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Films by Palestinian and Israeli Women Explore Identity in a Fractured Society

An upcoming film series at UMass Amherst will feature the work of two women directors—one Palestinian, one Israeli—tracing their respective searches for identity in a fractured society.

Paradise Lost is a thought-provoking film diary by Palestinian director Ebtisam Mara'ana. It chronicles her attempt to recreate her village's lost history, including the story of her childhood hero Suuad, who was imprisoned as a PLO activist in the 1970s and banished from the community. Presenting the rarely heard voice of an Arab Israeli, this film offers valuable insight into the contradictions and complexities of modern womanhood and national identity in the Middle East.

Another Road Home is the deeply moving story of Israeli filmmaker Danae Elon's quest to find Musa Obeidallah, the Palestinian man who helped raise her from the time she was a baby until she joined the Israeli army. Elon's emotional and physical journey takes her from her current home in New York to an Arab-American neighborhood in New Jersey, and finally to the West Bank and Jerusalem. This evocative documentary by the daughter of the famous Israeli author Amos Elon is a testament to all who believe in the power of family, trust and friendship. Author Joan Didion called *Another Road Home* "a powerful and moving achievement," and *The New York Times* applauded its "emotional complexity that moves well beyond politics." Official Selection, Los Angeles Film Festival.

Both films are free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Office of Jewish Affairs in conjunction with the Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival and (in the case of *Another Road Home*) the 13th Annual Massachusetts Multicultural Film Festival "World Cinema Now!"

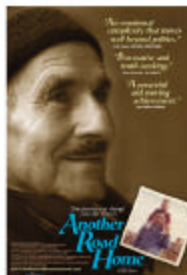
Paradise Lost

Dir. Ebtisam Mara'ana
 (2003, 56 minutes, color)
 Tuesday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.
 Thompson 102
 UMass Amherst



Another Road Home

Dir. Danae Elon
 (2005, 89 minutes, color)
 Thursday, March 30, 7:45 p.m.
 Flavin Family Auditorium
 Isenberg School of Management,
 Room 137
 UMass Amherst



Photos can be downloaded from www.umass.edu/jewish