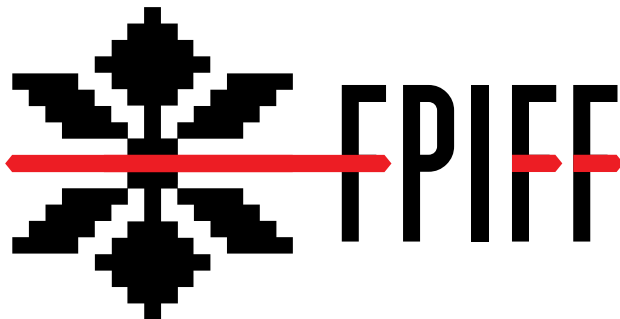


2024





“

We Palestinians wake up every morning to teach the rest of the world life, sir.

Rafeef Ziadah

”



ΕΡΠΙΓΓ

ALL  
EYES ON  
PALESTINE





*Motaz Malhees*

**Motaz Malhees**

Director, Free Palestine International Film Festival

I was born and raised in Jenin City in Palestine. Since coming into this world, I have witnessed a great deal of darkness. Unfortunately, the occupation is ingrained in my DNA; you feel it around your head, your neck, every moment while at home, and it has left scars despite my departure. In 2002, during the brutal invasion of the West Bank, I didn't believe we would survive. Thankfully, I am still here. Since that invasion, pursuing an acting profession has become an essential way to amplify my people's voices. Theatre and art feel like the only means through which I can truly express the plight of my people and our situation.

This apartheid, this occupation, persists. Over the last ten months, we have witnessed a genocide in Gaza. Families fleeing their homes, massive and brutal bombings of civilian houses, schools, hospitals—children running through the streets

searching for their parents. My people are being exterminated, and we can only watch helplessly from our devices as the government remains complicit or indifferent. It shatters my heart into a billion pieces.

And so, we present the Free Palestine International Film Festival—an urgent initiative to showcase our creativity, humanity, and resilience to the world. We aim to amplify diverse voices from Palestine and beyond, sharing knowledge and spreading the truth. We want to prove that we are not mere numbers; we have names, dreams, goals, and a love for life despite all we endure. As Rafeef Ziadah eloquently put it, “We Palestinians wake up every morning to teach the rest of the world life, sir.”

Welcome to the inaugural year of the Free Palestine International Film Festival. We’ve curated a selection of 21 films that center on Palestine

in their unique ways. This festival emerges at a critical time—a time to discuss freedom and the urgent need to liberate Palestine and its people. We reference the ongoing occupation and the demand for an immediate ceasefire. Through these films, you’ll embark on a beautiful yet challenging journey. They depict the daily struggles of Palestinians over the past 76 years, showcasing the full spectrum of our resistance and existence. Thank you for joining us; we’re grateful to have you stand on the human side of history. I implore you to recognize your collective duty in making the festival’s title a reality.

Lastly, I extend my gratitude to the Palestinian Sound Archive, Arab Film Club, White Kite Collective, Maqam, Boqaa, Dahd, Hasbara Tracker, and Films of Resistance. And, of course, a special thanks to Genesis Cinema for their support and collaboration with us.

**Jury Members**



Wafa Jamil



Mohammed Al-Majdalawi



Ava Ginsburg



### **Wafa Jamil**

Wafa Jamil is the founder, and director of the Nordic Palestinian Film Festival. She is a Palestinian-Swedish producer and film director based in Stockholm. She holds a masters degree in Regional Studies and B.A in Journalism. She holds 16 years of extensive knowledge and comprehensive understanding of all aspects of film production, from acting to lens technology. Her filmography includes: Coffee for all nations (2015) Abraham's Children (2005) and Hamas under Palestine (2007). She wrote and directed the Palestinian section of the documentary, Juda & Mohamed (2006), for the British Channel 4 Film Director.

### **Mohammed Al-Majdalawi**

Mohammed Al-Majdalawi has a masters degree in documentary film from Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts. Growing up in Gaza, he worked as a crew for international films like Eyewitness Gaza. His own films are , Gaza Art Through Barbed Wire (2011) , Forget me Not (2022) , To Mai (2024) and is currently working on his documentary Out Of Place.

### **Ava Ginsburg**

Ava Ginsburg has a BFA in film production from Columbia College in Chicago, Illinois. She has worked on the critically acclaimed television show, The Bear. She has worked on numerous film sets as a production designer and art director and has served as a producer on documentaries. She has also served as a senior film procurement member of the Chicago Palestine Film Festival.



## Where Olive Trees Weep

**Synopsis:** Where Olive Trees Weep is a heartbreakingly beautiful and poignant new film about the struggles and resilience of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. It explores themes of loss, trauma, and the quest for justice. It features Dr. Gabor Maté offering trauma healing work for Palestinian women who have been tortured in Israeli prisons.

**Duration:** 103 Mins

**Country:** United States

**Language:** English

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Directors: **Zaya Benazzo, Maurizio Benazzo**





## Al Mawed

**Synopsis:** On the 14th of February, 1985, and after the Battle of Alman (Lebanon) took place, many fighters were lost in this battle and their fate is not known until today. Mustafa tries to trace the fate of his brother, who was one of the missing in this battle, exploring the aftermath of the absence of his brother «Mohamed», this documentary explains the family's lack of knowledge, about determining the fate of her son, Mohamed who has been absent for more than four decades.

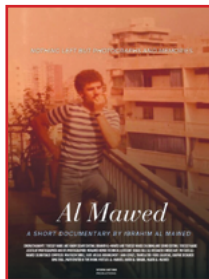
**Duration:** 21 Mins

**Country:** Lebanon

**Language:** Arabic

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Director: **Ibrahim Al Mawed**





Socialist Worker  
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for  
**PALESTINE**

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**PALESTINE**

**Free**  
**Palestine**

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for  
**PALESTINE**

حرية  
فلسطين

الحرية  
فلسطين



## The Faces of Solidarity: UK Protesters for Palestine

**Synopsis:** This doc explores the dynamics, impacts, and motivations behind the pro-Palestinian protests across the UK. Through a combination of sit down interviews, on-the-ground footage and live reaction at the demonstrations, and expert commentary, this documentary seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of the movement's effectiveness in raising awareness, influencing public opinion, and affecting policy changes with regards to the Palestinian cause and the objective to achieve a ceasefire and stop the potential deaths of thousands.

**Duration:** 18 Mins

**Country:** United Kingdom

**Language:** English

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Director: **Taha Seder**







## High Roads

**Synopsis:** High Roads is a journey through the practices of four women who use their bodies, breath, and minds as tools for everyday resistance to military occupation. Filmed between Palestine and Barcelona, High Roads dialogues with particle physicist Dr. Wafaa Khater, Olympian swimmer Sabine Hazboun, marathon-runner Diala Isid and yoga instructor Eilda Zaghmout.

**Duration:** 19 Mins

**Country:** Canada

**Language:** English

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Director: **Giuliana Racco**



The WALL  
Graffiti Shop



## Hostage Economy

**Synopsis:** Hostage Economy delves into the deep-rooted barriers entrenched within Palestinian society aimed at disabling meaningful economic growth. Cement walls, barbed wire, and institutional obstacles fortify its ripe olive trees - ripping the fruits of labor out of the grasp of the Palestinian farmer. What does economic development mean in a context void of freedom?

**Duration:** 20 Mins

**Country:** United Kingdom

**Language:** English

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Director: **Jude Elziq**





## Long Longing

**Synopsis:** The movie (Long Longing) talks about a Palestinian woman who was born in Palestine, and fled to Syria in 1948 for fear of the Israeli aggression and the massacres it was committing against the Palestinians.

**Duration:** 8 Mins

**Country:** Syrian Arab Republic

**Language:** Arabic



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Director: **Ghosoun Abbas Al Maddi**



## Not A Good Morning

**Synopsis:** A short documentary about a Palestinian woman named Haneen. Haneen Omar is a Palestinian woman from the city of Tulkarm. Her normal life turns overnight after she posted on her Facebook page a sentence that led to her imprisonment for a period of one year and three months in the prisons of the Israeli occupation.

**Duration:** 12 Mins

**Country:** Palestine

**Language:** Arabic

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Director: **Dareen Tawfiq Tatour**







## Shattered Memory

**Synopsis:** The documentary talks about the memory of photojournalist “Mahfouz Abu Turk” and the archive through which he documented the events he experienced in the city of Jerusalem and the West Bank from the first intifada in 1987 and the events that followed until the end of the nineties.

**Duration:** 14 Mins

**Country:** Palestine

**Language:** Arabic

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Director: **Hayat Labban**





## The Orphan

**Synopsis:** Orphaned by the holocaust, 90 year-old Jacques Bude recounts his time in post-war Israel, and why his experience with genocide compelled him to the Palestinian cause.

**Duration:** 12 Mins

**Country:** United States

**Language:** English

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Director: **Jordan Karr-Morse**





## Where Does The Picture Start?

**Synopsis:** Palestinian survivors share their stories of the tragedies of the massacres by Israeli forces in Palestine.

**Duration:** 9 Mins

**Country:** Egypt

**Language:** Arabic

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Director: **Yousef Menesy**





## Young Hearts

**Synopsis:** A poetic reflection on kid's questions and thoughts about the Gaza war, it is intertwined with ideas and glimpses of daily moments that children now experience in Egypt, about what they see and hear of the pleas for help and the painful words of the children of Gaza.

**Duration:** 4 Mins

**Country:** Egypt

**Language:** Arabic

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Director: **Marwa Ali Elsharkawi**







## Survival Vortex

**Synopsis:** In the wake of the Israeli war on Gaza, «Survival Vortex» tracks Deema Meshal, a Palestinian ER doctor in Belgium grappling with survival guilt. As she unexpectedly becomes an advocate for Palestine, the film unravels her personal turmoil amid activism. It delves into the emotional complexities of her journey, portraying resilience and the challenges faced while standing up for her homeland.

**Duration:** 7 Mins

**Country:** Palestine

**Language:** Arabic

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Director: **Gamaal El-Attar**





## An Orange From Jaffa

**Synopsis:** Mohammed, a young Palestinian, is desperately looking for a taxi to take him through an Israeli checkpoint. The driver, Farouk, discovers that Mohammed has already failed to cross the checkpoint. Trouble begins.

**Duration:** 27 Mins

**Country:** France, Poland

**Language:** Arabic, Hebrew, English

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Director: **Mohammed Almughanni**





## Exception

**Synopsis:** When a leaked video of his lecture on the Psychology of Oppression goes viral and sparks accusations of anti-Semitism, tenured Palestinian-American professor Karim Hadawi finds himself at a crossroads with a harrowing ultimatum: issue a public apology to salvage his career or risk losing not only his job but also the custody of his beloved daughter.

**Duration:** 30 Mins

**Country:** Canada

**Language:** English

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Director: **Rodrigue Hammal**





 FPIFF

## Picture

**Synopsis:** Palestinian family trying to take a birthday picture during the war.

**Duration:** 1 Mins

**Country:** Lebanon

**Language:** Arabic

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Director: **Houssein Haidar**







## The Key

**Synopsis:** An Israeli family's equilibrium gradually disintegrates as the mysterious sound of a key is heard every evening in the door of their apartment.

**Duration:** 18 Mins

**Country:** Palestine

**Language:** Hebrew

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Director: **Rakan Mayasi**





## Write My Name

**Synopsis:** During the war, 4 young siblings tell their Mom to write their names on their legs.

**Duration:** 4 Mins

**Country:** Spain

**Language:** English

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Director: **Aniez Atlas**





## Before Heaven

**Synopsis:** Children paintings are on the wall that the new owner of the house has made a decision to paint all of the walls.

**Duration:** 6 Mins

**Country:** Iran

**Language:** No Dialogue

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Director: **Ahmad Heydarian**





## Hide & Seek

**Synopsis:** «Hide & Seek» is an animated short film that narrates the story of a child and his fish on their journey into the unknown, following the raid on the child's town during the ongoing war ravaging his country. The short film captures the steps of this journey and its transformations, concluding as the child reaches one of the coasts.

**Duration:** 7 Mins

**Country:** Palestine

**Language:** No Dialogue

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Director: **Rami Abbas**







## BORNFREE

**Synopsis:** This film gives the audience a glimpse what happens every minute in Gaza currently through the eyes of a child, who may or may not make it to see the next day. This short film inspired by true events occurring in occupied West Bank now.

**Duration:** 2 Mins

**Country:** United States

**Language:** No Dialogue

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Director: **Shikha Patel**





## Zoo

**Synopsis:** As Sami is wandering through the worst zoo in the world while looking for his ball, he crosses paths with a little tiger named Laziz, which follows him on his quest to find a safe place to play. Against all odds, they become friends. But the remnants of war harbor danger.

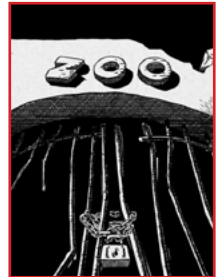
**Duration:** 8 Mins

**Country:** Jordan

**Language:** No Dialogue

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Director: **Tariq Rimawi**



**Panels**



**Ashira Darwish**  
Motivational speaker, and the  
creator of Active Meditation



**Kath Temple**  
Psychologist



**Osama Tamimi**  
Palestinian activist



**Christopher Mark Nineham**  
British political activist, and  
founder member of the Stop the  
War Coalition



**Craig John Murray**  
Scottish author, human rights  
campaigner, and former  
diplomat



**Danny Shaw**  
Latin American & Caribbean Studies  
professor, int'l affairs analyst



**Stephen Sizer**

Director of the Institute for the Study  
of Christian Zionism



**Elhanan Beck**

Orthodox Jewish rabbi, member of the  
anti-Zionist Neturei Karta Movement



**Ahmad Hanif**

Muslim scholar



**Friday, August 2, 2024**

**Where Olive Trees Weep**

Ashira Darwish, Kath Temple, and Osama Tamimi

**Saturday, August 3, 2024**


**Politicians, Academics and  
the Palestine issue**

Chris Nineham, Craig Murray, and Danny Shaw

**Sunday, August 4, 2024**

**Religions, and the Palestine issue**

Stephen Sizer, Elhanan Beck, and Ahmad Hanif





Zaya & Maurizio Benazzo



Rodrigue Hammal



Gamaal El-Attar



Mohammed Almughanni



Tariq Rimawi



Rakan Mayasi



Hayat Labban



Shikha Patel



Ahmad Heydarian



Taha Seder



Houssain Haidar



Dareen Tawfiq Tatour



Marwa Ali El-Sharkawi



Jude Elziq



Rami Abbas



Ghosoun Abbas Al Maddi



Yousef Menesy



Aniez Atlas



Ibrahim Al Mawed



Giuliana Racco



Jordan Karr-Morse

Film Directors

## Festival Schedule

Friday, August 2, 2024	
18:30 - 20:45	<p>Opening, film  <b>Opening</b>, 30  <b>Where Olive Trees Weep</b>, 103, Feature Documentary, Directors: Zaya Benazzo, Maurizio Benazzo   USA</p>
20:45 - 21:45	<p>Panel on Where Olive Trees Weep            Ashira Darwish, Kath Temple, and Osama Tamimi</p>
Saturday, August 3, 2024	
18:00 - 19:30	<p>Film &amp; Film Talk  <b>Survival Vortex</b>, 7, Short Documentary, Director: Gamaal El-Attar   Palestine  <b>An Orange from Jaffa</b>, 27, Short Film, Director: Mohammed Almughanni   France, Poland  <b>Young hearts</b>, 5, Short Documentary, Director: Marwa Ali El-Sharkawi   Egypt  <b>Hostage Economy</b>, 20, Short Documentary, Director: Jude Elziq   UK  <b>Hide &amp; Seek</b>, 7, Animation, Director: Rami Abbas   Palestine  <b>Write My Name</b>, 4, Short Film, Director: Aniez Atlas   Spain  <b>Film Talks</b>, 20</p>
19:45 - 21:00	<p>Panel  <b>Politicians, Academics and the Palestine issue</b>            Chris Nineham, Craig Murray, and Danny Shaw</p>
21:30 - 22:45	<p>Film &amp; Film Talk  <b>Zoo</b>, 8, Animation, Director: Tariq Rimawi   Jordan  <b>The Key</b>, 19, Short Film, Director: Rakan Mayasi   Palestine  <b>Shattered Memory</b>, 15, Short Documentary, Director: Hayat Labban   Palestine  <b>Bornfree</b>, 2, Animation, Director: Shikha Patel   USA  <b>Long Longing</b>, 8, Short Documentary, Director: Ghosoun Abbas Al Maddi   Syria  <b>Film Talks</b>, 20</p>



Sunday, August 4, 2024

18:00 - 19:30	Film & Film Talk <b>Where does the picture start?</b> , 9, Short Documentary, Director: Yousef Menesy   Egypt <b>Before Heaven</b> , 6, Animation, Director: Ahmad Heydarian   Iran <b>The Faces of Solidarity</b> , 18, Short Documentary, Director: Taha Seder   UK <b>The Picture</b> , 2, Short Film, Director: Houssain Haidar   Lebanon <b>Not a Good Morning</b> , 12, Short Documentary, Director: Daren Tawfiq Tatour   Palestine <b>Al Mawed</b> , 21, Short Documentary, Director: Ibrahim Al Mawed   Lebanon <b>Film Talks</b> , 20
19:45 - 21:00	Panel <b>Religions, and the Palestine issue</b> Stephen Sizer, Elhanan Beck, and Ahmad Hanif
21:30 - 22:45	Film & Film Talk <b>High Roads</b> , 19, Short Documentary, Director: Giuliana Racco   Canada <b>The Orphan</b> , 13, Short Documentary, Director: Jordan Karr-Morse   USA <b>Exception</b> , 30, Short Film, Director: Rodrigue Hammal   Canada <b>Film Talks</b> , 10

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