

Toronto Palestine Film Festival

September 26-October 2, 2009
102A-1075 Bay St., Ste 148
Toronto, ON M5S 2B2



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 19, 2009

ANNOUNCING TORONTO PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL 2009

Toronto – After its incredibly successful debut, the Toronto Palestine Film Festival (TPFF) is pleased to announce that **TPFF 2009** will take place on **September 26-October 2, 2009**.

The inaugural TPFF 2008 sold more than 4,100 tickets to 36 films screened over eight days. Festival goes spanning all generations and backgrounds, travelled from cities across Ontario, Quebec and the United States to attend the festival screenings.

To launch its second year, TPFF is re-screening the opening and closing films from last year's festival on **March 20, 2009** at the Bloor Cinema. ***Salt of This Sea*** and ***Slingshot Hip Hop*** made their Canadian premieres at TPFF to sold-out crowds, and were voted the runner-up and winner of the TPFF 2008 Audience Choice Awards.

Salt of This Sea directed by Annemarie Jacir, is the story of Soraya, an Arab-American woman (played by famed poet Suheir Hammad) who fulfils her life-long dream of returning to Palestine. There, she crosses paths with Emad, a young Palestinian seeking to leave the country for good. To escape the constraints of the situation in Palestine, Soraya and Emad take things into their own hands. The film was an "Official Selection, Un Certain Regard" at the Cannes Film Festival 2008.

Slingshot Hip Hop directed by Jackie Reem Salloum, is a documentary that tells the stories of young Palestinians living in the West Bank, Gaza and inside Israel as they discover Hip Hop and employ it as a tool to surmount barriers imposed by occupation and poverty. The documentary was nominated for the 2008 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury prize.

Slingshot Hip Hop closely followed the lives of the **members of PR**, the first rap group from **Gaza**. TPFF contacted Salloum earlier this year to inquire into well-being of the rappers after the bombardment of Gaza. Please see the accompanying **backgrounder** to learn more about the hardships the rappers are facing in Gaza.

Established in 2008 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the *Nakba*, TPFF celebrates film as an art form and means of expression by showcasing the vibrant heritage, resilience, and collective identity of the Palestinian people.

EVENT DETAILS: TPFF 2009 Re-screening of *Salt of This Sea* and *Slingshot Hip Hop*

WHEN: March 20, 2009 – 7:00 *Salt of This Sea*; 9:00 *Slingshot Hip Hop*

WHERE: Bloor Cinema, 506 Bloor Street West, Toronto

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www.tpff.ca

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