



SOCIALLY RELEVANT
FILM FESTIVAL NY

MARCH 13-19, 2017
CINEPOLIS CHELSEA

The Fourth Annual Socially Relevant Film Festival is underway!

Now, more than ever...

The last days have shown us that now, more than ever, we need to enlighten, educate, reveal the truth and cast the spotlight on values that can make us better social animals and better human beings. We have witnessed how the media legitimized racism, bigotry, homophobia, xenophobia, misogyny, dishonesty and lack of integrity by endorsing a candidate that subscribes to, and endorses these values. We have seen how people are impressionable and how television and the media screens can influence opinion. The media failed us by acting irresponsibly and spotlighting the very personification of social irresponsibility.

In contrast, independent filmmakers have a responsibility now more than ever! Cinema is the powerful tool through which we can counteract this type of negative wave by telling socially relevant stories about real human beings who struggle and strive to live honest lives as law-abiding socially responsible citizens. Cinema has a mission today more than ever, to cast the

spotlight on social and environmental issues that threaten our very existence as citizens and as human beings. We need to encourage filmmakers who abide by this mission, becoming the catalyst for their stories to be heard. We have a responsibility to showcase socially relevant films by becoming the platform, and creating the bridge where films meet their audiences. We must empower people and revive our faith in humanity, in ourselves, and in social justice and emancipation.

SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York pledges to continue to act as the catalyst for

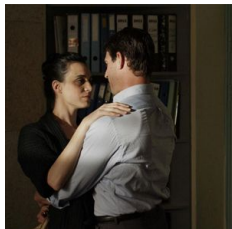


positive social impact through films that potentially change lives. Help us fulfill our mission, and yours, by supporting us in our work and help make positive change real!

Nora Armani, Founder/ Artistic Director

Join us at the JCC Manhattan for the Other Israel Film Festival!

On Monday, December 5, the Socially Relevant Film Festival will co-present two movies at the [Other Israel Film Festival](#). Now in its tenth year, the OIFF showcases films “with a focus on Arab/Palestinian citizens of Israel, who make up twenty percent of Israel’s population” and is being held at the JCC Manhattan.



A.K.A. Nadia

One of those two films is Tova Ascher's debut feature ***A.K.A. Nadia***. Called “[a] thrilling story, fantastically paced and full of life” by Front Row Reviews, the film is the story of Nadia who’s currently choreographing a piece in Israel about her Arab past.

Now married to an official at the Ministry of Justice, Nadia was known as Maya 20 years prior and was married to a Palestinian Liberation Organization activist in England named Nader. When Nader appears as part of the committee to help fund a tour of Nadia's work, she realizes that her past is inescapable. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

Nazareth Cinema Lady

The second is **Nazareth Cinema Lady**, a documentary about Safaa Dabour, a devout Muslim who fulfills her dream of setting up Israel's first Arab cinemathèque in her hometown of Nazareth. Growing up in a wealthy family, Dabour defies her family's (and her religion's) Conservative views about women and marriage. Unmarried and unrelenting in her goals, Dabour gives it her all to secure a place where Muslims could experience films pertaining to their religion, setting up the first and only Arab cinemathèque in Israel to this day. [Purchase tickets here.](#)



Hurry—submit your film to SR! Next deadline is November 17



Two more days to the deadline to submit to this year's Socially Relevant Film Festival! The extended deadline is this Thursday, November 17th. With prizes valued at over \$25,000 dollars, the SRFF awards features and shorts as well as feature-length scripts. The festival has presented over 150 films from 35 countries in its three years, and has had guests such as Democracy Now

founder Amy Goodman and Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Schenkkan. Submit [here](#) and use discount code **SPED17**.

New awards announced!

Two new awards will be given out this year, one of which is in honor of founder Nora Armani's late father: the **Varoujan Storytelling Award**, which comes with a cash prize of \$300.

This year's Screenwriting Awards come with two packages: one is the latest edition of Final Draft scriptwriting software; the other is a free listing on **InkTip Script Listing**. [Click here for more awards info.](#)



Partners and Sponsors

We couldn't host such great films and events without the help of our partners and sponsors. We would love to welcome many more of you on board this adventure. [Learn more here.](#)

Spotlight Panels

For our next edition, we are working on two major Spotlight Panels: **Women in Media and Entertainment** and **Virtual Reality/ 360 Films**. We invite your input as participants and will have [sponsorship opportunities](#) related to these two special events. We also have Industry Panels on funding and dangerous documentaries.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



Each year, the SVA theater plays host to various festivals screenings, such as the Tribeca Film Festival. The **MFA SVA Social Documentary** program engages in

culturally significant topics to present the documentary medium as a forum of news and education. Faculty members include Alan Berliner and documentarian Kirsten Johnson, director of the award-winning *Cameraperson*.

Now in its 16th year and with over 2,000 registered industry members, **InkTip** provides screenwriters with the chance to get their screenplay read and produced. This year's winners will receive free screenplay listings on the site.



Year-End Holiday Donations

We cannot bring you all these wonderful programs without help from our partners, sponsors and attendees. Please consider a donation, no matter how small. We need your help to keep going strong! [Donate Now](#)

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Nora Armani

Founding Artistic Director

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