THE MAGHRIB (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, & Libya)

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Documentaries

Ben Barka: the Moroccan Equation
"Ben Barka was the founder of the Moroccan left who went on to be one of the leaders of his country’s struggle for independence. After his death, the "Ben Barka Affair" became the center of attention, while Mehdi Ben Barka was forgotten. The film combines first-hand testimony with archival records in order to trace the extraordinary development of this "Medina" child with a passion for mathematics and politics, and one of the leaders of the 1960s Third-World Movement."
Media Collection DT324.B5 B44 2002

Bride Market of Imilchil
[Arab Film Dist., 1999] (58 min) Dir. Steffen and Christian Pierce
"For three days each September, men and women gather in front of the Imilchil shrine, choose mates and marry in a nearby tent. This annual event has become so popular that even the Moroccan government itself promotes the ritual as a tourist attraction. Beautifully capturing the essence of the bride market, this video challenges our views on arranged marriage and presents an intimate view of Muslim society, where honesty, tenderness, even playfulness contrast with the rigid view of Islam so often presented in the Western media."
Media Collection GT2789.M67 B75 1999

Dumu' al-Shaykhat = Le blues des shikhates = Sheik hates 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

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

*Fama: Butulah bi-la majd*
[Arab Film Distribution, 2004] (52 min.) Moroccan Arabic with English subtitles. Dir. Dalila Ennadre
"Celebrates the life and career of Me Fama, the Moroccan revolutionary who fought against French and Spanish troops before Morocco was granted its independence in 1956."
Media Collection DT324 .F263 2004

*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

*Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask*
[California Newsreel, 1995] (50 min) Dir. Isaac Julien
"Explores for the first time on film the pre-eminent theorist of the anti-colonial movements of this century. Fanon's two major works, Black Skin, White Masks and The Wretched of the Earth, were pioneering studies of the psychological impact of racism on both colonized and colonizer."
Media Collection CT2628.F35 F726 1995

*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.”
al-Mar'ah shaja'ah: Luwizah Ighil Ahriz = Women Is Courage = Femme courage: Louisa Ighilahriz
[Arab Film Dist., 2003] (58 min) Arabic and French with English subtitles.
"This fascinating and emotionally gripping documentary by director Amine Rachedi narrates the story of Louisette Ighilahriz, a young Algerian woman who joined the national liberation movement after her father was seized by French colonial authorities in the mid 1950s."

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."

Morocco, Jewel of the Maghreb
[Landmark Media, 2000?] (26 min.)
"This episode studies northern Morocco, from Tangiers to Chefchaouen to Fez to Meknes, a land enriched by verdant pastures and vibrant fishing villages. Inhabited by a warm and friendly people, its shores dip into the Mediterranean and its deserts into the Sahara, with a culture embracing European and African influences and a cuisine so refined it lingers in the memory forever."

Nawbat al-nisa’ bi-Jabal Sunwah = The Nouba of the women of Mount Chenoua
[Women Make Movies, 2007?] (115 min) In Arabic with English subtitles. Algeria. Dir. Assia Djebar
"Returning to her native region 15 years after the end of the Algerian war, Lila is obsessed by memories of the war for independence that defined her childhood. In dialogue with other Algerian women, she reflects on the differences between her life and theirs. In lyrical footage she contemplates the power of grandmothers who pass down traditions of anti-colonial resistance to their heirs."

Saints and Spirits
[First Run/Icarus Films, 1979] (26 min) Dir. Melissa Llewelyn Davis
"Explores the personal dimensions of Islam during three religious events in Morocco: the festive annual renewal of contact with spirits in Marrakech; the pilgrimage to the shrine
of Sidi Chamharouch, high in the Atlas Mountains; and the veneration of a new saint's shrine."

**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 performance. 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.

Media Collection GV1713.M8 S43 2007

**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

**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.

Media Collection PN1993.5.A1 M367 2013 Disc 7

**Tunisian women: we will stand up**
[Third World Newsreel, 2013] (56 min) Dir. Hajer Ben Nasr
“On December 18, 2010 Tunisians of all ages took the streets of Tunis to demand better living conditions and the end of President Ben Ali’s repressive dictatorship, starting what would become the 2011 Tunisian Revolution and the Arab Spring. Among the demonstrators were seven Tunisian women activists, each one of these women celebrating the culmination of a life devoted to the fight for freedom and democracy in their country."

Media Collection HQ1792 .T865 2013

**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."

Bab al-Sama' Maftuh = A Door on the Sky
"Nadia, a young Moroccan emigre, returns from Paris to Fez to visit her dying father. At his funeral, she is overcome by the voice of Karina chanting the Koran. A powerful friendship develops between the two women as they decide to turn the father's palace into a Muslim women's shelter."

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."

Baba ‘Aziz: the Prince Who Contemplated His Soul
"The story of a blind dervish named Bab’Aziz and his spirited granddaughter, Ishtar. Together they wander the desert in search of a great reunion of dervishes that takes place just once every thirty years. With faith as their only guide, the two journey for days through the expansive, barren landscape. To keep Ishtar entertained, Bab’Aziz relays the ancient tale of a prince who relinquished his realm. As the tale of the prince unfolds, the two encounter other travelers with stories of their own"

The Battle of Algiers
[Criterion Collection, 2004; orig. release 1966] (121 min) French and Arabic with English subtitles. Algeria & Italy. Dir. Gillo Pontecorvo
"Vividly recreates a key year in the tumultuous Algerian struggle for independence from the occupying French in the 1950s. As violence escalates on both sides, children shoot soldiers at point-blank range, women plant bombs in cafés, and French soldiers resort to torture to break the will of the insurgents. Shot in the streets of Algiers in documentary style, the film is a case study in modern warfare, with its terrorist attacks and the brutal techniques used to combat them."

Media Collection PN1997.A32247 2000
Media Collection PN1997.2.B323 2008
Media Collection PN1997.B347 2004
**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

**Bint Familiya**  
[Arab Film Dist., 1997] (105 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Tunisia. Dir. Nuri BuZayd  
"Three modern North African women, on the brink of self-awareness, discover the power of friendship. Amina, caught in an unhappy marriage and Aida, recently divorced and openly dating men (to the shock of her disapproving family and neighbors), begin to question their lives and relationships when they meet Fatiha, an Algerian refugee. On the threshold of a new life in Europe, Fatiha serves as the impetus for Amina and Aida to question their own fate."  

**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."  

**Inch Allah Dimanche**  
[Arab Film Dist., 2003] (98 min) French with English subtitles. Algeria. Dir. 'Yamina Benguigui  
"In the aftermath of World War 2, France attempted to replenish its weakened work force by recruiting men from North Africa. In the mid-1970's, the French government relaxed its immigration policy to allow the families of Algerian men to join them. This film provides us with a deeply moving memoir of the sense of isolation and vulnerability that the immigrant family experienced upon their arrival at a time when racial integration was virtually non-existent."  
Media Collection PN1997 .I48 2003

**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 known 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.

Rachida = Rashidah
[Arab Film Dist., 2002] (100 min) Arabic with French and English subtitles. Algeria. Dir. Yamina Bachir-Chouikh
"Rachida, a young and self-assured teacher at an elementary school, becomes the target of terrorists when she refuses to place a bomb in her classroom. This acclaimed debut feature offers a unique glimpse into the lives of ordinary citizens in Algeria, where terrorism was commonplace during the civil conflict of the 1990s."

Rih al-Sidd = Man of Ashes
[Arab Film Dist., 199-?] (109 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Tunisia. Dir. Nouri Bouzid
"As his wedding date approaches, handsome young Hachemi must confront and resolve his feelings of guilt and anxiety about a sexual incident from his past. A fascinating examination of traditional masculine roles and identity in Tunisia."

Salut Cousin!
[Arab Film Dist., 1996] (104 min) French and Arabic with English subtitles. Algeria. Dir. Merzak Allouache
"The tale of two Algerian cousins and their mishaps in the racially volatile environment of Paris. Mok is a would-be rap star living the high life in the city when his naive cousin, Alilo, arrives from Algeria on an errand. While Mok is desperately trying to reinvent himself in the modern world, his family is hopelessly tied to the past."

Samt al-Qusur = The Silences of the Palaces = Les silences du palais
"Set in Tunisia in the 1950’s. Alia, the young servant-girl played by Hend Sabri, is misused by her masters and wooed by a rebel."
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

Sur la planche
"In Tangier, Badia and Imane, two young Moroccan girls of around twenty, walk in line amongst an army of workers who fill up the city with their coming and going back and forth. They both work in a shrimp-packaging factory, a difficult and humiliating job, where the strong odor of shrimp seeps into the pores of their skin. Badia’s hands are busy but her head is idle; she perfumes herself with lies to wash away the shrimp smell and pretends to be someone else. Badia can flap her wings as much as she likes but she’ll never fly"
Media Collection PN1997.2 .S88 2013

‘Umar Qatalatu al-Rujulah = Omar Gatlato = Omar it-kills-him
[Arab Film Dist., 1976] (92 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 1976

‘Usfur al-Sath = al-Halfawiyin
"A 12-year-old Tunisian boy experiences a sexual awakening in Halfaouine, a working-class district in old Tunis."
Media Collection PN1997.U774 2003