

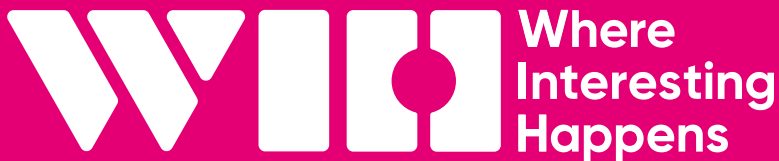
LEBANESE FILM FESTIVAL

12TH EDITION



SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA • LFF.ORG.AU

15-31 AUGUST 2024



Expect the unexpected

The Bankstown CBD is home to the Bankstown Arts Centre where artists and community groups collaborate to explore ideas, learn, create and experience contemporary community-based arts.

Our City is also home to the Bankstown Poetry Slam which empowers people to express themselves through spoken word poetry and the Bryan Brown Theatre, our premiere entertainment destination for cultural showcases, dance concerts, musical performances, conferences, seminars and film screening.

We are proud to support the Lebanese Film Festival again this year – as the home of 'Where Interesting Happens'. Join us on our new destination website to explore, connect and immerse yourself in everything that makes Canterbury-Bankstown unique and interesting. Taste global cuisines, unwind in nature, experience authentic events and discover your next adventure.

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2024 LEBANESE FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAM: SYDNEY

DATE	TIME	FILM EVENT	FILM TYPE	VENUE
Thurs, 15 Aug*	6.15pm	OPENING NIGHT: Arze	Feature; Drama; Comedy	Bryan Brown Theatre, Bankstown
Fri, 16 Aug	8.00pm	RETROSPECTIVE: West Beirut	Feature; Drama	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
Sat, 17 Aug	6.00pm	Tnaash (Twelve)	Feature; Drama	HOYTS Bankstown
	9.00pm	The Farm	Feature; Drama	HOYTS Bankstown
Sun, 18 Aug	6.00pm	Valley of Exile	Feature; Drama	HOYTS Bankstown
Wed, 21 Aug	8.00pm	BY POPULAR DEMAND: Wanted	Feature; Comedy	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
Thurs, 22 Aug	7.30pm	Back to Alexandria	Feature; Drama	HOYTS Broadway
Fri, 23 Aug	8.30pm	The Goat	Feature; Drama	HOYTS Bankstown
Sat, 24 Aug**	10.30am	Dancing on the Edge of a Volcano	Documentary	Bankstown Arts Centre
	12.30pm	The Soli and the Sea	Documentary	Bankstown Arts Centre
	2.15pm	In the Shadow of Beirut	Documentary	Bankstown Arts Centre
	4.15pm	Picture + Heaven on Earth + Oumnya	Short Film	Bankstown Arts Centre
	4.55pm	Canary in a Coal Mine + I am a Chef + Condom Hunters + Manity	Short Film	Bankstown Arts Centre
	5.50pm	MADE LOCAL: Seeds of Gold	Short Film	Bankstown Arts Centre
	6.30pm	Legacy + The Thread of Rememberance + All Clocks Stuck in the Drawer + Throupled Waters	Short Film	Bankstown Arts Centre
	7.30pm	Still Grieving + Juxtaposition	Documentary	Bankstown Arts Centre
	9.00pm	Toxic Hope	Documentary	Bankstown Arts Centre
		If the Sun Drowned into an Ocean of Clouds	Short Film	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sun, 25 Aug	3.00pm	Two Tickets + The Last Letter	Documentary	Western Sydney University, Bankstown
	6.00pm	The Third Rahbani	Feature Documentary	HOYTS Bankstown
	8.30pm	TV Society	Feature; Drama	HOYTS Bankstown
Tue, 27 Aug	7.00pm	Diaries from Lebanon	Documentary	HOYTS Bankstown
Wed, 28 Aug	7.30pm	Arze	Feature; Drama	HOYTS Broadway
Thurs, 29 Aug	8.00pm	RETROSPECTIVE: Kahlil Gibran's The Prophet	Feature; Animation	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
Fri, 30 Aug	8.45pm	AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE: Al Rab Yarani (God Sees Me)	Feature	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
Sat, 31 Aug*	7.00pm	CLOSING NIGHT: Back to Alexandria	Feature; Comedy	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club

NOTE: All films are subtitled in English | *Special Event: Pre-film food & beverages | **Short & Doco Program; complimentary event, registrations required

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WELCOME

LFF Co-Director Message

Dear patrons,

For the past thirteen years we have determinedly sought to bring Lebanon's stories to our screens – celebrating arts and culture of this beautiful but often turbulent small nation. This year is no different. Despite increasingly difficult circumstances for Lebanon and the region, our hope and commitment remain undiminished. Programming for this year's festival was a great challenge, but also a key learning opportunity for us. Not only were we taken back by the resilience and determination of Lebanon's film industry, but we also gained new insight into the many challenges Lebanon faces, particularly amid the uncertainty and tragedies that define the region, but also have a profound impact on Lebanon – particularly Syria and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

From Mira Shaib's directorial debut feature film 'Arze,' a moving story of resilience and determination set in Beirut and starring Lebanon's own Diamand Bou Abboud, to the biographical feature premiere 'Al Rab Yarani' (God Sees Me), informing audiences of a great but quiet-working monk, Blessed Estephan Nehme, this year's films delve deep into Lebanon's pains, celebrations, and perseverance. Boudy Sfeir's 'Tnaash' explores the complexities of Lebanon's legal system and first ever jury trial, while Anwar Sabbah collaborates with Italian director Ilaria Borrelli on 'The Goat,' a heart-wrenching drama set amid barbaric traditions still practiced in many parts of the world that leave young girls vulnerable to a life of despair.

Explore personal and collective memories showcasing the heart and soul of Lebanon through Miriam El Haj's documentary 'Diaries from Lebanon,' or join us for a barbeque and a full day of shorts and documentaries at the Bankstown Arts Centre where you'll get to see short documentaries like 'Juxtaposition' touching on the Armenian community of Bourj Hammoud in Beirut.

We all know and love Fairuz, and this year we get to meet 'The Third Rahbani,' a documentary chronicling the extraordinary journey of the late Lebanese composer Elias El Rahbani, the lesser known composer brother of the Rahbani Brothers, the people behind Fairuz.

A powerhouse of Lebanese cinema, Nadine Labaki returns to our screens in our closing night film 'Back to Alexandria.' Starring alongside French actress Fanny Ardant, Labaki brings depth and nuance to this sharp drama set amid the struggles of family and society. There are also comedies and retrospectives, and two animations – content for ages and those with tastes of all film genres.

With many films to see, this festival calls for you to bring your mums, dads, sisters, brothers, friends, jedsos (grandpas) and tetas (grandmas) to the movies. Let the Lebanese Film Festival be a place to spend time together while whilst connecting to Lebanon and its stories. We are proud of all the filmmakers this year, and we are especially thankful to all our patrons—loyal, new, or returning—your support means a great deal to us.

We look forward to welcoming you all to the 12th Edition of the Lebanese Film Festival this year!

Camille Lattouf & Jessica Zeait



Camille Lattouf

Co-Director, Lebanese
Film Festival Australia



Jessica Zeait

Co-Director, Lebanese
Film Festival Australia

BRYAN BROWN

Patron Welcome Message



Welcome to the 12th Edition of the Lebanese Film Festival Australia. As Patron, I am deeply honoured to be part of this extraordinary celebration of Lebanese cinema and culture. The Lebanese Film Festival is far more than just a collection of films; it's a vibrant tapestry that brings to life the rich heritage, resilience, and creativity of Lebanon.

Each year, the festival highlights the exceptional talent and creativity of Lebanese filmmakers, connecting communities through the universal language of film. This festival is a testament to Lebanon's rich storytelling tradition, presenting films that capture the trauma, resilience, passion and artistry of its people. From thought-provoking dramas to heartwarming comedies and insightful documentaries, the program offers a unique and eye-opening insight into the Lebanese experience.

I am proud to support an event that fosters cultural understanding and appreciation. I invite you to explore this year's program and celebrate the narratives that transcend borders.

As you browse through this program guide, I encourage you to immerse yourself in the films, engage with the stories, and celebrate the talent of Lebanese filmmakers. The Lebanese Film Festival is a testament to the ability of cinema to connect us, inspire us, and bring us closer together.

Thank you for joining us for the 2024 Lebanese Film Festival Australia. Enjoy the films and the connections they inspire.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bryan Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bryan Brown AM
Patron, Lebanese Film Festival Australia



OPENING NIGHT

**Bryan Brown Theatre
THU 15 AUG, 6:15PM**

Experience an unforgettable evening of Lebanese culture through film, food, art, and music, transporting you straight to the heart of Beirut. Join us for a red-carpet reception and culinary journey with Lebanese dishes cooked and served live by Taytas Food Co., complimented by Lebanese drinks by Arak Australia, Ksara and Almaza. Be transported to Beirut with stunning and intricate florals and traditional decor by Azariade, Art & Soul Creations, and Jay Productions, and live performances by world class entertainers Zaffet Lebne and SparkFX. The evening will include light formalities and the exclusive screening of "Arze" a compelling Lebanese drama by Mira Shaib, who presents us with her first debut feature film, starring Diamand Abou Abboud, Betty Taoutel, and Bilal Al Hamwi. Tickets: \$90 (all inclusive).



CLOSING NIGHT

**The Theatre,
Bankstown Sports Club
SAT, 31 AUG
7.00PM (Pre-Film Function)
8.30PM (Film screening)**

Join us to celebrate the 12th Edition of the LFF in Sydney for 2024! Enjoy delicious Lebanese canapés by Taytas Food Co. and drinks from Bar LFF by Bankstown Sports. Be serenaded by traditional Lebanese music from Zaffet Lebne and have some fun with Booth On's 360 Booth. Then step inside for the screening of "Back to Alexandria," a French-Swiss comedy-drama directed by Tamer Ruggli, starring Lebanon's acclaimed Nadine Labaki and French actress Fanny Ardant. Be part of this extraordinary celebration where cinema, cuisine, and music come together. Tickets: \$50 (includes food and film)

DAY OF SHORTS & DOCOS + BBQ

**Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT, 24 AUG from 10:30AM**

Join us for an exciting day of Short and Documentary films, complemented by a delicious Lebanese BBQ from Taytas Food Co. Enjoy 19 captivating films across 9 sessions, all completely free. Tickets: free, registration is required. Food, drinks, and coffee will be available for purchase.

FEATURES



ARZE

To find her stolen scooter, Arze drags her rebellious son on an adventurous journey across Beirut, navigating the city's web of sectarianism with wit and courage while revealing to her son a long- overdue family secret.

'Arze' premiered at the 2024 Tribeca Film Festival. Production: Ambient Light Films.

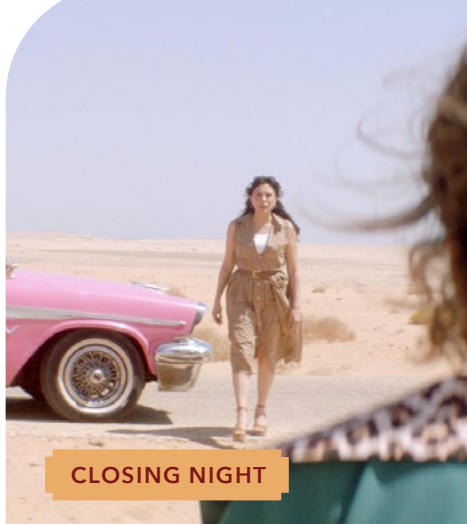
LEBANON – 2024 – 90 MINS – 15+	
LANGUAGE	Arabic with English Subtitles
DIRECTOR	Mira Shaib
CAST	Diamand Abou Abboud, Betty Taoutel, Bilal Al Hamwi
SCREENING	Bryan Brown Theatre, Bankstown THU 15 AUG, 6:15PM (Opening Night) HOYTS Broadway WED 28 AUG, 7:30PM



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

AL RAB YARANI

The story of the Lebanese canonised brother Estephan Nehmeh.



CLOSING NIGHT

BACK TO ALEXANDRIA

As her blue-blooded mother lies on her deathbed, Sue (Nadine Labaki) has to confront her painful past during an inner journey leading her back to Egypt and the woman she left behind.

LEBANON – 2024 – 90 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Tony Nehme

CAST Joseph Sassine, Charbel Rizk, Mireille Panosian, Issam El Achkar

SCREENING The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
FRI 30 AUG, 8:45PM

SWITZERLAND, FRANCE – 2023 – 95 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE French/Arabic + English Subs

DIRECTOR Tamer Ruggli

CAST Nadine Labaki, Fanny Ardant, Laila Ezz El Arab

SCREENING HOYTS Broadway
THUR 22 AUG, 7:30PM
The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
SAT, 31 AUG, 7:00PM -
(Closing Night)



TNAASH

After the August 4th Beirut Port explosion a judicial reform brings about the first trial by jury in Lebanon where 12 citizens are about to decide the fate of an illegal Syrian refugee accused of brutally killing a social activist known for helping the damaged community after the blast. Will they be able to put aside their pre-existing issues to offer an impartial verdict?

LEBANON – 2023 – 86 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Boudy Sfeir

CAST Mohammad Assaf, Tony Dagher, Patrick Chemali, Sara Abdo

SCREENING HOYTS Bankstown
SUN 17 AUG, 6:00PM

VALLEY OF EXILE

Two sisters arrive in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley at the onset of the Syrian war, embarking on a journey into exile that tests their loyalty to their country, their family and each other.

LEBANON – 2023 – 106 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Anna Fahr

CAST Maria Hassan, Hala Hosni, Michel Hourani, Najwa Kondakji

SCREENING HOYTS Bankstown
SUN 18 AUG, 6:00PM



THE FARM

Five year-old Syrian refugee Abboud, with a vivid imagination, meets Wissam, a troubled young Lebanese man. Their unexpected friendship not only transforms Wissam's life but also begins to heal his deep-seated wounds. Together, they unknowingly alter each other's destinies.

LEBANON – 2023 – 104 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Nadim Mehanna

CAST Roula Chamieh,
Aleco Daoud,
Abdelhay Al Farhat

SCREENING HOYTS Bankstown
SAT 17 AUG, 9:00PM

WEST BEIRUT

In April 1975, Beirut is torn by civil war, dividing the city along Muslim-Christian lines, and high schooler Tarek and his friend Omar initially treat the chaos as an adventure, making Super 8 films and daringly crossing from West to East Beirut. As Tarek matures, family tensions rise, and the war shifts from a thrilling escapade to a grim reality. This August, the Lebanese Film Festival Australia brings oscar nominated director Ziad Doueiri's retrospective gem, "West Beirut," back to the screen.

LEBANON – 1998 – 95 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic/ French + English Subs

DIRECTOR Ziad Doueiri

CAST Rami Doueiri, Naamar Sahli,
Mohamad Shamas,
Rola Al Amin

SCREENING The Theatre, Bankstown
Sports Club
FRI 16 AUG, 8:00PM



**Tell your cousin,
to tell his cousin,
to tell his wife,
to tell her husband,
to tell his uncles
and sisters,
to tell their aunties,
to tell their brothers,
*that the Lebanese
Film Festival is on.***

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THE GOAT

"The Goat," written and directed by Borrelli, follows 12-year-old Hadiya as she risks her life to find her father and save her desert village from a threatening corporation. Surviving on her goat's milk, she feels a spiritual connection to her late mother. This co-production involves Egypt's Agora Media Production, France's Domedo Productions, Italy's Orange Media, Lebanon's Cedars Art Production, and the U.S. company Pantheon Entertainment, with support from Italy's culture ministry.

TRIGGER WARNING: This film contains scenes depicting a young girl in a life-threatening situation, references to arranged marriage, child abuse, and emotional distress, which may be disturbing to some viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.

SCREENING IS STRICTLY 18 YEARS AND OVER.

FRANCE/ITALY – 2024 – 90 MINS – 18+

LANGUAGE	Arabic with English Subtitles
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DIRECTOR	Ilaria Borrelli
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CAST	Mira Sorvino, John Savage, Amr Saad
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SCREENING	HOYTS Bankstown FRI, 23 AUG, 8.30PM
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KAHLIL GIBRAN'S THE PROPHET

Based on Lebanese philosopher Kahlil Gibran's famous book, "The Prophet," this animated film follows exiled artist and poet Mustafa on his journey home with his housekeeper and her daughter. As they travel, they must evade authorities who fear that Mustafa's powerful words will spark a rebellion. The Lebanese Film Festival Australia is bringing this captivating animation back to the big screen.

LEBANON, FRANCE, CANADA, UAE, USA – 2014 – 83 MINS – PG

LANGUAGE	English
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DIRECTOR	Roger Allers
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CAST	Liam Neeson, Salma Hayek-Pinault, John Krasinski
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SCREENING	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club THU 29 AUG, 8:00PM
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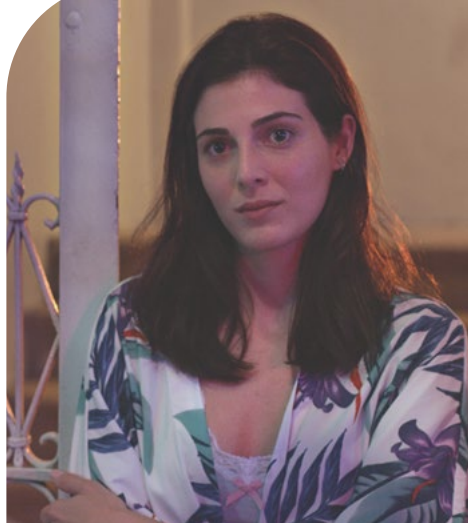
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WANTED

Wanted is a very human comedy about four old people who run away from a nursing home in the name of love and solidarity. The Lebanese Film Festival Australia is thrilled to bring back this popular comedy from our 2019 program.

LEBANON – 2019 – 90 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Nibal Arakji

CAST Walid Arakji, Badih Abou Chakra, Georges Diab

SCREENING The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
WED 21 AUG, 8:00PM

TV SOCIETY

A charismatic TV personality becomes the nation's most controversial figure as he hosts the Arabic version of a daring dating show where women take the lead in choosing their partners. Written, narrated, and performed by Fouad Yammine, 'TV Society' follows his personal journey of self-discovery as he navigates societal backlash and uncovers his true role amid the turmoil.

This film is based on real events and premiered at the Cairo International Film Festival.

LEBANON – 2020 – 74 MINS – 15+

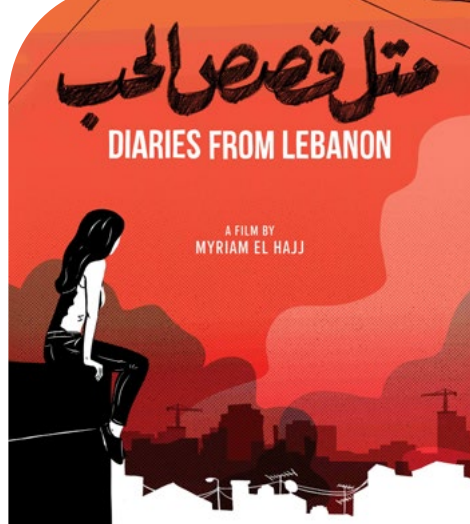
LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Robert Cremona

CAST Fouad Yammine, Betty Taoutel, Razane Jammal

SCREENING HOYTS Bankstown
SUN 25 AUG, 8:00PM

DOCUMENTARIES



THE SOIL AND THE SEA

Beneath Lebanon's tranquil gardens, schools, cafes, and hotels lie over 100 untouched mass graves from the Civil War, each hiding the remains of thousands still waiting to be mourned. 'The Soil and the Sea' unearths the silent violence beneath these ordinary landscapes, letting the voices of the past fill the spaces once forgotten.

DIARIES FROM LEBANON

'Diaries from Lebanon' captures four years of national upheaval through the filmmaker's personal diaries, revealing a country's struggle to break free from its own chains. Amidst the chaos, individual stories of resilience and search for meaning emerge. Can dreams endure when the world is falling apart?



LEBANON – 2023 – 75 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Daniele Rugo

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 24 AUG, 12:30PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's

**LEBANON, FRANCE, QATAR, KSA –
2024 – 110 MINS – 15+**

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Myriam El Hajj

CAST Joumana Haddad, Georges Moufarej, Perla Joe Maalouli

SCREENING HOYTS Bankstown
TUE 27 AUG, 7:00PM



IN THE SHADOW OF BEIRUT

"In The Shadow of Beirut" weaves these four compelling storylines together in a searing portrait of a people and a city struggling to survive amidst some of the most difficult living conditions imaginable.

Selected as Ireland's entry for the Oscar® Best International Feature Film category for 2024.

LEBANON, IRELAND – 2023 – 92 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Stephen Gerard Kelly & Garry Keane

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 24 AUG, 2:15PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's



DANCING ON THE EDGE OF A VOLCANO

In the wake of Beirut's devastating August 4th, 2020 explosion, a film crew grapples with a crucial decision: continue shooting their film amid chaos or succumb to the spreading crises? "Dancing on the Edge of the Volcano" captures their fierce determination to make films in a broken city.

GERMANY, LEBANON – 2023 –
87 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic/French + English Subs

DIRECTOR Cyril Aris

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 24 AUG, 10:30AM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's



THE THIRD RAHBANI

"The Third Rahbani" chronicles the extraordinary journey of the late Lebanese composer Elias El Rahbani, who carved his own unique path distinct from his renowned brothers, Assi and Mansour. Elias's innovative compositions and collaborations have left an indelible mark on the Arab music world, cementing his legacy as a visionary artist.

TOXIC HOPE

Does hope still have a place in Lebanon? Despite enduring countless crises, wars, and social divides, a flicker of hope remains—sometimes toxic, often elusive. In 'Toxic Hope' Salim Saab interviews activists, artists, and everyday citizens, exploring what hope means in a country fraught with turmoil. Will the spirit of the October 2019 revolt reignite their belief in a better future?

LEBANON – 2023 – 80 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Fayrouz Serhal

SCREENING **HOYTS Bankstown**
SUN 25 AUG, 6:00PM

LEBANON – 2022 – 41 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic/French + English Subs

DIRECTOR Salim Saab

SCREENING **Bankstown Arts Centre**
SAT 24 AUG, 9:00PM



THE LAST LETTER

"The Last Letter" follows Albert Saba and Souhaila El Daher, who married after emigrating from southern Lebanon to Australia in 1954. Seventy years later, their emotional return to Lebanon, captured by MTV cameras, sees them reconnecting with villages, friends, and memories they left behind. This heartwarming documentary explores their enduring connection to their homeland and the touching journey of forgiveness, going back to their roots.

LEBANON, AUSTRALIA – 2023 – 53 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Toni Nehme

DOP Elssy Khalil

PRODUCER Celine Sabbagh

EDITOR Anthony Joundarian

SCREENING Western Sydney University,
Bankstown
SUN 25 AUG, 3:00PM

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SHORTS



THE THREAD OF REMEMBRANCE

When the present moment is caught between sharpness and degeneration, a young woman and her grandmother attempt to keep alive the legacy of memory through the poignancy of remembrance.

CANADA, LEBANON – 2023 – 3 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Stephanie El Khoury

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 24 AUG, 6:30PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's



STILL GRIEVING

Left in a 400sqm house, a grieving sixty-year-old lady is forced to let go of her memories and her father's legacy.

LEBANON – 2023 – 29 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic/ French + English Subs

DIRECTOR Carl Haddad

CAST Ghada Sultan, Bechara Atallah

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 24 AUG, 7:30PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's



CANARY IN A COAL MINE

In a remote Lebanese village, Anis pretends to be a thief to save himself during a break-in. Forced to help the burglars move his aunt's valuables, he faces an unexpected twist the next day upon locating the police station. This dark comedy highlights the pervasive corruption in Lebanon and the absurd complicity of its citizens.

LEBANON – 2023 – 20 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Dwan Kaoukji

CAST Josef Akiki, Ahmad Ghossein, Fadi Abu Samra

SCREENING **Bankstown Arts Centre**
SAT 24 AUG, 4:55PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's



HEAVEN ON EARTH

Father Majdi's unwavering dedication to "Saadet Sama" transforms the lives of struggling youth, including William, whose journey from addiction to hope showcases the Father's profound impact. Amidst a crumbling economy, Father Majdi's relentless efforts continue to inspire and uplift a community in need.

LEBANON – 2023 – 14 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Marilyn Gaby Atallah

SCREENING **Bankstown Arts Centre**
SAT 24 AUG, 4:15PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's



PICTURE

Amidst the chaos of war, a Palestinian family attempts to capture a birthday photo, cherishing a fleeting moment of joy and resilience. This one-minute short film poignantly portrays their determination to find light in the darkest of times.



OUMNYA

In "Oumnya," a mother dreams of a happy family life, but reality paints a starkly different picture. This short film explores her struggle between aspiration and the harsh truths of her everyday existence.

LEBANON – 2023 – 2 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Hussein Haidar

SCREENING **Bankstown Arts Centre**
SAT 24 AUG, 4:15PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's

LEBANON – 2022 – 8 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Elie Maroun Zouein

CAST Claude Baz, Joseph Sassine

SCREENING **Bankstown Arts Centre**
SAT 24 AUG, 4:15PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's



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ALL CLOCKS STUCK IN THE DRAWER

"All Clocks Stopped in the Drawer" follows Jana's urgent quest to bury her younger brother, starting from the hospital where she has just one day to make arrangements.

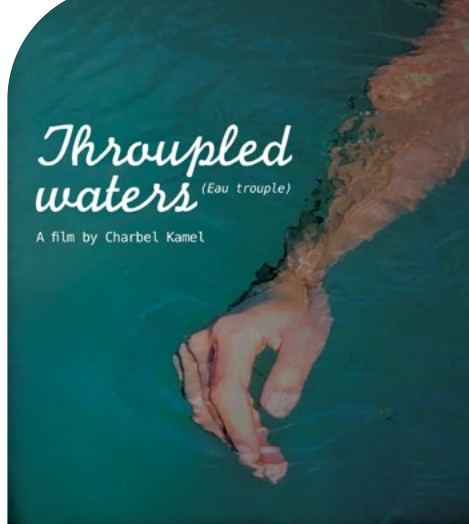
LEBANON – 2023 – 10 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Jane Ghazal

CAST Mirna Bou Abboud

SCREENING **Bankstown Arts Centre**
SAT 24 AUG, 6:30PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's



THROUPLD WATERS

"Throupled Waters," an experimental silent film by Charbel Kamel, delves into the intertwined lives and complex emotions of three women navigating the depths of love and connection without the use of dialogue.

LEBANON – 2023 – 4 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Silent film

DIRECTOR Charbel Kamel

CAST Odette Makhoul, Farah Al Samman, Rana Amoudi

SCREENING **Bankstown Arts Centre**
SAT 24 AUG, 6:30PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's



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JUXTAPOSITION

"Juxtaposition" is a short documentary that delves into the contrasting cultural tapestry of Bourj Hammoud, Beirut's vibrant Armenian enclave.

LEBANON – 2024 – 22 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Elio Zeaiter

SCREENING **Bankstown Arts Centre**
SAT 24 AUG, 7:30PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's

LEGACY

Amid Lebanon's dire social and economic conditions, Rabih desperately needs money to hospitalise his father after politicians have stolen citizens' savings. Will Rabih's quest for survival reveal the harsh realities faced by many Lebanese today?

LEBANON – 2024 – 15 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Hussein Mohammad Hijazi

CAST Mohammad Fouani

SCREENING **Bankstown Arts Centre**
SAT 24 AUG, 6:30PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's

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We are a community-based hub created with the aim of bringing together Lebanese people living in Australia.

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MANITY

On a sunny day in the Lebanese mountains, 11-year-old Firas challenges traditional expectations during a bird-hunting trip with his father and a friend.



IF THE SUN DROWNED INTO AN OCEAN OF CLOUDS

In Beirut, Lebanon, security agent Raed guards a waterfront construction site, where daily encounters challenge his perception—are they mere dreams or symbols of his desires?

LEBANON, FRANCE, GERMANY, QATAR – 2022 – 15 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Hussen Ibraheem

CAST Hadi Jibbawi, Jade Breidi, Charbel Kamel

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 24 AUG, 4:25PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's

LEBANON/ FRANCE – 2024 – 20 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Wissam Charaf

CAST Katia Khazak, Raed Yassin, Rodrigue Sleiman, Said Serhan

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 24 AUG, 9:00PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's



TWO TICKETS

Martin's routine life and nostalgic memories are disrupted when he unexpectedly wins two tickets, sparking potential changes without anticipating the challenges ahead.

DENMARK/FRANCE – 2024 – 19 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE French with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Mazen Haj Kassem

CAST Brice Fournier, Martin Baucher, Marie Bredow

SCREENING Western Sydney University,
Bankstown
SUN 25 AUG, 3:00PM

I AM A CHEF

Mistaken as chefs, Hala and Farah embark on an absurd journey of having to cook a lobster to make an extra amount of cash.

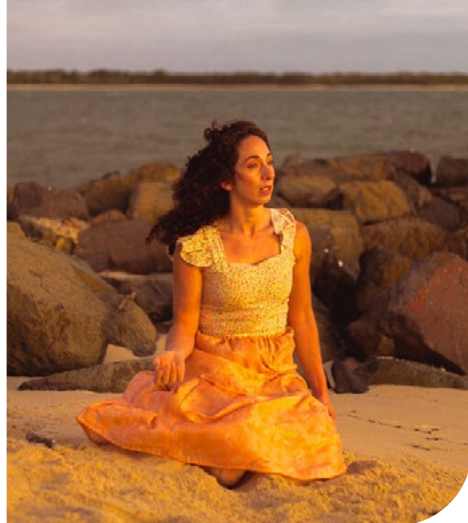
LEBANON – 2023 – 7 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Andrew Dawaf

CAST Christelle Rmeily, Mirna Bou Abboud, Joy Frem

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 24 AUG, 4:55PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's



SEEDS OF GOLD

Salifa and her mother, Marta, have left behind the chaos of the Lebanese civil war in 1977 to start a new in rural NSW Australia. They struggle on a farm, until rumours start swirling about the discovery of gold on the farm.

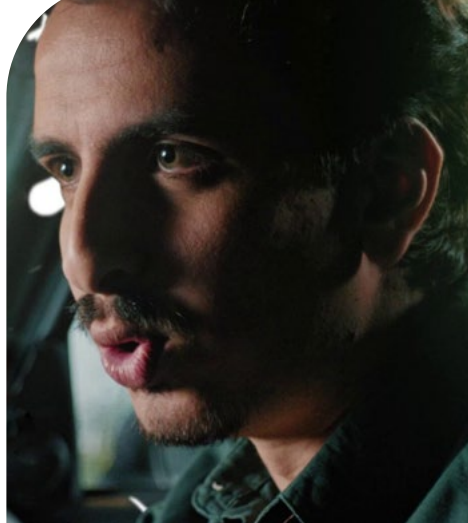
AUSTRALIA – 2024 – 14 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE English

DIRECTOR James El-Azzi

CAST Violette Ayad, Simon Elrahi, Nola Bartolo, Deborah Galanos

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 24 AUG, 5:55PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's



CONDOM HUNTERS

An incident in a pharmacy reveals that a conservative daughter, a married man, and a sexually active young adult have the same goal. This short and witty film served as a media campaign in Lebanon to promote awareness.

LEBANON – 2023 – 10 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Marc Basset

CAST Salma Chalabi, Victoria Aoun, Hiba Chahine, Marc Basset

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 24 AUG, 4:55PM
*LFF Day of Shorts & Doco's

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OUR PURPOSE



Experience captivating cinema and celebrate Lebanon's vibrant spirit with us at the Lebanese Film Festival Australia. Co-founded in 2011 by Camille Lattouf, Jessica Zeait (Née Khoury), Julia Lattouf, and Priscilla Fayad, we are a one hundred percent volunteer-led, Bankstown based non-profit organisation.

Since our debut in 2012, our festival has grown into a national arts and cultural event, drawing diverse audiences from across Australia. We showcase Lebanese Cinema, dispelling misconceptions about Lebanon, its people, culture, and traditions. With esteemed Australian Film icon Bryan Brown AM as our Patron, an enthusiastic Committee of eight members, and award-winning journalist and author, Antoinette Lattouf as our Ambassador, we're driven to create an unforgettable cinematic experience.

Supporting local and international filmmakers is at the core of our mission. We foster connections and encourage Lebanese participation in film and creative arts, ensuring a sustainable and inclusive future for the arts.

But that's not all! Through our engaging schools program, we bring international cinema directly to thousands of students, enriching their educational experience.

To date, we've screened over 350 films from around the world, celebrating the art of Lebanese storytelling. Join us on this enchanting cinematic journey, support and become part of the Lebanese Film Festival Australia family!

Learn more at lff.org.au.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As we enter the 12th edition of the Lebanese Film Festival (LFF) Australia in 2024, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our filmmakers, sponsors, partners, and devoted individuals from Australia, Lebanon, and beyond. Your unwavering support and shared passion have brought the 2024 edition to life, enriching cinema and celebrating culture and unity.

Special gratitude to:

Bryan Brown AM	Antoinette Lattouf
City of Canterbury-Bankstown team	Marina Semaan
Screen NSW	Nassim Allam
His Excellency Mr Milad Raad	Damian Keough
Bankstown Sports team	Dean Turner
Western Union team	Peter Skillman
Carol Hanna	Michael Harriden
Steve Voulgaris	Hannah Lane
Johnny Youssef	Lucien Jankelson
John Nicholas	Ali Jeffar
Chris Azar	Albert Hermiz
Natalie Yarak	Andrew Hawa
Patrick Zeait	Charbel Khabbaz
Ryan Butler	Tony Said
Jason Ghazal &	Robert Fajloun
Jay Productions team	Shay Gittany
David and Julie Isaac	Remy Wehbe
John and Ronique Gebran	Anthony Allam
Robbie Chouman	Wally Mehanna
Dorry and David Kordahi	Vera Farah
Jacqueline Venesjarvi	Fayrouz Ajaka
Linda Willson	Elias Doummar
Ahmad Fettayleh	Lani Draheim
Saree Boutros	Carol Ferrone
Elias Mattar	Yotam Hatzvi
Suzan Horani	Our amazing LFF
Pat Cunningham	volunteers
Paul Jackson	
Lattouf, Khoury, Touma, Fayad,	
Zeait, Fanous families	

With love and thanks, **Lebanese Film Festival 2024 Committee:**

Camille Lattouf	Ed Hanna
Jessica Khoury	David Zeait
Julia Lattouf	Karen Touma
Priscilla Fayad	

BRAVE

BRAVE Return To Work is a CBCC initiative helping CALD women in South-West and Western Sydney re-enter the workforce with credentials, resources, and a network of mentors.

Empower your career comeback—join BRAVE Return To Work today!

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Previous CBCC BRAVE Social Media Workshop.

Join the BRAVE Return To Work program by CBCC to help CALD women in South-West and Western Sydney re-enter the workforce with credentials, resources, and a strong support network.

Join Now

Learn More

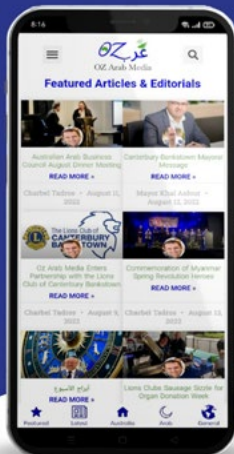


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Photo: Opening Night of the Lebanese Film Festival 2023.
Photo courtesy the Festival

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2023

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The Matrix
1999

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1999

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