

JVP BOSTON FILM LIBRARY
Borrow Films for Free!

Films can be a powerful way to engage people in learning, reflection, and action. We invite you to make use of this collection and spread the word. These films are licensed for small group showings only. Please read the fine print at the end.

Documentaries

1913: Seeds of Conflict

1 hour 2015

It examines a critical yet overlooked moment of transformation in Palestine, long before the Balfour Declaration and British Mandate period, usually considered the matchstick for today's ongoing struggles. <http://1913seedsofconflict.com>

Al Helm (The Dream): MLK in Palestine

93 min. 2013

"We went to the Holy Land with Dr. Clay Carson, who runs the Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute, to film his play about King performed by the Palestinian National Theatre and an African-American gospel choir which was presented to audiences all over the West Bank. It was an intense cultural exchange between two peoples encompassing the joy of new friendships, creative collaborations and eye opening experiences." <http://www.clarityfilms.org/mlk/>

Arna's Children

1½ hours 2004

Juliano Mer Khamis' film on the evolution of a theatre group for children from the Jenin refugee camp which was founded by his mother, Arna. <http://electronicintifada.net/content/review-arnas-children/3456>

Bethlehem to Brooklyn: Breaking the Surface

45 min. 2009

The film spotlights the world as experienced by Latino and African Americans and Palestinian teenagers struggling with the circumstances in their daily lives. Through a writing program—one in an alternative NYC school and one in Aida Camp--the resilience and passion of the young people comes alive. <http://www.frantarrpro.com/bethlehem-to-brooklyn/>

Breaking the Silence: Israeli Soldiers Talk about Hebron

38 min. 2005 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3urtwE6B3qo>

(Good film; the title says it all.) **NOTE:** We also have a copy in Hebrew.

Budrus

1 hour 22 min. 2011

Budrus is an award-winning film about a Palestinian community organizer and his daughter who

unite political factions and invite Israeli supporters to join an unarmed movement to save their village from destruction by Israel's Separation Barrier. <http://www.justvision.org/budrus>

Bunda'im

48 min. 2011

In south Tel-Aviv there was, and still is, a place where Yiddish and Socialism are still spoken. The filmmaker writes, "I felt privileged to meet the last comrades of a mass movement that was exterminated in Europe, ignored in Israel, but whose ideas live on."

Censored Voices

87 minutes 2015

One week after the 1967 'Six-Day War', a group of young kibbutzniks, led by renowned author Amos Oz and Editor Avraham Shapira, recorded intimate conversations with returning soldiers, 70% of which were censored by the Israeli army. The film reveals the original recordings for the first time as some of the men, now in their seventies, listen to their younger selves and relive their experience of war. Includes rare newsreel footage.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhOZ1VfYPcE>

Checkpoint

1 hour 20 min. 2003

The film shows the everyday interaction between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian civilians at several of the region's Israel Defense Forces checkpoints. *Checkpoint* is shot in *cinéma vérité* style with no *narration* and very little context. <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/checkpoint/>

Children of Gaza

Approx. an hour 2011

This film follows the lives of 4 children immediately after January, 2009 when more than 1,300 Palestinians were killed in Gaza. Through the eyes and words of young children, the film gives a unique and heartbreaking insight into the impact of war on young people.

<http://childrenofgazafund.org/index.php/thefilm/>

****Death in Gaza**

1 hour 20 min. 2004

The filmmakers chronicle the lives of three Palestinian adolescents growing up in war-torn Gaza. (A powerful--and surprising--ending. Difficult to watch at the very beginning, but excellent.)

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/death-in-gaza/>

Defamation

1 ½ hours 2008

Examines contemporary anti-Semitism and the possibility of a modern-day Jewish holocaust. (Will spark discussion.) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJo7LhSPJaY>

Dreams Deferred: The Struggle for Peace and Justice in Israel/Palestine

68 minutes 2011

The film lifts up many different voices—including those from familiar organizations—describing the Occupation, refusal to serve in the military, Zionism, anti-Semitism, curfew, abuse and violence. (A great overview.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRSa-u-mjRM>

****Encounter Point**

1¼ hours 2006

Family members of slain Palestinians and Israelis share their stories and how they've turned their grief into a force for change. (Good “starter” film.)

<http://www.justvision.org/encounterpoint>

Eyewitness Gaza

50 min. 2011

Shows current life in Gaza through the lens of Cambridge, MA photographer and Quaker activist Skip Schiel. (Useful focal point for discussion about the responsibility of U.S. taxpayers.)

<http://eyewitnessgaza.net>

Five Broken Cameras

1 ½ hours 2012

An extraordinary work of both cinematic and political activism, 5 Broken Cameras is a deeply personal, first-hand account of non-violent resistance in Bil'in, a West Bank village threatened by encroaching Israeli settlements. (Review from *Rotten Tomatoes*)

<http://www.kinolorber.com/5brokencameras/>

Flying Paper

71 min. 2013

An uplifting story of Palestinian youth from Gaza on a quest to shatter the Guinness World Record for the most kites flown at once. You are invited inside the culture of kite making and flying as a form of resistance. Co-produced with young filmmakers in Gaza.

<http://www.flyingpaper.org>

Forget Baghdad

1 hour and 52 min. 2002

The film tells the forgotten story of four Baghdadi-Jews, all former members of the Iraqi communist party who were forced to emigrate at Israel's founding. Jews in Baghdad and Arabs in Israel, the divided identities and confusion of these four men's lives tell a much larger tale of global, political and cultural disorder. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_0Ib5TQuNU

The Gatekeepers

101 minutes 2012

The story of the Israeli internal security service, *Shin Bet*, is told from the perspective of six of its former heads. It shows the role that they played in Israelis' security from the *Six-Day War* to

the present. <http://www.sonyclassics.com/thegatekeepers/>

Gaza Community Media Center

Three short films from the Gaza Community Media Centre document the personal impact of Israeli war crimes during the 51-day assault in July 2014. It may be possible to Skype with people from the Center.

Memory of Homes conveys the devastation and psychological dislocation of losing a physical place and its beloved inhabitants -- suddenly and without cause. **The White Flag** documents how frail the "humanitarian laws of war" are in the face of the US-funded Israeli war machine, how routinely and brutally they are flouted. **Al Wafaa**, in the quietest and gentlest of voices, describes the shelling of a hospital dedicated to the care of paralyzed patients. Each film is under 30 minutes. Each is hard to watch, but the urgency of the narrators to engage us is so strong, we cannot look away.

Holy Land: A Year in the West Bank

56 min/ 80 min 2014

The film focuses on Israeli settlements in the West Bank. It follows the lives of three Palestinians and three Israelis over a year, showing their relationship to the land and their beliefs about justice and the future. <http://holylandfilm.com>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVGeu4XI4Xc>

Inner Tour

98 min. 2002

Inner Tour was made just months before the second Intifada began in 2000; it chronicles a three-day bus tour of Israel by West Bank Palestinians. ...it shows "an extremely charged journey of deep emotional distances and contradicting realities as the travelers interact with ordinary Israelis and visit places that they feel simultaneously rooted to and alienated from."
<http://www.nytimes.com/movie/review?res=9507E4DB143AF932A35757C0A9649C8B63>

The Iron Wall

52 min. 2006

Explains how the land was taken and how the settlements work. Interview with Jeff Halper of [ICAHD](http://www.icaad.org/), among others. (Great overview and history.) <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-iron-wall/>

Israel vs. Israel

58 min. 2011

A film about Israeli peace activists: a rabbi, a soldier, a grandmother and an anarchist who work to end the Israeli Occupation. (Shows the complexity of responses by Israelis.)
<http://www.israelvsisrael.com>

Israel & Palestine: A very short animated intro

6 ½ min. 2012

Jewish Voice for Peace's introduction to Israel/Palestine; it provides historical context for understanding the violence happening right now.

<https://www.facebook.com/JewishVoiceforPeace/videos/10154250238759992/>

Jerusalem: An East Side Story

55 min. 2008

"Squeezes nearly one hundred years of history into an hour or so of cinema...exposes the past forty years of Israeli military occupation policies in Jerusalem and their devastating impact on the city and its peoples." *The Electronic Intifada*

<http://electronicintifada.net/content/film-review-jerusalem-east-side-story/3528>

The Law in these Parts

101 min. 2011

Explores the over four-decade old military system in the Occupied Territories through testimonies of military legal professionals who were the Occupation's architects and who helped run it in its formative years. (Best for audiences who have background knowledge of the Occupation.) <http://www.thelawfilm.com/eng#!/the-film>

Life in Occupied Palestine: Eyewitness Stories and Photos

59 min. 2008

An introduction to the plight of Palestinians by eyewitness Anna Baltzer, staff at End the Occupation and the granddaughter of Holocaust refugees. (Fantastic film: Good overview, well-organized, intimate in feeling, as if you are having a conversation with the filmmaker.)

<http://www.annainthemiddleeast.com/dvd/about/index.html>

Little Town of Bethlehem

1¼ hours 2010

A story of three men in a land gripped by fear, hatred, and division; expected to be enemies, they work together to end the cycle of violence.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XB3WN5ZCCg>

My Neighborhood

25 min.

The film follows an 11 year-old boy as he comes of age in the midst of unrelenting tension and remarkable cooperation in his backyard. (The length of this film is a plus as it allows for discussion.)

<http://www.justvision.org/myneighbourhood>

Occupation 101: Voices of the Silenced Majority

1 ½ hrs 2007

Details life under Israeli military rule, the role of the United States in the conflict, and the obstacles in the way of a lasting and viable peace. (One of the best comprehensive resources for understanding the Occupation.) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuoKwAHmJo4>

The Occupation of the American Mind: Israel's Public Relations War in the US

85 minutes 2016

We think this film is so good that we want you to buy it! It's about \$25.00 for at home, personal use. Invite friends and family to join you. Here's the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/138338995>

Buy the film at:

http://occupationoftheamericanmind.challengingmedia.org/individual_purchases.html

Occupied Palestine

87 min; first released in 1981; re-released 2013

Powerfully depicts the roots and results of colonization in Palestine. The film was met with a bomb threat on its initial release in the U.S. (A great film.)

<http://mondoweiss.net/2013/10/occupied-palestine-bombthreat.html>

On the Side of the Road

65 min. 2015

Former West Bank settler Lia Tarachansky looks at Israelis' collective amnesia of the fateful events of 1948 when the state of Israel was born and most Palestinians became refugees. She then travels back to her own settlement where that historical erasure gave birth to a new generation. <https://vimeo.com/65278501>

Open Bethlehem

90 min. 2014

The film is a cinematic diary of the filmmaker as she chronicles the building of the Israeli wall and the Occupation in her hometown of Bethlehem. Rev. Desmond Tutu writes, " 'Open Bethlehem' is a non violent attempt to save a city that belongs to many in the world."

<http://www.openbethlehem.org>

Palestine Blues

72 min. 2006

What is left for Palestinian farmers who learn that in 24 hours the Israeli Army will confiscate their lands for the construction of a Security Wall? Filming at times with a hidden camera, Palestinian-American filmmaker Nida Sinnokrot gives us a lasting chronicle of a people fighting for their lives and their land.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvIXeUfV_3I&feature=kp

Pressure Points: Israel, Berkeley, and the Divestment Movement

50 min. 2012

Explores the dynamics of the divestment debate and its historic significance within U.S. social

justice movements. Clearly shows the role of AIPAC.

http://metierhumanrights.org/productions/pressure_points_israel_berkeley_and_the_divestment_resolution

Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People

50 min. 2006

This groundbreaking documentary dissects a slanderous aspect of cinematic history that has run virtually unchallenged from the earliest days of silent film to today's biggest Hollywood blockbusters. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QKxHINgIoA>

Roadmap to Apartheid

1 ½ hours 2012

Narrated by Alice Walker, this film is as much a historical document of the rise and fall of apartheid in South Africa as it is a film about why many Palestinians feel they are living in an apartheid system today.

<http://roadmaptoapartheid.org>

Slingshot Hip Hop

87 min. 2007

"The culture of Hip Hop and Rap is at its most powerful, and yet its most tender, in Slingshot Hip Hop." Chuck D, Public Enemy. (From a JVP film participant: "A wonderful film about youth and their incredible resilience; really an 'up' in many ways!") <http://www.slingshothiphop.com>

Star of Goliath

25 min. 2005

A multimedia piece, Star of Goliath encapsulates modern Holy Land history and imperial machinations, with attention to varying Jewish views on Israel and the struggle for Palestinian survival and sovereignty. (Although this is an older film, it is powerful. A song-slide-sound piece.) <http://www.davelippman.com/goliath.html>

The Stones Cry Out

55 min. 2013

Palestinian Christians have played a critical role in their land's history and the struggle to recount the unwavering struggle of Palestinians to resist Israel's occupation and stay on their land. Despite being Christian or Muslim, "we are all Palestinians." (Wonderful film.)

<http://www.thestonescryoutmovie.com/about-the-film/>

The Time that Remains

1 hour, 49 min. 2009

Covering the years from 1948 to 2008, writer/director Elia Suleiman's film is both humorous and heartbreaking. It explores life among the Israeli Arab community and is shot largely in homes and places in which Suleiman's family once lived.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmUPHXAC3Lk>

They Were Promised the Sea: Arab Jews between Homeland and Promised Land

72 min. 2012

It investigates the circumstances that led to the mass exodus of hundreds of thousands of Jews from Morocco in the 1960's, an exodus inextricably linked to the Partition of Palestine, the creation of the state of Israel, and the dispossession and exile of the Palestinian people.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tNkLkFuQrM>

Two Blue Lines

98 min. 2015

Shot over a period of 25 years, Two Blue Lines examines the human and political situation of Palestinian people from the years prior to the creation of Israel to the present day. By primarily featuring the narratives of Israelis whose positions run counter to their country's official policy, filmmaker Tom Hayes provides a portrait of the ongoing conflict not often depicted in mainstream media. <http://mondoweiss.net/2015/01/palestine-premieres-columbus/>

Village Under the Forest

68 min. 2013

This South African film explores the remains of the destroyed Palestinian village of Luby. An excellent overview of the role of the Jewish National Fund and how it confiscates Palestinian land. <http://www.villageunderforest.com>

Voices Across the Divide

57 min. 2013

A powerful oral history project exploring the Israeli/Palestinian conflict through rarely heard personal stories shared with activist and filmmaker Alice Rothchild, focusing on the Palestinian narrative and the experience of loss, occupation, statelessness, and immigration to the US.

<http://voicesacrossthedivide.com/documentary/>

The War Around Us

75 min. 2012

In dramatic fashion, the film captures the personal agonies and isolation of the only two reporters covering Israel's 2008 war on Gaza, in which 1400 civilians died. It received a standing ovation at the 2012 Boston Palestine Film Festival. (Works for a wide range of audiences.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5heBRyvsIIU>

The Wanted 18

75 min. 2014

It's 1987. And the first Palestinian popular movement in the West Bank is rising. Residents want local alternatives to Israeli goods. So begins the strange story of 18 cows. It's told from the perspective of both the cows and the activists. Directed, illustrated, and narrated by acclaimed Palestinian artist Amer Shomali.

<http://www.wanted18.com>

http://www.democracynow.org/2015/6/12/the_wanted_18_us_israel_bar

Welcome to Hebron

58 min. 2007

<http://welcometohebrnmovie.com>

It features a dynamic teenage girl and depicts everyday life for Palestinians attempting to lead normal lives in this volatile city surrounded by checkpoints and barbed wired.

Where Should The Birds Fly

58 min. 2013

The first film about Gaza made by Palestinians living the reality of Israel's siege and blockade of this tiny enclave. Few films document so powerfully and personally the impact of modern warfare and sanctions on a civilian population. The film features the filmmaker herself, Fida Qishta, along with the teenager Mona Samouni as the extraordinary narrator.

<http://whereshouldthebirdsfly.org>

With God on our Side

1 hour 22 min. 2010

The film focuses on the theology of Christian Zionism, which teaches that because Jews are God's chosen people, they have a divine right to the land of Israel. We think that this film will speak to the experience of many Christians, whether Zionist or not. Study guide available on line. <http://www.withgodonourside.com>

Young Jewish and Left

55 min. 2006

A celebration of diversity, the film weaves queer culture, Jewish Arab history, secular *Yiddishkeit*, anti-racist analysis, and religious/spiritual traditions into a multi-layered tapestry of Leftist politics. It was shot throughout the US and focuses on Jews who came of age after the New Left movements of the 60's and 70's. Activists from the previous generation provide historical context. <http://youngjewishandleft.org/trailer.html>

Non-documentaries

Ajami

120 min. 2009

Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film Oscar, Ajami is a bold crime drama set on the streets of Jaffa's Ajami neighborhood—a melting pot of cultures and conflicting views among Jews, Muslims, and Christians—and told through the eyes of a cross-section of the city's residents.

<http://www.kinolorber.com/ajami/>

Amreeka

96 min. 2009

The film chronicles the adventures of a single mother, Muna, who leaves the West Bank with her teenage son, with dreams of an exciting future in the promised land of small town Illinois. In America, as her son navigates high school hallways the way he used to move through military checkpoints, the indomitable Muna scrambles together a new life cooking up falafel burgers as

well as hamburgers at the local White Castle.

<http://www.imdb.com/video/imdb/vi1142620697/>

Inch' Allah

101 min. 2012

A film about a young Canadian doctor working in a Palestinian refugee camp in the West Bank, where she treats pregnant women.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53XLPquQD6Q>

<http://mondoweiss.net/2013/04/wrenching-occupation-consigned>

Laila's Birthday

71 min. 2009

On his young daughter's birthday, like any day, Abu Laila faces a nerve-wracking shift in a Ramallah yellow cab armed only with an ex-jurist's misplaced pride, a father's loyalty, and a sticker reminding passengers that smoking and carrying AK-47s are prohibited... *Laila's Birthday* finds surprising humor and remarkable humanity in the fares Abu plucks from the social free fall of a city upended by war. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9TrTei3mzQ>

****The Lemon Tree**

1 hour 46 min. 2009

The film describes the legal battles of a Palestinian widow to stop the Israeli Defense Minister, her next door neighbor, from destroying the lemon trees on her family farm. At the same time, she develops a bond with the minister's wife. (Quite different from the book.)

<http://www.metacritic.com/movie/lemon-tree>

Omar

98 min. 2013

Omar is a thriller and a romance with unabashedly melodramatic elements (there's even a love triangle), all of which are brought into stark relief by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Helped along by an amazing cast of mostly first-time actors, "Omar" feels very fresh due to its attitude, approach, and the fact that it offers no solutions." Roger Ebert

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPcvn4MtgIc>

The Other Son

105 min. 2012

A provocative tale filmed in Israel and the West Bank of two young men -- one Israeli, the other Palestinian -- who discover they were accidentally switched at birth and the complex repercussions on themselves and their respective families.

<http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/the-other-son-2012>

Or: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/26/movies/the-other-son-about-the-palestinian-israeli-divide.html>

Paradise Now

1½ hours 2005

The film follows two Palestinian childhood friends who have been recruited for a strike on Tel Aviv and focuses on their last days together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhvNx2ZwRvY>

Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People

50 minutes 2006

This film dissects a slanderous aspect of cinematic history that has run virtually unchallenged from the earliest days of silent film to today's biggest Hollywood blockbusters. Author Dr. Jack Shaheen shows how the persistence of these images over time has served to naturalize prejudicial attitudes toward Arabs and Arab culture and the effects of specific US domestic and international policies on their lives. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QKxHINgloA>
http://www.democracynow.org/2007/10/19/reel_bad_arabs_how_hollywood_vilifies

Salt of this Sea

104 min. 2009

Sixty years after her grandparents' exile from Jaffe, Soraya (Suheir Hammad) leaves Brooklyn to live in her homeland. An urgent and devastating portrait of life under Occupation. (Conveys the claustrophobia of living in Palestine on many levels: physically, spiritually, emotionally.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBbPUxbjiuc>

They Were Promised the Sea

1 hour and 14min. 2013

This is the story of a people whose identity as Arab Jews challenges the very notion of enemy. Informed by the director's family history, the film investigates the exodus that virtually emptied Morocco of its Jewish population, many believing they were no longer safe in their Arab homeland. Visually stunning, with wonderful music. <https://vimeo.com/60814711>

Wedding in the Galilee

113 min. 1998

The elder of a Palestinian village wants permission to hold a traditional wedding for his son that will extend beyond the imposed curfew. The Army commander agrees on the condition that he and his officers be invited as guests of honor at the ceremony. One of the first films made in Israel to feature a Palestinian point of view, the film is an allegory of marriage, tradition, and national identity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zX1nSXUX6Zs>

When I saw You

98 min. 2014

In Jordan, in 1967, tens of thousands of refugees pour across the border from Palestine. Having been separated from his father in the chaos of war, Tarek, 11, and his mother Ghaydaa, are amongst this latest wave of refugees. This is the story of a journey full of adventure, love, humor, and the desire to be free. (An unforgettable film.)

<http://mondoweiss.net/2014/01/americans-must-when>

**These films treat both sides as equals in the conflict. We include them because they may be a good entry point for those hesitant to undertake a power-based understanding of the conflict in Israel/Palestine.

The comments in parentheses are Pam and Diana's impressions—not those of JVP Boston!

To borrow a film, email us at jvpboston@gmail.com

Guidelines

- a) Watch the trailer before ordering a film.
- b) Consider your audience: These films can depict graphic violence and despair. However, the resilience and determination of the Palestinian people is almost always present as well.
- c) In all cases, these films are licensed for in-home viewing. If you'd like to show them in a larger venue, you must contact the distributor of the film.
- d) We appreciate film suggestions and donations to our film fund. Many of the films we have were given to us. If you are similarly moved to send us something that, in your view, is mandatory viewing, we will be grateful.
- e) We ask that you mail them back to us within a month, unless we have made another arrangement. If you keep the envelope, you can just put on the SAME amount of postage and pop it in the mailbox. (More instructions will be sent with the film.)
If you lose or damage the film, you are responsible for replacing it. Most of our films cost about \$25.
- f) Although not required, we would love to know how your audience reacted to the film; this will help us guide others.

We would be glad to talk with you about the films! Email us at jvpboston@gmail.com and we'll arrange a time to talk. *Pam Rogers*