

# Films

in conjunction with

**The 2006 Middle East & Central Asia Politics, Economics, and Society Conference**

**THURSDAY Sept 7<sup>th</sup> 3:30 PM U. of Utah, Union Theatre**

***The Road to Kerbala*** (Katia Jaroura, 53 min, 2005)

The filmmaker joins religious celebrants on a 100-km walk from Baghdad to Kerbala, where she witnesses expressions of religious fervor, denunciations of Saddam's former regime, protests against the US occupation, and support for the Shi'a Mahdi Army.

**THURSDAY Sept 7<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM U. of Utah, Union Theatre**

***Bride Kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan*** (Petr Lom, 51 min, 2004)

The first film to document the ancient custom of bride kidnapping in Central Asia, a tradition formally outlawed in Kyrgyzstan since 1994, though rarely enforced.

**FRIDAY Sept 8<sup>th</sup> 2:45 PM U. of Utah, Union Theatre**

***20 Year-olds in the Middle East*** (Agal Moghaizel, 52 min, 2003)

This film takes the pulse of the Middle East youth by traversing the region from Jordan to Syria, Iran, and Lebanon.

**FRIDAY Sept 8<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM U. of Utah, OSH Auditorium**

***Atash (Thirst)*** (Palestine/Israel, Tawfik Abu Wael, 110 min, 2004)

Abu Shukri, a middle-aged Palestinian man, and his family are squatters at an abandoned Israeli military outpost with no running water or electricity. The family has decided to live this way to escape the presumed shame of an affair which a daughter had had. To earn money, the household sells charcoal. Their lives are about to change, so they think.

**SATURDAY Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 3 PM U. of Utah, Union Theatre**

***Shirin Ebadi: A Simple Lawyer*** (Bani Khoshnoudi, 49 min, 2003)

This film profiles the Nobel Peace Prize and Iranian Lawyer, Shirin Ebadi, through an in-depth interview conducted in her Tehran office.

**SATURDAY Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 4:30 PM U. of Utah, OSH Auditorium**

***Border Café*** (Iran, Kambozia Partovi, 105 min, 2005)

Reyhan, a young mother of two, faces a difficult choice when her husband dies: Marry her brother-in-law, Nasser, in exchange for financial support for her kids or keep her pride and seek economic hardship to support her family. Despite Nasser's threats, Reyhan reopens her husband's café, on the highway near Iran's border with Turkey. Reyhan's success only angers Nasser. Can Nasser's threats be more than she can resist?

**More info: [www.utah.edu/meca](http://www.utah.edu/meca)**