



## 2025 LINEUP

**Friday May 02, 2025**

**6:30 PM**

**Opening Ceremony - 30m**

**7:00 PM**

**UPSHOT - 34m**

**By Maha Haj**

Suleiman and Mona are a couple who lead a solitary life in which they care for animals and trees and have constant heated discussions about their children's life choices. However, one day, their routine is disturbed when a stranger shows around, calling to mind a painful past.

**TO A LAND UNKNOWN - 94m**

**By Mahdi Fleifel**

After fleeing a camp in Lebanon, two Palestinian cousins—Chatila and Reda—are stranded in Athens, living in an underground limbo. Desperately seeking a way to reach Germany, they find themselves caught in an uncontrollable spiral. As they save to pay for fake passports, Reda loses their hard-earned cash to his dangerous drug addiction. In response, Chatila hatches an extreme plan for their escape, which involves posing as smugglers and taking hostages. Nourished by New York cinema (notably *Midnight Cowboy*), *To a Land Unknown* races along like an edgy thriller, tragic but stripped back. A compelling, uncompromising and nuanced look at the living conditions of migrants.

**Saturday May 03, 2025**

**1:00 PM**

**MOONDOVE - 120m**

**By Karim Kassem (Lebanon)**

Moondove narrates the changes of direction in a life that ultimately affects another life. Generational threads are cut at a weaving loom. Origins formed will no longer continue. A turtle dove goes missing in a mountain village and indirectly mirrors a sense of loss in the people living there.

**4:00 PM**

**THE MIRACLE OF LIFE - 8m**

**By Sabrin Khoury**

A Palestinian mother-to-be in the Netherlands grapples with emotional and physical challenges during pregnancy. Through intimate reflections, she confronts pain, uncertainty, fear of bodily changes, and an identity crisis, all while challenging societal norms around motherhood. Torn between her personal struggles and the devastation in Gaza, she feels guilt and shame, questioning her right to feel pain and wrestling with her privilege while others endure unimaginable suffering.

**SEVEN WAVES - 60m**

**By Asma Bseiso**

The Seven Waves is a testimony of love dedicated to the sea of Gaza, its stories, myths, and heroes. In two parallel timelines, the film follows the journey of a Palestinian rowing champion striving to achieve her dream and the story of a fisherman and marine



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rescuer who has spent his life by the Gaza Sea. Inspired by a popular myth in Gaza, The Seven Waves weaves together stories and dreams of a besieged sea, filled with life and hope

**6:00 to 7:15 PM**

### Collection Of Short Films from Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria

#### THE SUN SETS ON BEIRUT

##### **By Daniela Stephan (Lebanon) - 15m**

In the aftermath of the destruction in Beirut, Mounia, a young woman in her mid-20s, searches for her lost cat among the ruins. Joined by her best friend Ghady, who is more interested in flirting with a British journalist, they navigate the remnants of their city on a quest to recover what's been lost.

#### ABED

##### **By Abed Alsalam Hajj (Jordan) - 9m**

Abed is a 9-year-old child who works with his abusive father in a restaurant. One night, he faces his extreme fear of darkness when he is forced to buy a pack of cigarettes for his father.

#### KHALED & NEMA - 17m

##### **By Suhil Dahdal (Palestine)**

He is a 10-year-old bedouin boy who sets out with his beloved goat, "nima," on a mission to restore the memory of abu maryam, The only man capable of saving their village from demolition at the hands of the israeli occupation army.

#### LOSS

##### **By Rami AlKassab (Syria) - 8m**

As a group of immigrants crosses the desert border of North Sudan into Egypt, a sudden mother's cry changes the course of a journey full of loss.

#### EBB & FLOW - 18m

##### **By Nay Tbara (Lebanon)**

The film follows 14-year-old Loulwa who has been dreaming of having her first kiss with her school crush Sharif. In order to make that happen, she decides to lie to her parents about her after school activities, and plans for a date with him with the help of her best friend Jana. Just as she's about to have her fantasy finally come true, a bomb erupts in Beirut, forcing her to immediately abandon her romantic endeavors, and find her way back home safely amongst the chaotic post explosion streets of Beirut; without uncovering her lie to her parents.

#### I WILL GET BACK TO YOU - 8m

##### **By Uday Jubeh (Palestine)**

For the first time in decades, an exile arrives in Palestine and enters his family home. His mission is to recollect and liquidate remnants of the past. Based on family lore, he finds a document that sends him on a journey to find a lost gem. His expedition across the present connects him with places, people, and Palestinian plains. All appears impossible in the city, on the streets,



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throughout the land, beyond the beaten path, and at the lowest point on earth. Unfruitful efforts increase his frustration as his family abroad pressures him to report back on his findings.

**8:00 PM**

### **THE POEM WE SANG - 20m**

**By Annie Sakkab**

THE POEM WE SANG is a 20-minute, color and black and white, experimental documentary that meditates on love and longing, the love of one's family and the longing for one's home, contemplated through overcoming the trauma of the loss of a family home and of forced migration, transforming lifelong regrets into a healing journey of creative catharsis and bearing witness.

### **GAZAN TALES - 82m**

**By Mahmoud Nabil**

In the heart of the Gaza Strip, four men navigate through divergent paths in pursuit of their definitions of existence, intertwining their fates amidst the complexities of life, love, and survival.

**Sunday May 04, 2025**

**2:00 PM**

### **LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL - 90m**

**By Mohamed Jabali**

Palestinian filmmaker Mohamed Jabaly insists on telling stories from his hometown Gaza sharing his own experiences and perspectives, not accepting the boundaries imposed by international politics and rigid bureaucracy. Stuck in the cold and dark arctic of Northern Norway, only able to connect to his family online, he manages to activate his own creativity and the support from his friends to keep up his motto LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

**4:00 PM**

### **THE DEER'S TOOTH - 16m**

**BY Saif Hammash**

The film centers around a young man from a refugee camp who embarks on a perilous journey in order to fulfill his little brother's wish: To throw his milk tooth into the sea.

### **THANK YOU FOR BANKING WITH US - 92m**

**By Laila Abbas**

When their father passes away leaving a large sum of money in the bank, two sisters put their differences aside and join forces against Sharia law, according to which their brother has the right to take double what they are entitled to.

**7:00 PM**

### **IN THE WAITING ROOM - 14 m**

**By Moatasem Taha**

Hussien a 30-year-old Palestinian Arab with Israeli citizenship after being evacuated in 1948 — escorts his freshly bereaved 70-year-old mother Rashida to her medical appointment in an Israeli hospital waiting area.



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While Hussien works on an assignment on his laptop, Rashida — who hasn't left her house in three months — tries to socialize with others in her limited Hebrew.

### FROM GROUND ZERO - 110m

**By Rashid Mashrawi**

From Executive Producer Michael Moore and Palestine's Official Submission for the 2025 Academy Awards, From Ground Zero, is a collection of revealing stories from 22 Palestinian filmmakers living through war, who capture their lives in Gaza amidst war. Using a blend of animation, documentary, and fiction, they create a powerful testament to the steadfastness of the human spirit. This film serves as a remarkable reflection of how art can thrive even in the darkest times, showcasing the enduring spirit and creativity that emerge amid ongoing devastation.