

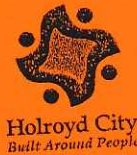
The Sydney Arab Film Festival was first held in April 2001, with a 3 day Program at the Roxy Cinema in Parramatta. It was a joint project of Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Information and Cultural Exchange, Fairfield Community Resource Centre and the Powerhouse Museum. It was an associated event of *East of Somewhere* – a contemporary Arab Australian cultural project initiated by Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre.

The aims of the Sydney Arab Film Festival are to create an independent space for the artistic development of Arab Australian filmmakers, and to present stories emerging from diverse Arabic speaking cultures to all Australian audiences. The Sydney Arab Film Festival also welcomes the involvement of Arab Australian filmmakers who share similar visions, to work towards a larger film festival in late 2004.

To make contact: email [ccd@ice.org.au](mailto:ccd@ice.org.au) or phone 02 9897 5744.

### The Sydney Arab Film Festival – a BIG night of Arab shorts 2004

Presented by:



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# سهرجان سرنى للفيلم العربية Sydney Arab Film Festival



## a BIG night of Arab shorts

7pm Monday 15 March 2004

Hoyts Merrylands



## THE COWSHED YOUTH VIDEO PROJECT

The two short films were produced by local young people who live in and frequent the Holroyd Local Government Area and visit the Wentworthville Youth Centre – 'the Cowshed', where 8 young people aged 12 to 22 gathered to take part in this exciting video production workshop. Participants learnt storyboarding, camera basics, video production techniques and editing under the direction of professional tutors. The Cowshed Youth Video Project took place during the January 2004 school holidays over a two week period, a joint venture between Metroscreen and Holroyd City Council, with funding received from the NSW Ministry of the Arts through the Western Sydney Local Government Arts Incentive Fund.

Participants: Jason Harb, Analeigh Bruin, Russell Smulders, Magdalena Lass, Mathew Germanos, Krista Anne Walker, David Cooper, David Oliver

Facilitators: Tameera Kemp, Josh Wodak, Fadle El-Harris

Wentworthville Youth Service: David Spicer, Nicole Hunt

### **Cheap Charlie** **5 mins**

It pays to pay. This comedy follows Charlie's adventures on a summer's day as he attempts to cool off at the local pool. But can he get in for a swim without paying the pool entry fee? Watch and find out.

### **Suicide - A Teenager's Story** **5 mins**

As a teenage boy growing up in a single parent family, life can be tough. This short film shows us that there is hope and people who care.

## THE SYDNEY ARAB FILM FESTIVAL

The following films were selected from a call-out to Australian Arabic film-makers early in 2004.

### **"Allamouni" Prova of a Thornbird** **14 mins**

Dir: Chadia Gideon Hajjar

A young artist trying to reconnect with her culture, and through this process, revisits her current Aussie life style and reaches a climax where she enrolls herself into new possibilities. What are they?

### **9 Volt Addiction** **3 mins**

Dir: Anthony Hawwa for Westies Film Group

Ahab develops a taste for batteries and is shocked by the results.

### **Tampa: A Walk on the Beach** **7 mins**

Dir: Mireille Astore

A Walk On The Beach is a documentary about a site-specific performance, sculpture, photography and web-based art project by Lebanese artist Mireille Astore about the plight of recent Middle Eastern refugees in Australia. It took place in November 2003 as part of the annual event Sculpture by the Sea. The sculpture and performance acted as a dichotomy between the sense of freedom and grandeur the individual experiences at the seashore and the imprisonment refugees face as a result of their trust in the most basic form of humanity.

### **Celebrating the Achievements of the Lebanese Community in South Australia**

Dir: Khaled Baroudi

**10 mins**

This is an excerpt of the feature length documentary showcasing people from many areas of community life who are successful in their professional, business, sports and arts careers. It is also a unique journey that gives us a glimpse of the contributions of the Lebanese community's sons and daughters to the development of South Australia and its multicultural society.

### **Mosh Hansa music clip by Marwan Ekermaawi** **3.5 mins**

Dir: Mo'ataz Abu Youssef

This song was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the Arabic video clip competition in Tunisia in 2003. In the clip, a man being deported from Palestine, has to deal with his nostalgic feelings and longing to see his family – memories of his life in Palestine that he can never forget.

### **Trouble Comes To Me** **7 mins**

A poignant drama about the racism faced by Arabic speaking young people. The video was conceived during the *Agents of Change: Shifa* camp. Held over three days, the camp was an initiative of the NSW Government's *Youth Partnership with Arabic Speaking Communities*, and was hosted by ICE, in partnership with NSW Department of Sport and Recreation. It brought together mostly Arabic speaking young people from Western Sydney, empowering them to make a difference.

### **Dog** **4.5 mins**

Dir: Khaled Sabsabi

"You're worse than dogs", was something the film-maker was told in the Occupied Territories of Southern Lebanon, where some of this footage was shot. People there feel abandoned by the ones that migrated and left a country in division.

### **Samahaha Show** **6 mins**

Dir: John Samaha

'Ask America to fix it' is a sketch that engages comedy to explore the serious matter of exploitation and the degradation of human life. Humour is a powerful medium to explore social issues and political commentary

### **Rain** **4 mins**

Dir: Khaled Sabsabi

"Made in Australia before I left for my Artists' Fellowship in the Middle East", it explores what it means to be part of the untouchable Holy Grail that is Australia.

### **Fresh Fish** **12 mins**

Dir: Fassih Keiso

Set in New York City and after 11 September 2001, a man and woman meet in a studio, both modeling in a scene for a film. They discover they are husband and wife. Based on Eugene Ionesco's play "The Bald Soprano", it reflects the impact of the new century and its politics on human beings.

### **Camellia** **8 mins**

Dir: Ranya Alkadamani

A personal account of the effects of Israeli aggression in Lebanon in 1982. Fadia Abou Hassoun, the director's aunt, relives the most ugly day in her history.

### **Happy Lap Habibs** **6 mins**

Doing 'happy laps' around Parramatta is what most young people do when they get their licence. This film weaves together short dramas to produce a piece about road safety – from stories of road rage and mobile phone induced accidents, to tales of succumbing to peer pressure and driving without a licence. The film was produced by young people in a work shop for the Motor Accidents Authority, Silent Cells and SWITCH.