

Mizna **مزنه**  
PRESENTS

# ARAB FILM FEST

مهرجان الفيلم العربي

## 2018 TOUR

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MIZNA ARAB FILM FEST 2018 TOUR St. Paul & St. Cloud Colleges and the Neighborhoods They Call Home

Now approaching its 13th edition, the **Twin Cities Arab Film Festival** is breaking out for a special “**best of the fest**” tour to five Saint Paul campuses and culminating in a mini-film fest at St. John’s University. Presented by the local Arab American arts organization **Mizna** this tour will feature Arab or Arab American films at each location, often accompanied by post-screening discussions or other programs and guests. All students, neighborhood residents, and Minnesotans are welcome to engage with these authentic narratives by contemporary Arab filmmakers. Deepening connections across community and campus, these screenings will be held at **Macalester, Concordia, Hamline, St. Kate’s, Metro State, St. Ben and St. John’s**. Mizna is working with these colleges and their surrounding community organizations to engage students as well as a broader community,

Anti-Muslim, anti-Arab, and anti-immigrant sentiments are nothing new, but at this political and cultural moment, they have reached a dangerous fever pitch. How do we work against this hateful rhetoric? Film has the power to connect people to one another’s stories and generate empathy in a powerful way. Mizna’s ARAB FILM FEST: is a rare critical and creative context for learning and discussion about people groups very much under the spotlight today, and together reflecting on current issues like xenophobia and Islamophobia that we’re increasingly facing here as well as nationally and world-wide.

This event is for any and all who are curious about Arab/Arab American/Muslim experiences—all are welcome! Mizna is very interested in connecting with local organizations and organizers to bring out a diverse audience. For partnerships or general questions, contact Project Manager Jordan Lee Thompson at [jordan@mizna.org](mailto:jordan@mizna.org).

## SCREENINGS IN SAINT PAUL

- > **Jan 26, 7pm at Macalester College**, James B. Davis Hall  
[THOSE WHO REMAIN](#) LEBANON, UAE / Directed by Eliane Raheb / Documentary / 95 min / 2017 / Arabic with English subtitles / Best Documentary Feature (Arab Film Fest 2017)  
Those Who Remain follows a 60-year old Christian farmer's struggle to stay on his land amidst sectarian tensions, fear, and hopelessness.
  
- > **Feb 8, 7pm at Concordia University**, Beutow Memorial Music Center  
[TRAMONTANE](#) LEBANON, FRANCE, QATAR, UAE / Directed by Vatche Boulghourjian / Drama / 105 min / Arabic with English subtitles  
Rabih, a blind musician, travels across rural Lebanon in search of a record of his own birth, encountering the complex and conflicted situation of Lebanon itself.
  
- > **Feb 23, 7pm at Hamline University**, Sundin Hall  
[AS I OPEN MY EYES](#) TUNISIA, FRANCE, UAE / Directed by Leyla Bouzid / Drama / 102 min / 2015 / Arabic, French with English subtitles / Best Narrative Feature (Arab Film Fest 2016)  
A look at Tunisian youth on the eve of the Jasmine Revolution and an alternative representation of political change during the "Arab Spring."
  
- > **Mar 9, 7pm at St. Catherine University & Wisdom Ways**, Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium  
[MARIAM](#) SAUDI ARABIA, FRANCE / Directed by Faiza Ambah / Drama / 43 min / 2015 / French with English subtitles / Best Narrative Short (Arab Film Fest 2016) and Audience Award Best Narrative Short (Arab Film Fest 2016)  
When France bans religious symbols from public schools, a French Muslim teenager must choose between her hijab and going to class.
  
- > **Mar 23, 7pm at Metro State**, Film Space  
[THE PREACHER \(MAWLANA\)](#) EGYPT / Directed by Magdy Ahmed Ali / Drama / 120 min / 2016 / Arabic with English subtitles / Audience Award Best Narrative Feature (Arab Film Fest 2017)  
An Egyptian box office hit which tackles the complex relationship between Muslim clerics and government. The MN premiere at the 2017 festival was sold out.

## SCREENINGS AT ST. BEN/ST. JOHN'S

On April 14-15, the tour will culminate in a 6-screening mini-festival at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University in the Pellegrine Auditorium:

### APRIL 14

- > **2pm** [THE WANTED 18](#) PALESTINE, FRANCE, CANADA / Directed by Amer Shomali / Documentary / 75 min / 2015 / English, Arabic, and Hebrew with English subtitles / Audience Award Best Documentary Feature (Arab Film Fest 2015)  
A small Palestinian village bought 18 cows and stopped buying Israeli milk. The Israeli army took note, declaring the farm an illegal security threat and forcing the dairy underground.
  
- > **5pm** Short experimental films USA / Directed by Andrea Shaker (CSB/SJU professor)
  
- > **7:30pm** [AS I OPEN MY EYES](#) TUNISIA, FRANCE, UAE / Directed by Leyla Bouzid / Drama / 102 min / 2015 / Arabic, French with English subtitles / Best Narrative Feature (Arab Film Fest 2016)  
A look at Tunisian youth on the eve of the Jasmine Revolution and an alternative representation of political change during the "Arab Spring."

## APRIL 15

> **12pm** [A MAN IN OUR HOUSE](#) EGYPT / Directed by Henry Barakat / Drama / 159 min / 1961 / Arabic with English subtitles

In British occupied Egypt, Ibrahim (Omar Sharif), a member of the resistance, seeks refuge in the house of a politically passive family after killing the prime minister for his acts of treason.

> **3pm** [MARIAM](#) SAUDI ARABIA, FRANCE / Directed by Faiza Ambah / Drama / 43 min / 2015 / French with English subtitles / Best Narrative Short (Arab Film Fest 2016) and Audience Award Best Narrative Short (Arab Film Fest 2016)

When France bans religious symbols from public schools, a French Muslim teenager must choose between her hijab and going to class.

> **6pm** [DETROIT UNLEADED](#) USA / Directed by Rola Nashef / Comedy / 93 min / 2012 / English, Arabic with English subtitles

A fresh take on boy-meets-girl comedy set in a Detroit grocery store. Director Rola Nashef will be present for a Q&A after the screening.

## TICKETS AND PASSES

Tickets are \$10 each or \$6 for seniors/low-income. Separate passes are available for all five St. Paul screenings (\$30) and all St. Ben/St. John's screenings (\$30). All screenings are free for students, available at the door. Tickets and passes for all St. Paul screenings are available [here](#). Tickets and passes for St. Ben/St. John's screenings are available [here](#).

Supported by the Knight Foundation's St. Paul Arts Challenge and the Minnesota State Arts Board.

The Arab Film Fest team are available for interviews. We will be updating our social medias and website with screening information in early 2018.

Images from the 12th Twin Cities Arab Film Festival. Click on the photos to get to full-size, downloadable versions. More photos can be viewed and downloaded on our [Flickr Album](#) for more photos from the 2017 Arab Film Fest.





**About Mizna:** Mizna is a local Arab arts organization that has excelled for the past 18 years in diversifying the Twin Cities' artistic and intellectual life, weaving necessary voices and stories into our collective public sphere. With our signature literary journal (*Mizna: Prose, Poetry, and Art Exploring Arab America*), the Twin Cities Arab Film Festival, and other arts programming, we are a nationally recognized platform for contemporary Arab American expression and its place in the American experience.

Mizna: <http://mizna.org/>

St Paul Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40992573892>

CSB/SJU Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/41187282270>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mizna.ArabArt>

Twitter and Instagram: @Mizna\_ArabArt

**About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation:** Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy.

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