

Bour is Beautiful

Maghrebi-French filmmaking



A retrospective of Maghrebi-French Cinema curated by Carrie Tarr and produced by ArteEast in New York.

Where Fig Trees Grow (Rue des Figuiers), by Yasmina Yahiaoui

France, 2005, 82min

Synopsis:

In Yasmina Yahiaoui's congenial ensemble piece, the setting is Rue des Figuiers, a (fig-tree-less) North African neighborhood in Toulon, where women hold sway and fundamentalist puritanism is given short shrift. Djamila is a middle-aged, belly-dancing femme fatale whose long-term lover, the rakish hairdresser Marfouz, finally gives in to his family and imports a demure young bride from the Maghreb. This, needless to say, causes uproar among the street's other inhabitants—including a no-nonsense madam, a teenage girl on the run from her own domineering mother and an eccentric grandmother, played by veteran Marthe Villalonga. Broad, boisterous and bracingly impious, Yahiaoui's film is a provocatively upbeat broadcast from the female side of Islamic culture. Visually brisk and not a little cartoonish, *Where Fig Trees Grow* carries more than a dash of Pedro Almodóvar's influence, camp lip-sync sequences included.

Filmmaker's Biography:

Born in Saint-Denis in 1964, Yasmina Yahiaoui studied journalism and worked in the press before moving to producing segments for the television magazine *Sucré-Salé* and, later, *Saga-Cités*, which dealt directly with questions of immigrants and integration. In 1989, she directed *Voilée-Dévoilée*, *Abou et Hol* and in 2003, *A Force, à force... y'en a marre!*

Credits:

Cast: Fellag, Marthe Villalonga, Joan Titus, Monia Hichri, Biyouna, David Mourouguin, Mounir Margoum, Souad Mouchrik

Writer: Soraya Nini

Producer: Kinok Films

Cinematographer: Pascale Granel

Editor: Catherine Schwartz

Sound: Nicolas Waschkomsky and Corinne Rozenberg

