

Arab Diasporas/Comparative Diasporas Film Series

Tuesday, January 17, 2005

6:30 p.m.

Room # 2195, Social Science Building

Ford Transit, Directed by Hany Abu Assad, 80 min., 2002.

Director Hany Abu-Assad follows cab driver Rajai and his passengers in Ramallah and Jerusalem, as they detour around roadblocks and speed through short cuts. Rajai's passengers form a heterogeneous group of ordinary people and local celebrities-including politician Hanan Ashrawi and filmmaker B.Z. Goldberg (PROMISES, HRWIFF 2001) -who, with humor and sincerity, express divergent opinions about the situation in Palestine and views of the conflict with Israel while being bused around in his van. Interwoven with these powerful interviews is Rajai's life and dreams: we hear about his family, his sideline pursuit of smuggling illegal CDs, his view of the political situation and solutions for it, his dreams of a future abroad. Winner of the 2003 HRWIFF Nestor Almendros Prize for courage in filmmaking. <http://www.hrw.org/iff/2003/ny/ford.html>



Post-Screening Roundtable Discussion with:

Fadwa Al/Labadi



- Director of Insan Center for Gender Studies, Al Quds University.
- Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Center for Arab American Studies, UM-D.
- Professor of Women's Studies and Social Development
- Leader, Palestinian Women's Movement

Lolita Hernandez



- PEN Award Winning Author, *Autopsy of an Engine and Other Stories from the Cadillac Plant*
- UAW Member for 33 years
- Contributing Author, *Working Words, Quiet Battles*, and *snakecrossing*.
- Performer in local and national venues

Lars Bjorn



- Director, American Studies Program, UM-D
- Professor of Sociology, UM-D
- Author, *Before Motown: A History of Jazz in Detroit 1920-1960*
- Published articles on sexual harassment in the auto industry, comparative political sociology, and the sociology of culture.

Vanessa Saldívar



- Graduate Student, Masters in Liberal Studies, UM-D
- Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Arab American Studies, UM-D
- B.A. Psychology and Gender and Sexuality, New York University
- Presented research at international sites, in Brazil; Palestine; and Mexico.

Free and open to the public.

Space is limited. Please RSVP by Monday, January 16, 2006 at

caasumd@umd.umich.edu or call CAAS at (313) 583-6334