that I have ever seen. Extraordinarily gripping and moving, the cinematic style is really breathtaking. I can't remember being so blown away by the marriage of visuals and storytelling since the first time I saw Marty



THEY ARE THE DOGS (C'EST EUX LES CHIENS)

They Are the Dogs follows members of a television crew as they stumble across the story of an old man – Majhoul. His tragic tale dates back to 1981 during upheavals in Morocco, where he was arrested. Released 30 years later in 2011, he is now trying to come to terms with a new reality. The TV crew decides to report his journey as he sets off on a quest to find his family and his place in this new world.

Lasri's growing rep as a director who pushes stylistic and thematic envelopes, combined with noted colleague Nabil Ayouch's involvement as producer, is likely to attract attention. Variety

Dubai Film Festival (Muhr Arab Feature), Cannes Film Festival - Acid; Marrakech Film Festival.

6:30PM / SATURDAY MAY 10 / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

DIRECTOR : HICHAM LASRI
CAST : AHASSAN BADIDA, YAHYA EL FANDI, IMAD FUJAJ, JALAL BOUFTAIM
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN : MOROCCO
DURATION : 85 MINS
YEAR : 2013
LANGUAGES : ARABIC (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
GUEST ATTENDING : NABIL AYOUC



HOMELAND (NÉ QUELQUE PART)

A French-born son of Algerian immigrants is sent to the family's ancestral village - even though he's never been to Algeria or even speaks proper Arabic - in *Homeland (Né quelque part)*, the feature debut of Mohamed Hamidi. Though it tackles very serious and sometimes almost contradictory topics, such as the desire of desperate young Algerians to leave their stagnant country and, conversely, the difficulties of a French-born Algerian to truly appreciate the beauties of his motherland, Hamidi manages to keep things surprisingly light and coherent for the most part. He's greatly aided by terrific newcomer Tewfik Jallab as the straight-shooting lead and popular French-Moroccan comedian Jamel Debbouze, also a producer, as his village-idiot cousin.

The Hollywood Reporter

Written by Hamidi and Alain-Michel Blanc, a regular Radu Mihaileanu co-scribe (*The Concert*, *The Source*), *Homeland* is a cleverly structured civil-status comedy, inspired in part by the director's own return to his father's village in Algeria after 20 years of absence.

Variety

8:40pm / SATURDAY MAY 10 / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

DIRECTOR :

MOHAMED HAMIDI

CAST :

TEWFIK JALLAB, JAMEL DEBBOUZE, FATSAH BOUYAHMED, ABDELKADER SECTEUR, MALIK BENTALHA, FEHD BENCHEMSI, MOURAD ZAOU, MILOUD KHETIB, MOHAMED MAJD, JULIE DE BONA, ZINED OBEID

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN : ALGERIA, FRANCE

DURATION : 87 MINS

YEAR : 2013

LANGUAGES : FRENCH, ARABIC (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

**Homeland received a Cannes' Official Selection
Special Screening dedicated to school students.**



The screening of *The Lion of the Desert* will be followed by a coffee break before a discussion of the film, chaired by festival president Jim Sheridan and Dr Jim Swire, at the Red Room at 6:15pm.

Set against the backdrop of the Libyan Desert in 1929, this historical action film stars Anthony Quinn as tribal leader Omar Mukhtar, who becomes a key hero in the Libyan resistance to Italian Fascist invasion under the command of General Rodolfo Graziana (Oliver Reed). Despite its casting, *Lion of the Desert* is not a Hollywood film; directed by Moustapha Akkad, funded by Muammar Gaddafi and banned in Italy on its release in 1981, it is a Libyan story.

Described by cinema historian Stuart Galbraith IV as «a fascinating look inside a facet of Arab culture profoundly significant yet virtually unknown outside North Africa and the Arab world», it is a highly cinematic epic adventure, featuring compelling performances, impressive battle scenes, and a wartime epic on a grand scale.

THE LION OF THE DESERT

1:00pm / SUNDAY MAY 11 / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

DIRECTOR : MOUSTAPHA AKKAD
CAST : ANTHONY QUINN, OLIVER REED, IRENE PAPAS, RAF VALLONE, ROD STEIGER, JOHN GIELGUD, ANDREW KEIR, GASTONE MOSCHIN, STEFANO PATRIZI, ADOLFO LASTRETTI

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN : LIBYA, USA
DURATION : 156 MINS
YEAR : 1981
LANGUAGES : ENGLISH



OMAR

Omar, a young baker, is accustomed to dodging surveillance bullets to visit his secret love, Nadia. But occupied Palestine knows neither love nor clear-cut war. Omar is suddenly transformed into a freedom fighter. Suspicion and betrayal jeopardise his long-term friendship with Amjad and Tarek and Omar's feelings are soon as torn as the Palestinian landscape. However, it's evident that everything he does is for his love of Nadia. (Synopsis courtesy of Dubai International Film Festival)

Omar is a thriller and a romance with unabashedly melodramatic elements (there's even a love triangle), all of which are brought into stark relief by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Helped along by an amazing cast of mostly first-time actors, Omar feels very fresh due to its attitude, approach, and the fact that it offers no solutions. It's the story of three childhood friends caught up in a war that seemingly has no end.

Sheila O'Malley
RogerEbert.com

7:00pm / SUNDAY MAY 11 / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

DIRECTOR : HANY ABU-ASSAD
CAST : ADAM BAKRI, LEEM LUBANY, IYAD HOORANI
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN : PALESTINE
DURATION : 97 MINS
YEAR : 2013
LANGUAGES : ARABIC AND HEBREW (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

Abu Assad returns to form with Omar. Only too aware of the crushing toll of the Occupation on Palestinians, he shows men making tragic, often self-destructive decisions as a result of an inescapable environment of degradation and violence.

Jay Weissberg
Variety



LAWRENCE OF ARABIA

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David Lean's masterpiece, perhaps the greatest of screen epics, stars Peter O'Toole in one of the most electrifying debuts in film history. The film is less an ordinary adventure than an experience that leaves an overwhelming sense memory of the struggle between two powerful forces: the Arabian deserts, immense, intractable, ever-shifting, punishing; and T.E. Lawrence, humble as a monk, flamboyant as a rock star, protean, polymathic, heroic, enigmatic, mad. While working on the staff of British Intelligence in Cairo in 1916, Lawrence's fluency in Arabic earns him a post on a mission sent to establish contact with Prince Feisal (Alec Guinness), leader of the Arab revolt and ally of the British against the German-sponsored Turks in WWI.

Impressed by Lawrence's knowledge of their culture, the prince allows the young officer to join his staff, and Lawrence quickly earns the Arabs' respect after he executes acts of extraordinary heroism. As the Englishman's genius for guerrilla warfare becomes evident, he assumes the role of de facto leader of the Arab revolt, uniting the heretofore warring tribes into a devastatingly

12:00pm / SATURDAY MAY 10 / THE CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY

DIRECTOR : DAVID LEAN
CAST : PETER O'TOOLE, ALEC GUINNESS, ANTHONY QUINN, OMAR SHARIF
CERT : 12
DURATION : 227 MINS
YEAR : 1962
LANGUAGES : ENGLISH, ARABIC, TURKISH

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effective weapon. But the chaos of war also unleashes the repressed officer's powerful need for self-abasement and mortification of the flesh.

Tickets cost €5 per person. Booking is essential, with Lisa Fitzsimons on 01 407 779 or film@cbl.ie



THE YACUBIAN BUILDING

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All the action of this breathtakingly audacious examination of contemporary Cairo is centred on the residents of a downtown Cairo apartment block. Tracking the lives of a seemingly disparate group of individuals as they hurtle towards each other with fateful consequences the film tackles everything from Islamic fundamentalism to homosexuality and corruption. It was a cause célèbre on its release in Egypt, where it proceeded to smash box office records and spark unprecedented debate.

Tickets cost €5 per person.
Booking is essential, with Lisa
Fitzsimons on 01 407 779 or film@cbl.ie.

1:30pm / SUNDAY MAY 11 / THE CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY

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DIRECTOR :	MARWAN HAMED
CAST :	TADEL IMAM, NOUR EL-SHERIF, YOUSRAA, ESSAD YOUNISS, AHMED BEDIR, HAND SABRI
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN :	EGYPT
DURATION :	161 MINS
YEAR :	2006
LANGUAGES :	ARABIC (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

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WELCOME TO OUR 2014 SEASON

According to Spain's Cervantes, although the truth may be stretched thin, it never breaks and always surfaces above lies, as oil floats on water.

With that in mind, what first motivated me to get involved in the Dublin Arabic Film Festival (DAFF) was my aversion to the politics of world cinema in relation to the Arabic world and the opportunity to present realistic images of the Arab people, rather than those that dominate rolling news footage in the Western media.

Movies depict, à la Cervantes, truth through lies and serve an important purpose in challenging the sweeping assumptions about people and places.

The Arab film industry is currently rising in importance globally, with three Arabic films nominated at the recent Academy Awards, and 2014 appears to be the first really good year for Arab cinema worldwide.

The excellent line-up of Arabic films at last year's Dubai International Film Festival, at which I headed the Muhr Arab Feature Competition Jury, allowed me to discover many great films, some of which we're now bringing to Dublin.

I was overjoyed to confirm Omar Sharif as our guest of honour in Paris recently.

As we set out to present both different perspectives on Arab culture and what are truly the best films out there at the moment, I hope that our audiences, whether familiar with or new to Arabic films, will recognise and rejoice in the power of film in challenging misconceptions and stereotypes.

Enjoy the festival!

Jim Sheridan
President

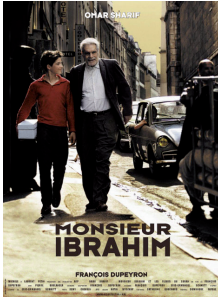
Look out for exciting news from me on Q&As closer to the Festival.

SCHEDULE

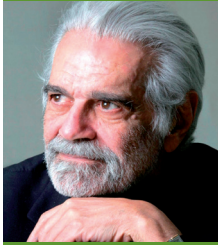
THURSDAY 8TH MAY

OPENING GALA

8:00PM / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA

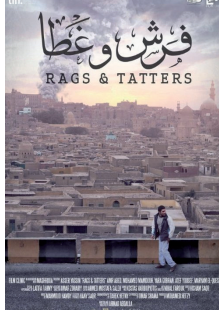


THE SCREENING OF MONSIEUR IBRAHIM WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A Q&A SESSION WITH OUR GUEST OF HONOUR **OMAR SHARIF**.



FRIDAY 9TH MAY

6:00PM / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA



8:10PM / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA



SATURDAY 10TH MAY

6:30PM / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA



8:40PM / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA



12:00PM / THE CHESTER BERTY LIBRARY



SUNDAY 11TH MAY

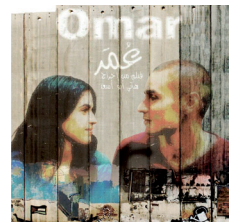
1:00PM / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA



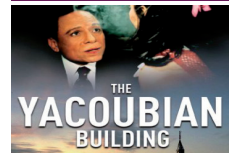
THE SCREENING OF THE LION OF THE DESERT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A COFFEE BREAK BEFORE A DISCUSSION OF THE FILM, CHAIRED BY FESTIVAL PRESIDENT **JIM SHERIDAN** AND DR **JIM SWIRE**, AT THE RED ROOM AT 6:15PM.

CLOSING FILM

8:30PM / LIGHT HOUSE CINEMA



1:30PM / THE CHESTER BERTY LIBRARY



MAP TO VENUE

LIGHTHOUSE CINEMA

is located in Market Square, Smithfield Dublin 7.

TO BOOK TICKETS VISIT :

www.lighthousecinema.ie

