

TICKETS
 \$30 Opening Night | \$18 / \$12 for other sessions
 \$99 / \$69 Marathon Package (over 20% discount for any six sessions Friday 3 – Sunday 5 July)
 Marathon Package provides tickets to all sessions excluding opening night, and can only be purchased by phone or in person.
BOOKINGS
 8839 3399 | www.riversideparramatta.com.au

THURSDAY 2 JULY | 8pm | Opening Night film and party
 FRIDAY 3 JULY | 8pm
 SATURDAY 4 JULY | 2pm, 5pm, 8pm
 SUNDAY 5 JULY | 2pm, 5pm, 8pm

ARAB FILM FESTIVAL AUSTRALIA
 مهرجان الأفلام العربية
 2 – 5 JULY 2009
 RIVERSIDE THEATRES PARRAMATTA
 (CNR CHURCH AND MARKET STREETS)

Yallah!
 Let's go to the movies.
 A diverse, complex and wonderful world of Arab stories, documentaries, animation and forums.
 www.arabfilmfestival.com.au

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THURSDAY 2 JULY | 8pm
Opening Night Film and Party

Australian Premiere
Captain Abu Raed
 Jordan | 2007 | 95 mins | Dir: Amin Mataiqa
 Winner of the Audience Award at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival, this crowd-pleasing Jordanian feature film is a gentle yet hard-hitting drama set in Amman, Jordan. Abu Raed is a lonely and generous man who works as a janitor at Amman airport. He is mistaken by the kids in his neighbourhood as a captain and he plays along. He begins to weave elaborate stories for the wide-eyed children.

SATURDAY 4 JULY | 5pm
Iraq – past, present and future

Australian Premiere
Life After The Fall
 Iraq | 2008 | 100 min | Dir: Kasim Abid
 Beyond the fall of the regime, this film takes us on a journey into the lives of a Baghdad family. Told chronologically, it juxtaposes the rhythms and concerns of everyday life with events of historical importance. From hope to a growing sense of despair, the situation chaotic and fragmented. Golden Hawk Prize, Arab Film Festival, Rotterdam, 2008
 Plus two shorts: *Personal Calendar* + *Mesopotamia*.

SUNDAY 5 JULY | 5pm
A tribute to Youssef Chahine: auteur of post-war Arab cinema

Bab al Hadid / Cairo Station
 Egypt | 1958 | 76 min | Dir: Youssef Chahine
Bab al Hadid tells the story of Qinawi (played by Chahine), a disabled newspaper seller who works at Cairo's bustling main railway station. Drawn to the beautiful Hanuma (Hind Rustum), Qinawi's obsessive desire ultimately leads to tragic consequences. Considered Chahine's masterpiece, this gritty neo-realist drama is a powerful social commentary on sexuality, repression and violence in the margins of Cairo. Golden Bear nomination, Berlin Film Festival, 1958

FRIDAY 3 JULY | 8pm
Lebanon's Underbelly

Australian Premiere
Beirut Open City
 Lebanon | 2008 | 100 mins | Dir: Samir Habchi
 An American flag flies at the head of a convoy of five identical jeeps heading straight for the city. At the rear, there is a man brandishing a heavy machine gun. A camera captures the scene... A feature action-drama set at the height of the Syrian presence in Lebanon and an insight into Beirut's underbelly. Director Samir Habchi will present his film followed by Q&A.
 Proudly flown by ETIHAD

SATURDAY 4 JULY | 8pm
Algerian comedy night

Australian Premiere
Paloma Delight
 Algeria | 2007 | 134 min | Dir: Nadir Mokneche
 Need a building permit? Feeling lonely tonight? Call the national benefactress, Madame Aldjeria — she'll sort it out. When it comes to surviving in today's Algeria, no scam is too daunting for Madame Aldjeria.
 Best Foreign Film, Lumiere Award, France, 2008

SUNDAY 5 JULY | 8pm
A touching tale from Egypt

Australian Premiere
Ein Shams / Eye of the Sun
 Egypt | 2008 | 90 min | Dir: Ibrahim El Batout
 Shams is a playful, inquisitive 11-year-old, who dreams of travelling to downtown Cairo. Her teacher, Fatma, pours scorn on the idea, and her father, the beleaguered taxi driver and part-time chauffeur Ramadan to shady businessman Selim Bey (Boutros Boutros-Ghali), has no time to indulge his daughter. El-Batout's poignant tale journeys through modern day Egypt, weaving a mosaic of images and sounds.

SATURDAY 4 JULY | 2pm
Makhlouta: Celebrating the talents of Arab filmmakers from around the world.

Join us for an eclectic mix of shorts, video clips, creative documentaries and animation including: *Ashura: Blood and Beauty* (Lebanon); *A Boy, a Wall, a Donkey* (Palestine); *At Days End* (Egypt); *Ya Saydaty* (Palestine); *From Ya to Alef* (Palestine); *Funky Arab* (Lebanon); *Garbage* (Tunisia); *Her Man* (Egypt); *It Snows in Marrakech* (Morocco); *Naked Human* (Kuwait); *Personal Calendar* (Iraq); *Phatwa* (Iraq/Canada); *The View* (Palestine); *Valley of the Sun* (Australia).

SUNDAY 5 JULY | 2pm
Dreaming of 1001 rights
 Films and forum that explore social justice, artistic expression and cultural activism

World Premier and Launch
Huriyya and Her Sisters
 Australia | 2009 | 8 mins |
 Dir: Young Muslim women mentored by Paula Abood
 Khadija finds solace in the spiritual beauty of the moving word. Mariam discovers wisdom in the most fantastical of places. Assia wants to stop bombs falling on children. A short animation produced by Bankstown Area Multicultural Network Inc (BAMN) and created by young women from Western Sydney.

Australian Premiere
The Secret World
 Palestine | 2008 | 60 min | Dir: Nicholas Rowe
 Based on the William Golding novel, *Lord of the Flies*, *The Secret World* is a fiction feature film set in Ramallah, following a group of Palestinian school children who wake up one day to find all the adults have disappeared.

Australian Premiere
My Journey
 Australia | 2008 | 10 min | Dir: Nawal Abdi
 A year 10 school project based on the recollections of the director's grandfather, Mahmoud Abdi. The film traces his journey from 1948 when he was forced to leave his homeland Palestine to present day Australia where he now lives.

Guest speakers include: Romaine Moreton, Australian Indigenous artist and writer of poetry, prose and film; Randa Abdel-Fattah, acclaimed author, lawyer and human rights activist; Nawal Abdi, director of *My Journey*; Nicholas Rowe, director of *The Secret World*; Aya Sukkarieh and Yasmine Khodr, *Huriyya and Her Sisters*.

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