

12th ANNUAL ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

On Sunday, April 2nd, and Tuesday, April 4th, the MSU Jewish Studies Program will host the 12th Annual Israeli Film Festival in the B-wing of Wells Hall. Admission is free and a complimentary dinner will be served on Sunday evening. Selection committee: Yael Aronoff, Yuval Benziman, Tom Bielik, Yore Kedem, Ellen Rothfeld, Ronen Steinberg, Kaila Waineo and Jerrold Weiss.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND

Apples from the Desert (1:45-3:50pm)

2014. Hebrew. A film by Matti Harari & Arik Lubetzky.

Rebecca Abarbanel lives in Jerusalem, the only daughter of an Orthodox Jewish family. Unhappy with her life, Rebecca becomes attracted to the secular world. Then one day she runs away with a young man to a kibbutz in the desert. This movie won the Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema 2015 BEVIE Award for Best Feature Film. Discussion afterwards led by Professor **Yael Aronoff**.

Arabic Movie (4:00-5:45pm)

2015. Documentary. Arabic, Hebrew. Directed by Eyal Sagui Bizawe and Sara Tsifroni. Many Israelis are still nostalgic about the old Friday afternoon ritual, back when television had only one channel. Everyone would watch the Arabic movie of the week. But how was Israel's official TV station able to transcend hostile boundaries to obtain these films, and why did it show them? The Arabic-language movie from Egypt allowed some Israelis to "return" to their original homeland, and let others catch a glimpse of their neighbors across the border. They briefly shared the same cultural heroes as everyone else in the Middle East. But this film about the richness and intensity of Egyptian cinema also raises many questions. Winner of the Art and Culture Award, Docaviv International Film Festival, 2015. This film will be followed by a dinner. Introduction by **Dany and Ellen Rothfeld**.

Baba Joon (6:30-8:45pm) Discussion and Q & A led by the Director, Yuval Delshad.

2015. Farsi, Hebrew.

Yitzhak runs the turkey farm his father built after they emigrated from Iran to Israel. When his son Moti turns thirteen, Yitzhak teaches him the trade, hoping that he will continue the proud family tradition. But Moti's passion is fixing up old cars. Soon enough Yitzhak will learn that his son is just as stubborn as he is. Ophir (Israeli Academy Award) for Best Film 2015. Israel's submission for the U.S. Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4TH

Sand Storm (7:00-9:15pm)

2016. Arabic. Directed by Elite Zexer.

As wedding festivities begin in a Bedouin village in Southern Israel, Jalila finds herself in the awkward position of hosting her husband Suliman's marriage to a second, younger wife. Meanwhile, Jalila discovers her eldest daughter Layla's involvement with a young man from her university. Jalila tries to bury the indignity of her husband and his bride living next door, while attempting to contain Layla's situation, but Layla sees a different life for herself. Winner of six Ophirs (Israeli Academy Awards) including Best Film, Best Director and Best Supporting Actress 2016. Israel's submission for the U.S. Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. First time that Israel's submission is entirely in Arabic. Discussion leader to be announced.