

# Intersections Film Festival

October 16, 17 & 18  
2009

An exciting UCCS project is coming to the Front Range in October 2009. It is the inaugural **Intersections Film Festival (IFF)** featuring films from Turkey, Iran, the Arab Middle East and North Africa.

IFF seeks to engage the Colorado Springs and Front Range communities in an exploration of women's lives and experiences both in major urban centers as well as provincial contexts. The films represent a diverse range of issues that document contemporary realities of the Middle East from honor killings to drug addiction and sexual abuse, from sharing intimate stories and frustrations in a beauty parlor to waiting for the return of one's migrant working spouse. Experiences further include the challenges of pursuing one's film studies in a war-torn city and shirking off social conventions of wearing the veil. IFF addresses not only a range of women's experiences in the contemporary Middle East and North Africa but also asks the ways that certain experiences might intersect with our own in the United States.

IFF intends to intersect and engage UCCS with local K-12 educators, other local colleges (Pikes Peak Community College and the Air Force Academy), Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD), and local community organizations. This three day festival (October 16 - 18) will be screened on the UCCS campus in Dwire 121 and at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Audience members will be able to engage with invited filmmakers and producers in Q&A sessions following certain film and documentary screenings.

All screenings will be free and open to the public. We hope that connections made at this festival will prompt dialogue along the Front Range as well as expand an already vibrant fall film festival line-up in Colorado Springs. We are delighted to be working with: **ArteEast** ([www.arteeast.org](http://www.arteeast.org)), a New York-based, international, non-profit organization supporting artists from the Middle East and North Africa; the **Moon and Stars Project** ([www.moonandstarsproject.org](http://www.moonandstarsproject.org)), a non-profit organization promoting Turkish culture and arts; **Fictionville Studio, LLC** ([www.fictionvillestudio.com](http://www.fictionvillestudio.com)), a Brooklyn-based independent film production company; **Arab Flim Distribution** ([www.arabfilm.com](http://www.arabfilm.com)) and **Typecast Films** ([www.typecastfilms.com](http://www.typecastfilms.com)); and **ANS** ([www.ans.com.tr](http://www.ans.com.tr)), director Abdullah Oguz's Istanbul-based production company.

Institution, departments and individuals may contribute to cover expenses on the UCCS campus. Monies will help cover the cost of screening fees, transportation and lodging for guest directors, and publicity.

## **Contributions | UCCS | The Matrix Center for the Advancement of Social Equity and Inclusion**

The Matrix Center is home for the Intersections Film Festival and will collect UCCS contributions and tax deductible gifts. Please make checks payable to: the Matrix Center. For tax deductible gifts make payable to: CU Foundation. Contact Daryl Miller to pay by credit card or to get more information 719 | 255.4764.

## **IFF Program Committee**

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**Robert von Dassanowsky**, UCCS, Dept. Chair of Languages and Cultures and Film Studies  
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**Daryl Miller**, UCCS, The Matrix Center, Program Assistant and IFF Funds Coordinator

**Kate Siebert**, IFF Logistics Coordinator

**Sponsors** | Humanities, Faculty Assembly Women's Committee and Elfi von Dassanowsky Foundation

**Contributors** | LAS Dean's Office, WEST, Chancellor's Office, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Office

**Supporters** | VAPA, Sociology, English, Teaching and Learning Center, History, Philosophy, Languages and Cultures and Film Studies

**IFF**

# IFF PROGRAM

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## Opening night, Friday, October 16th at Dwire 121, UCCS

6 PM | Opening Reception

6:45 | Welcome Statement - Dr. Carole Woodall, IFF Executive Curator

7 PM | Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* (France 2007), 95 minutes, feature film based on the graphic novel by the same name. Satrapi's directorial debut film is the story of a young girl coming of age in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. Awarded Jury Prize at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival, and Academy Award Nominee for Best Animated Feature.

Discussion with Dr. Rashna Singh, Department of English / WEST at UCCS

## Saturday, October 17th at Dwire 121, UCCS

10:30 | Hiba Bassem's *Baghdad Days* (Iraq/UK 2005), 35 minutes, is a diary of the director's move from Kirkuk to Baghdad in order to finish her film studies at the Institute of Fine Arts. The war disrupted her life in Kirkuk where her family lived in harmony with the Kurds. In Baghdad, she struggles along with her classmates to finish her studies in the semi-destroyed city, find a place to live, find a job, and deal with family problems. Winner of a New Horizon Silver Award at the 2006 Al Jazeera International Film Festival in Doha and a Golden Award winner at the 2006 Rotterdam Arab Film Festival.

Discussion with Dr. Aditi Mitra, Department of Sociology/WEST at UCCS

Noon | Yasmine Kassari's *L'enfant Endormi* [*The Sleeping Child*] (Morocco/Belgium 2004), 95 minutes, debut feature film, follows the life of Zeinab as she awaits the return of her migrant worker husband from Europe. While she waits for her husband's return, she lulls to sleep the fetus of her unborn child, a social practice in rural Morocco. Kassari's debut film depicts women's lives, expectations, and wishes. Awarded the 2003 Trophée du 1er Scénario Jeunes Talents CNC/Paris.

3 PM | Abdullah Oğuz's *Mutluluk* [*Bliss*] (Turkey/Greece 2007) 126 minutes, feature film based on Zülfü Livaneli's international bestseller tackles the subject of honor killing. When 17-year-old Meryem's family finds her half-baked body by a lake, they conclude that she gave up her virginity. Her relative, Cemal, who recently returned from military service is assigned the duty of killing her. While Cemal and Meryem begin a journey which will ultimately result in Meryem's death, they encounter Irfan Kurdal, a wealthy college professor. The film has received numerous accolades including 2008 Best of Festival at the Napa Sonoma Wine Country Festival and 2007 Best National Film at the International Istanbul Film Festival.

Discussion with Dr. Şölen Şanlı, Department of Sociology at Metro State

6 PM | Hamid Rahmanian's *The Glass House* (USA/Iran 2008), 92 minutes, documentary feature, provides an insight into a group of discarded teenage girls as they attend the Omid e Mehr Center (Center for Girls) in uptown Tehran. The center provides them with a sense of empowerment as they struggle to overcome sexual abuse, drug addiction, abandonment, and anger. Awarded Official Selection at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival.

Q&A with director, Hamid Rahmanian, and producer, Melissa Hibbard, Fictionville Studio

## Sunday, October 18th at The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

4:30 | **Rana's Wedding** (Israel/Palestine 2002), 90 minutes. Shooting on location in East Jerusalem, Ramallah and at checkpoints in-between, Palestinian director **Hany Abu-Assad** sees the Palestinian-Israeli conflict through the eyes of a young woman who, with only ten hours to marry, must negotiate her way around roadblocks, soldiers, stone-throwers, overworked officials ... and into the heart of an elusive lover. Winner of the Best Actress award at the 2002 Marrakesh International Film Festival and premiered at the 2002 International Critic's Week at Cannes. **Screening will take place in Music Room.**

Discussion with Dr. Livia Alexander, Executive Director, ArteEast

6:30 | Closing Reception in the Fine Arts Center lobby.

7:30 | Nadine Labaki's *Caramel* (Lebanon/France 2007), 95 minutes, feature film concludes the festival. A beauty salon in Beirut, Lebanon provides the meeting place for a charmingly intimate look at the lives of five women. Awarded an Official Selection at the Cannes Film Festival Director's Fortnight and an Official Selection at the Toronto Film Festival. **Screening will take place in the Upper Gallery.**