

# ST.GEORGE LEBANESE FILM FESTIVAL

2016

Program guide



A network of white dotted lines connects various social media icons on a dark grey background. The icons include a camera (pink circle), Facebook 'f' (blue square), a thumbs up (green square), a musical note (blue circle), a group of people (yellow square), a Snapchat ghost (yellow circle), an Instagram camera (brown circle), a Twitter bird (blue circle), a download arrow (green circle), and a picture icon (brown circle).

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# INTRODUCTION

The Lebanese Film Festival Association is a NSW registered non-profit organisation, established in 2011 to provide a dedicated platform for the showcasing of Lebanese cinema in Australia. Since its first edition in 2012, the Lebanese Film Festival has become a growing foreign film festival that attracts over 3,000 patrons per year.

Through the Festival, the Association hope to challenge the perception of Lebanon, its people, its culture and its traditions by providing an avenue for Australian society to hear the stories of Lebanon and its large diaspora through the art of film. By the end of our fifth edition this year, we would have screened 130 Lebanese films, ranging from student short films, to internationally acclaimed feature films.

The Lebanese Film Festival, being based in Bankstown, also seeks to maintain and grow its local presence and contribute to the city becoming a centre of the arts and culture. This contribution will allow greater access to foreign film for the Greater Western Sydney region whilst also drawing Sydneysiders to experience the great centres of Sydney's west.

As always, we invite all of you, sponsors, patrons and the public, to share with us your feedback, ideas, inspirations and any other comments which would help our team grow and improve.

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Festival attendees,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to our fifth edition of the St.George Bank Lebanese Film Festival. What was once a small dream, has now turned into an annual event drawing thousands of audiences to Bankstown, Central Sydney, Canberra and Adelaide.

This year, we have another exciting line up of Lebanese short, documentary and feature films, with personal favourites being 3000 Nights and A Time in Life, set in my favourite Lebanese coastal town of Batroun.

This year, we've seen a shift away from Lebanese diaspora films, with a strong contingent of films coming from Lebanon itself. It is great to see the ongoing growth in Lebanon's film industry amid the challenging realities of Lebanese life. As the country of four million citizens accommodates two million refugees, and a government and economy in paralysis, it is heart warming and encouraging to know that there is ongoing investment in film, with Lebanon's profile at the Cannes Film Festival and other international film festivals continuously growing.

It is with great pride that I again welcome audiences from across Sydney to Bankstown. I invite you to make the most of your Festival experience and sample the great food and entertainment offerings also available in our great city.

Enjoy your Festival experience!

***Camille Lattouf***

Director, Lebanese Film Festival

# PATRON'S MESSAGE

I find it hard to believe that this is the fifth year of the Lebanese Film Festival and my association with the festival over the past four years continues to bring me joy.

The team of Julia, Jessica and Camille is inspiring. Their love of Film and their dedication to enhancing our knowledge of Lebanese culture and its people is something I personally am deeply grateful for.

We live in a troubled world and its extremely important to be reminded that all nations share the same humanity and needs and desires. Our relationships with friends, families and communities is what sustains us and film reminds us of this.

Lebanon is experiencing very difficult times but its filmmakers continue to flourish and share their stories with the world.

Central to Bankstown since its inception, the Lebanese Film Festival continues to be an important part of its cultural life, bringing outsiders to the area and providing entertainment to its own.

I am proud to be the Patron of the Lebanese Film Festival. It has enhanced my life.

**Bryan Brown AM**

Patron, Lebanese Film Festival

# 2016 Schedule

| Date             | Session    | Time    | Venue                    | Film and Duration                 |
|------------------|------------|---------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Friday 19 Aug.   | Session 1  | 7:00PM  | Bankstown Sports Theatre | A Time in a Life - 27 mins        |
|                  | Session 1  |         | Bankstown Sports Theatre | Under the Robes - 20 mins         |
|                  | Session 1  |         | Bankstown Sports Theatre | Congratulations - 22 mins         |
| Saturday 20 Aug. | Session 2  | 6:00PM  | Hoyts Cinema Bankstown   | Cash Flow 2 - 100 mins            |
|                  | Session 3  | 9:00PM  | Hoyts Cinema Bankstown   | Go Home - 98 mins                 |
| Sunday 21 Aug.   | Session 4  | 1:00PM  | Bankstown Sports Theatre | 12 Angry Lebanese - 78 mins       |
|                  | Session 5  | 3:45PM  | Bankstown Sports Theatre | Scheherazade's Diary - 78mins     |
|                  | Session 6  | 6:30PM  | Bankstown Sports Theatre | The Broken Winds - 90 mins        |
|                  | Session 7  | 9:15PM  | Bankstown Sports Theatre | A Time to Rest - 66 mins          |
| Thursday 25 Aug. | Session 8  | 7:00PM  | Hoyts Cinema Broadway    | 3000 Nights - 103 mins            |
| Friday 26 Aug.   | Session 9  | 7:00PM  | Hoyts Cinema Bankstown   | Very Big Shot - 107 mins          |
| Saturday 27 Aug. | Session 10 | 6:00PM  | Hoyts Cinema Bankstown   | Chi'Yom Rah Fell - 99 mins        |
|                  | Session 11 | 9:00PM  | Hoyts Cinema Bankstown   | Tramontane - 105 mins             |
| Sunday 28 Aug.   | Session 12 | 12:30PM | Bankstown Arts Centre    | Shreds - 11 mins                  |
|                  | Session 12 |         | Bankstown Arts Centre    | Grand Ecart - 15 mins             |
|                  | Session 12 |         | Bankstown Arts Centre    | Fade Out - 19 mins                |
|                  | Session 13 | 2:00PM  | Bankstown Arts Centre    | Twice Upon a Time - 74 mins       |
|                  | Session 14 | 3:30PM  | Bankstown Arts Centre    | Cupids - 12 mins                  |
|                  | Session 14 |         | Bankstown Arts Centre    | Finding My Lebanon - 20 mins      |
|                  | Session 14 |         | Bankstown Arts Centre    | Sarab - 10 mins                   |
|                  | Session 15 | 4:50PM  | Bankstown Arts Centre    | A Stor of Emigration - 24 mins    |
|                  | Session 16 | 5:45PM  | Bankstown Arts Centre    | Home Sweet Home - 60 mins         |
|                  | Session 17 | 7:45PM  | Bankstown Sports Theatre | I Say Dust - 14 mins              |
|                  | Session 17 |         | Bankstown Sports Theatre | The Prophet - Gary Tarn - 75 mins |
| Thursday 11      | Session 18 | 7:00PM  | Bankstown Sports Theatre | The Prophet Animation - 85 mins   |
|                  | Session 19 | 9:30PM  | Bankstown Sports Theatre | Jamil a Flying Soul - 60 mins     |
| Friday 2 Sept.   | Session 20 | 7:00PM  | Hoyts Cinema Bankstown   | Chi'Yom Rah Fell - 99 mins        |
| Saturday 3 Sept. | Session 21 | 6:00PM  | Hoyts Cinema Bankstown   | 3000 Nights - 103 mins            |
|                  | Session 22 | 9:00PM  | Hoyts Cinema Bankstown   | Halal Love (and Sex) - 94 mins    |


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# 2016 FILMS

## GO HOME

**Director:** Nadine Naous | **Language:** French/English/Arabic

**Year:** 2014 | **Country:** France/ Suisse/ Belgique | **Genre:** Drama

**Runtime:** 98min

**Cast:** Golshifteh Farahani, Maximilien Seweryn, François Nour, Mirielle Maalouf, Julia Kassar



Nada is going home. Or at least she wants to. When she comes back to Lebanon, she realizes she's a foreigner in her own country. But there's still a place she calls home: an abandoned house in ruins, haunted by the presence of her grandfather who disappeared mysteriously during the civil war. Something happened in this house. Something violent. Nada is a young woman searching for the truth and discovering herself.

### Session Times and Venue

Saturday 20 August

Venue: Hoyts Cinema Bankstown

Time: 9:00pm



# CHI YOM RAH FELL

**Director:** Layal M. Rajha | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2015 | **Country:** Lebanon | **Genre:** Drama, comedy, romance

**Runtime:** 116min

**Cast:** Adel Karam, Pierre Dagher, Lorraine Kodeih, Joy Karam, Elham Abi Rached



After serving his sentence in Carandiru, one of the world's most notorious prisons, Tarek (Adel Karam) sets out to create a new life for himself in Brazil - a life like any normal person - yet he is still unsatisfied. An urge to finish what is not yet complete drives him back to Lebanon.

"Chi Yom Rah Fell", is a Lebanese Social Drama, which depicts how corrupt we can become when our lives revolve around buying our happiness and those around us with money.

## Session Times and Venue

Saturday 27 August

Venue: Hoyts Cinema Bankstown

Time: 6:00pm

Friday 2 September

Venue: Hoyts Cinema, Bankstown

Time: 7:00pm

# HALAL LOVE (AND SEX)

**Director:** Layal M. Rajha | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2015 | **Country:** Lebanon

**Genre:** Drama, romance, comedy - Themes of Sexual references, mature language

**Runtime:** 94 mins

**Cast:** Darine Hamze, Rodrigue Sleiman, Mirna Moukarzel, Ali Sammoury, Hussein Mokaddem., Zeinab Hind Khadra, Fadia Abi Chahine, Berlin Badr and Christy Bared.



Four tragicomic interconnected stories about how devoted Muslim men and women are trying to manage their love life and desires without breaking any religious rules.

## Session Times and Venue

Closing Night – Saturday 3 September

Venue: Hoyts Cinema Bankstown

Time: 9:00pm

# 3000 NIGHTS

**Director:** Layal M. Rajha | **Language:** Arabic and Hebrew (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2015 | **Countries:** Lebanon/Palestine /France/Jordan/UAE & Qatar

**Genre:** Drama - Themes of violence, drug use

**Runtime:** 143 mins

**Cast:** Maisa Abd El Hadi, Nadera Omran, Karim Saleh



Inspired by a true story and shot in a real prison, 3000 Nights tells the story of a newlywed Palestinian schoolteacher who is falsely arrested and incarcerated in an Israeli prison where she gives birth to her son. Through her struggle to raise her child behind bars, the film traces a young mother's journey of hope, resilience and survival against all odds.

## Session Times and Venue

Thursday 25 August

Venue: Hoyts Cinema Broadway

Time: 7:00pm

Closing Night – Saturday 3 September

Venue: Hoyts Cinema Bankstown

Time: 6:00pm

# VERY BIG SHOT

**Director:** Mir-Jean Bou Chaaya | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2015 | **Country:** Lebanon

**Genre:** Action, Drama - Themes of violence, references to drug use, references to war

**Runtime:** 107 mins

**Cast:** Alain Saadeh, Wissam Fares, Fouad Yammine, Alexandra Kahwagi, Tarek Yaacoub



Intending to smuggle drugs across the borders, a small-time Lebanese drug-dealer slyly manipulates public opinion with the help of an underrated filmmaker.

## Session Times and Venue

Friday 26 August

Venue: Hoyts Cinema Bankstown

Time: 7:00pm

**Damian Wyvill ACS**  
ODDBALL

**Ari Wegner**  
THE KETTERING INCIDENT

**Steve Yedlin**  
SAN ANDREAS

**Garry Phillips ACS**  
THE HOUSE OF HANCOCK

**Peter Menzies JNR ACS**  
GODS OF EGYPT

**Germain McMicking**  
HOLDING THE MAN

**Andrew Conder SOC ACS**  
RED BILLABONG

**Simon Chapman ACS**  
GLITCH

**Laszlo Baranyai ACS HSC**  
DOWNRIVER

**Donald McAlpine ACS**  
THE DRESSMAKER

**Simon Ozolins ACS**  
TOMORROW WHEN THE  
WAR BEGAN - S1

**Jaems Grant ACS**  
NOWHERE BOYS:  
THE BOOK OF SHADOWS

**Brad Shields ACS**  
THE NEST

**Carl Robertson ACS**  
INFINI

**Greig Fraser ACS**  
LION

**Andrew Lesnie ACS ASC**  
THE WATER DIVINER

**David Eggby ACS**  
2:22

**Craig Barden ACS**  
MOLLY

**Philip Cross ACS**  
WINNERS & LOSERS SERIES 5

**Mark Wareham ACS**  
THE CLEVER MAN

**John Brawley**  
THE BEAUTIFUL LIE

**John Seale AM ACS ASC**  
MAD MAX: FURY ROAD

**Vanja Cernjul**  
MARCO POLO SERIES 2

**Jody Muston**  
STALKER

**Geoffrey Simpson ACS**  
KILL ME 3 TIMES

**Mark Wareham ACS**  
SECRET CITY

**Kieran Fowler**  
TERMINUS

**PJ Dillon**  
STRANGERLAND

**Simon Duggan ACS**  
HACKSAW RIDGE

**Giovanni Lorusso**  
THE MARSHES

**Stefan Duscio**  
BARRACUDA

**Donald McAlpine ACS**  
ALI'S WEDDING

**Damian Wyvill ACS**  
MARY: THE MAKING  
OF A PRINCESS

**Lachlan Milne ACS**  
DOWN UNDER

**Andrew Commis ACS**  
THE DAUGHTER

**Paul Cameron ASC**  
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN:  
DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES



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# TRAMONTANE

**Director:** Vatche Boulghourjian | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2015 | **Countries:** Lebanon and France

**Genre:** Drama - Themes of violence | **Runtime:** 105 mins

**Cast:** Barakat Jabbour, Julia Kassar, Michel Adabashi, Toufic Barakat



Rabih, a young blind man, lives in a small village in Lebanon. He sings in a choir and edits Braille documents for an income. His life unravels when he tries to apply for a passport and discovers that his identification card, which he has carried his entire life, is a forgery. Travelling across rural Lebanon in search of a record of his own birth, he meets people on the far fringes of society who tell their own stories, open further questions and give Rabi minor clues about his true identity. Descending into a void at the heart of his existence, Rabih encounters a nation incapable of telling his or its own narrative.

## Session Times and Venue

Saturday 27 August

Venue: Hoyts Cinema Bankstown

Time: 9:00pm

# CASH FLOW 2

**Director:** Sami Koujan | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2015 | **Country:** Lebanon | **Genre:** Drama, comedy, romance

Mild themes of violence, sexual references and mature language. | **Runtime:** 100 mins

**Cast:** Carlos Azar, Gabriel Yammine, Hicham Haddad



The story of Mazen continues several years after the events of Cash Flow I, his new life is very different now, he's rich and successful, however, more money brings him more problems and new enemies. He goes through hilarious situations to solve his new problems, with the help of new and old characters.

## Session Times and Venue

Saturday 20 August

Venue: Hoyts Cinema Bankstown

Time: 6:00pm

# KAHLIL GIBRAN'S THE PROPHET ANIMATION

**Director:** Roger Allers and Mohammad Saeed Harib, Gaeten Brizzi,  
Paul Brizzi, Joan C. Gratz, Tomm Moore, Nina Paley, Bill Plympton, Joann Sfar, Michel Socha  
**Language:** English | **Year:** 2014 | **Countries:** Lebanon/Doha/USA  
**Genre:** Poetry, Animation | **Runtime:** 85 mins  
**Cast:** Liam Neeson, Salma Hayek, John Krasinski, Quvenzhané Wallis,  
Alfred Molina, Frank Langella



Inspired by the classic book by Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet* is an animated feature film written and directed by Roger Allers (*The Lion King*), with "chapters" from award-winning animation directors from around the world, and featuring worldclass musicians, singers, and composers.

## Session Times and Venue

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Thursday | September

The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club

Time: 7pm



# THE PROPHET BY GARY TARN

**Director:** Tracy Karam | **Language:** English  
**Year:** 2013 | **Country:** UK/Lebanon  
**Genre:** Poetry, Romance, History, Documentary Essay  
**Runtime:** 75 mins  
**Cast:** Narrated by Thandie Newton



The aspects of love, life and loss are taken into a cinematic spin based on the philosopher Kahlil Gibran's book of poetic prose 'The Prophet'. BAFTA nominated filmmaker Gary Tarn takes the viewer on an artistic journey with the incredibly swift accompanied narration of Thandie Newton and the sounds of an orchestral composition juxtaposed with imagery that serves to counterpoint Gibran's words.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 28 August

Venue: The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club

Time: 7:45pm

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# THE BROKEN WINGS

**Director:** Yousef Malouf | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 1962 | **Country:** Lebanon

**Genre:** Poetry, Romance, Drama

**Runtime:** 90 mins



Lebanese artist / poet Khalil Gibran reveals the same artistry and wisdom that have enshrined his name in the hearts of millions. With great sensitivity and lyricism, Gibran describes his youthful passion for his first love, Selma Karamy, the beautiful girl from Beirut.

But theirs was a love doomed from the beginning: Social conventions and family tensions eventually force Selma to marry another man. American audiences got their first taste of this sensitive adaptation in the late sixties. Since then, all film prints were lost or destroyed ... only to be recovered recently in a church in Beirut. The Broken Wings is a film of great historical and artistic value.

The film print of this film was lost during the war recovered years later in an abandoned church in Lebanon. The AFD video master was made from this restored print. Please expect the quality of your copy to reflect this film's unique history.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 21 August

Venue: The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club

Time: 6:30pm

# SCHEHERAZADE'S DIARY

**Director:** Zeina Daccache | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2013 | **Country:** Lebanon

**Genre:** Drama, documentary - Themes include mild references to violence (spoken about in interviews), minimal use of course language | **Runtime:** 80 mins

**Cast:** Women inmates from Baabda prison - Lebanon



The women inmates of Lebanon's Baabda Prison mine the depths of personal experience and confront patriarchy as they prepare and present the first theatre performance staged inside an Arab women's prison.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 21 August

Venue: The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club

Time: 3:45pm

# 12 ANGRY LEBANESE

**Director:** Zeina Daccache | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2013 | **Countries:** Lebanon

**Genre:** Drama, documentary - Themes of violence (spoken about in interviews), mild use of course language | **Runtime:** 78 mins

**Cast:** Inmates from Roumieh Prison in Lebanon



A theatre director, specializing in working with disadvantaged and traumatized people, Zeina Daccache struggled to set up Lebanon's first prison-based drama project in the country's notorious Roumieh Prison. For 15 months, 45 adult male inmates, some completely illiterate, found themselves working together to present an adaptation of the famous stage play '12 Angry Men', here re-named '12 Angry Lebanese'. Through their new-found creative outlet, we witness the prisoners coalesce into a slick, professional ensemble.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 21 August

Venue: The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club

Time: 1:00pm

# HOME SWEET HOME

**Director:** Nadine Naous | **Language:** Arabic/English (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2014 | **Country:** Lebanon/France

**Genre:** Documentary - Mild use of course language, verbal references to war

**Runtime:** 60 mins

**Cast:** Mustapha Naous-Farida Naous



The director returns to her native Lebanon due to the financial difficulties of her father, the principal of a progressive school in a south district of Beirut. The family home forms the venue for frequent lively and often humorous discussions. From these debates emerges the recent history of the country and the way political change has irreversibly transformed society.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 28 August

Venue: Bankstown Arts Centre

Time: 5:45pm

# JAMIL A FLYING SOUL

**Director:** Salim Habr | **Language:** Arabic/English (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2014 | **Country:** Lebanon

**Genre:** Documentary -References to war

**Runtime:** 57 mins

**Cast:** N/A – Interviewee Karen Boustany



Jamil Zogheib, A successful pediatrician who dedicated his life to medicine, meets a life changing event when he gets diagnosed with ALS disease at the peak of his life in 2008; Discover the story of a hero that will change your life.

## Session Times and Venue

Thursday 1 September

Venue: The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club

Time: 9:30pm

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# TWICE UPON A TIME

**Director:** Niam Itani | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2016 | **Countries:** Lebanon/Qatar/USA

**Genre:** Documentary - Verbal references to war/history

**Runtime:** 74 mins



Watching fireworks. Picking cherries. Flying a kite. Behind the splash of headlines about the Syrian conflict are children waking up each day, far from home. What makes up such a life? Niam Itani, a filmmaker and former child refugee herself, attempts to reconstruct, document, and even manufacture the meaning of childhood with 9-year-old Khalil, whose family fled Syria to the same small village where Itani's family once took refuge during the Lebanese Civil War in the 1980s. Looking through the prisms of Khalil's day to day challenges and animated reimaginings of Itani's past, "Twice Upon a Time" carefully pieces out the few memories of a woman with a splintered past and the everyday nuances of a boy caught between countries to understand what has been constructed from what remains.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 28 August

Venue: Bankstown Arts Centre

Time: 2:00pm

# A TIME TO REST

**Director:** Myriam El Hajj | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2015 | **Country:** Lebanon/France

**Genre:** Documentary - Themes of war; gun use in Lebanon

**Runtime:** 66 mins

**Cast:** Riad el Hajj, Toni Aramouni, Abou Khalil



Beirut 2013. Myriam's uncle Riad and his friends, all veterans of the Christian militias in Lebanon still live nostalgia for the war that impassioned their youth. Between shared memories in her uncle's hunting shop and their hunting trips from where they often return empty-handed, she questions them, confronts them. At a time when Lebanon continues to live the torments, in Riad's store a rupture between generations is looming.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 21 August

Venue: Bankstown Sports Club

Time: 9:15pm

# I SAY DUST

**Director:** Darine Hotait | **Language:** English

**Year:** 2015 | **Country:** USA

**Genre:** Romance, Drama | **Runtime:** 14 mins | **Cast:** Hala Aryan, Mounia Akl



Two Arab-American women in New York City fall in love, argue home and identity, engage in a chess battle, and express themselves through the power of the spoken word.

'I Say Dust' explores poetry in cinema through the story of Hal, a poet belonging to the Palestinian diaspora in NYC, who meets Moun, a free-spirited chess boards sales girl. Their brief love affair challenges their understanding of what makes home.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 28 August

Venue: The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club

Time: 7:45pm

Followed by screening of 'The Prophet' by Gary Tam

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# A TIME IN A LIFE

**Director:** George Barbari | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2015 | **Country:** Lebanon | **Genre:** Romance, Coming of Age

**Runtime:** 27 mins | **Cast:** Wissam Fares, Cynthia Khalife, Layla Hakim, Mounir Maasari



In a small town Batroun on the shores of North Lebanon, a young fisherman falls for a visitor and finds peace among the surrounding chaos.

## **Session Times and Venue**

Opening Night Session

Friday 19 August

Venue: The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club

Time: 7:00pm

# CONGRATULATIONS

**Director:** Cynthia Sawma | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2015 | **Countries:** Lebanon | **Genre:** Comedy, Drama

**Runtime:** 22 mins | **Cast:** Julia Kassar, Gabriel Yammine , Aida Sabra , Tony Mehanna



It's Christmas! Jacqueline and Maurice win \$100,000. Together, they try to hide it from their family.

## Session Times and Venue

Opening Night Session

Friday 19 August

Venue: The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club

Time: 7:00pm



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# UNDER THE ROBES

**Director:** Tracy Karam | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2015 | **Country:** Lebanon

**Genre:** Comedy, Drama

**Runtime:** 20 mins

**Cast:** Manuel Daher, Yvonne Nakad, Lucienne Zarazir, Mona Kheir, Emilie Sahyouni, Stephanie Atala



Monsignor Isidore visits an isolated convent to announce its closure. During this assignment, he steps on a land mine. Panic overcomes and faith becomes questionable.

## Session Times and Venue

Opening Night Session

Friday 19 August

Venue: The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club

Time: 7:00pm

# SARAB

**Director:** Tatiana Zgheib

**Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2015 | **Country:** Lebanon

**Genre:** Drama | **Runtime:** 9 mins

**Cast:** Natasha Choufani, Theresia Kattoura,  
Mazen Moadam



Omar, Tamara and their daughter Nay were living a as happy family. But unfortunately Omar was obliged to travel for business purposes for two years, without seeing his wife and daughter. After those two years everything changed, Tamara lives in emptiness between responsibility and betrayal.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 28 August

Venue: Bankstown Arts Centre

Time: 3:30pm



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# CUPIDS

**Director:** Gilbert Mhanna | **Language:** English | **Year:** 2015

**Country:** Lebanon | **Genre:** Fantasy | **Runtime:** 12 mins

**Cast:** Joy Hallak and Elissa Caracall



Two cupid angel sisters are sent on earth to restore the lost love between the people.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 28 August

Venue: Bankstown Arts Centre

Time: 3:30pm

# FADE OUT

**Director:** Nathalie Moussa | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)  
**Year:** 2015 | **Country:** Lebanon | **Genre:** Drama  
**Runtime:** 19 mins | **Cast:** Julian Farhat



A desperate, isolated scriptwriter finds inspiration in the fights of a couple who recently moved to the building across the street. He bases his script on the development of their day to day commotions.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 28 August

Venue: Bankstown Arts Centre

Time: 12:30pm

# FINDING MY LEBANON

**Director:** Mark Abouzeid | **Language:** Arabic/French (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2016 | **Country:** Lebanon

**Genre:** Documentary - References to war in conversation, History

**Runtime:** 21 mins

**Cast:** Rania Abouzeid, Robert Fisk, Mark Abouzeid, Barbara Massaad, Kamal Mouzawak



Prequel to the feature film 'Growing Cedars in the Air', this is the story of a 'modern nomad', the kind of man who was raised without any knowledge of his roots, his past, his heritage. Before his father died, the nomad interviewed him on their family history and for the first time his past was revealed to him through stories, pictures and never met before family members. The film captures the lives of three men: the grandfather who left, the father who died and the son who returned to discover his 'home' and the Lebanon he found.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 28 August

Venue: Bankstown Arts centre

Time: 3:30pm

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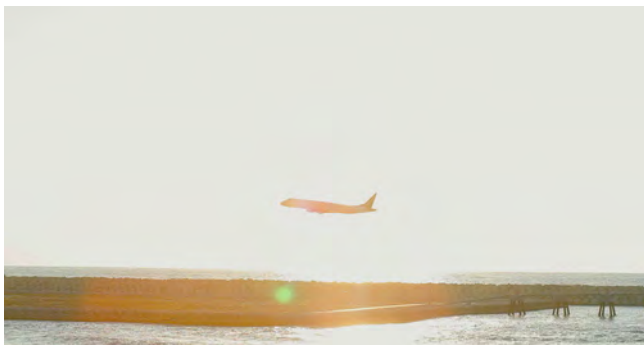
# A STORY OF EMIGRATION

**Director:** Stephanie Koussa | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2015 | **Countries:** Lebanon

**Genre:** Documentary - References to war in conversation

**Runtime:** 24 mins



Ahmad, Kelly and Hanane are three strangers who have nothing in common except for two things, their Lebanese and have experienced emigration, which has at some point deeply affected them and their families. The documentary reflects the state of a country that has been deeply marked by emigration, and that till this day shows no signs of improvement.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 28 August

Venue: Bankstown Arts Centre

Time: 4:50pm



# SHREDS

**Director:** Luana Bassil | **Language:** Arabic (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2014 | **Country:** Lebanon

**Genre:** Drama - Minor references of violence | **Runtime:** 72 mins

**Cast:** Julian Farhat



In 2030, the birth rate has decreased rapidly. There are 1024 children born per year. The world has turned bad - politically, socially and economically. Anne and her husband return home before heading for dinner, when Anne tells her husband, she is pregnant but doesn't want to keep the baby, opening up a sensitive and passionate discussion.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 28 August

Venue: Bankstown Arts Centre

Time: 12:30pm

# GRAND ECART

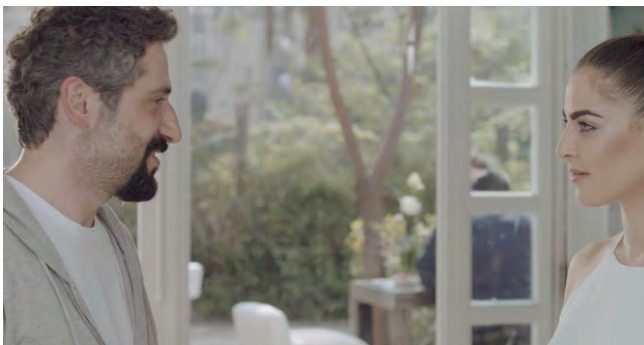
**Director:** Tracy Karam | **Language:** Arabic/French (with English subtitles)

**Year:** 2015 | **Country:** Lebanon

**Genre:** Romance, Drama

**Runtime:** 15 mins

**Cast:** Rodrigue Sleiman, Nadine Arab



A man and a woman cross paths again after 10 years. Leila flourished and is now a reputable dancer/artist while Cyril is still stuck where he was. One conversation leads to another and memories are brought back to life.

## Session Times and Venue

Sunday 28 August

Venue: Bankstown Arts Centre

Time: 12:30pm



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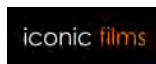
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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Lebanese Film Festival team:

Camille Lattouf, Director

Jessica Khoury, Co-Director

Priscilla Fayad, Operations

Julia Lattouf, Public Affairs and Marketing

Michael Khoury, Committee Member

The Lebanese Film Festival would like to thank all those that have made this edition a success. We extend our thanks to all our family and friends, in particular:

Bryan Brown

George Frazis

Martine Jager

Kerry Sebbio and Mark Goddard

Ed and Carole Hanna

John Gebran

Elias Doumar

Elias Mattar

Joe and Nisrine Daher

Antony Metledge

Justin Scoulou and Sandy Daniel

Albert Nassif

Dorry Kordahi

Michelle Rowling

The Hoyts team

Michael Harrison and the

Architectus team

Our families, friends and sponsors,

Thank you all for your hard work, passion, support and ongoing commitment to the Lebanese Film Festival.

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