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The Arabic Program and the SPIRIT Fund Present:
Layali Cinema Film Series Featuring Arab Women
Thursdays 7:30PM Olin 011



Thursday October 1, 2009

Ana Hurra (I am Free)

A film by Salah Abu Seif

Egypt, 1958, 115 minutes

Part of Salah Abu Seif's Women's Empowerment Trilogy, *Ana Hurra ("I am Free")* is a classic Egyptian film about a girl who takes her destiny in her own hands despite a rigid and conservative society. A profound film with bold social and political insights.



Thursday October 15, 2009

Four Women of Egypt A film by Tahani Rached

Canada/Egypt, 1997, 90 minutes

Amina Rachid was raised in a non-religious, Westernized, aristocratic household before embracing Socialism and fighting for social justice. Another deeply committed activist, Shahenda Maklad, a Muslim, was a student demonstrator in Egypt's national movement who lost her husband to a political assassination before pursuing political office herself. Her mentor, Wedad Mitry, a devout Christian, is a militant nationalist leader and author. Their friend, Safynaz Kazem, is a political journalist and strict Muslim. These four women are the subject of this impressive documentary exploration of opposing religious, social, and political views in modern-day Egypt.



Thursday November 5, 2009

Satin Rouge

A film by Raja Amari

Tunisia/France, 2002, 95 minutes

A Tunisian widow takes an unlikely journey of self-discovery in Raja Amari's sumptuous and sensual *Satin Rouge*. While investigating a suspected liaison between her headstrong teenaged daughter and a cabaret musician, Lilia becomes drawn to an exhilarating nightclub netherworld of Rubénesque belly dancers and nocturnal pleasure-seekers. In trading her shapeless housedresses for sequins and satin, she begins to emerge from her cocoon of melancholy and loneliness.



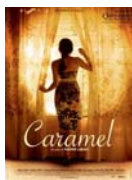
Thursday November 19, 2009

Ahla Awqat (Best of Times)

A film by Raja Amari

Egypt, 2004, 105 minutes

Written by, directed by, and featuring women, the first feature from director Hala Khalil tells the story of a withdrawn young woman. After the tragic death of her mother, Salma seeks solace in childhood memories and some mysterious letters reunite her with school chums, Doha (played by Mina Shalabi from *My Soul Mate*) and Yusriyah (Hind Sabri from *Diary of a Teenager*). The friends' lives have diverged greatly in the intervening fourteen years, and Wesam Sulayman's screenplay employs finely drawn characters to explore the social and economic divisions in Egyptian society.



Thursday December 3, 2009

Caramel (Sukkar al Banat)

A film by Nadine Labaki

Lebanon, 2007, 93 minutes

A Beirut beauty salon becomes a treasured meeting place for several generations of women, from various walks of life, to talk, seek advice and confide in one another. *Caramel* was Lebanon's Official Submission to the Best Foreign Language Film Category of the 80th Annual Academy Awards (2008).