

In the category **MEDITERRANEAN ART, HERITAGE AND CULTURE**

Joue à l'ombre
Borderlands
Oum Kalthoum
San Giuseppe de Copertino
Vjesh/Canto



Joue à l'ombre – Mohamed Lakhdar TATI
52 minutes, 2007
Production : GREC (France)/Machahou Production (Algeria)

To master a town is to know it: its rush-hour, its street-names, its short-cuts. Knowing its limits, how to get round them, to miss nothing in a neighbourhood – it's also finally to grow up and make the town a single entity where nothing surprises. But a shadow, the complexity of

a staircase, the rumble of a laugh, the lilt of a phrase or the simplicity of a house still astonish and become poetry.

Disgust, monotony, heat and steep slopes.

The crowd, balconies, a newspaper, a shop-window, children's games stroll on in your wake, claiming to show you the town.

"*Joue à l'ombre* – play in the shade" is the only thing the children of Algiers are told.

A guarantee of astonishment?

Mohamed Lakhdar TATI was born in 1971 in Algiers. Having studied economic science at Algiers University he made his first short film in 1998, "La Chaussure". Since 2002 he has lived in Paris where he studies modern letters. He has made "Aveu" – a short fiction film, produced by GREC. "*Joue à l'ombre*" is his first documentary.



Borderlands – Sawsan DARWAZA
27 minutes, 2007
Production: Pioneers Production Company (Jordan)
Cosmo Doc APS (Denmark)

Identity in the process of change is the central theme of the film. The artist is often the first one to register that reality is changing. Often they sense change even before it happens, sometimes they have a direct impact on the way reality is altered. The film depicts short profiles of Arab Artists as they take part in an Art

Festival in Copenhagen (Images of the Middle East Festival, August 2006). The works of art, and the artist behind them, reflect the contemporary Middle East and its relationship to the rest of the world. The director boldly asked each artist to show their identity card or passport, as if they were being hassled at one of the world's airports. The result is a 27 min film where people intermingle, intermingling politics with art.

Sawsan DARWAZA was born in Syria. She spent her life between Beirut and Damascus where until 1984 she studied theatre and French literature. She is a film and theatre director who usually works on collective projects exploring new artistic areas. She began her career as a film-maker when she introduced elements of film and video into her theatre productions. She is a director and managing partner in Pioneers Production Company and creative director of Media, another Jordanian production house. She has shot some forty documentaries on Arab artists and intellectuals for the series "An Artist with a View" (1996-2007)



Oum Kalthoum – Ferial BEN MAHMOUD and Nicolas DANIEL

52 minutes, 2008

Production: Treize au Sud production (France)

The Star of the East, Oum Kalthoum's singing caused the hearts of millions of men and women to beat in unison. From the Gulf to the Atlantic, on both shores of the Mediterranean she is unanimously recognised as The Voice of the Arab people. She is the quintessential idol of a whole generation living through the great period of Nasser, with him she is the incarnation of the pan-Arab

dream. Through archive images, photographs and first-hand accounts, this documentary traces her rise as an Egyptian woman, born into a humble farming family, whose destiny came to symbolize that of a whole nation and whose life was punctuated by regular appointments with her public. The film is also about women and men who share a common history, habits and feelings – beyond national barriers: for thanks to radio coming into homes and cafés, for nearly forty years the voice of Oum Kalthoum has incarnated both the charm and the strength of a certain Arab identity.

Ferial BEN MAHMOUD is a historian specializing in the Arab world and a documentary filmmaker. She has made several 52 minute films about the Arab world including "Ghadamès, perle du Sahara" and "Foum Tataouine", co-produced with France 5.

Nicolas DANIEL is a journalist and film director. Having worked in ARTE's fiction department, he made many magazine items for TF1, France 2 and Canal +. Ferial BEN MAHMOUD and Nicolas DANIEL have already collaborated on "Tunisie, Histoire de femmes", 52 minutes, co-produced and transmitted by France 5 in 2006.



San Giuseppe da Copertino – Francesco RAGANATO
39 minutes, 2006
Production: Wilder (Italy)

Italy, land of saints...The film tells the story of Saint Joseph of Copertino, told by the people of Copertino 400 years after his death. He was born in this village in Salento, near Lecce, in 1603 – not an ordinary child, he was judged by his peers to be absent-minded, a dreamer, often mocked for his innocence and ignorance....until, praying one day before the image of Mary, he rose from the ground and flew.

Since that magical moment the young boy began to cure

the sick.

The extraordinary story of Saint Joseph, protector of students and airmen, told with passion by the people of his village who feel great tenderness mixed with sadness for this Saint.

Francesco Giuseppe RAGANATO was born in Copertino (province of Lecce). He has made several documentaries for RAI 3, La 7, Fox Crime, the History Channel and Sat 2000. "San Giuseppe da Copertino" won an award at the Salento International Film Festival and at the Satricum Doc Festival. His documentary "L'Isola Analogica" won the first ever National Prize in the 2007 CMCA International Festival of Mediterranean Documentary and News Film.



Vjesh/Canto – Rosella SCHILLACI
57 minutes, 2007
Production: Palomar (Italy)

The women of San Costantino Albanese and of San Paolo Albanese sing ancient *vjeshet*, handed (literally "thrown") down from mother to daughter. These chants tell the flight of the Albanians who sought refuge in southern Italy 500 years ago. In 1954 the anthropologist Ernesto de Martino organised an expedition to record these chants,

little realising that 40 years later women would be still presenting their art to the whole world, giving concerts in Italy, France and Albania.

Rosella SCHILLACI was born in Turin in 1973. She graduated from the University of Manchester's Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology (Great Britain). At the moment she works for the Ethnographic Archives and makes documentaries. Her previous film "Pratica e Maestria" (2005) was selected for and won awards at several international festivals. She made "Ascuntami" (Listen to Me, 2000), "Euro Blows over Stromboli" (2001) and "Living Beyond Borders" (2004)

