

**“Young and Rebellious” - Lebanese Screenings of Social Movies in Cinema Muranów
27-28 September 2011**

September 27, 2011, at. 18.30



The Kite 15-year-old Lamia, a Druze living in a southern Lebanese village is given in marriage to her cousin on the other side of the border in Israel. Although formally the border is closed and state of war is maintained, Lamia crosses the barbed wire to join her spouse...

The social structure of traditional Druze villages and the extreme situation of inhabitants of the region, divided between the warring countries pose difficult challenges for both young people. Will they find their way to happiness?

The Kite breaks many stereotypes about the region and the traditional roles of women and men in the Middle East. It also shows the almost unknown for the Polish audience Druze community, important religious minority in Lebanon, Syria and Israel.

The Kite, **director:** Randa Chahal Sabbag, **screenplay:** Randa Chahal Sabbag, **pictures:** Dominique Brenguier, Alain Levent, **music:** Ziad Rahbani, **stars:** Flavia Bechara, Maher Bsaibes, Julia Kassar, Liliane Nemri, Ziad Rahbani; **Lebanon 2003, 80 min. Silver Lion, Venice 2003.**

The movie is screened with Polish subtitles.

Flavia Bechara, the leading role actress: *When you grow up in Lebanon, you have to reckon with war every day. The war is still present, even when it is not in fact. I'm half Brazilian. Perhaps this is what allows me to look at many issues from a slightly different angle. It is also one of the reasons why I play in movies revolving around the same key problems: unhappy love, war and feminism.*

Flavia Bechara will be the guest of the meeting after the screening. The meeting will be led by Stanislaw Strasburger.



Flavia Bechara is a young Lebanese actress and manager. Her acting career began as a teenager. She has performed in short and feature films and in social campaigns spots. Flavia Bechara studies directing at the Lebanese University in Beirut. At the same time, she is the manager of one of the most popular café-gallery in Beirut.

Stanislaw Strasburger is a writer, traveller and cultural animator. He published among others the novel "Handlarz Wspomnień" (Merchant of Memories). He is the author of series of collages (together with Marta Bogdańska).

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Documentary and short films in Lebanon are often a form of social involvement. The democratic system and a relative freedom of creativity allows artists to focus on issues that often are beyond the action of high politics and main media.

These movies are related to such issues as reconciliation after the civil war, groups in social marginality, emigration and poverty. Will be screened:

Sea Sonata (directed by Rakan Mayasi, 2010, 28 min) – short story of four emigrants, who depart from the coast of Lebanon in the direction of Europe. The fear related to illegal travel and the tight space of the smuggling boat provoke confidences and conflicts..



Palestinian, Iraqi, Syrian and Sri Lankan, each with their experience in Lebanon, meet on the way to the world of dreams.



Of this country (directed by Sahar Assaf, 2001, 15 min.) – documentary about one of the Lebanese Bedouin tribes. Their habits are for most Lebanese as exotic than to us. Those nomads who live in the mountains belong to social groups on the boundary of social exclusion. Does such a situation result from their own choice? How important is here the role of the state and the civil society?



Tattooed Eye (directed by Youmna Itani, 2010, 29 min.) – short film played out in a poor district of Tripoli, the second largest city in Lebanon. 17-year-old Ibrahim lives in an environment where poverty, drugs and domestic violence constitute a brutal reality of everyday life.

So it will only be a memory... Women fighters (directed by Sahar Assaf, 2008, 20 min.) – A documentary based on interviews with four Lebanese militia women fighters from the times of civil war (from 1975 to 1990). How did it happen that a woman was enlisted to the armed troops? What values guided their struggle? Who are they today?

All movies is screened with Polish subtitles.

Sahar Assaf: *The aim of **Women fighters** that have arisen during a socio-historical research by setting the camera in front of women I interviewed, is to show the absurdity of war and to sensitize the public on the psychosocial needs of ex-combatants. As the heroines say, it is also a record of memory scraps. One of them even uses the expression "memory score" to emphasize how much it hurts not having photos left of her childhood and from the period of her military commitment.*

Sahar Assaf will be the guest of the meeting after the screening. The meeting will be led by Stanislaw Strasburger.



Sahar Assaf is a young Lebanese director, actress and social activist. Her professional biography combines civic activity oriented toward assistance for refugees and development of civil society in Lebanon with art projects in the field of film and theatre. Sahar Assaf has worked with international and local NGOs on assistance projects for the Iraqi and Palestinian refugees. She coordinated as well many social campaigns. In the years 2009-2011 she was a Fulbright scholar in the field of theatre studies at the University of Washington.

Stanislaw Strasburger is a writer, traveller and cultural animator. He published among others the novel "Handlarz Wspomnień" (Merchant of Memories). He is the author of series of collages (together with Marta Bogdańska).



Screenings are held during the project for culture and education *War and Peace – the Middle East today. Cultural diversity in the region and third countries* co-funded by the Office of Education of the City of Warsaw.

Organizers acknowledge with thanks the support from the Lebanese Ministry of Culture, Lebanese Embassy in Warsaw, Cinema Muranów, 24 al. Ujazdowskie co-owners, Czech Airlines, *Le Cèdre* and *Fenicja* restaurants.

The Organizers reserve the right to make changes in the repertoire.

**Entrance to the screenings and meetings are free of charge -
pick up your free tickets at the cash desk of the cinema (from September, 19)
number of places is limited.**