MIDDLE EASTERN ART, MUSIC, & PERFORMING ARTS ON FILM

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Documentaries

Afghan star
[Zeitgeist Films, 2010] (89 min)
“After thirty years of war and five years of Taliban rule, pop culture is beginning to return to Afghanistan. Since 2005, millions have been tuning in to Tolo TV’s wildly popular American idol-style series, Afghan star. Like its Western predecessors, contestants compete for a cash prize and record deal. More surprisingly, the contest is open to everyone across the country despite gender, ethnicity, or age. And when viewers vote for their favorites via cell phone, it is, for many, their first encounter with the democratic process. The film follows the stories of four young finalists--two men and two women-- as they hazard everything to become the nation’s favorite performer. By observing the Afghani people’s relationship to their pop culture, this film provides a window into the country’s tenous, ongoing struggle for modernity.”
Media Collection ML3502.A3 A34 2010

Architect Sinan
[Nakkas, 2004?] (80 min) Dubbed in English. Dir. H. Kubra Ablak
“Documentary about the life and work of Sinan, who served for 50 years as the Ottoman Empire’s chief architect and civil engineer, during the reigns of sultans Suleiman I, Selim II, and Murad III.”
Media Collection NA1373.S5 A8 2004

Architecture of Mud
[Documentary Education Resources, 2000] (53 min) Dir. Catherine Borelli
"Describes the techniques and uses of mud bricks as building materials in Hadhramaut region of southeast Yemen. Discusses the stages of mud construction, its advantages over cement, and the value of lime waterproofing."
Media Collection TH4818.A3 A734 2000

The Art of the Book: Persian miniatures from the Shahnamah = Miniyatur’ha-yi Shahnamah
[Films for the Humanities, 2008, c1980] (30 min)
"This program traces the development of Shahnameh painting over three centuries and under the patronage of three distinct Persian dynasties. Parallels between miniature painting and other art forms of the time are examined. This fascinating look at a unique art form was produced with the assistance of the Fogg Art Museum.”
Media Collection ND3399.F5 A78 1980
Asiqat al-sinima = Women Who Loved Cinema = Les passionnees du cinema
[Arab Film Distribution, 2002] (2 videodiscs, 58 min each) Arabic with French and English titles; with English subtitles. Dir. Mariyan Khuri
Women who loved cinema (pt. 1-2) is vols. 2-3 in the Women pioneers collection, a film series exploring the impact that a number of remarkable women have made on the Arab world in a variety of fields throughout the early part of the twentieth century ... chronicles the achievements of women filmmakers whose adventurous spirits changed the face of Egyptian film industry in the 1920s and 30s. At a time when their country was steeped in conservative tradition, these strong-willed women broke cultural taboos and dismissed conventional wisdom to pursue their passion for filmmaking.
Media collection PN1995.9.W6 A77 2002

Asiklar: Those Who Are in Love
[Documentary Education Research, 2007] (37 min) Turkish with English subtitles. Dir. David Grabias
"Documentary film about the Turkish musicians/storytellers/minstrels called ashiks, who chronicle through song and poetry the cultural and personal history of Turkey and of their own lives."
Media Collection M1824.T8 A7 2007

Cairo: 1001 Years of Islamic Art and Architecture
[Fons Vitae, 1999] (103 min) Dir. Caroline Williams
"This four-part presentation offers an introduction to the art and architecture of a great medieval city. Certain monuments make several appearances and are viewed from different aspects. This arrangement is intended to give the viewer a better understanding of the structures, forms and functions."
Media Collection NA1583.C356 1999

The Children of Ibdaa: to Create Something out of Nothing
[Artworks Video, 2006?] (30 min)
"To create something out of nothing is about the lives of several adolescents in a Palestinian children’s dance troupe from Dheisheh refugee camp in the West Bank. They use their performance to express the history, struggle, and aspirations of the Palestinian people, specifically the fight to return to their homeland."
Media Collection HV640.5.P36 C447 2006

Cities of Light: The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain
"Over a thousand years ago, the sun-washed land of southern Spain was was home to Jews, Christians, and Muslims, living together and flourishing. Their culture and beliefs interwined, and the knowledge of the ancients was gathered and reborn. Here were the very seeds of the Renaissance."
Media Collection DP99.C54 2007

Dancing in Jaffa
[Sundance Selects, 2014] (90 min)
“After decades abroad, renowned ballroom dancer Pierre Dulaine returns to his hometown of Jaffa, Israel, nostalgic for the streets of his youth but dismayed by the strong current of racial animosity that now serves as the norm. Fueled by his belief in dancing’s power to build self-esteem and social awareness, Dulaine brings his popular Dancing Classrooms program to three diverse, Jaffa-based schools where he teaches ballroom basics to the ethnically mixed population of children.”

Media Collection GV1703.I752 T453 2014

**Discovering the Music of the Middle East**
[Barr Films, 1987] (19 min)
"Islam spread musical traditions from the Middle East as far North as the Balkans. This video introduces a variety of instruments and explains the concepts behind intricate melodic lines and asymmetrical rhythms."
Music Library M1828.D583 1987

**Dress rehearsal**
[Facets, 2007] (49 min) Persian with English subtitles
"Chronicles the performance of a ta’zieh, an ancient and uniquely Iranian passion play that celebrates the glory of martyrdom. Based on the life stories and fables of Islam’s prophet Mohammad, but influenced by Iranian folklore, the ta’zieh became the sole dramatic form in the world of Islam after the rise of the Shiite sect. The overall subject of any ta’zieh is the martyrdom [of] Imam Hussein, grandson of the prophet Muhammad, in the desert of Karbala. Among the Imam’s comrades, each of whom is the subject of a specific ta’zieh, the story of the Brave Hurr assumes a singular place. Originally the enemy of the Imam, Hurr does an about-face after he meets the holy leader, and then jones forces to fight with him. Generally performed on the streets or in open venues, the ta’zieh "is the only original dramatic art of the Islamic world," according to director Taghvai”
Media Collection PN2017.I7 D74 2007

**Dumu' al-Shaykhat = Le blues des shikhates = Sheikmates Blues**
[Arab Film Dist., 2004] (52 min.) Moroccan Arabic with English subtitles.
"The female Moroccan musicians known as sheikhates sing about the realities of life – about the land, nature, wars, mountains, crises and, of course, they sing about love. In short, their music represents the heritage of Morocco. Director Ali Essafi offers a marvelous portrait of the daily lives of these regional folk singers, exploring how their music has evolved over the years – along with society’s acceptance of the women who perform this music in public."
Media Collection M1838.M6 D868 2004

**An Evening with the UCSB Middle East Ensemble, November 22, 2003**
[UCSB Instructional Resources, 2004]
"Recorded live in performance at Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall, Music Department, UCSB on Nov. 22, 2003. Featuring Classical, folk, and popular songs sung in Arabic, Turkish, and Ladino."
Media Collection ML348.5.E94 M53 2004
The Face of Tutankhamun: The Great Adventure
[A&E Home Video, 1993] (86 min)
"In 1922 deep beneath the desert in the Valley of the Kings, archaeologist Howard Carter discovers the tomb of the boy-Pharaoh, Tutankhamun. Host Christopher Frayling follows Carter’s footsteps from rural England to the Valley of the Kings in an adventurous "dig" for the facts behind the myths and legends. This video series presents the story of Tutankhamun from the moment of Carter’s discovery to the current problems modern civilization faces trying to preserve the treasures for future generations."
Curriculum Lab Juvenile Media DT87.5.F33 1993

Feminine Breeze: Arts and Freedom in Iran
[Beyen.net Films, 2005] (37 min)
"[Focuses] on how Iranian women artists use their artistic medium for autonomy and self-expression in a society dominated by political Islam"--Container. Covers internationally recognized women in karate (Afshaneh Bagheri), theater (Pari Saberi), photography (Shadi Ghardirian), film (Tamineh Milani), poetry (Simin Behbahani), and media (Asieh Amini)."
Media Collection NX574 .Z8 F46 2005

500 Dunam on the Moon
[Arab Film Distribution, 2002] Dir. Rachel Leah Jones
"Ayn Hawd is a Palestinian village that was captured and depopulated by Israeli forces in the 1948 war. In 1953 Marcel Janco, a Romanian painter and a founder of the Dada movement, helped transform the village into a Jewish artists' colony, and renamed it Ein Hod. This documentary tells the story of the village's original inhabitants, who, after expulsion, settled only 1.5 kilometers away in the outlying hills."
Media Collection DS119.7 .F585 2002

Four films by Zarqa Nawaz
[Center for Asian American Media, 2008] (39 min)
"Through humor and the absurd, Zarqa Nawaz spins four entertaining vignettes sure to stimulate dialogue about how the 'terrorist' stereotype has the power to influence society as well as its victims."
Media Collection HV6431 .F68 2008

Glories of Islamic Art
[Landmark Media, 2007] 3 dvds (ca. 117 min.)
"This three part series is intended to showcase the glorious heritage left to us by Islamic artists and architects – and explain the close connection between the architectural splendor and the religious message of Islam."
Media Collection NA2543.I74 G56 2007

Gonuller Sultani Mevlana
[Gala, 2007?] (43 min) Turkish with English subtitles
“Documentary (including historical reenactment) about the 13th century poet and Sufi mystic Celaleddin-i Rumi.”
Googoosh: Iran's Daughter
[First Run Features, 2000] (158 min.) Dir. Farhad Zamani
"Googoosh was Iran's most famous and beloved pop diva, until she was silenced following the 1979 Islamic revolution when female singers were labeled “temptresses” and forbidden to release records or perform publicly in the presence of men. Made during the time when Googoosh was forbidden to grant interviews or perform, the film artfully pieces together clips from Googoosh’s career on stage and screen, creating a portrait of a woman who is a cultural icon for a country trapped between tradition and modernization."
Media Collection ML420.G74 2000

The Great Pyramids of Giza and Other Pyramids
[A & E Home Video, 1997] (47 min)
"Explores the ancient mystery, beauty and grandeur of the great pyramids. Marvels of architecture and design, pyramids have graced the deserts of Egypt and the lands of South America for centuries. Yet, they remain an enigma to modern historians and architects. How were these ancient peoples able to build such perfect examples of symmetry and geometry without any of the modern machines or technology available to later generations?"
Curriculum Lab Juvenile Media DT63.P9885 1997

Heavy Metal in Baghdad
[Vice Films, 2007] (84 min) English and Arabic with English subtitles
"Follows the Iraqi heavy metal band Acrassicauda (Latin for a deadly black scorpion native to Iraq) from the fall of Saddam Hussein to their escape from Iraq ... From 2003-2006, Iraq disintegrated around Acrassicauda while they struggled to stay together and stay alive, always refusing to let their heavy metal dreams die"--Container.
Media Collection ML421.A313 G43 2007

Heritage: Civilization and the Jews
[Home Vision, 2002] (540 min)
“Nine one-hour episodes present the history of the Jewish people and their interactions with, and influences upon, various civilizations.”
Media Collection DS117.H465 2002

The Hidden Pearl: The Syrian Orthodox Church and Its Ancient Aramaic Heritage
[TransWorld Film Italia, 2001] 3 v. (180 min.)
"A 2001 documentary created by the Syriac Orthodox Church. Volume 1 deals with the pre-Christian Old Aramaic period, covering the Aramaean city states, the Neo-Assyrian, Achaemenid and Seleucid periods, including the kingdoms of Palmyra, Petra and Hatra. Volume 2 addresses Middle Aramaic tradition and literature, the Aramaic of Jesus and classical Syriac literature. Volume 3 focusses on the current situation of the Syriac Orthodox Church and the Syriac diaspora.”
Media Collection BX173.3.H53 2001
**Hikayat al-ray: min Shaykha Ramitti ila al-Shabah Jinan = Rai Story**
[Arab Film Distribution, 2004] (58 min.)
"Starts in the Algerian city of Oran, where the rai musical tradition began. In 1923, the first rai singers performed from behind screens at weddings and festivals so that their identity would be protected. It was only when the music of rai singer Cheikha Remitti began to gain popularity with the masses that the music was brought into the open, beginning with Remitti’s first public performance in 1940."
Media Collection ML3503.A4 R35 2004

**I [Heart] Hiphop in Morocco**
[H2O Newsreel, 2008?] (80 min) Dir. Joshua Asen & Jennifer Needleman
“Follows the attempt to organize and present the first ever hip hop festival in three cities in North Africa in 2005 by DJ Key, founder of the Original Hiphop Association. Various Moroccan hip hop artists talk about the struggles they face between making the music they love and Muslim culture.”
Media Collection ML3531.I2 2008

**Indama tughanni al-mar'ah = When a Woman Sings**
[Arab Film Distribution, 2004] (52 min) Arabic with English subtitles.
"This music-filled documentary examines the impact singers Umm Kulthum and Mounira El-Mahdeya had on Egyptian politics and society during the first half of the 20th century. Through classic film clips, interviews with musicians and scholars, and taped interviews with the two singers themselves, we learn just how far-reaching their influence was."
Media Collection ML420.U46 I533 2004

**Irak n’rol = Iraq’n’ roll**
[Ruth Diskin Films, 2011] (54 min) Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles
"Salah and Daud Al-Kweiti were Jewish musicians living in Iraq in the 1930s. They are considered to be the creators of modern Iraqi music, and two of the greatest Arab musicians in history. In the 1950s they immigrated to Israel where no one paid attention to their music. Their glory vanished and they felt that their music had betrayed them. ... [Grandson] Dudu Tass decides to release an album, taking the original music of the Al-Kweiti brothers and playing [the music] in modern style and arrangement. Through this music, he attempts to bridge time space and culture, and heal the family’s pain."
Media Collection ML420.A5826 I73 2011

**Iran: une revolution cinematographique**
[First Run/Icarus, 2007] (98 min)
“Traces the development of the Iranian film industry, which has always been closely intertwined with the country’s tumultuous political history, chronicling how Iranian films reflected contemporaneous society and often presaged social change. It shows how mainstream commercial cinema served as a propaganda tool for both the monarchy and the fundamentalist religious regime, recounts the sporadic efforts of some filmmakers to reveal grimmer social realities, and the struggles against censorship and traditional
cinematic formulas by such pioneers as Bahram Beyzai and Sohrab Shahid Saless and pre- and post-Islamic revolutionary ‘new wave’ filmmakers.”

Media Collection PN1993.5.I846 I69 2007

Islamic Art
[Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 1988] (30 min) Dir. Michele Arnaud
"Forbidden by Islamic law to represent the human form, Moslem art burst forth in the characteristic decorative style we know as arabesque. This program discusses the architecture and sculpture of mosques and Koranic schools, the illumination and calligraphy of sacred texts, music, the art of the garden, and the influence of the abstract arabesque on Western art."

Media Collection N6260.I85 1988

JVC Video Anthology of World Music and Dance
[JVC, 1990]
Vol. 16-19. The Middle East and Africa.
Vol. 25. Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Dagestan.
"Produced in collaboration with a Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings editorial board of scholars, the selected volumes are a part of the Middle East & African Regional Set."

Music Library M1627.J93 2005

Jewish Music Heritage Library
Vol. 1. Israel: Sounds in Search of a Home
Vol. 2. Sepharad; Vol. 3. Ashkenaz
Vol. 4. Teiman; Vol. 5. Morocco
Vol. 6. Hassidut; Vol. 7. Toward Jerusalem
Vol. 8. One Day the Heart Opens
Vol. 9. Italy; Vol. 10. Europe
"A compilation of the various sounds of all of the immigrants to Israel who brought their music with them from the four corners of the earth."


Katidra’iyat al-Qiddis Jawurjiyus lil-Rum al-Urthudhuks fi Bayrut
[Bayrut: al-Katidra’iyah, 200-] (40 min) Arabic & French
The film chronicles the restoration of St. George’s Orthodox Cathedral (Beirut) after it was extensively damaged during the Lebanese civil war.

Media Collection: NA5976.7.B4 K37 2000z

Middle Eastern Dance
[Insight Media, 2006?] (60 min) Dir. Ed Etsten
"This DVD traces the history and development of Middle Eastern dance. Highlights workshops that help women use the transformative powers of the dance form; and looks at The Goddess Dancing, a dance company that focuses on female empowerment."
**Morocco, Body and Soul**  
[First Run/Icarus Films, 1987-1995] (26 min each) English and French, Arabic, and other Moroccan languages with English subtitles. 7 videocassettes. Dir. Izza Genini  
"Morocco is a rare example of the blending of vastly different civilizations to create a distinct identity. Ever mindful of this history, the Moroccan people express their appreciation of their numerous traditions through many different kinds of music. A series of half hour films which present these musical genres being performed in the environments which fostered them, all the while giving viewers a window into the diverse components which comprise Moroccan society."

**Naji al-'Ali: an Artist with a Vision**  
[First Run/Icarus Films, 1999] (52 min.) Dir. Kasim Abid  
"Throughout history artists have faced the threat of violence when their work offended the state or the political elite. The late Palestinian cartoonist Naji Al-Ali produced thousands of cartoons satirizing the powers that be in the Middle East, and paid the ultimate price for his 'offensive' expression. On July 22, 1987 he was shot in the face, at point blank range, as he left the London offices of the Al Qabbas newspaper. He died after laying in a coma for 5 weeks."

**Nefertari in Eternity**  
[Getty Conservation Institute, 1993] (66 min)  
"For more than twenty years Nefertari was the beloved queen of one of history's most celebrated and powerful rulers—Rameses the Great. This video takes the viewer on a journey through the tomb, revealing the brilliant images that depict Nefertari's search for eternal life."

**New Muslim cool**  
[Specific Pictures, 2009] (83 min)  
"When [the] FBI raids his mosque, Puerto Rican American Muslim hip-hop star Hamza Pérez must confront the realities of the post-9/11 world, and challenge himself. He starts reaching for a deeper understanding of his faith, discovering new connections with people from all across the American spectrum. New Muslim cool takes viewers on Hamza’s ride through the streets, projects and jail cells of urban American, following his spiritual journey to some surprising places--where we can all see ourselves reflected in a world that never stops changing"

**Night on the Sea of Galilee: Israel Folk Dance Festival**  
[Kultur Films, 198-?] (60 min)  
"The DVD presents dances from the well known folk festival, which was held in 1983 at Zemach, on the beautiful shore of the Sea of Galilee. Nine large dancing groups from all
over Israel wearing colorful costumes and performing dances of various styles and origins."

Music Library GV1703.I75 N5 1980z

**Omani Traditional Music**
[H. Schneider, 1998] Dir. Issam El-Mallah
"Part 1. The analytical approach ; Oman's traditional music and musicology. The historical aspects ; Musical practice ; Theoretical aspects -- Part 2. Map of the Sultanate of Oman ; Photographs ; Musical and graphical notation ; List of the genres included in the video tape."

**Persian Miniatures from the Shahnameh**
[Films for the Humanities, 1980] (30 min)
"This program traces the development of Shahnameh painting over three centuries and under the patronage of three distinct Persian dynasties. Parallels between miniature painting and other art forms of the time are examined. This fascinating look at a unique art form was produced with the assistance of the Fogg Art Museum."
Media Collection ND3399.F5 A78 1980

**Rumi and Sufism: universal love and tolerance**
[Institute of Interfaith Dialog, 2004] (33 min)
"Describes the life and works of the Sufi poet and teacher known as Rūmī. The phases and meanings of the ceremonial dance of the Whirling Dervishes is explained."
Media Collection BP189.7.M42 R875 2004

**Saz**
[Choices, 2006] (50 min) Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles. Dir. Gil Karni
“This provocative documentary goes behind the ghetto walls of Ramleh to look at a year in the life of budding Palestinian hip-hop star Sameh Zakout a.k.a. Saz. Growing up in a Jewish neighborhood as a third generation of a moderate family, Saz has had to learn to balance their traditional viewpoints with his strong feelings of insult and rage for the injustices his people have suffered. He does this through music, using it as a starting point for discussion with Israeli and Arab youth who have grown further apart since the recent Intifada. For Saz, music is a place where people who disagree can come together. It takes him to the clubs and neighborhoods of Tel Aviv, Haifa, and London. The film also looks at his relationship with his aging grandfather, a refugee of the 1948 war. Their conversations reveal their differing ideologies. "I don't see my Palestine being built by blood," says Saz. "It should be built by negotiations, not bombings in Tel Aviv. My bullets are my rhymes. My M-16 is my microphone."
Media Collection ML420.Z334 S29

**Search for Ecstasy: National Dance Company of Morocco**
[Creative Arts Television, 2007] (28 min)
A survey of different types of Moroccan dance as performed by the National Dance Company of Morocco, comprised of dancers from various tribes in a staged studio
The dances and costumes show a variety of influences from both Arabic and African sources. Noted dance authority Faubion Bowers also provides commentary about the dance forms and their meaning.

**Secret Egypt**
[Mystic Fire Video, 1995] (50 min) Dir. Maxine Harris & Sheldon Rochlin
"Travelogue of a journey in search of elements of mysticism in contemporary Egyptian culture, filmed in Cairo, Luxor, the Valley of the Kings, and other locations. Women and men are seen in various trance dances, some involving spirit possession, exorcism and healing. Also depicted are stick and sword dances, wedding celebrations, belly dancing, and dancing and music by a family of snake handlers. The narration includes numerous quotations from the Sufi poet Rumi."
Media Collection DT70.S427 1995

**Sema of Peace: Sacred Dances of the Whirling Dervishes**
[Mevlevi Order of America, 1998] (19 min)
"Video of a Semá, a ceremony held annually on the anniversary of the passing of Persian mystic and poet Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi on Dec. 17, 1273. This performance was held under the direction of Shaikh Jelaluddin Loras."
Media Collection BP189.7.M4 S46 1998

**Sound of the Soul: the Fez Festival of World Sacred Music**
[CEM Prod., [2006] (68 min)
A look at Le Festival de Fès des Musiques Sacrées du Monde, a sacred music festival held every year in Fez, Morocco. The Festival is significant not only for the quality of its performers, but also for the wide diversity of religions and musical genres they represent. Includes extensive performance footage from multiple performers.
Media Collection ML36.F3388 2006

**Stardust Stricken: Mohsen Makhmalbaf, a Portrait**
[Facets, 2001] (70 min) Persian with English subtitles. Dir. Houshang Golmakani
"This video documentary is a perfect introduction to the works of controversial Iranian filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf...as well as an insightful look at his life experiences for those already familiar with his films. In this portrait by the respected Iranian film critic Houshang Golmakani, Makhmalbaf speaks about his life, his work, and his beliefs about art, cinema, violence, kindness, God, religion and death."
Media Collection PN1998.3.M3377 S73 2001

**The stones of Famagusta: the story of a forgotten city**
[Black Dog Media, 2007] (70 min)
An exploration of the architecture and history of the churches, mosques, palaces, and fortified walls of Famagusta.
Media Collection DS54.95.F35 S76 2007

**Sufi soul: the mystic music of Islam**
"For hundreds of millions of Sufi followers worldwide, music is at the heart of their tradition and a way of getting closer to God. From the Whirling Dervishes of Turkey to the qawwali music of Pakistan, Sufism has produced some of the world’s most spectacular music celebrated by Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Dalrymple’s film traces the shared roots of Christianity and Islam in the Middle East and discovers Sufism to be a peaceful, tolerant and pluralistic bastion against fundamentalism."

Tanha dar Tihra = Alone in Tehran
[Arab Film Dist., 2005?] (25 min) Persian with English subtitles. Dir. Piruz Kalantari. "Behnaz Jafari is a young, aspiring actress in Tehran who wants to live a carefree and creative lifestyle. This lifestyle is not easy to obtain for a modern 24 year-old woman who lives alone in contemporary Iranian society. In this interesting documentary, the old is contrasted with the new as Behnaz considers the traditional advice she receives from well-meaning friends while still following her dream to lead a free life and become one of Iran's leading actresses."

Tolerance: Dedicated to Mawlana Jalal-Al-Din Rumi
[Landmark Films, 1995] (30 min) Dir. Fehmi Gerceker "Mawlana-Jalal-al-Din-Rumi emerged in the 13th century as an apostle of tolerance long before the development of Renaissance humanism and many centuries prior to the European enlightenment. His was a light of spirituality thrusting from the darkness of the medieval age towards a new type of humanism. His teachings encompassed the ideas of tolerance, urging human beings to respect each others’ faiths, ideals, orientations, cultural values, and developing the ability to get along despite divisions of nationality and religion."

Trances = Transes
[Criterion Collection, 2013] (88 min) "The ... Moroccan band Nass El Ghiwane is the ... subject of this ... musical documentary" Part of Martin Scorsese’s World Cinema Project.

Umm Kulthum: a Voice Like Egypt
[Arab Film Dist., 1996] (68 min) Dir. Michal Goldman "She had the musicality of Ella Fitzgerald, the public presence of Eleanor Roosevelt and the audience of Elvis Presley. Born a peasant at the turn of the last century, legendary Egyptian singer Umm Kulthum earned a position of great wealth and influence. Featuring concert footage, film clips and interviews with the famed singer’s friends and colleagues, Goldman's documentary places the life and career of Umm Kulthum in the context of the epic story of 20th century Egypt."
Usturat Ruz al-Yusuf = The Legend of Rose Al-Youssef = Legende de Rose Al-Youssef
[Arab Film Distribution, 2002] (56 min.) Arabic with English subtitles.
"Although Egyptian actress and political activist Rose Al-Youssef was adamant about not allowing the production of any work that presented the story of her life, her family finally gave their consent for the making of this film. This informative documentary examines the personality and private life of Rose Al-Youssef, as well as her remarkable career and accomplishments."
Media Collection PN1998.3.Y87 L44 2002

The Whirling Dervishes of Turkey
[World Music Institute, 1997] (90 min)
Media Collection BP189.7.M4 W457 1997

Yaacov Ben-Dov: Father of Hebrew Film
[Ergo Media, 1993] (30 min) Dir. Yaacov Gross
"This video compilation presents scenes of Jewish life in Palestine from 1917 to 1933. Yaacov Ben-Dov shot more than 30 films encompassing the Zionist vision of the land of Israel. Historic figures are captured through the lens of his camera. Soldiers, workers, farmers, schoolchildren, and policemen also appear. Ben-Dov laid the foundation for the creators of Hebrew language film who followed in his footsteps."
Media Collection PN1998.3.B4635 Y33 1993

Zehavah Ben: Kokhar Ehad Levad = Zehavah Ben, the Solitary Star
[Ergo Media, 1998] (84 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Dir. Erez Laufer
"A view of middle east politics, circa 1996, through the life and performances of Zehava Ben. The Moroccan-born Israeli musician captured the hearts of audiences Gaza, Jericho, and elsewhere throughout the Arab world."

Features

al-Ajnihah al-Mutakassirah = The Broken Wings
[Arab Film Dist., 200? (restored print); orig. release 1964] (95 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Lebanon. Dir. Yusuf Ma'luf
"In this fictionalized biography, Gibran describes his passion as a youth at the turn of the century for Selma Karamy, a girl from Beirut who first unfolded him to the secrets of love. The pressures of social conventions and family tensions affect their relationship."
Media Collection PN1997.A31475 2000z

Akhir Kadhbah = The Last Lie
Samir is a singer living happily with his jealous wife Samira. However, his ex-girlfriend Kiki wants to relive their relationship again, but he refuses because he is afraid of Samira's violent reaction. Humor and chaos follow.

"Ayizah Atajawwazu"

"Bad Ma’ra Khvahad Burd = The Wind Will Carry Us"
[Arab Film Dist., 2002; orig. release 1994] (118 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Abbas Kiarostami
"A filmmaker from Tehran travels to a remote mountain village secretly planning to record a local ritual ceremony surrounding an old dying woman. Upon arrival, his crew is met by Farzad, a young boy from the town who at first becomes their guide but ultimately becomes their informant on the fate of the old woman. Convincing the locals that they are archaeologists looking for buried treasure, the filmmaker attempts to befriend them with mixed results. As the rustling wind, golden light and deep shadows of the village cast an alluring spell, the deathwatch drags on and the woman stubbornly clings to life, leaving the crew impatient."

"Bint al-Haris"
"Musical filmed in Lebanon, a love story involving the daughter of a village watchman and an outsider."

"Le Caire, Raconte par Youssef Chahine"
"This concise masterpiece began as a commission by French TV for the news series Envoyé Spécial. Using his unique sense of artistic digression, Chahine transforms this portrait of a city into a self-portrait of a filmmaker."

"Calendar = Orats’oyts’"
[Zeitgeist Films, 1993] (ca. 73 min) Armenian & English with English subtitles. Armenia & Canada. Dir. Atom Egoyan
"In this, one of his most personal films, Atom Egoyan himself plays a photographer hired to capture images of Armenian churches for a calendar. He takes his wife (real-life wife
and frequent star Arsinée Khanjian) along as a translator, and, as they travel with their Armenian guide, their relationship begins to unravel. The photographer returns to Canada with his pictures, but without his wife, who has gradually been drawn to her ethnic roots and has fallen in love with the guide.”
Media Collection PN1997.C22 2006

Dahab
"Child actress Fayruz plays an abandoned infant raised by an itinerant musician. She gains fame and fortune as a singer and dancer.”
Media Collection PN1997.D2455 1982

Dunya: Kiss Me Not on the Eyes
"Dunia aspires to be a professional dancer and poet, but her artistic expression is limited by her inability to experience and express desire. Dunia’s reasoning that women should not move their bodies to evoke an act of love is challenged by the ardent public intellectual Dr. Beshir. With his help, Dunia begins an all-consuming search for ecstasy in poetry, dance and music--taking us into the world of women in a society that both fetishizes and oppresses female sexuality. Ultimately, Dunia learns that she must confront the traditions that have destroyed her capacity for pleasure before she will be able to experience it"
Media Collection PN1997.2.D85 2009

Fatimah = Fatma
[Arab Film Dist., 2004; orig. release 1947] (126 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Egypt. Dir. Ahmad Badr Khan
"A poor nurse falls in love with the son of one of her wealthy patients. Abandoned by her husband while pregnant, she must fight her husband’s wealthy and powerful family in court"
Media Collection PN1997.F35266 2004

Gharam fi al-Karnak
"Fictional account of the folkloric dance troupe, Firqat Rida, and their trip to the temple of Karnak for a performance."
Media Collection PN1997.G44353 1979

Habib al-'Umr = The Love of My Life
"This charming romantic comedy recalls an era in Egypt in which society's upper crust attended elegant nightclubs where the best in singing and dancing entertainment
performed. Hamdouh, played by Arabic singing legend Farid Al-Atrash, is a struggling musician with dreams of performing at such glamorous venues."

_Haddutah Misriyah_
"In the middle of his own heart surgery, an Egyptian filmmaker remembers his life. In fact his old self, as a child, is accused of attempted murder of his new self. Through the metaphoric trial, we are drawn into his life in relation with the Egyptian revolution, his constant need for success, and the effect the American Dream has on him."
Media Collection PN1997.H228 2000

_Hunarpishah = The Actor_
“A popular film actor, who longs to be a serious actor, has become wealthy making mindless comedies. His wife has become obsessed with her inability to have a child. Now he must deal with these two situations or go crazy.”
Media Collection PN1997.H873 2001

_Iskandariyah Kaman wa-Kaman = Alexandria Again and Forever_
"Taking a stand for democracy, the entire Egyptian film industry goes on a hunger strike. Yehia, now a film director, joins the strikers. As demand follows demand, Yehia daydreams about Amir, the young actor he loves and whose career he has launched. But then he meets the beautiful Nadia and gradually falls in love with her. After the strike ends, Yehia decides to make a movie with Nadia."
Media Collection PN1997.O7148 2000

_Izzay Ansaka = How Can I Forget You?_
"Musical set in Egypt."
Media Collection PN1997.I99 1979

_Japon isi_
[Fanatik, 200-?] (89 min) Turkish with English subtitles. Turkey. Dir. Kartal Tibet
A naive and good hearted waiter loves a singer who performs in the casino where he works, but she does not share his feelings. One day, the waiter meets and befriends a Japanese tourist, a scientist. Upon finding out about the waiter’s feelings for the singer, he promises to help him. Not long after the scientist returns to Japan, the waiter receives a package containing a robot that is a perfect copy of the singer
Media Collection PN1997.J3 2000z

_Kasi az gurbah’ha-yi Irani khabar nadarah = No One Knows about Persian Cats_
“Follows a pair of young Iranian musicians, recently released from prison, on a mission
to take their rock band to Europe. Forbidden by the authorities to play in Iran, they plan
their escape abroad with a fast-talking music promoter. Vowing to play one last show
before leaving Tehran, their dangerous mission takes them on a free-wheeling journey
through the city’s vibrant and diverse underground scene, home to an estimated 2,000
illegal independent bands.”
Media Collection PN1997.2 .K379 2010

Kluz Ap = Nama-yi Nazdik
[Facets Video, 2001; orig. release 1986] (100 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran.
Dir. 'Abbas Kiarostami
"In this brilliant meditation on the power of movies, master Iranian filmmaker Abbas
Kiarostami turns the medium upside-down and back again, blurring the lines between
documentary and narrative film. Inspired by the true story of a lonely film buff who
impersonated Iranian director Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Kiarostami reenacts some of the
man's trial and incorporates some footage from the actual event, using the real people
involved as "actors."

Lalahibu = The Circus Girl
Husayn Fawzi
"Musical comedy set in an Egyptian circus."
Media Collection PN1997.L1475 1990z

Maks = Maxx
[IrMovies.com, 2005] (110 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Saman
Muqaddam
“A Los Angeles rapper is asked to participate in a music festival in Tehran. Upon
arriving, Maxx is astounded by an overwhelmingly warm welcome, which was meant for
a symphony conductor with a similar name. When authorities discover Maxx, chaos
erupts.”
Media Collection PN1997 .M418 2005

Min Ajli Hubbi = For My Love
Kamal al-Shaykh
"Wafà, the wife of the singer Wahid, is traumatized when she helplessly witnesses a
child’s death. She becomes paralyzed from the trauma, and Wahid’s life is turned upside
down."
Media Collection PN1997.M5764 1979

Nagham fi Hayati = Melody In Life
[AVE, 1980; orig. release 1975] (115 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Egypt and
Lebanon. Dir. Hanri Barakat
"Stars Farid al-Atrash"

_Naji al-'Ali_
[Majallat al-Fann wa-Sharikat NP Film, 1991] Arabic without subtitles. Egypt. Dir. 'Atif Tayyib
"On Naji el-Ali the Palestinian caricaturist."

_Nasir al-Din Shah, Aktur-i Sinima = Once Upon a Time, Cinema_
"A wonderful, fairy tale-like comedy set during the Qajar dynasty, which is a condensed history of Iranian cinema and a love letter to the cinema in general. The film tells the story of a Charlie Chaplin-like cinematographer who introduces the magic of movies to the Persian court. The Shah has 84 wives and 200 children, but after a screening he falls desperately in love with the film's heroine."

_Niwemang = Half Moon_
“Mamo is an iconic Kurdish musician in the twilight of his life and failing health, must lead a dozen of his sons to Iraq for a concert to celebrate the fall of Saddam Hussein and the end of his repression of Kurdish music. Their plan is to drive across the border between Iranian and Iraqi Kurdistan, but the road will be long and winding and the local wise man has predicted calamity. The men will encounter the most sublime visions alongside the most horrendous brutality. First they must pick up Hesho, Mamo’s exiled singer and muse. Her voice represents a divine, transformative power, and Mamo is left in a state of grace no one could ever have anticipated.”

_100% Arabica_
"In a housing project located on the outskirts of Paris renamed "100% Arabica" by its inhabitants, African immigrants live side by side. The residents are united by their struggle for recognition in a society where immigrants are often regarded as second class citizens. In a world of exiles, poverty is the common denominator. Against this backdrop, director Zemmouri has brought together two of the biggest and most charismatic stars of the cross-cultural musical form know as Rai, Cheb Mami and Khaled, who play the leaders of a band called Rap Oriental. As the band of musicians starts to gain in popularity, the Imam of the local mosque tries to destroy them by stirring up racial and cultural tensions. However, no one can stop the infectious popularity of the songs in this story of music triumphing over bigotry and violence"
Media Collection PN1997.A12 2006
**Qissat Hubbi = Story of My Love**  
"Musical Starring Farid al-Atrash."  
Media Collection PN1997.Q25 1979

**Risalat Gharam**  
[AVE, 1979; orig. release 1954] (130 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Egypt. Dir. Hanri Barakat  
"Starring Farid al-Atrash."  
Media Collection PN1997.R57265 1979

**Santuri = Santouri the music man**  
[Irmovies, 2008] (106 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Dariyus Mihrju’i  
“A musician who plays an ancient instrument finds his life taking a tragic turn when his addiction to heroin causes him to lose his job and his wife.”  
Media Collection PN1997.S177 2008

**Satan ruj = Satin Rouge**  
[Zeitgeist Films, 2003] (95 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Tunisia. Dir. Raja Amari  
“A widowed Tunisian seamstress takes an unlikely journey of self-discovery in writer-director Raja Amari’s sumptuous and sensual film. While investigating a suspected liaison between her headstrong teenaged daughter and a cabaret musician, young widow Lilia becomes drawn to an exotic nightclub netherworld of Rubenesque belly dancers and nocturnal pleasure-seekers.”  
Media Collection PN1997.S317 2003

**Shari’ al-Hubb**  
[AVE, 199-?: orig. release 1961] (147 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Egypt. Dir. 'Izz al-Din Dhu al-Fiqar  
"A musical comedy."  
Media Collection PN1997.S4145 1990z

**Siyavash = Siavash**  
[Irmovies.com, 2007] (88 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Saman Muqaddam  
“Rock musician Siavash is set to play in his band’s first live show, when he decides to visit the tomb of his father -- killed in the Iran-Iraq War -- to seek his blessing. Afterwards it is revealed that his father is still alive and has returned to Tehran.”  
Media Collection PN1997.S538 2007

**Sukut = Silence**  
[Iranianmovies.com, 200-?] (90 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Muhsin Makhmalbaf  
"This resonant fable centers on Khorshid, a blind boy who works as a tuner of musical instruments. On the verge of losing his job and his home, the otherworldly, hyper-alert
boy is constantly led astray from mundane matters by the siren call of a pretty voice or a skilled musician. Khorshid is a holy fool in search of a pitch-perfect vibration that will bring cohesion and harmony to a world out of tune. Shot in Tajikistan, this deceptively simple tale is a deeply personal statement on Makhmalbaf’s continuing fight for artistic freedom.
Media Collection PN1997.S829 2000z

**Supir istar = Superstar**
[Iranian Film Society, 2009] (110 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Tahmineh Milani
“A spoiled egotistical movie star allows a young women who claims to be his daughter from a brief affair, to live with him until paternity tests results are known. She brings out the best in him and his meaningless lifestyle begins to change for the better.”
Media Collection PN1997 .S884 2009

**Tango al-amal**
[Arab Film Distribution, 1998] (70 min.) Arabic with English subtitles. Lebanon. Dir. Mohamed Soueid
"Relationships and cinema are the central themes in this very personal, endearing film. A marvelous tribute to the anguish and longing inherent both in human relationships and on the silver screen.”
Media Collection PN1993.5.A65 T36 1998

**Umut yarina kaldi**
[Fanatik, 200-?] (93 min) Turkish with English subtitles. Turkey. Dir. Yavuz Ozkan
“Rantiye, tired of living alone, rents rooms in his house to a film director, a pianist, and a ballerina.”
Media Collection PN1997.U444455 2000z

**al-Wardah al-Bayda’**
[AVE, 1979; orig. release 1933] (122 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Egypt. Dir. Muhammad Karim
"Muhammad Abd al-Wahhab’s first musical film and one of the first musical films made in Egypt in 1933.”
Media Collection PN1997.W3394 1979