

Unity, everyday issues tackled in film festival

Four films offer a realistic view into the lives of Israelis and Palestinians, abandoning the focus of military conflicts

Jacquelyn Lewis
Pulse Editor

Conflict in the Middle East has been the focus of abundant media attention as of late. However, the upcoming Middle East Film Festival will focus on the Israeli-Palestinian encounter rather than war or conflict between the groups.

The festival, presented by the Eugene Middle East Peace Group, begins on Saturday and will include four films intended to provide a window into day-to-day issues confronting people in Israel and Palestine. Two of the films will play at Bijou Art Cinemas, located at 492 E. 13th Ave., and two will show in 100 Willamette.

Main festival organizer, Middle East Peace Group member and Judaic Studies visiting lecturer Alon Raab said one of the event's main goals is to give audience members new perspectives and information that popular media might not always reflect.

"Our goal is to provide information that is missing from the mainstream media here and from most information outlets," Raab said. "The films explain the situation as it is happening right now in Israel

and Palestine, and some also provide hope."

Raab added that the Eugene Middle East Peace Group worked toward providing diversity within this goal by selecting films with varying themes.

"Gaza Strip," which will appear on Saturday at noon at Bijou Art Cinemas, focuses on life under occupation, while the "Beyond the Walls," screening on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in 100 Willamette Hall, is a film about Palestinian and Israeli prisoners uniting.

Academic adviser Karen Kennedy, who is also a member of the Middle East Peace Group, co-organized the film festival. She said the themes in "Gaza Strip" are important "because most Americans don't understand or know about (occupied territories)."

Eugene Middle East Peace Group secretary Lisa Fragala agreed.

"The American public needs to educate themselves and be aware of what is potentially happening there," she said.

"Promises," portraits of Israeli and Palestinian youth, will play at Bijou Art Cinemas on April 19 at noon. The final film, "Frontiers of Dreams and Fears," explores a friendship between two Palestinian girls. It will screen on April 24 at 7 p.m. in 100 Willamette Hall.

"We hope people come away

from these films having a more complex and richer understanding," Kennedy said. "I think this community is really hungry for this kind of information."

Raab said the Middle East Peace Group hopes the festival will become an annual affair. He said the peace group formed several years ago with three goals in mind: To foster dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis, increase awareness about the Middle East in the community and to raise funds for Middle East peace groups. The members, who come from varying backgrounds, participate in a variety of activities, from fundraisers and rallies to monthly potlucks and holiday celebrations.

The film festival is supported by the peace group as well as a grant. All proceeds will benefit Grassroots International, an organization directly supporting human rights, medical relief, social justice and peace work in Israel and Palestine. Fragala said the fundraising aspect is an important reason people should attend the films, and the money will help people living in "insufferable, desperate" conditions.

Admission to each film will be a sliding scale donation of \$5 to \$15 at the door.

Contact the Pulse editor at jacquelynlewis@dailyemerald.com.

STUDENT TRAVEL web fares

and NOT
just
online

London.....\$472
Paris.....\$491
Madrid.....\$684
San Jose, C.R...\$573

Fare is roundtrip from Eugene. Subject to change and availability. Tax not included. Restrictions and blackouts apply.

877 1/2 East 13th St. (541) 344.2263



www.statravel.com

STA TRAVEL

ONLINE >> ON THE PHONE >> ON CAMPUS >> ON THE STREET

THIS WEEK AT JOHN HENRY'S

EVERY WEDNESDAY
HIGHER GROUND SOUND
DANCE HALL DJ'S
9:30 PM \$2 GUYS/LADIES FREE

EVERY THURSDAY 9:30 PM \$3
80'S NIGHT

FRIDAY • 11TH

\$15
9:00 PM

A NIGHT WITH MELVIN
SEALS' MELTING POT
(EX JERRY GARCIA BAND)

SATURDAY • 12TH

PASS OUT KINGS
CAMAROSMITH
(EX-MEMBERS OF ZEKE)
COURTESY CLERKS
10:00 PM

\$5

SUNDAY • 13TH

\$4
10:00 PM

THE MIDNIGHT EVILS,
SWITCHABLE HEARTS
AND GUESTS

MONDAY • 14TH

\$2
10:00 PM

STRANGE
FOLKS

LIVE
HIP-HOP

TUESDAY • 15TH

REGGAE LEGENDS
THE ITALS
9:00 PM

\$10



77 WEST BROADWAY
(NEXT TO LAZAR'S BAZAAR) 342-3358
WWW.JOHNHENRYSCLUB.COM

Advertise. Get Results.

Oregon Daily Emerald 346-3712

The Exceptional Adult Store
EXCLUSIVELY Adult
TOYS • VIDEOS
MAGAZINES
DVDs • LINGERIE
1166 South A • Springfield
Open 24-7 (Almost)
726-6969

The Misanthrope by Molière
Robinson Theatre
April 11, 12, 17, 18,
19, 25, 26 - 8 PM
April 13 - 2 PM
Matinee benefit performance for SASS
Call 484-9791 ext. 314
for benefit tickets
Comic News 89.7m

RECYCLE

OUT WITH THE OLD ...

and in with the NEW!

Lose that old shirt!

Come into A Bizzillion and buy any combination of two new top pieces (t-shirts, coats, hoodies, sweaters, etc.) at regular price. Bring us an old worn out top and we will treat you to a third new top FREE! Choose from: Three Dots, Custo Barcelona, Ben Sherman, Wildlife Works and more. Offer good for both men's and women's top gear!

TUESDAY, APRIL 8TH -
SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH

Free top not to exceed value of least expensive top.



A Bizzillion 901 Pearl Street
(on the ground floor of the Eugene Hotel)
Hours: 12:00 - 5:30 Tues.-Sat.
Telephone: 541.485.1570

WOW HALL

Community Center for the Performing Arts
8th & Lincoln

▪ Tonight ▪
Rocket From the Crypt,
The Spits, The Bronx
Punk Rock
\$12 door, 8:00 pm

▪ Friday ▪
Rock 'N' Roll Soldiers,
The Lovers, The Bastard Saints,
Pocket Face
Rock
\$5 door, 8:00 pm

▪ Monday ▪
Frank Black & the Catholics,
David Lovering,
Los Mex Pistols del Norte
Rock
\$10 advance, \$12 door, 8:00 pm

▪ Wednesday ▪
O. A. R. (Of A Revolution)
with Franky Perez
Jam Rock Reggae
\$12.50 advance, \$15 door, 8:00 pm

▪ Tuesday, April 22 ▪
The Polyphonic Spree,
Summer Hymns, Patrick Park
Psychedelic Chamber Music
\$12.50 advance, \$15 door, 8:00 pm

All Ages Welcome • 687-2746