

## Toronto Palestine Film Festival

October 1-7 2011  
102A-1075 Bay St., Ste 148  
Toronto, ON M5S 2B2



### MEDIA ALERT - For Immediate Release

May 10, 2011

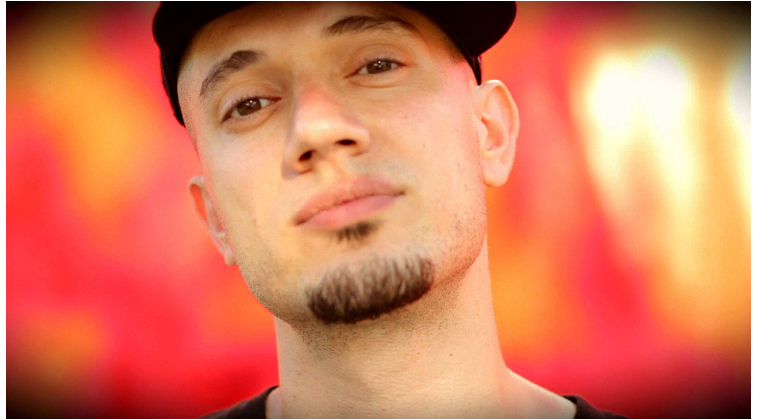
#### *Hip Hop Artist Omar Offendum Makes Canadian Debut at TPFF Launch*

**WHO:** [Toronto Palestine Film Festival](#)

**EVENT:** Hip hop artist [Omar Offendum](#) headlines TPFF's 2011 launch

**DATE:** Friday, May 13, 2011, 9:30pm  
Cover: \$10 at the door (19+)

**WHERE:** [The Rivoli](#), 334 Queen St. W.,  
Toronto, ON



Hip hop artist Omar Offendum is making his Canadian debut as the headliner of TPFF's 2011 launch party. The 4<sup>th</sup> [TPFF](#) takes place October 1-7, 2011. The launch party is the first event in a season that will bring Palestinian-focused films, panels and cultural events to Toronto audiences.

The Launch party is being co-presented with [Manifesto Festival](#) and will also feature: [Men Seeking Prophets](#) DJ Leila P and a SURPRISE guest performer.

A brilliant lyricist and humanitarian, Offendum is making waves internationally with the release of his debut solo album [SyrianamericanA](#), which he describes as a "Hip-Hop-Nation-State-of-Mind where everything is connected and everyone is welcome!". The critically [acclaimed](#) album combines history, politics and poetry with sweet-water hustle and soulful Arabic grooves.

More recently Offendum combined his passion for music and human rights and collaborated with several renown Canadian and US hip hop stars, including Canada's [Ayah](#) and [The Narcicyst](#), to release [#Jan25](#), a soundtrack in solidarity with the Egyptian revolution. According to Offendum, "this track serves as a testament to the revolution's effect on the hearts and minds of today's youth, and the spirit of resistance it has come to symbolize for oppressed people worldwide." In an [interview](#) with the Doha Film Institute, Offendum discussed how the song came together and its role in raising awareness and showing solidarity with the people of Egypt (see also [Arabnews.com](#) article and [Al Jazeera English](#) interview).

Offendum, a Syrian-American born in the [Middle East](#) and raised in the United States, started writing music in college while studying to become an architect. He has toured extensively across the US and the Middle East and was featured on several major news outlets (BBC, Yahoo, ABC News, Aljazeera, Reuters, Vibe).

In addition to touring and producing music, Offendum has guest lectured at numerous universities (Harvard, MIT, UPenn, Trinity College, University of Texas, Stanford, Qatar Education City, NYU-AbuDhabi, American University of Beirut). He held performance and

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writing workshops based on English and Arabic Hip-Hop/Poetry and Middle Eastern History & Studies.

*The 4<sup>th</sup> annual TPF is taking place October 1-7, 2011. Established in 2008, TPF celebrates film as an art form and means of expression by showcasing the vibrant heritage, resilience, and collective identity of the Palestinian people.*

### **Contact:**

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[Omar Offendum Photos](#)

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