



Press Release Film Programme

Cairoscape

Images, Imagination and Imaginary of a Contemporary Mega City

FILM PROGRAMME

12-14/9/2008, 19:00-23:00, Kino Eiszeit

10-12/10/2008, 18:30-23:00, Kino Eiszeit

Film programme in cooperation with: Freunde der Arabischen Kinemathek, Berlin; Egyptian Film Center, Cairo; Kino Eiszeit, Berlin

Detailed programme: www.cairoscape.org

The film programme at Kino Eiszeit shows a selection of contemporary Egyptian cinematic production, showcasing market-oriented as well as experimental and independent films. At its peak, until the end of the eighties, Egyptian cinema was one of the largest film industries in the world, comparable only to those of the United States and India. Egyptian films had a very large audience throughout Arabic countries, and developed a cinematic language at the same time contextual and universal. Its range of genres is remarkable: social and realistic dramas, musicals, thrillers and comedies. *Cairoscape's* film programme, co-curated by Hachim Al Hachoumi with *Cairoscape* curators Marina Sorbello and Antje Weizel, presents a collection of films and videos all dealing with Cairo; in a sense Cairo itself with its idiosyncrasies, contradictions, its varied humanity and stories, is the subject of these films. Besides movies by internationally renowned directors such as Yousri Nasrallah, Youssef Chahine, Doud Abdel Sayed, the film programme shows a number of short films by artists (including Hala El Koussy, Khaled Hafez, Ahmed Khaled) and independent productions (including Islam Al Azazi, Tamer Ezzat, Nader Halal, Mohammed Hammad, Hadeel Nazmi), ranging from fictional stories, to socio-critical documentaries, to film essays and non-narrative experimental works. Independent productions, based on the individual entrepreneurship and financial capacities of the authors, are in Egypt a rather recent phenomenon. Within the film programme, *Cairoscape* shows a significant selection of independent films never seen before in Germany.

Among the highlights of the programme, is the opulent, *bollywoodish* musical *Mafeesh Gheer Keda (None But That!, 2006)* by Khaled El Hagar, described by Egyptian critics as the most unusual and unique Egyptian musical film since forty years.

SPECIAL SCREENING

8/10/2008, 18:30-22:00, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Berlin

Film screening: *Salata Baladi* by Nadja Kamel (Cairo), followed by a discussion with the filmmaker and with Ahmed Badawi (Berlin/Cairo)

In cooperation with: Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Berlin

The filmmaker Nadia Kamel provoked a vivid and controversial debate in Egypt with her debut documentary *Salata Baladi*. Together with her mother Mary, Kamel attempts to explain the complex history of their family – its members scattered in several Mediterranean countries over the last 100 years – to her nephew Nabeel, bringing the multiethnic, multicultural and multilingual aspects of the story to the fore. The documentary poignantly reveals the tensions and distortions brought about in a culture forced to accommodate the arbitrary boundaries of politics. The film shows how family ties can rise above what ideologies and prejudices can destroy.