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Academy  
of  
Music

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# News Release

**BAMcinématek presents *Muslim Voices: Film*,  
June 6–14**

**Part of *Muslim Voices: Arts & Ideas*, a ten-day arts festival  
celebrating the extraordinary range of artistic expression  
throughout the Muslim World**

**Includes New York premiere of Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi's *I Bring What I Love*  
(2008), a documentary on Youssou N'Dour—in BAM's Howard Gilman Opera  
House, June 6**

**New York premiere of *Journey to Mecca: In the Footsteps of Ibn Battuta* (2009), the  
IMAX film by Bruce Neibaur, at the American Museum of Natural History's  
LeFrak Theater, June 10**

***Muslim Voices: Film* is part of *Diverse Voices at BAM* presented by Time Warner,  
Inc.**

BAM Rose Cinemas (30 Lafayette Ave.)  
Tickets: \$11 per screening for adults; \$8 for seniors 65 and over,  
children under twelve, and \$8 for students 25 and under with valid I.D.  
Monday–Thursday, except holidays; \$7 BAM Cinema Club members  
Tickets available by phone at 718.777.FILM  
Call 718.636.4100 or visit BAM.org

**Brooklyn, April 24, 2009**—From June 6–14 BAMcinématek, the repertory film program at  
BAM Rose Cinemas, presents *Muslim Voices: Film*, part of the city-wide *Muslim Voices: Arts  
& Ideas* festival (June 5–14). *Muslim Voices: Film* features a selection of international films that  
celebrate and explore the cultural diversity and multiple perspectives that represent the Muslim  
world. The program is co-curated by Peter Scarlet and Katayoun Beglari-Scarlet. *Muslim  
Voices: Arts & Ideas* is co-produced by Asia Society, BAM, and New York University Center  
for Dialogues.

**BAM**Rose Cinemas

*More...*

In addition to eleven films from countries including Tunisia, Turkey, Morocco, Syria, Iran, and Palestine, *Muslim Voices: Film* also includes the New York premiere of *I Bring What I Love* (2008)—a portrait of Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour and his work on the Grammy Award-winning album *Egypt*. Directed by Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, the film screens on June 6 in BAM's Howard Gilman Opera House and will be followed by a brief concert appearance from N'Dour and his band The Super Etoile.

On June 10 a special screening of the IMAX film *Journey to Mecca: In the Footsteps of Ibn Battuta* (2009), directed by Bruce Neibaur and narrated by Ben Kingsley, will take place at American Museum of Natural History's LeFrak Theater. The screening marks its New York premiere.

### **Muslim Voices: Film schedule**

All prints are in 35mm unless otherwise noted. All screenings take place at BAM Rose Cinemas unless otherwise noted.

Monday, June 8 at 4:30, 6:50, 9:15pm

***Making Of (Akher film)*** (2006), 120min, *Tunisia*, in Arabic with English subtitles

Directed by Nouri Bouzid

With Lotfi Ebdelli

Twenty-five-year-old Bahta leads a group of break-dancers in Tunisia, but when the Iraq War begins in 2003, he falls in with a group of militants who try to take him down a destructive path. *Making Of* won awards for best actor and screenplay at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Tuesday, June 9 at 4:30, 6:50, 9:15pm

***Love for Share (Berbagi Suami)*** (2006), 119min, *Indonesia*, in Bahasa Indonesian with English subtitles

Directed by Nia Dinata

With Shanty

Up-and-coming director Nia Dinata addresses the tradition and injustices of polygamy in Indonesia today. By interweaving the stories of three different women, each of whom has developed her own personal response to the practice, Dinata creates a compelling and sometimes humorous portrait of a complex social practice.

Wednesday, June 10 at 4:30, 6:50, 9:15pm

***Le Grand Voyage*** (2004), 108min, *Morocco*, in French and Arabic with English subtitles

Directed by Ismaël Ferroukhi

With Nicolas Cazalé, Mohamed Majd

"The film is timely as a comment on the East-West divide, and as a portrait of filial duty and reconciliation, it's very touching." —[The Independent \(U.K.\)](#)

Mustapha, an elderly Moroccan who has lived in France for many years, decides that it is finally time for him to make the pilgrimage to Mecca, with his youngest son, whose habits couldn't be further from the traditional ones of his father. As they make the long trip—across no fewer than seven countries—the two clash as well as gain unexpected insights into one another and Islam in this offbeat road movie.

Thursday, June 11 at 7pm

***Land for a Stranger (Turab al-Ghuraba')*** (1998), 150min, *Syria*, in Arabic with English subtitles

Directed by Samir Zikra

With Bassam Kousa

*Land for a Stranger* is a depiction of the twilight years of Abdel-Rahman al-Kawakibi (1852—1902), a leading intellectual in the late Ottoman world and author of [Characteristics of Tyranny](#), an outspoken critique of the emerging fundamentalism of his time. Exiled in his day for his calls for democratic and egalitarian political reforms, his work is now considered among the cornerstones of modern Arab political and philosophical writing.

Friday, June 12 at 2, 6:50pm

***Takva—A Man's Fear of God*** (2006), 97min, Turkey, in Turkish with English subtitles

Directed by Özer Kiziltan

With Erkan Can

“A richly textured, thoughtful exploration of the hypocrisies inherent when fundamentalists engage in commercial ventures, *Takva—A Man's Fear of God* reps a strong new voice in Turkish cinema.” —[Variety](#)

The basic goodness of Muharrem, a 45-year-old single man living in Istanbul, earns him new duties with the leader of the religious group he serves so selflessly. But he soon gets involved in the sect's hidden agenda, as traditional and modern aspects of Islam collide in this exploration of the temptations and struggles of a man trying to live by ancient religious precepts in an increasingly globalized world.

Friday, June 12 at 4:30, 9:15pm

***Satin Rouge*** (2002), 100min, France/Tunisia, in Arabic and French with English subtitles

Directed by Raja Amari

With Hiam Abbass

“The movie rides on Ms. Abbass's serenely confident performance.”—[The New York Times](#)

Lilia is a widowed seamstress who, after a visit to her daughter's belly-dancing class, is unexpectedly introduced to a new world in which she rediscovers herself.

Preceded by the short film *If I Wasn't Muslim* (2004), 6min, Bosnia, in English, digital projection

Directed by Damir Niksic

A film about a Bosnian man who sings a humorous song about being the only Muslim in a predominantly Christian country.

Saturday, June 13 at 6pm

***Leila*** (1996), 102min, Iran, in Farsi with English subtitles

Directed by Dariush Mehrjui

With Leila Hatami, Ali Mosaffa

“The film, in its resolution, invokes *A Doll's House*, which Mehrjui once adapted for the screen, and it also recalls, in a less layered and lyrical mode, Satyajit Ray's films about women and the strictures of class and tradition, particularly his *Home and the World*. It's a quiet heartbreaker.” —[New York Magazine](#)

This key work by one of Iran's leading directors is a gripping portrayal of the conflict between modernity and tradition in Iran. Leila and Reza are happy young newlyweds who seem to have everything. But when the bride learns she is infertile, her mother-in-law begins an all-out campaign to convince her that Reza should take a second wife, as permitted by Islamic law.

Saturday, June 13 at 3, 9pm

***Heart of Jenin (Das Herz von Jenin)*** (2008), 89min, Germany/Israel/Palestine, in Arabic, Hebrew, and English with English subtitles, digital projection

Directed by Leon Geller and Marcus Vetter

After Ahmed Khatib, a twelve-year-old Palestinian boy, was accidentally shot and killed by an Israeli soldier, his parents decided to donate as many of his organs as possible to Israeli children in need, including an Orthodox Jew, a Bedouin, and a Druze. This deeply moving documentary charts the emotional journeys taken by the boy's parents and the Israeli children who are alive today because of their extraordinary gift

Sunday, June 14 at 2, 8pm

***Destiny (al-Massir)*** (1997), 135min, *Egypt*, in French and Arabic with English subtitles

Directed by Youssef Chahine

With Nour El-Sharif, Laila Eloui

“Had Cecil B. DeMille larded musical comedy numbers into one of his quasi-religious epics, the movie might well have resembled *Destiny*, the Egyptian film maker Youssef Chahine’s rip-roaring entertainment about the struggle for survival of free speech, literacy and rationalism in 12th-century Spain.” —[The New York Times](#)

*Destiny* relates the life story of Averroës, the 12th century Andalusian philosopher best-known for his commentaries on Aristotle and for his insistence that reason and faith are not incompatible. Youssef Chahine, one of Egypt’s most iconoclastic filmmakers, brings Averroës’ story to life in this complex and exuberantly contradictory film, punctuated by extravagant musical numbers.

Sunday, June 14 at 5pm

***The Frontier Gandhi: Badshah Khan, A Torch for Peace*** (2008), 92min, *Afghanistan/India/Pakistan/U.S.*, in English, Urdu, Dari, Pashto, and Hindi with English subtitles, digital projection

Directed by T.C. McLuhan

This dramatic documentary tells the tale of Muslim peacemaker Badshah Khan—born into Pashtun warrior society—who managed to raise a nonviolent army of 100,000 men, women, and youngsters as he struggled for India’s independence alongside Gandhi. Shot in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, this film includes rare historical footage, candid interviews from world leaders, and a score by world music pioneer David Amram. *The Frontier Gandhi: Badshah Khan, A Torch for Peace* is a co-production of the US and Canada.

**Screening in BAM Howard Gilman Opera House:**

Saturday, June 6 at 8pm\*

***I Bring What I Love*** (2008), 102min, *Egypt/France/Senegal*, U.S., in Arabic, English, French, and Wolof with English subtitles, **New York Premiere**

Directed by Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House

Tickets: \$20, 30, 40

*Muslim Voices: Arts & Ideas* presents the New York premiere of *I Bring What I Love*. This film is a portrait of Youssou N’Dour and the making of his Grammy Award-winning album [Egypt](#)—his extraordinary testament to his Muslim faith and an impassioned plea for a more tolerant view of Islam. Directed by Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, this film profiles N’Dour with candid insight while providing a timely look at the complex place of music in Islam. *I Bring What I Love* received the Special Jury Prize at the 2008 Middle East International Film Festival.

**\*The screening will be followed by a brief concert appearance by Youssou N’Dour and his band The Super Etoile.**

**IMAX Screening at American Museum of Natural History's LeFrak Theater:**

Wednesday, June 10 at 7pm

Co-presented by BAM and the American Museum of Natural History

*Journey to Mecca: In the Footsteps of Ibn Battuta* (2009), 45min, *Canada/Morocco/Saudi Arabia/U.S.*, in English, **IMAX, New York premiere**

Directed by Bruce Neibaur

Narrated by Ben Kingsley

LeFrak Theater

American Museum of Natural History

\$13.50, 17

“Journey to Mecca succeeds best in capturing the wonder, pageantry and beauty that are the hallmarks of any religion’s central celebration. Though it is arguably impossible to catch an image of the Almighty on film, this doc comes as close as any.” —[The National Post](#) (Canada)

Five days a year, three million Muslims pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca—fulfilling the fifth pillar of Islam known as the Hajj. Shot in IMAX, *Journey to Mecca* is the adventure story of a young man named Ibn Battuta and his epic and perilous journey in 1325 from Morocco to the sacred city. As the camera soars over vast Sahara sands, alongside caravans stretching to the horizon, and enters the Grand Mosque itself, viewers are able to witness the spectacular pageant of devotion and one of the longest running gatherings of people on earth.

**Muslim Voices: Arts & Ideas**

*Muslim Voices: Arts & Ideas* is an unprecedented ten-day festival and conference taking place June 5–14, 2009 throughout New York City. It is presented by Asia Society, BAM, and NYU Center for Dialogues. The festival features more than 100 artists and speakers from as far away as Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and as near as Brooklyn for performances, films, exhibitions, talks, and other events, ranging from the traditional (calligraphy, storytelling, and Sufi devotional voices) to the contemporary (video installations and Arabic hip-hop). Festival presentations and programs aim to present multiple perspectives from the Muslim world. In addition to the mainstage offerings and complementary education and humanities events from Asia Society, BAM, and NYU Center for Dialogues, programs associated with the *Muslim Voices: Arts & Ideas* festival will take place at locations including: Austrian Cultural Forum New York, Brooklyn Museum, MoCADA (Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts), The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and The New York Public Library. More information can be found at [www.MuslimVoicesFestival.org](http://www.MuslimVoicesFestival.org).

**BAMcinématek**

BAM Rose Cinemas “offers one of the most civilized movie-going experiences in the city”  
—[The New York Times](#)

The four-screen BAM Rose Cinemas (BRC) opened in 1998 to offer Brooklyn audiences alternative and independent films that might not play in the borough otherwise, making BAM the only performing arts center in the country with two mainstage theaters and a multiplex cinema. In July of 1999, beginning with a series celebrating the work of Spike Lee, BAMcinématek was born as Brooklyn's only daily year-round repertory film program. BAMcinématek presents new and rarely seen contemporary films, classics from cinema history, work by local artists, and festivals of films from around the world, often with special appearances by directors, actors, and other guests.

Entering its 10<sup>th</sup> year, BAMcinématek has not only presented major retrospectives by well-known filmmakers such as Michelangelo Antonioni, Shohei Imamura, Manoel de Oliveira, and Luchino Visconti, but it has also introduced New York audiences to contemporary artists such as Pedro Costa and Apichatpong Weerasethakul. In addition BAMcinématek programmed the first U.S. retrospective of directors Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Arnaud Desplechin, and Hong Sang-soo. Recently BAMcinématek co-curated a three year summer collaboration of new feature/documentary/short films with the Sundance Institute, 2006–2008.

BAMcinématek launches BAMcinemaFEST, June 17–July 2, a sixteen-day festival of new independent films and repertory favorites. — [indieWIRE](#) on BAMcinemaFEST:

[http://www.indiewire.com/article/nyc\\_to\\_welcome\\_bamcinemafest\\_with\\_june\\_debut/](http://www.indiewire.com/article/nyc_to_welcome_bamcinemafest_with_june_debut/)

**For press information on *Muslim Voices: Film*, please contact Molly Gross at 718.636.4129 x3 or [mgross@bam.org](mailto:mgross@bam.org)**

**For press information on *Muslim Voices*, please contact Fatima Kafele at 718.636.4129 x4 or [press@muslimvoices.org](mailto:press@muslimvoices.org)**

**More information can be found at [www.MuslimVoicesFestival.org](http://www.MuslimVoicesFestival.org).**

#### Credits

*Muslim Voices: Film* is part of *Diverse Voices at BAM* presented by Time Warner, Inc.

Additional support for *Muslim Voices: Film* is provided by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

Support for the presentation of *Journey to Mecca* is provided by Cosmic Picture.

Asia Society, BAM, and NYU Center for Dialogues are the partners for *Muslim Voices: Arts & Ideas*.

*Muslim Voices: Arts & Ideas* supporting partners are Austrian Cultural Forum, Brooklyn Museum, Metropolitan Museum, Museum for African Art, Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Art (MoCADA), New York Public Library, European Union National Institutes of Culture (EUNIC).

WNET is the media partner for *Muslim Voices: Arts & Ideas*.

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Leadership support for BAMcinématek is provided by The Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust.

BAM Rose Cinemas are named in recognition of a major gift in honor of Jonathan F.P. and Diana Calthorpe Rose. BAM Rose Cinemas would also like to acknowledge the generous support of The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, The Estate of Richard B. Fisher, Jim & Mary Ottaway, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Delegation of the New York City Council, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, Bloomberg, and Time Warner Inc. Additional support for BAMcinématek is provided by The Cultural Heritage Preservation Fund, The Grodzins Fund, and The Liman Foundation.

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General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, BAMcafé, and Brownstone Books at BAM are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, is open for dining prior to Howard Gilman Opera House performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a special BAMcafé Live menu available starting at 8pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue;  
D, M, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue  
Train: Long Island Railroad to Flatbush Avenue  
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM  
Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket and BAMbus information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit [BAM.org](http://BAM.org).

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