

Greenhouse: Emerging Documentary Voices from the Middle East and North Africa Screens April 23–27

JBFC Welcomes Four Female Filmmakers as Artists-in-Residence

Pleasantville, NY – April 5, 2017 – For the third consecutive year the Jacob Burns Film Center (JBFC) is partnering with the Greenhouse Documentary Development Program on the series Greenhouse: Emerging Documentary Voices from the Middle East and North Africa, screening April 23–27.

This year's Greenhouse series focuses on documentaries that highlight sexism, homophobia, and the struggle for human rights in the Middle East and North Africa and features six thought-provoking programs and discussions with filmmakers, Greenhouse mentors, and series programmers.

"Our goal is to challenge thoughts about radicalism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, misogyny, refugees, and immigration through inspiring documentaries and stimulating discussions with filmmakers from the Middle East, North Africa, and North America," said Sigal Yehuda, director, Greenhouse Documentary Development Program.

The Greenhouse Artist-in-Residence program at the JBFC coincides with the documentary series. This year, JBFC is welcoming four women filmmakers—Ayse Toprak (Turkey), Ekin Çalışır (Turkey), Laura Bustillos (Mexico), and Sara Nacer (Algeria)—for their outstanding work-in-progress films. They will live and work on the JBFC's three-building campus, host screenings at the theater, and engage with the local community. The filmmakers will be in residency from April 10–May 1.



"Given these turbulent times, we believe it is more important than ever to bring bold filmmaking voices from the Middle East and North Africa to the JBFC to share their stories firsthand," said JBFC Programmer Karen Goodman. "We are especially thrilled that this year's group consists of four courageous women who will participate in these unique programs and conversations."

This series is presented with generous support from The Violet Jabara Charitable Trust and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Highlights of Greenhouse: Emerging Documentary Voices from the Middle East and North Africa

Looking at Refugees and Immigration in Film & Media

APRIL 25, 7:30

Free Screening!

Join us for a program of five short films by Greenhouse artists-in-residence followed by an in-depth conversation with the filmmakers.

Schools on the Edge An intimate look at a school for Syrian refugees in Turkey struggling to survive. Director Ayse Toprak,

Undocumented Freedom with Border Mass The struggle for rights and recognition around immigration issues at the US-Mexican border. Director Laura Bustillos

Hands Off My School Government imposition of religious education in Turkish schools. Director Ekin Çalışır

Interview with Sara Nacer Canadian TV report about the 2017 Quebec mosque shooting.

Approx. 75 m.

Q&A Ayse Toprak, Ekin Çalışır, Laura Bustillos, Sara Nacer, and Greenhouse Director Sigal Yehuda with JBFC programmer Karen Sloe Goodman

Greenhouse Works-in-Progress

APRIL 26, 7:30

Mr. Gay Syria Set in Istanbul and Berlin, *Mr. Gay Syria* follows two exiled Syrian gay refugees who are trying to rebuild their lives. Directors Ekin Çalışır & Ayse Toprak

La Rockeuse du Desert In western Algeria, an illiterate sexagenarian leads a group of women to learn and perform the traditional music of the Gnawa ceremony and culture. Directors Laura Bustillos & Sara Nacer

Babyland After 42 years of ceasefire in Cyprus, the film observes how peace has changed the lives of Turkish Cypriots. Director Ekin Çalışır

Approx. 90 m

Q&A Greenhouse 2017 Artists-in-Residence Ayse Toprak, Ekin Çalışır, Laura Bustillos, and Sara Nacer

View the full series schedule and read more about the Artists-in-Residence on the [Greenhouse series page](#).

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

WHAT

[Greenhouse: Emerging Documentary Voices from the Middle East and North Africa](#)

WHEN

April 23–27, 2017

WHERE

Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Road, Pleasantville, NY, 10570

Exit 30 Saw Mill Parkway N/Exit 29 Saw Mill Parkway S or the Pleasantville stop on Metro-North Harlem Line

TICKETS

Tickets: \$8 (members), \$13 (nonmembers) unless otherwise noted, including two free events.

Tickets for both free and paid screenings are available online at burnsfilmcenter.org or at the Box Office

Box office opens noon on weekdays and 11:00 am on weekends

For information and group sales, call 914.773.7663, ext. 6

PHOTOS:

Photos of the event will be available the day following the screening.

About Greenhouse

[Greenhouse](#) is a groundbreaking initiative positioned at the intersection of media, social change and peace-building. The program nurtures a diverse and sustainable community of young documentary filmmakers from across the Middle East and North Africa, helping them develop the necessary skills to create powerful films that advance a more just, democratic and peaceful region.

About Jacob Burns Film Center

[Jacob Burns Film Center](#) (JBFC) is a nonprofit arts and education hub located on a three-building campus in the New York Metro area. The JBFC brings the transformative power of film to the surrounding community through unique programming and discussion, shared experiences, and educational initiatives. Since opening in 2001, over 3,000,000 people have enjoyed the best of current American and foreign cinema, unique film series, and special events at the five screen theater complex. A pioneer in visual literacy education, the Jacob Burns Film Center offers courses in filmmaking, screenwriting, and animation for students of all ages at our state-of-the-art Media Arts Lab and develops curriculums for public schools throughout the region.

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