

**FILMS OWNED BY JVP BOSTON
WE WANT TO SHARE OUR COLLECTION!**

Films can be a terrific method to engage people in learning, reflection, and action. We invite you to make use of our curated collection and spread the word. 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://electronicintifada.net/content/review-arnas-children/3456> JVP will be showing this film this summer; it will be available for lending this fall.

Arna's Children

1 ½ 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, an activist against the Israeli occupation. <http://electronicintifada.net/content/review-arnas-children/3456>

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.)

Checkpoint

1 hour 20 min. 2003

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/checkpoint/>

The film shows the everyday interaction between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian civilians at several of the regions Israel Defense Forces checkpoints. *Checkpoint* is shot in *cinéma vérité* style with no narration and very little context.

***Death in Gaza**

1 hour 20 min. 2004

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/death-in-gaza/> (can view film at this link)

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.)

Defamation

1 ½ hours 2008

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJo7LhSPJaY>

Examines contemporary anti-Semitism and the possibility of a modern-day Jewish holocaust. (Will spark lots of discussion.)

***Encounter Point**

1¼ hours 2006

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

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.)

Eyewitness Gaza

50 min. 2011

<http://eyewitnessgaza.net>

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.)

Five Broken Cameras

1 ½ hours 2012

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

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*)

Flying Paper

71 min. 2013

<http://www.flyingpaper.org>

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.

The Gatekeepers

101 minutes 2012

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

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's security from the *Six-Day War* to the present.

Ghost Town: The Hebron Story

2014

<http://www.thehebronstory.com/index.html>

This film tells the stories of families in Hebron, located in the West Bank of Palestine. It follows the rise of the settlements and how they came to have such a major role in the destruction of the peace process in the Mideast. Narrated by Martin Sheen.

The Great Book Robbery

57 min. 2012

<http://thegreatbookrobbery.org>

Explores the looting of 70,000 Palestinian books during the 1948 war by the newly born state of Israel.

Life in Occupied Palestine: Eyewitness Stories and Photos

59 min. 2008

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

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.)

Inner Tour

98 min. 2002

<http://www.nytimes.com/movie/review?res=9507E4DB143AF932A35757C0A9649C8B63>

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."

The Iron Wall

52 min. 2006

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-iron-wall/>

Explains how the land was taken and how the settlements work. Interview with Jeff Halper of [ICAHD](#), among others. (Great overview and history.)

Israel vs. Israel

58 min. 2011

<http://www.israelvsisrael.com>

A film about Israeli peace activists: a rabbi, a soldier, a grandmother and an anarchist who work to end the Israeli Occupation. (Good reminder of the complexity of responses by Israelis.)

Jerusalem: An East Side Story

55 min. 2008

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

"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*

The Law in these Parts

101 min. 2011

<http://www.thelawfilm.com/eng#!/the-film>

Explores the over four-decade old military system in the Occupied Territories through testimonies of military legal professionals who were its architects and who helped run it in its formative years. (Best for audiences who have background knowledge of the Occupation.)

Little Town of Bethlehem

1¼ hours 2010

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

A true 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.

MLK in Palestine

93 min. 2013

<http://www.clarityfilms.org/mlk/>

An African-American gospel choir goes to Palestine to sing in a play about Martin Luther King Jr. They witness life under the Occupation and the non-violent movement for social justice. (Best for those who grew up in the Civil Rights era; particularly good for Christian audiences.)

Occupation 101: Voices of the Silenced Majority

1 ½ hrs 2007

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuoKwAHmJo4>

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.)

Occupied Palestine

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

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

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.)

Palestine Blues

72 min. 2006

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

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 and at times under extreme duress, Palestinian-American filmmaker Nida Sinnokrot gives us a lasting chronicle of a people fighting for their lives and their land.

Peace, Propaganda, & the Promised Land: U.S. Media & the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

1 hour, 20 min. 2003

<http://www.mediaed.org/cgi-bin/commerce.cgi?preadd=action&key=117#film-praise>

The film, while somewhat dated, provides a striking comparison of U.S. and international media coverage of the crisis in the Middle East, zeroing in on how structural distortions in U.S. coverage have reinforced false perceptions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Pressure Points: Israel, Berkeley, and the Divestment Movement

50 min. 2012

http://metierhumanrights.org/productions/pressure_points_israel_berkeley_and_the_divestment_resolution

Explores the dynamics of the divestment debate and its historic significance within U.S. social justice movements. Clearly shows the role of AIPAC.

Roadmap to Apartheid

1 ½ hours 2012

<http://roadmaptoapartheid.org>

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.

Slingshot Hip Hop

87 min. 2007

<http://www.slingshothiphop.com>

“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 upper in many ways!”)

Star of Goliath

25 min. 2005

<http://www.davelippman.com/goliath.html>

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.

The Stones Cry Out

55 min. 2013

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

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. (Wonderful film.)

Village Under the Forest

68 min. 2013

<http://www.villageunderforest.com>

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.

Voices Across the Divide

57 min. 2013

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

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. (We love this film!)

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

<http://whereshouldthebirdsfly.org>

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.

With God on our Side

1 hour 22 min. 2010

<http://www.withgodonourside.com>

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 online.

The War Around Us

75 min. 2012

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

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.)

Non-documentaries

Ajami

120 min. 2009

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

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.

Amreeka

96 min. 2009

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

The film chronicles the adventures of Muna, a single mother who leaves the West Bank with Fadi, 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.

Checkpoint

80 min. 2003

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

The film documents the impact of checkpoints" on the Israeli border guards drafted to monitor them and the Palestinian citizens who must pass through them daily.

Inch' Allah

101 min. 2012

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

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

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

Laila's Birthday

71 min. 2009

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9TrTei3mzQ>

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-47 s 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.

***The Lemon Tree**

1 hour 46 min. 2009

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

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

Omar

98 min. 2013

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

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

The Other Son

105 min. 2012

<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> 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.

Paradise Now

1½ hours 2005

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

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

Salt of this Sea

104 min. 2009

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

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.)

Wedding in the Galilee

113 min. 1998

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

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.

When I saw You

98 min. 2014

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

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.

*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 fuller understanding of the conflict in Israel/Palestine.

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

The Fine Print

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

Our guidelines:

- a) Watch the trailer before ordering a film.
- b) Consider your audience: “Trigger Warnings” apply! These films sometimes depict graphic violence and despair. However, there is often humor -- and resilience -- 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! Several 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!

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 & Diana Digges for JVP Boston