



*46<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention:  
Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness*

## Islamic Film Festival

The media is a powerful tool in building a positive image of Islam. Through documentaries and movies that both entertain and inform, we are able to transmit a message to the audience through a story.

*Convention Center Room 101*



Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

3:00-4:15

### *Malcolm's Echo: The Legacy of Malcolm X*

This film looks beyond the stereotypes of Malcolm X and attempts to understand the real message of his legacy echoed through the voices of activists, scholars, and those who knew him.

5:00-6:00

### *Dollars and Dreams: West Africans in New York*

*Dollars and Dreams* is a documentary film focused on the pursuits and challenges of numerous West African immigrants as they confront the idea of the American Dream and the reality of the New York experience. Including additional perspective from scholars, authors, and community leaders, the film creates a vibrant portrait of African achievement throughout the city, while exploring the complicated issues African immigrants face as they balance their deep connections to Africa and their enthusiastic commitments to America.

6:30-7:30

### *New York Intifada*

*New York Intifada* documents the controversy surrounding the opening of the Khalil Gibran International Academy in Brooklyn New York, the first Arabic language public school in the United States, and the subsequent resignation of its founding principal, Debbie Almontaser.

## Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

10:00-12:15

### *Inaugural Session*

Pannel: Babar Ahmed, Daniel Tutt, Jennifer Maytorena Taylor, Jawad Abdul Rahman

Moderator: Rami Santrisi

### **Feature Movie: Message from the East**

Muhammad Iqbal was a dynamic contributing force towards global understanding and actualizing human potential. He struggled to find both identity and purpose for the South Asians of British India that would transcend the narrow margins of Nationalism, Fundamentalism and Dogmatism. This movie is a feature-length biographical documentary examining the life and works of humanitarian poet-philosopher, Muhammad Iqbal, during British Colonial rule in South Asia.

12:45-1:45

### *Pakistan's Taliban Generation*

Filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy investigates how the war on terror is creating a generation of child terrorists in her homeland - children prepared to kill both inside and outside Pakistan.

3:00-4:00

### *Waiting for Mercy: The Case Against Yassin Aref and Mohammed Hossain*

This documentary tells the story of a fictitious FBI sting operation in Albany, NY to entrap Yassin Aref, 37-year-old refugee from Northern-Iraq, and Mohammed Hossain, a 51-year-old United States citizen and an immigrant from Bangladesh. The plot was organized by the FBI's Albany Counterterrorism Task Force, the Justice Department, local police, and IRS agents. It was arranged to portray these two men as terrorists who "knowingly participated in a terrorist act to send a should-fired missile into New York to attack the Pakistani ambassador.

Pannel Discussion: Ellie Bernstein, Shamshad Ahmad, May Saffar

5:00-7:00

## *New Muslim Cool*

Puerto Rican American rapper Hamza Pérez ended his life as a drug dealer 12 years ago, and started down a new path as a young Muslim. But when the FBI raids his mosque, Hamza must confront the realities of the post-9/11 world, and challenge himself. He starts reaching for a deeper understanding of his faith, discovering new connections with people from Christian and Jewish communities. *New Muslim Cool* takes viewers on Hamza's ride through the streets, projects and jail cells of urban America, following his spiritual journey to some surprising places — where we can all see ourselves reflected in a world that never stops changing.

Panel Discussion: Truth, Youth, and New Muslim Cool

Jennifer Maytorena Taylor, Zaheer Ali, Dr. Munir Jiwa, Kauthar Umar

7:00-7:15

## *Preview: Journey to Mecca*

*Journey to Mecca* is an IMAX® dramatic and documentary feature that tells the amazing story of Ibn Battuta, the greatest explorer of the Old World, following his first pilgrimage between 1325 and 1326 from Tangier to Mecca.

His perilous journey resonates with adventure while presenting an unforgettable picture of Islamic civilization during the 14th century, culminating with Ibn Battuta's first Hajj. The story is book-ended by a close-up look at the contemporary Hajj, a pilgrimage to Mecca that draws three million Muslims from around the world.

7:15-9:00

## *Yousouf N'Dour: I Bring What I Love*

In 2005, N'Dour, a devout Sufi Muslim, released a deeply personal and religious album called *Egypt*, in hopes of promoting a more tolerant face of Islam. Almost instantly, his fellow Senegalese rejected the album, and denounced his actions as blasphemous. Merchants quickly returned their copies and N'Dour became a topic of controversy. *I Bring what I Love* tells the story of how N'Dour fights his people and eventually wins the hearts of his people.

9:00-11:00

Room 146 A&B

## *Journey into America*

A Muslim professor sets out to discover America with a team of young Americans. They visited over 70 cities and more than 100 mosques on an unprecedented project interviewing countless Americans in their homes, schools, and places of worship.

Panel Discussion: Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, Congressman Keith Ellison, Dr. Ingrid Mattson, Imam Mohamed Majid, Senior Rabbi Bruce Lustig

Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

9:00-10:30

## *Allah Made me Funny*

This landmark concert film follows three acclaimed comedians, Mo Amer, Azhar Usman, and Preacher Moss, on stage and off as they lift the veil to reveal the humorous side of what it's really like to be American and Muslim. The three famous comedians poke fun at themselves, their communities, government, human nature and the tricky predicament of living in post- 9/11 America.

10:30-10:40

## *Tough Crowd*

Choosing between family tradition and her life's ambition, a female Muslim college student embraces both in hopes of finding her identity.

11:30-12:30

## *Preview: Veiled Voices*

This documentary introduces the world of Muslim women religious leaders through the eyes of three women in Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt. These women are reviving their leadership role in Islam across the Middle East. In the winter of 2007 and 2009 filmmaker Brigid Maher filmed three extraordinary women in Syria, Lebanon and Egypt. All three women face their own challenges as they carve out a space to lead their fellow women in Islam in their communities.

2:30-3:30

## *Genius*

Mike, with a heart as big as the world, has a learning disability. He also has a hopeless crush on the most beautiful girl in his grade, but she only dates smart guys. Mike is so desperate to win her affection that he tries to hire one of his teachers, the obnoxious and self-centered Ms. Goldwyn to make him smart. This movie reminds us that even the smallest acts of grace and kindness can produce staggering results.

5:00-6:00

## *The Muslims I Know*

Following the 9/11 attacks, the need to identify "militant Jihadists" by distinguishing them from moderate Muslims has cast suspicion on all Muslims in America. The purpose of this documentary is to break stereotypes by showcasing Pakistani Americans and asking them questions non-Muslim Americans have framed.

6:30-7:30

## *Dwindling Drops in the Sand: Investigating Syria's Water Crisis*

This documentary follows graduate student Sama Wareh on an adventure to investigate the three main reasons that a water crisis is so significant in Damascus: global warming, overpopulation, and pollution.

## Meet the Film Makers

Allah Made me Funny

Daniel Tutt

Unity Productions Foundation

Dollars and Dreams

Jeremy Rocklin

Blue Saxophone Films

Dwindling Drops in the Sand:  
Investigating Syria's Water Crisis

Sama Wareh

Wareh Art

Genius

Baber Ahmed

Journey into America

Akbar Ahmed

Journey to Mecca

Sam J. Martin

SK Films Inc.

Malcolm's Echo: The Legacy of  
Malcolm X

Dami Akinnusi

Darling Productions

Message from the East

Jeremiah Hammerling

The Muslims I Know

Marā Ahmed

Neelum Films LLC

New Muslim Cool

Jennifer Maytorena Taylor &

Kauthar Umar

Specific Pictures

New York Intifada

David Teague

Brooklyn Vitagraph Company

Pakistan's Taliban Generation

Sharmeen Obaid

Sharmeen Obaid Films

Tough Crowd

Iman Zawahry

Florida State University

Veiled Voices

Brigid Maher

AFD/ Typecast Films

Waiting for Mercy

Ellie Bernstein

Muslims Solidarity Committee &

Ophelia's Media Production

The Islamic Society of North America  
P.O. Box 38 Plainfield, IN 46168 USA  
Phone (317) 839-8157. Fax (317) 839-1840 . [convention@isna.net](mailto:convention@isna.net) . [www.isna.net](http://www.isna.net)