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13th PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
SHOWCASES MOROCCAN FILMS AND VISITING DIGNITARIES

BOCA RATON, FL – The 13th Annual Palm Beach International Film Festival (PBIFF), being held April 10-17, is featuring five films from Morocco. The special series, “Visions of Morocco,” has been developed by guest programmer Jilil Laguili, General Secretary of the Foundation of Marrakech International Film Festival.

The Foundation for the International Film Festival in Marrakech, recently awarded the Roberto Rossellini prize, was introduced to the PBIFF after Festival Chairwoman Yvonne Boice and Executive Director Randi Emerman traveled to Marrakech to attend the event. The featured films include: “Goodbye Mothers,” “Islamour,” “Les Jardins De Samira,” “Oud Al Ward” and *Waiting for Pasolini*. (See below for synopsis on each film).

“We are delighted to promote the heritage of Moroccan culture in Palm Beach County,” said Jilil Laguili. “Our presentation at the PBIFF continues our efforts to open up to the world at large to advance Moroccan cinema throughout the world while reinforcing tolerance between different cultures.”

During the Palm Beach International Film Festival, Mr. Luguili and his colleagues from Morocco are available to meet with those in the community and the film industry. One objective of their trip to Palm Beach County is to build awareness for their association “Save Moroccan Cinema,” and discuss ways in which to help build bridges between Morocco and the U.S.

In addition to the Moroccan films, PBIFF will screen 141 films this year including features, documentaries, shorts and student shorts from the U.S. and around the world. The 2008 Festival will introduce 12 World Premieres and 10 U.S. Premieres, with a record number of filmmakers (51) attending.

The Palm Beach International Film Festival is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization supporting film programs in local schools and dedicated to making a difference in the lives of future filmmakers by helping them fulfill their dreams to one day work in the world of film. For more information, please call (561) 362-0003 or visit the festival web site at www.pbifilmfest.org.

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Goodbye Mothers, Morocco – U.S. Premiere

Director: Mohamed Ismail

Synopsis: 1960 is marked by waves of Jewish immigrants leaving in large numbers, influenced by Israeli immigration services. The story relates the solid bonds between two families, one Jewish, the other Muslim. Destiny will cruelly separate one family, leaving a noble mission to accomplish for the other.

Islamour, Morocco – U.S. Premiere

Director: Chraïbi Saad

Synopsis: Through the eyes of a Moroccan-American family and having lived 25 years in the USA until their forced departure due to the events of September 11, the return to their native land raises the issue of the Occidental judgment over the Arabic-Muslim culture. Meanwhile, two family generations drift between modernism and conservatism and between unity and fracture.

Les Jardins de Samira, Morocco – U.S. Premiere

Director: Latif Lahlou

Starring: Sanaa Mouziane, Mohamed Khouyi, Youssef Britel, Mohamed Majid

Synopsis: Samira only lives to find a husband. Following her marriage to a widowed and childless farmer, Samira discovers that her husband is impotent and that he married her to keep up with social conventions. When the lack of affection and sexual interest from her husband become unbearable, Samira turns to her young nephew Farouk. Samira's situation worsens once the affair is discovered.

Waiting for Pasolini, Morocco – U.S. Premiere

Director: Daoud Aoulad-Syad

Synopsis: Thami repairs television sets and works as an extra in foreign productions movies shot in his village near Ouarzazate. In 1966, Thami had made friends with Pasolini during the shooting of "Oedipus Rex". He was nineteen back then and everyone in the village had benefited from this incredible economic opportunity. Forty years later, an Italian crew comes to Ouarzazate to prepare for the shooting of a motion picture based on the Bible. Thami believes that his friend Pasolini is back and sets high hopes among his fellow villagers. Thami becomes an important member of the community. Daoudi, a former extra and friend of Thami is working with the Italian crew. Daoudi who has worked with Thami on the shooting of "Oedipus Rex" reveals to Thami that Pasolini died long ago. But in Thami's heart, Pasolini is still alive.

Oud Al Ward (The Lost Beauty) - U.S. Premiere

Director: Lahcen Zinoun

Country of Origin: Morocco

Synopsis: Kidnapped, then sold like some animal by ruthless slave traders, Oud L'ward, a shy and introverted young girl, is now doomed to the existence of being a slave.