

get married, she will never be allowed back to her family in the Golan Heights.

**Walk on Water** (DVD-foreign-HEB-W)

Eytan Fox, Director, Israel, 2004

An Israeli agent is assigned to track and kill an old ex-Nazi officer who might still be alive. Pretending to be a tourist guide, he befriends the Nazi's grandson and sister. The two men set out on a tour of the country during which, the grandson challenges the agent's values.

**Beaufort** (DVD-foreign-HEB-B)

Joseph Cedar, Director, Israel, 2008

Beaufort is the story of a young outpost commander and his troops in the months before Israel pulled out of Lebanon. This is not a story of war, but of retreat. It's a story with no enemy, only an amorphous entity that drops bombs from the skies. Beaufort witnesses the collapse of all he's been taught as an officer, and his soldiers' mental and physical disintegration.

**Waltz with Bashir (Vals Im Bashir)**

Ari Folman, Director, Israel, 2008

Filmmaker Ari Folman, an Israeli veteran, encounters an old friend suffering from nightmares of war. He reconnects with other old friends to fill in his memory gaps from the First Lebanon War.

**Newland (Erets hadashah)** (DVD-foreign-HEB-N)

Orna Ben-Dor Niv, Director, Israel, 1994

A brother and sister arrive alone in the new country of Israel after World War II where they hope to find their lost mother. The complexities of life in the refugee transit camp and nearby kibbutz make it hard to reconcile their real lives with their dream of still finding the Newland.

**Nina's Tragedies (Ha-Asonot Shel Nina)** (DVD-foreign-HEB-N)

Savi Gabizon, Director, Israel, 2003

Award-winning writer/director Savi Gabizon's looks at a young teenager's coming-of-age and his attraction to his beautiful, but emotionally fragile Aunt Nina.

**Broken Wings (Knafayim shvurot)** (DVD-foreign-HEB-B)

Nir Bergma, Director, Israel, 2002

An Israeli widow wrestles with her own grief and that of her four children while working two jobs to keep their family together. The winner of 9 Israeli Film Academy awards.

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# COMMON GROUND: Movies from the Middle East

**Russell Library**  
Middletown, Connecticut

## Films in Arabic

### **Ali Zaoua, Prince de la Rue** (DVD-foreign-ARA-A)

Nabil Ayouch, Director, Morocco, 2007

A group of street urchins living in a ghetto in Casablanca, create a bond of friendship and family in order to survive. One is senselessly killed by a single act of gang violence. The friends decide to bury him on a private island that he loved. Ali Zaoua captures the power of dreams and presence of hope in the harshest of circumstances.

### **The Band's Visit (Bikur ha-Tizmoret)**

(DVD-foreign-ARA-B)

Eran Kolirin, Director, Israel, 2007

The Alexandria Ceremonial Police Orchestra arrives in Israel from Egypt for a cultural event, but there is no one there to meet them. The band must make its own way to their destination. What follows is a special night of quiet happenings and confessions as the band and the town interact.

### **Making of le Dernier Film** (DVD-foreign-ARA-M)

Nouri Bouzid, Director, Tunisia, 2006

A Tunisian breakdancer falls in with fundamentalists with plans to turn the young man into a suicide bomber.

### **Paradise Now** (DVD-foreign-ARA-P)

Hany Abu-Assad, Director, Occ. Palestinian Terr., 2005

The story places two close friends, recruited by an extremist group to perpetrate a suicide attack in Tel-Aviv. However, things go wrong and both friends must separate at the border. One of them wants to carry out the attack, and the other has doubts about it.

### **Under the Bombs (Sous les bombes)**

(DVD-foreign-ARA-U)

Philippe Aractingi, Director, Lebanon, 2007

During a cease-fire in the Lebanon-Israel conflict of 2006, Tony, a Christian taxi-driver, and Zeina, a Shiite woman from Beirut, search the war torn towns for Zeina's son. Despite their very different backgrounds, the two travelers develop a deep bond as a response to the death surrounding them.

### **Le Grand Voyage** (DVD-foreign-ARA-G)

Ismael Ferroukhi, Morocco, 2004

A son reluctantly accompanies his father on a pilgrimage to Mecca. They trek across Europe in a broken-down

car and both arrive in Mecca much changed by the journey. Avoiding the hackneyed theme of the return to the homeland, the film uses the journey to renew a connection between the two generations.

## Films from Iran

### **Children of Heaven (Bacheha-Ye aseman)**

(DVD-foreign-FAR-C)

Majid Majidi, Director, Iran, 1997

This movie is a poignant story of a young boy trying to replace his sister's newly repaired pink shoes. It is Iran's first well deserved Oscar contender. For children and adults.

### **Fireworks Wednesday (Chaharshanbe-soori)**

(DVD-foreign-FAR-F)

Asghar Farhadi, Director, Iran, 2006

On the last Wednesday before the Persian New Year, people set off fireworks following an ancient Zoroastrian tradition. Rouhi, spending her first day at a new job, finds herself in the midst of a different kind of fireworks -- a domestic dispute between her new boss and his wife

### **Offside** (DVD-foreign-FAR-O)

Jafar Panahi, Director, Iran, 2006

"Offside" is about a group of Iranian girls who attempt to enter Tehran's Azadi Stadium dressed as boys in order to watch a big football match. Unfortunately, some get caught and arrested. After the establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran, women are not allowed to enter the stadiums.

### **Close Up (Nema-ye nazdik)** (DVD-foreign-FAR-C)

Abbas Kiarostami, Director, Iran, 1990

This is a true story about Hossein Sabzian, an unemployed movie buff, who finds himself mistaken for the enigmatic director Mohsen Makhmalbaf. The misunderstanding takes on a life of its own and Sabzian ends up in jail.

### **The Day I Became a Woman (Roози keh zan shodam)**

Marziyeh Meshkini, Director, Iran, 2000

(DVD-foreign-FAR-D)

This film portrays three women at three stages of life in Iran; a nine-year-old girl told she can no longer play with boys because she is now a "woman", a woman who enters

a bicycle race against her husband's wishes, and an old woman who gains money with which she can do anything.

### **Color of Paradise (Rang-e khoda)**

(DVD-foreign-PER-C)

Majid Majidi, Director, Iran, 1999

A son returns to his village on vacation from the Institute for the Blind unaware of his father's intentions to disown him. Engaged to be married, the widowed man has kept his son a secret, certain the boy's disability would destroy his only chance for future happiness. As his father struggles against his destiny, he is unable to see the wonder of life and love that's so clear to his son.

### **The Circle (Dayereh)** (DVD-foreign-PER-C)

Jafar Panahi, Director, Iran, 2000

This film offers insights into the lives of women in Iran. As the narrative dynamically shifts from woman to woman, their stories culminate with tremendous potency, transforming a shared sense of despair and injustice into one of kinship and even hope.

### **Taste of Cherry (Tam e guilass)** (DVD-foreign-PER-T)

Abbas Kiarostami, Director, Iran, 1997

Mr. Badii, ceaselessly driving through the red-brown hills around Tehran in search of assistance in his suicide, receives a viewpoint on life from each of the men he asks for help.

## Films from Israel

### **Turn Left at the End of the World (Sof Ha'Olam Smola)**

(DVD-foreign-HEB-T)

Avi Nesher, Israel, 2004

A tiny Israeli village in the Negev Desert is home to Jews from Morocco and India. They have poverty in common and little else. Two families will be brought together by the unlikely friendship of daughters. The women's youth and lust for freedom overcome cultural prejudices. For this community and these two friends, the road to harmony is full of twists and turns.

### **The Syrian Bride (ha-Kalah ha-Surit)**

(DVD-foreign-ARA-S)

Eran Riklis, Director, Israel, 2004

Mona's wedding day may be the saddest day of her life. Once she crosses the border between Israel and Syria to