RURAL – URBAN ISSUES ON FILM

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Features

Ali Zaoua
[Arab Film Dist., 2000] (95 min) Arabic and French with English subtitles. Morocco. Dir. Nabil Ayouch
"A memorable and moving portrait of the lives of street kids living in Casablanca's abandoned lots. Ali, Kouka, Omar and Boubker, four young friends who are members of a gang, rebel against their cruel leader's oppressive rule and strike out on their own, running away from "home" a second time."
Media Collection PN1997.A32247 2000

al-Ard = The Land
[Arab Film Dist., 2011; orig. release 1969] (130 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Egypt. Dir. Yusuf Shahin
"Chahine's classic film, adapted from Abdel Rahman al-Sharqawi's well-known novel of the same name, was eight years in the making. Chronicling a small peasant village’s struggles against the careless inroads of the large local landowner, this film shows why political oppression does not necessarily lead to a sense of solidarity among the disinherited."
Media Collection PN1997.A743 2011

Asfalt Tsahov = Yellow Asphalt
"As western culture gradually began to infiltrate the Judean desert, once the sole domain of the Bedouin tribes, the convergence of contemporary mores and ancient traditions was unavoidable. At the edge of modern Israel and the Bedouin way of life, three dramatic encounters between two very different societies occur: the tragic death of a Bedouin boy on the asphalt road cutting the desert in two; the impossible marriage between a German woman and her Bedouin husband; and the forbidden love affair of a Bedouin maid and her Israeli employer."
Media Collection PN1997.A767 2005

Avaz-i gunjishk’ha = The Song of Sparrows
"After being let go from his job on an ostrich farm a man leaves his small village to find work in the big city. As a motorcycle taxi driver, he soon becomes consumed with his
passengers’ lives, and is swept up in a world of greed. Now it is up to his family back home to help restore his caring and generous nature.”


**Ayinah = The Mirror**


“When a young girl becomes lost in the hustle and bustle of Tehran, her journey turns into a dazzling exercise on the nature of film itself.”

Media Collection PN1997.A977 2005

**Bab al-Hadid = Cairo Station**


“In this beautiful classic film from legendary director Youssef Chahine, Cairo's main railroad station is used to represent all of Egyptian society. We see a community comprised of luggage carriers and soft-drink vendors living in abandoned train cars. A crippled newspaper dealer, Kinawi (played by Chahine himself), falls in love with the beautiful but indifferent Hanuma (Hind Rostom), a lemonade seller who only has eyes for the handsome Abu Sri'. Swept away by his obsessive desire, Kinawi kidnaps the object of his passion, with terrible consequences.”

Media Collection PN1997.B135 1990z

**Bab el-Oued City = Bab al-Wad al-Hum**

[Arab Film Dist., 1994] (93 min) Arabic with French and English subtitles. Algeria. Dir. Merzaq Allouache

"Boualem is a young man who works the local bakery’s graveyard shift in the Bab El-Oued district of Algiers. One morning, shortly after the bloody riots of October, 1988, he commits an unthinking act which jeopardizes the entire district: Unable to stand the noise from one of the many rooftop loudspeakers broadcasting the propaganda of a local fundamentalist group, he rips the speaker out and throws it away. The extremists, led by Said, regard this act as deliberately provocative and aim to make an example of the culprit.”


**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 Kiarustami

"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.”

Media Collection PN1997.B19575 2002
Badkunak-i Safid = The White Balloon
"Simple and spare yet filled with observant detail, it's a mild, beguiling movie about a 7-year-old girl's tenacious quest to buy a cherished goldfish for her family's New Year's Day celebration. With an almost miraculous ability to capture moments and reality unhindered by the presence of a camera and crew, Panahi handles this seemingly trivial story as a child's emotional odyssey, set amidst the daily rhythms of Teheran as a city where kindness and cruelty can be found in close proximity."

Bezness
[ArtMattan Prod., 200-?] (102 min) Dir. Nouri Bouzid
"Bezness takes place in one of Tunisia’s beautiful coastline tourist cities. It tells the contemporary story of a young man trapped between Arab tradition and prostitution. Through this young man who dreams of escape, the director, Nouri Bouzid, criticizes both the restrictions associated with what he calls "the hypocrisy of Islam" and the European ruling on Arab society”
Media Collection PN1997 .B4389 2000z

Bir erkegin anatomisi
[Fanatik, 2007] (98 min) Turkish with English subtitles. Turkey. Dir. Yavuz Ozkan
“An Istanbul lawyer, successful in his profession but not in his private life, takes on a client with underground connections. The client provides him with information about the connections between police and mafia and asks him to release it to the media if he ever disappears. After receiving threats in connection with his possession of this information, he decides that, at great personal risk, he needs to make the information public. His actions force him to flee for his life.”
Media Collection PN1997.2.B55 2005

Bye-bye
"Examines the conflict arising between a generation of North Africans still attached to their homeland and that of their French-born children carving a home in a place that does not want them. Ismaël, a handsome 25 year old haunted by guilt over a family tragedy leaves Paris and arrives in the French port city of Marseilles with his 14 year old brother, Mouloud. Their uncle's family, who lives in a seedy, raucous section of town, welcomes them. As Ismaël finds honest work on the docks, Mouloud is taken under the wing of his teenaged cousin, Rhida, whose dabblings as a drug dealer introduce young Mouloud to a terrifying world of violence." 

Carikli milyoner
[Fanatik, 200-?] (87 min) Turkish with English subtitles. Turkey. Dir. Kartal Tibet. “Comedy about a poor man who moves to a big city and becomes rich.”
**Chahar shanbah-i suri**  
[Facets, 2008] (104 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Asghar Farhadi  
“All of Tehran is preparing to celebrate the traditional New Year with the festival of fire, which falls on the last Tuesday night before the official New Year begins. A young woman named Rouhi is employed by a young couple to clean their house. Sweet and naive, Rouhi is engaged to be married, but her innocence is shattered when she finds her employers’ household in crisis over accusations of infidelity.”  
Media Collection PN1997.C422 2008

**Dam al-ghazal**  
“A poor orphan girl and a young radical find their lives intertwined in modern-day Cairo.”  
Media Collection PN1997.2.D35 2005

**Dar shahr khabari nist, hast!**  
Media Collection PN1997.D3136 2000

**Darb al-Tabbanat = The Milky Way**  
"In 1964, in a small Arab village in the Galilee, the villagers living under military rule must cope with the delicate coexistence of social ritual and deep, unhealed wounds.”  
Media Collection PN1997.D3137 1997

**Dastfurush = The Peddler**  
"Shockingly forthright in its view of the social and economic problems of the post-Shah era, this film uses a different cameraman and different style for each of three short tales set among the poor of contemporary Tehran. The first episode follows a kindly but naive couple who want someone to adopt their newborn daughter. The second, an astonishing mix of absurdist comedy and the supernatural, concerns a mentally unstable man who lives with his mother in a ramshackle apartment. The final section draws on the American gangster film to show the last hours of a peddler suspected of betraying his friends.”  
Media Collection PN1997.D3165 2000

**Devlet kusu**  
[Fanatik, 200-?] (79 min) Turkish with English subtitles. Turkey. Dir. Mamduh Un  
“The story of a kind-hearted young man living in the slums and his struggle when he is forced by a rich businessman to leave his neighborhood and the girl he loves.”  
Media Collection PN1997.D475 2000z
**Du Zan = Two Women**  
[Iranian Film Society, 1998] (96 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Tahminah Milani  
"Country girl Fereshteh and city girl Roya, schoolmates at Tehran University in the early '80s, become friends when the former tutors the latter to pay her way through architecture school. Their friendship and their innocent fun are clouded only by the presence of a young man who stalks the pretty Fereshteh demanding that she marry him."

Media Collection PN1997.D837 1999

**Dukhtari ba kafsh’ha-yi katani =The Girl in the Sneakers**  
[IrMovies.com, 1998] (88 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Rasul Sadr Amili  
"After some unhappy accidents and in protest against her living conditions, fifteen-year-old Tadaie runs away from home when her parents forbid her to see a boy she favors. She begins an unknown and mysterious journey to Tehran in order to explore the world around her. She goes everywhere in town - from the lush orchards of uptown to the dwelling quarters of the people who have come to dead-ends in their lives. A story of youthful rebellion and its consequence, including first love and its subsequent disappointment."

Media Collection PN1997 .D846 1996

**‘Ets ha-Domim Tafus = Under the Domim Tree**  
"Based on the autobiographical book by Gila Almagor. The film is set in the early 50's and follows a group of teenage orphans who survived the Nazi concentration camps and now live on a kibbutz in Israel."

Media Collection PN1997.E8 2005

**‘Ets limon = The lemon tree = Shajarat limun**  
[Ramat ha-Sharon: Globus, 2008] (106 min) Hebrew & Arabic with English subtitles. Israel. Dir. ‘Eran Riklis  
“Salma Zidane lives in a tiny Palestinian village on the West Bank. She is 45 years old and a widow. Her children have left home, and she is alone. When the Israeli minister of defense builds a house on the other side of the green line, Selma’s lemon trees come to the attention of his bodyguards. Her trees are a security risk. They can hide terrorists and impede the bodyguards in their work. In any case, these Palestinian lemon trees simply get in the way of the powerful Minister’s superior security needs. The lemon trees were planted by Salma’s family many generations ago—they are synonymous with Salma’s family history. Salma gets herself a lawyer. But Ziad Daud is up against a battery of clever military lawyers, all of whom are covered by the top brass. It’s an unfair battle, that isn’t made any easier when the 45-year-old widow falls in love with her lawyer, a divorcee ten years her junior--a scandal as far as her Palestinian neighbors are concerned. On the other side of the grove, Salma’s struggle to keep her trees has not gone unnoticed. The defence minister’s wife, who has become more and more lonely and unhappy as her
husband’s political career has blossomed, feels increasingly drawn to Salma as the unfair battle between her husband and their Palestinian neighbors drags on. An invisible bond connects these two very different women who find themselves on the brink of a new phase in their lives.”

**Gabbih = Gabbeh**

[New Yorker Video, 2005] (75 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Mohsen Makmalbaf

“An elderly nomadic couple own a beautiful carpet (a Gabbeh) from which a young woman suddenly emerges. She tells the story of her clan, told through the carpet. A beautifully filmed look at life and love. Winner of numerous film festival awards.”

**Gav = The Cow**

[First Run Features, 2004] (100 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Dariyush Mihrjui

“Hasan, a peasant, is the only one in his small and poor village lucky enough to own a cow. He spoils the cow like a child and lives in perpetual fear that the inhabitants of a neighboring and hostile village will steal his cow. One day, when Hasan is out of the village at work, the cow dies. The villagers bury the cow and tell Hasan it wandered off. Hasan can’t believe it. In his sorrow and astonishment, he takes the place of his cow.”

**Hamsin = Hot Wind: Galilee, Israel 1982**


"A Jewish landowner and his Arab worker work side by side to build a dream ranch in the Galilee. When some Arab lands in the area are about to be confiscated by the government, tensions flair up. Efforts are made to try and bring calm, but it seems futile as the "hamsin," the hot desert wind, sends temperatures and tempers soaring to explosive heights."

**Imarat Ya’qubiyan = Yacoubian Building**

[Good News Group, 2007?] (165 min.) Arabic without subtitles. Egypt. Dir. Marwan Hamed

"We meet the residents of the Yacoubian building and through them learn something about the city of Cairo, albeit the more disturbing side of corruption, fundamentalism, prostitution, sexuality, and drugs."

**Irhab wa-al-Kabab = Terrorism & Bar.b.que**

[Arab Film Dist., 1992] (157 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Egypt. Dir. 'Isam Imam

"A farce denouncing the absurdity of bureaucracy in modern Egypt. Adel Imam, Egypt's leading comic actor, is a father who wants to move his son to a school closer to home. He
goes to El-Mugamaa, the center of Cairo's monolithic bureaucracy, to pick up the required documents. Frustrated by the lack of response, he ends up attacking a fundamentalist official and, when armed police respond to the situation, a machine gun accidentally finds its way into Imam's hands."

Media Collection PN1997.1595 1992

*Iskandariyah Kaman wa-Kaman = Alexandria Again and Forever*
[Arab Film Dist., 2000; orig. release 1990] (105 min) Arabic with English subtitles.
Egypt. Dir. Yusuf Shahin
"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

*Iskandariyah - Layh? = Alexandria - Why?*
"The first film in Chahine's autobiographical Alexandria trilogy, Alexandria, Why? was a (widely banned) revelation in Arab cinema for its use of first-person narrative and for testing boundaries of cultural identity. In 1942, as Rommel's army nears Alexandria, some cheer the victors, Jews prepare to flee, and a vengeful aristocrat buys British soldiers to seduce and kill them--until he falls in love with one young captive."

Media Collection PN1997.1715 2000

*Istigah-i matruk = Deserted Station*
[First Run Features, 2002] (68 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. ‘Ali Riza Ra’isiyan
“A photographer and his young wife are stranded in a remote village after their car breaks down. The only adult inhabitant leaves with the photographer to find help, while the woman takes over the duties of teaching the village children whose parents are nowhere to be found.”

Media Collection PN1997.1723 2002

*Kabtin Abu Ra’id*
[Arab Film Dist., 2007] (102 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Jordan. Dir. Amin Matalqa
“An airport janitor makes a big difference in the lives of the children in his poor neighborhood when they mistake him for an airplane pilot. Using his imagination to weave stories of the wonderful places he has visited around the world, a friendship develops as he brings hope to their otherwise grim home life.”

Media Collection PN1996.K25 2010

*Kadosh = Sacred*
"The story of two Hasidic sisters living in the Mea Shearim area of Jerusalem. Rivka and her husband are deeply in love, but he obeys his rabbi father and divorces her after 10 childless years of marriage. Rivka’s sister Malka loves a man who has left Hasidism after joining the army, but accepts the marriage her parents have arranged to the rabbi’s assistant.”
Media Collection PN1997.K276 1999

*Kafih Sitarih = Café Setareh*
[IrMovies, 2007] (102 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Saman Muqaddam
“Three women who live in a poor neighborhood in Tehran actively seek a better life in this contemporary slice of Iranian life.”

*Kalat ha-yam = Jaffa*
"In the heart of Jaffa, Reuven’s garage is a family business. His daughter Mali and his son Meir, as well as Toufik, a young Palestinian, work there. No one suspects that Mali and Toufik have been in love for years. As the two lovers are secretly making their wedding arrangements, tension builds between Meir and Toufik"--imdb.com.
Media Collection PN1997.2.K354 2010

*Khanah-i Dust Kujast? = Where Is My Friend’s House?*
[Mongrel Media, 1989] (90 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. 'Abbas Kiarustami
"At the village school, Mohamed is told by his teacher that he’ll be expelled if he doesn’t do his homework in the required exercise book. But that evening schoolmate Ahmed realizes he’s taken Mohamed’s book by mistake so he sets off to find his friend’s house in a neighboring village. However, Ahmed gets lost and none of the adults he meets will help him.”
Media Collection PN1997.K4325 2000

*Mirsidis = Mercedes*
[Arab Film Dist., 1993] (109 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Egypt. Dir. Yusri Nasrallah
"After being institutionalized by his mother for trying to donate his fortune to the Egyptian Communist Party, young Noubi emerges from the hospital to find a Cairo different from the one he knew before. When his uncle asks him to aid in the search for his cousin, Gamal, he descends into the city’s dark underworld of corruption and darkness. His search eventually leads him to find happiness and a people he can call family.”
Media Collection PN1997.M4356 1993

*Nadyah = Nadia*
"The story of a sixteen year old Arab girl from an Arab village within Israel. Her family is involved in village life; her father is a farmer with progressive ideas. In order improve her future choices, Nadia decides to enroll in a Jewish high school, where she is confronted by the apprehension, resistance and prejudice of both her Arab friends and her new Jewish classmates."
Media Collection PN1997.N34 1995

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 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 known as Raï, 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

Or = Mon tresor
"Ruthie and Or, a mother and her daughter, live in a small Tel Aviv flat. Ruthie has been a prostitute for the last twenty years. Or has tried many times to get her mother to quit working the streets, but without success. The daily routine of the 18 year-old Or is an endless succession of petty jobs: washing dishes in a restaurant, cleaning staircases and collecting deposit bottles while attending high school whenever she can. Ruthie's health is worsening. After an umpteenth visit to her mother at the hospital, Or decides that this time, things must change for good."
Media Collection PN1997.O62 2005

Pul-i sizdahum = The 13th Bridge
[Javanah, 2008] (96 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Farhad Gharib
"Seven year old Nergis is coming to Tehran with other children accompanied by their guardian, Davar. Nergis escapes and ends up in the home of Mr. Dukhan, an antique collector. Mr. Dukhan's daughter decides that she wants to become Nergis' guardian, and in doing so she changes Nergis' destiny."
Media Collection PN1997.P85 2008

Rang-i Khuda = The Color of Paradise
"Mohammad is an energetic 8-year-old boy who is much like the other children in his small, Iranian village except in one regard, he is blind. But Mohammad doesn't let his lack of sight hinder him, indeed, his heightened remaining senses make him even more receptive to the world around him. Young Mohammad's optimism, however, is not shared by his widowed father, a bitter man who sees the boy's condition as nothing but a liability, especially as it pertains to his desire to marry the village beauty."

Media Collection PN1997.R236 2000

**Sallah Shabati**
[United King Films, 2007] (110 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Israel. Dir. Efraim Kishon

“The sharp, often hilarious satire that became the most successful film in Israeli history is about new immigrants Sallah and his family, who are left in a shack near their promised apartment and are abandoned for months.”

Media Collection PN1997.S257 2007

**Sarbaz’ha-yi Jum’ah = Friday’s soldiers**
[Irmovies.com, 2004] (91 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Mas’ud Kimiyayi

“Four soldiers go on leave in Tehran. They are accompanied by their commanding officer and experience a life-changing adventure. One that reveals the sights and sounds of modern-day Tehran.”

Media Collection PN1997.S1782 2004

**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

**Selvi boylym al yazmalim**
[Gala Film, 2007] (86 min) Turkish with English subtitles. Turkey. Dir. Atif Yilmaz

"İlyas is a truck driver from Istanbul who comes to a remote village. He and a village girl, Asya, fall in love and get married. Their child is born, who they name Samet. İlyas frequently leaves the village for his job and Asya is left alone to care for Samet. One day, İlyas leaves and never comes back. Asya grows worried and takes off with Samet to search for him but to no avail. They meet a man, Cemşit, who takes pity on them and offers them food and shelter. Samet becomes increasingly fond of Cemşit and Asya begins to see that Samet thinks of him as a father. Then one day, İlyas suddenly returns and Asya is left to make a choice between him and Cemşit"


**Sukkar banat = Caramel**
[Arab Film Dist., 2007] (93 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Lebanon. Dir. Nadine Labaki
A Beirut beauty salon becomes a treasured meeting place for several generations of women from various walks of life to talk, seek advice and confide in one another. Media Collection PN1997.2.S855 2008

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

The Syrian Bride = ha-Kalah ha-Surit
"Mona’s wedding day may be the saddest of her life. Once she crosses the border into Syria, she will never be allowed back to her beloved family in the Druze village of Majdal Shams. Told with great humor and compassion, its story provides an emotionally stirring look at the human side of political conflict, focusing on the hopes and dreams of one family trapped in a no-man’s land between two nations."
Media Collection PN1997.2 .S97 2006

Takhtah-i siyah = Blackboards
“A group of male teachers cross the mountainous paths of the remote Iranian Kurdistan region. They wander from village to village in search of students, carrying large blackboards on their backs, sometimes using them as shelter, camouflage and as shields from gunfire.”
Media Collection PN1997.T225 2003

Tala-yi surkh
“This is a story of Hussein, a humble pizza deliveryman who feels continually humiliated by the injustices he sees all around him. When his friend Ali finds a receipt for a stranger’s necklace purchase, Hussein is stunned by its exceptionally high cost. He knows that his pitiful salary will never be enough to afford such a luxury. Soon after, he and Ali are refused entry to an uptown jewelry store because of their scruffy appearances; his rage over this slight sets off a series of events. But, Hussein will taste the luxurious life for one night before his deep feelings of humiliation push him over the edge.”
Ta’m-i Gilas = A Taste of Cherry
[Zeitgeist, 1997] (95 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. ‘Abbas Kiarustami
"An emotionally complex meditation on life and death. Middle-aged Mr. Badii drives through the hilly outskirts of Tehran--searching for someone to rescue or bury him."
Media Collection PN1997.T33545 1997

'Umar Qatalatu al-Rujulah = Omar Gatlato = Omar it-kills-him
[Arab Film Dist., 1976] (90 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Algeria. Dir. Merzak Allouache
"The title refers to the expression "gatlato al-rujula," or, roughly, "machismo killed him" and the film's mordant insights into male posturing and alienation in Algerian society animate this bit of folk wisdom. In mock documentary style, a young man recounts with wry commentary a typical day in his life in the Bab el-Oued quarter of Algiers, while the camera playfully shows a different story."
Media Collection PN1997.U435 1990z

Umut yarina kaldı
[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

'Urs al-Jalil = Wedding in Galilee = Noce in Galilee
"The elder of a Palestinian village under Israeli military rule wants permission to hold a traditional wedding for his son that will go past the imposed curfew. The Army commander agrees on the condition that he and his officers be invited as guests of honor at the ceremony. Director Michel Khleifi's extraordinary first feature is an erotic and often compelling meditation on two conflicting cultures who attempt to put aside their differences for one long day of celebration."

al-'Usfur = Le moineau = The sparrow
[Arab Film Dist., 2011; orig. release 1973] (100 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Egypt. Dir. Youssef Chahine
"Set shortly before and during the Six Day War in June 1967, this film follows a young police officer stationed in a small village in Upper Egypt whose inhabitants suffer from the harassment of a corrupt businessman."
Media Collection PN1997.U75 1990z

'Usfur al-Sath: Halfawiyn
“A young boy of twelve accompanies his mother to the women’s baths, one of the popular places in Halfaouine, the old city of Tunis. His budding adolescence stirs up anxieties about being caught between the world of men which attracts him and that of women which still protects him.”
Media Collection PN1997.U774 2003

Uzak = Distant
[New Yorker Video, 2005] (105 min) Turkish with English subtitles. Turkey. Dir. Nuri Bilge Ceylan
"Mahmut is a relatively successful commercial photographer who has been struggling to come to terms with the growing gap between his artistic ideals and his professional obligations. Without warning, Mahmut’s distant relative Yusuf arrives in Istanbul determined to find a job. As the two men struggle to make a connection, communication is slowly reduced to the bare minimum; and their time together must come to an end."
Media Collection PN1997.2.U93 2005

Vakunish-i panjum = The fifth reaction
[Arta Film, 2004] (107 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Tahminah Milani
"A young woman, Fereshteh who teaches in one of Tehran high school has lost her husband recently. According to law and tradition, she must leave the fate of her two sons (9 and 7 years old) and the wealth of her husband to her father in law who is traditional minded man."
Media Collection PN1997.V238 2004

Vodka Lemon
“A small Armenian village faces tough times after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Hamo is a widower with a small military pension and three useless sons. While making one of his daily visits to his wife’s grave he meets Nina and the two begin to date.”
Media Collection PN1997.2.V63 2005

West Beirut
"This high spirited, funny and poignant coming-of-age tale takes us along the joyous journey of adolescence set against a city torn apart, proving that the restrictions of war are no match for the sheer exuberance of growing up.”
Media Collection PN1997.W47 2001

Yom Yom = Day after Day
"In spite of blood ties to both Haifa’s Jewish and Arab populations, Moshe leads a rootless existence. Grown weary of his impatient wife and ambivalent about his needy young mistress the only relationships Moshe doesn't complicate are with his devoted parents, Jewish Hanna and Arab Yussuf, and with Jules, Moshe’s ne’er-do-well childhood
friend. But when Jules' real estate developer brother moves to buy a prized piece of property from the Arab side of the family, Moshe's divided ancestry is put to the test."

_Zamani bara-yi masti-i asbha = A time for drunken horses_
[S.n., 200-?] (80 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Bahman Qubadi
"Just off the Iraqi border in the cold and stark mountains of Iranian Kurdistan, a boy is forced into the smuggling trade in order to raise money to get medical treatment for his older brother."

_Zikhron Devarim = Memory of Things_
"The film depicts the spiritual disarray of three men in their thirties and forties, in the agitation and turmoil of Tel Aviv, the city created by Jewish pioneers in 1909. None of them has the life he had imagined."

_Zinat_
"A riveting drama about the attempts of Zinat, who runs a health clinic in a remote part of Southern Iran, to break free of the male-dominated rules and regulations that govern life in rural Iran. When Zinat becomes engaged to Hamed, his disagreeable mother demands that she quit her job. Zinat tries to be a satisfied wife and daughter-in-law, but when a medical emergency develops in the village, she is forced to choose between her duty to her family and her commitment as a health care provider."

_Zindigi va digar-i hich = Life and nothing more_
After the earthquake of Gilan, the film director and his son Puya travel to the devastated area to search for the actors of the movie the director made there a few years before. In their search, they find out that people who had lost everything in the earthquake still have hope and try to live life to the fullest. The film investigates the aftermath of a devastating 1990 earthquake which killed some 50,000 people in northern Iran.

_Zir-i nur-i mah = Under the moonlight_
[Irmovies.com, 2001] (96 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Riza Mir Karimi
Seyyed Hassan is preparing to rise to cleric when his vestments are stolen by a young thief. Seyyyed tracks the boy to a poor and distant suburb where he’s treated to an eye-opening view of the gulf between religious teachings and harsh, everyday life.
Zir-i pusht-i shahr = Under the skin of the city
“Tuba is a factory worker and the matriarch of a raucous family. Her older daughter is pregnant and married to an abusive husband. The younger daughter is a high school student and is consumed with worry over a neighbor girl who suffers abuse at the hands of her father. Tuba’s youngest son is caught up in political radicalism and is in danger of derailing his college aspirations. Her older son, Abbas wants to move to Japan to help support the family. After losing all his money in a scam, Abbas’ desperation gets the better of his judgement and he becomes involved in a drug deal that nearly costs him his life.”
Media Collection PN1997.Z64 2004

Documentaries

Afghan Women
[DER Films, 1974] (17 min)
"The words of the women of Aq Kupruk, Afghanistan and the rhythm of their lives in seclusion suggest both satisfying and limiting aspects of the women’s role in an Afghan rural community."
Media Collection HQ1735.6.A655 2002

Ahlam al-zabbalin = Garbage dreams
[Iskander Films, 2009] (79 min) Arabic with English subtitles
"Follows three teenage boys born into the trash trade and growing up in the world’s largest garbage village, on the outskirts of Cairo. It is the home to 60,000 Zaballeen, Arabic for "garbage people." Far ahead of any modern "Green" initiatives, the Zaballeen survive by recycling 80 percent of the garbage they collect. When their community is suddenly faced with the globalization of its trade, each of the teenage boys is forced to make choices that will impact his future and the survival of his community"
Media Collection TD789.E37 A35 2009

al-Banat Dul = El-Banate Dol = Ces Filles-là
[Women Make Movies, 2006] (68 min) Arabic with Arabic and French titles and English subtitles. Dir. Tahani Rached
"This documentary follows a band of teenage girls living on the streets of Cairo...Already at a disadvantage as impoverished and abused girls in a Muslim society, they encounter rape, drug addiction, prostitution, pregnancy and motherhood on the streets. While the girls’ troubles are not downplayed, neither are their courage, playfulness and vibrant camaraderies...What stands out is the strength and sheer joy that these girls project."
Media Collection HV4619.C2 B36 2006

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."

Media Collection DT144.C28 1991

**Europlex**

[Women Make Movies, 2003] (22 min)
"Tracks the daily, sometimes illicit, border crossings between Morocco and Spain--a rare intersection of the first and third worlds. Paying off officials to look the other way, workers smuggle contraband across the border, sometimes crossing up to 11 times a day. In a now common scenario of global economics, Moroccan women work in North Africa to produce goods destined for the European market. And in perhaps the most surreal example of border logic, domestics commute into a Spanish enclave in Moroccan territory, losing two hours as they step into the European time zone."

Media Collection HD8588.5.M8 E97 2003

**Une femme taxi à Sidi Bel-Abbès = A Woman taxi driver In Sidi Bel-Abbès**

"When her husband died Soumicha, mother of three, had to earn a living. She became the only woman taxi driver in Sidi Bel-Abbès, Algeria. This film accompanies Soumicha around a city where religious and political violence rages, and records her experiences in a job normally reserved for men."

Media Collection HD6073.T162 A44 2000

**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

**For My Children**

[Women Make Movies, 2002] (65 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Dir. Michal Aviad
"In October 2000, as the second Palestinian Intifada erupts, Israeli filmmaker Michal Aviad begins a video exploration about both the moral and mundane dilemmas she faces every day in Tel Aviv. What begins with deceptive simplicity—a tender scene of sending the children off to school—quickly becomes a profound study of vulnerability and anxiety."

Media Collection DS119.765.F673 2002

**Full Circle**

[Filmmakers Library, 1995] (58 min) Dir. Paul Rothman
"The only film to have ever been made on the most revolutionary social experiment of the century - the attempt to create sexual equality between women and men on the Israeli kibbutz. Through archival footage and interviews with several generations of kibbutz members, the film follows the evolution of family life and work roles from pioneering days to the present."

Media Collection HX742.2.A3 F855 1996

**The Glass House**

[Fictionville, 2009] (93 min) Dir. Hamid Rahmanian

"Omid-e-Mehr is a private rehabilitation center and NGO, in Tehran, for girls aged 15 to 25 who have no where else to turn. It accommodates eighty-five young women who stay for eighteen months and are provided with psychological counseling and classes like computer skills and expository writing which are designed to give them the tools and confidence to stand on their own feet. ... We follow four of the girls’ lives through the dark alleys and traffic jammed highways of contemporary Tehran. Samira is a fourteen-year-old who still loves dolls but is forced into drug addiction by her dealer mother. Mitra has been abandoned by her family and has to learn to avoid her father’s abuse. Nazila, an angry and articulate girl, has a family that misunderstands and mistreats. She dreams of recording her rap song. Sussan is brain damaged from the frequent beatings at the hands of her sigheh (temporary husband) and/or of her brothers who raped and beat her when she was just a child. And of course there is [Omid-e-Mehr’s founder Marjaneh] Halati herself, whose confident and empathetic energy is in direct contrast to the fragile existence of the girls ... She represents a new kind of Iranian woman, one who is hard working and positive, who refuses to let her empathy turn into paralyzed pity"

Media Collection HQ1735.2.Z9 T445 2009

**ha-‘Ir ha-levaneh = White city**

[Spielberg Jewish Film Archive, 1999] (75 min) Hebrew and English

Original short films about Tel Aviv filmed from 1926 to 1964; some are silent

ARTS Library DS110.T357 I754 1999

**Jerusalem**

[History Channel and A&E, 1996] (135 min) 2 videocassettes. Dir. & prod. Herbert Krosney

"Documentary exploring the city of Jerusalem with historian Sir Martin Gilbert as guide. Gilbert uses aerial photography and models to show the growth of the city from biblical times, profiles important Biblical figures, traces the rise of Islam and Zionism, discusses Arab-Israeli relations and describes archaeological discoveries."


**Jerusalem: an Occupation Set in Stone?**

[Arab Film Distribution, 1997?] (60 min) Dir. Marty Rosenbluth

“Discusses the situation of the Palestinians in East Jerusalem whose homes have been destroyed by the 1967 war and Israeli urban renewal and demolition policies. Interviews with Jerusalem residents explore the social situation, recent history, and conflicting Jewish and Arab claims to Jerusalem.”
Makan asammuhi al-watan = The place I call home
[Tamir ‘Izzat, 2009?] (61 min) In Arabic with English subtitles. Dir. Tamir ‘Izzat
“Follows four young Egyptians as they attempt to each find the place they call "home".

Marina of the Zabbaleen
"Enter the extraordinary world of seven-year-old Marina, as she lives in the Muqqattam garbage recycling village in Cairo, Egypt. Her world of simple beauty and big dreams (she aspires to be a doctor) cannot be diminished by the difficulty of her circumstances. An impressionistic portrait of childhood and family, the film also tells the story of the resourceful Zabbaleen, a Coptic Christian community of recyclers whose entrepreneurial waste management system produces the highest recycling rate in the world. ... in May 2009, in reaction to the outbreak of Swine Influenza, the Egyptian government ordered the eradication of the country’s pig population. For almost a century, the Zabbaleen had raised pigs to consume the thousands of tons of organic waste generated daily by Cairo’s residents. No people has felt the ramifications of the Swine Influenza pandemic more acutely than the Zabbaleen, who were stripped of the crucial foundation of their thorough recycling system”

al-Ramlah = Lev ha-Erets = Ramleh
[Women Make Movies, 2001] (58 min) Hebrew with English subtitles. Dir. Michal Aviad
"A timely and powerful look at the ideological, cultural and political conflicts in contemporary Israel, this highly original documentary profiles three seemingly disparate women residing in the town of Ramleh. Located in the heartland of the Israel, this former Palestinian territory serves as a microcosm of the beliefs, biases and conflicts of women living in the country today."

Recycle = I’adat khalq
[First Run/Icarus, 2008] (90 min) In Arabic with English subtitles
“In a place where extremes are raised, a tough choice has to be made. An ex-mujahideen struggles to reconcile his faith and reality. But he faces setbacks at every turn as he is forced to collect cardboard in the streets of Zarqa, an occupation barely sustaining his family. As his situation deteriorates he has to make a radical decision to save himself from humiliation. Abu Amar found himself disillusioned with the chaos Afghanistan was left in during the 80’s and tried to clear this confusion by writing a book on Jihad. However insightful and moderate, he has failed so far to publish his work. In the meantime his attempts to build a normal life in the impoverished town where Iraq Al Qaida leader Al Zarqawi grew up are failing. While the locals share their insights on Al Zarqawi and the current situation in the Middle East, the effects of their constraining environment become clear as Abu Amar heads towards a life-changing decision. Recycle
is a documentary with an insider’s view on the community of al Zarqawi’s hometown, hereby addressing the intricate realities of life in the Middle East during spiralling international tensions.” (From IMDB)

Runaway = Farari
[Women Make Movies, 2008?] (87 min) Dir. K. Longinotto & Z. Mir-Hosseini
"A powerful and heart-breaking documentary about a group of young runaway girls who are taken to a women's shelter in Tehran-Iran. The film focuses on the sufferings of young girls who struggle to free themselves from the tyrannical and abusive power of their families, mainly their fathers, brothers, and stepfathers -- a subject rarely touched upon by Iranian filmmakers."
Media Collection HV1441.I7.R86 2001b

The Settlers
[First Run/Icarus Films, 2002] (58 min) Dir. Ruth Walk
"Israeli documentarist Ruth Walk directed this candid look at the lives of several Orthodox Jewish housewives, each raising large families in Tel Rumeidah, a small Israeli settlement inside the Palestinian West Bank."
Media Collection DS110.H4 S47 2002

Shahrbanoo = Shahrbanu
[Arab Film Dist., 2008] (58 min) Dir. H. Rahmanian
"The filmmakers capture their shared encounter of an American woman with a strictly-conservative Iranian family. Wife and husband team Melissa and Hamid, after arriving at her mother-in-law’s house, are befriended by Shahrbanoo, housekeeper to the filmmaker’s family, and who invites Melissa to a family gathering. Living in one of the poorest neighborhoods of Tehran, Shahrbanoo (Farsi for "Matriarch") introduces Melissa to an intense cultural exchange about subjects, ranging from women’s place in society to American foreign policy. The film depicts a range of marked differences that nonetheless are accompanied by a deeper layer of commonalities allowing connections across cultural gulf."
Also includes the director’s Sir Alfred of Charles de Gaulle Airport.
Media Collection HQ1735.2.S57 2008

Suspended Dreams
[Arab Film Dist., 2000?] (50 min) English and Arabic with English subtitles. Dir. Jean Khalil Chamoun & Mai Masri
"A courageous documentary from Lebanon about the effects of 16 years of civil war on what was once the intellectual, cultural and commercial center of the Arab world. The film tells the story of four Beirut citizens from very different backgrounds as they struggle to reconstruct their homes and lives amid the chaos, the broken buildings, and the unexploded mines of their once beautiful city."
Media Collection DS89.B4 S877 2000

Tanha dar Tihran = 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."

Media Collection HQ1735.2.Z76 J34 1999

**Tihran anar nadarad = Tehran has no more pomegranates**

[Iranianmovies, 2009] (68 min) Persian with English subtitles. Iran. Dir. Massoud Bakhshi

"Blends satire with history to paint a portrait of the metropolis and its transformation into a mega[lo]polis of increasing urban mess, pollution, inadequate housing, class gaps, and the fatal destiny of its once delicious pomegranates. Aided by never before seen archival footage from the past 100 years and mock interviews with city officials, the film explains the complex life of Tehran’s inhabitants as they live side by side [with] the past, begging the question of whether anything has changed at all"

Media Collection DS325.T3 T54 2004

**War Generation Beirut**

[Arab Film Dist., 2011] (50 min) English and Arabic with English subtitles. Dir. Jean Khalil Chamoun and Mai Masri.

“Filmed on the streets of Beirut; traces the life experiences of three generations of young people as they struggle to survive in their war-torn city.”

Media Collection DS87.5.W373 2011

**Zananah = The Ladies’**


"Directed by the acclaimed Iranian actress Mahnaz Afzali and filmed entirely inside a ladies washroom in a public park in Tehran, this absorbing documentary shatters Western preconceptions of Iranian women. Populated by addicts, prostitutes, runaway girls and others who simply enjoy the camaraderie and atmosphere, the ladies room becomes one of the few places where women feel comfortable enough to smoke cigarettes, discuss taboo subjects and remove their veils."

Media Collection HQ1735.2. Z34 2003