**Gender Issues on Film**

See also Films by and about Middle Eastern Women

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**Documentaries**

**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

**I Exist: Voices from the Lesbian and Gay Community in the U.S.**
[Arab Film Dist., 2004] (56 min)
"This documentary explores individual journeys of lesbian and gay people of Middle Eastern cultures living in the United States, including the cultural and religious challenges that many endure."
Media Collection HQ76.3.U5 I2 2004

**In My Own Skin: The Complexity of Living as an Arab in America**
[Arab Film Dist., 2001] (115 min) Dir. J. Jajeh & N. Byrd
"A thought-provoking collection of meditations on issues of identity, race and gender as experienced by a group of five young Arab women living in New York. Filmed in the months following the tragic events of September 11th, this work provides a fascinating and much-needed look at some of the concerns overlooked by the mainstream media."
Media Collection E184.A65 I53 2001

**Inside Out**
[First Run/Icarus, 2006] (39 min) Persian with English subtitles
“Documents the daily activities of three individual who are coming to terms with their transgender identities and the related emotional and physical transformations while living in the Islamic Republic of Iran.”
Media Collection HQ77.95.I7 I57 2006

**A Jihad for Love**
[First Run Films, 2007?] (81 min) Dir. Parvez Sharma
"First feature documentary to explore the complex global intersections between Islam and homosexuality ... The film travels a wide geographic arc presenting us lives from India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, South Africa and France. Always filming in secret and as a
Muslim, [Muslim gay filmmaker] Parvez [Sharma] makes the film from within the faith, depicting Islam with the same respect that the film’s characters show for it.
Media Collection HQ76.2.L74 J54 2007

Keep Not Silent
"Despite fears of excommunication, three women secretly fight for their right to love within the restraints of the Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox communities of Jerusalem. All three are considered "sinners", all three are lesbians. Through internet web-cams, windows and curtains, this film documents the individual path each woman has carved for herself, painfully caught between her sexual identity and her love for her children, husband, parents, community and God."
Media Collection BM729.H85 K44 2004

Majnunak = Crazy of You
[Arab Film Dist., 1997] (26 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Dir. Akram Zaatari
"This video is a disturbingly funny documentary about the sexual conquests of three men from the industrial suburbs of Beirut. The men recount in explicit detail their most memorable sexual relationships and their tactics of seduction."
Media Collection HQ232.14 M34 1997

El Moulid: Egyptian Religious Festival
[Documentary Educational Research, 2006] (38 min) Dir. Fadwa El Guindi
"Shows some of the events of the Islamic religious festival of El Moulid in October 1987, including circumcision of young boys, parades, and Friday prayers. Focuses on the moulid celebrating the life of al-Sayyid Ahmad al-Badawi held annually in Tanta, Egypt."
Media Collection BP184.M685 2006

The Perfumed Garden
[First Run/Icarus Films, 2000] (56 min.)
"An exploration of the myths and realities of sensuality and sexuality in Arab society, a world of taboos and of erotic literature. Through interviews with men and women of all ages, classes, and sexual orientation, the film lifts a corner of the veil that usually shrouds discussion of this subject in the Arab world."
Media Collection HQ18.A65 P474 2000

Subyan wa-banat = On Boys, Girls, and the Veil
[Arab Film Dist., 2000-?] (72 min) Arabic with English subtitles. Dir. Yousry Nasrallah
"With his leading protagonist and friend (Bassam Samra), Nasrallah takes us on an exquisite tour of a subject normally overdramatized by the West. Taking the debate beyond the simplistic approach and with familiarity rarely seen, young men and women talk about the ‘hijab’ and its social implications."
Media Collection BP190.5.H44 S539 2000z
Trembling before G-d = Le-fanekha bi-re’adah
“A documentary built around personal stories of gay and lesbian Hasidic and Orthodox Jews. Portrays people who face a profound dilemma - how to reconcile their passion for Judaism with the biblical prohibitions against homosexuality. Includes interviews with closeted and out gay Orthodox and Hasidic Jews, including the first openly gay Orthodox rabbi, Steven Greenberg.”
Media Collection BM729.H65 T74 2003

Who Gives Kisses Freely from Her Lips
[New York: Third World Newsreel, 2009] (41 min)
“A film mixing documentary with fiction to tell the story of Salomé, a filmmaker who travels to Iran, determined to make a film on the practice of temporary marriage, known as "sigheh". A taboo subject in Iranian culture, the filmmaker records insightful interviews with couples who are or have been involved in temporary marriage arrangements. The film looks at the complexity of the Shia Islamic institution, specifically the cultural beliefs and contradictions it presents.”
Media Collection HQ666.4.W46 2009

Features

Adam-i barfi = The Snow Man
“A young Iranian man disguises himself as a woman in order to get an American visa as the wife of an American man.”
Media Collection PN 1997.A298 2002

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

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."
Media Collection PN1997.2 I49 2006
**Inch Allah Dimanche**  
[Arab Film Dist., 2003] (98 min) French with English subtitles. Algeria. Dir. 'Yamina Benguigi  
"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

**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."  
Media Collection PN1997.R55 1990z

**'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.U43 1976

**'Usfur al-Sath: Halfawiyin**  
“A young boy of twelve accompanies his mother to the womens’ 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."
**Wadjda = Wadjda**

“Wadjda, a fun-loving 10-year-old girl living in Saudi Arabia, has her heart set on a beautiful new bicycle. However, her mother won’t allow it, fearing repercussions from a society that sees bicycles as dangerous to a girl’s virtue. Determined to turn her dreams into reality and buy the bike on her own, Wadjda uncovers the contradictions and opportunities ingrained in her world. Hilarious, heartbreaking and inspiring all at once, this groundbreaking film has charmed critics and audiences all over the globe.”

Media Collection PN1997.W338 2014

**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."

Media Collection PN1997.D39 2001