



University
of Glasgow

BEA⁺**IS**
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities



GRAMNet **FILM** SERIES 2019-20

Screenings Brochure

Image: The Tower (see page 7)

PROGRAMME

16 OCT	HAMADA	FILM SERIES LAUNCH
20 NOV	DESTIERROS	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF TOLERANCE
18 DEC	COMPULSORY FIGURES	INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY
22 JAN	FOUR PARTS OF A FOLDING SCREEN	HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY
19 FEB	OF LOVE & LAW	WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE
11 MARCH	KHARTOUM OFFSIDE	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
22 APRIL	THOSE WHO COME, WILL HEAR	ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAY
13 MAY	THE TOWER	NAKBA DAY
17 JUNE	TINY SOULS	WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Ambitious. Devoted. Brave. Resilient. Adaptable.

Indestructible. These are just a few of the qualities that the people in the films that you are about to watch as part of GRAMNet/BEMIS Film Series 2019/2020 embody.

Regardless of age and of where they live, the protagonists of these films work incredibly hard to find their way, to help others and to make sense of their world.

The series begins with the stories of several young people in the Sahrawi Refugee Camps in the Sahara Desert (*Hamada*) – as they begin their adult lives – looking for jobs, facing responsibilities and finding their path. With humour, tenacity and resilience, they find creative ways to get out of tricky situations.

Destierros takes us to a different continent and to the suspenseful and often dangerous journey that many migrants from Latin American countries take when they try to cross the border to the United States. Beyond the journey itself, there's also the labour of managing expectations and overcoming failure.

Above all, this year's series illustrates the labour of living and integrating into another place, the sweat and tears that seem necessary requirements for not being considered the 'Other'. Both *Compulsory Figures* and *Khartoum Offside* show how young girls and women constantly push themselves to perform at the sports that they love and hate at the same time, which can be the key to them being accepted and integrated into new societies.

This series also reveals the work of keeping memory, tradition and language alive. The experimental film *Four Parts of a Folding Screen*, the animation *The Tower* and *Those Who Come, Will Hear* emphasise the importance of archives, oral history and memory across generations.

Finally, this series is inspired by the work of activists (*Of Love & Law*) and by the brave filmmakers who question everything and struggle to bring these stories to the big screen. We hope that the GRAMNet/BEMIS Film Series continues to be a space for showcasing emerging talent from all over the world and for broadening our views and experience of cinema.

GRAMNet is very grateful for the generous support we receive from our partners, sponsors, distributors and directors so that we can keep our film series free and open to all. Developing this work with our long-standing partners in the film series BEMIS, the Equality and Diversity Unit at the University of Glasgow, Iona Community and UNESCO Chair for Refugee Integration through Languages and Arts, we are also delighted to form new partnerships with organisations including IberoDocs and Document Human Rights Film Festival.

Screenings are accompanied by panel discussions and Q&As for everyone to share their views and thoughts in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The audience is warmly invited to congregate in the Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) Café following each screening to continue our informal discussions.

Sponsored by GRAMNet, BEMIS Scotland and the Iona Community, with the support of UNESCO Chair – RILA, the Equality and Diversity Unit at the University of Glasgow, IberoDocs and Document Human Rights Film Festival.

Note: Doors open at 5.45pm, for 6pm start

EVENTS ARE
FREE
OF CHARGE AND OPEN
TO EVERYONE

GRAMNet **FILM** SERIES 2019-20 LAUNCH

Wednesday 16 October 2019

THE AUDIENCE IS WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US IN THE CCA CAFÉ FOLLOWING THE SCREENING FOR DRINKS AND NIBBLES TO CONTINUE OUR INFORMAL DISCUSSION SESSION.

Hamada

DOCUMENTARY: SWEDEN, NORWAY, GERMANY (2018)

DIRECTOR: ELOY DOMÍNGUEZ SERÉN

RUNNING TIME: 88 MINS

LANGUAGES: ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

With vitality, humour and unexpected situations, this film paints an unusual portrait of a group of young friends living in a refugee camp in the middle of the stony Saharan desert.

A minefield and the second largest military wall in the world separates this group of friends from their homeland that they have only heard about in their parent's stories. They are called the Sahrawis and have been abandoned in this refugee camp in the middle of a stony desert ever since Morocco drove them out of Western Sahara forty years ago. Trapped somewhere in between life and death, Sidahmed, Zaara and Taher refuse to be bothered by it. They spend their days fixing cars that can't really take them anywhere, fighting for political change without response and together they use the power of creativity and play to denounce the reality around them and expand beyond the borders of the camp.

This screening is presented in partnership with IberoDocs, www.iberodocs.org.

WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2019
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF TOLERANCE



Destierros

DOCUMENTARY: CANADA (2018)
DIRECTOR: HUBERT CARON-GUAY
RUNNING TIME: 92 MINS
LANGUAGES: SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Viscerally immersed in the experience of Central American migrants on their perilous route to the United States, *Destierros* provides a sobering account of the desperation, perseverance, and humanity of people fleeing violence with a last hope for a better life.

Leading up to the 2016 US elections, migrants are aware of what may be their last chance to cross the border. Using pure cinematic means, this crucial documentary captures the life-threatening experience of illegal migration. Alternating between visceral sensory sequences and revealing testimonials, the camera is an active observer that bears witness to the violent intensity of uncertain exile, and immortalises the heartbreaking stories of men and women haunted by the past and clinging to their last rays of hope.

The goal is well known – to get into the north of the continent at all costs. But whether dangerously hanging onto trains, avoiding the gangs that prey on the long path to exile, or going days without food or water, the journey is mostly a matter of staying alive. *Destierros* breathes the urgency of their situation, and contributes to our understanding of the relations of power exercised over migrants and between them.

Presented in partnership with Document Human Rights Film Festival, www.documentfilmfestival.org.

WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER 2019
INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

Compulsory Figures

DOCUMENTARY: POLAND (2018)
DIRECTOR: EWA KOCHANKA
RUNNING TIME: 72 MINS
LANGUAGES: UKRAINIAN, POLISH, RUSSIAN, ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Julia Polniuk (10) trains figure skating – and there is not much time left for her to succeed in sports and to meet her family's expectations. After the Euromaidan Revolution, the Polniuk family moved from Ukraine to Poland. Now they begin a brand new life in Warsaw without good jobs or money. Julia's mother Marina has only one goal in mind: to offer her children a better life. This year, Julia has the opportunity to take part in the Polish Figure Skating Championships. This could bring her fame and success, and maybe even help the whole family to obtain Polish citizenship. But can a child spread its wings and fly with such a burden on its shoulders?



GRAMNet
FILM
 SERIES 2019-20

WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2020
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Four Parts of a Folding Screen

DOCUMENTARY: UNITED KINGDOM (2018)
DIRECTOR: ANTHEA KENNEDY, IAN WIBLIN
RUNNING TIME: 83 MINS
LANGUAGES: GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Based on documents found in Berlin archives, *Four Parts of a Folding Screen* explores exclusion, statelessness and the legalised theft and sale of everyday family possessions by the National Socialist regime. A voice, enigmatic and sometimes uncertain, foretells of, relates and recalls the routine processes of injustice and their legacy: the creation of a diaspora of household objects, scattered amongst buildings that no longer exist. As the camera probes the secrets of ordinary spaces, streets and buildings around the city of Berlin, semblances of a person and a history begin to emerge and coalesce.

WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2020
WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Of Love & Law

DOCUMENTARY: JAPAN, UK, FRANCE (2018)
DIRECTOR: HIKARU TODA
RUNNING TIME: 94 MINS
LANGUAGES: JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fumi and Kazu are partners in love and law; they run the first law firm in Japan set up by an openly gay couple. As lawyers driven by their own experience of being outsiders, they attract a range of clients who reveal the hidden diversity of a country that prides itself for collective obedience, politeness and conformity. Tired of being silenced and made to feel invisible, the lawyers and their misfit clients expose and challenge the archaic status quo that deems them second-class citizens. With the backdrop of civil liberties under attack, the film poses universal questions about what it takes to be an individual, what it means to be a minority and what role a family plays in our increasingly polarised world.



WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2020
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Khartoum Offside

DOCUMENTARY: SUDAN, NORWAY, DENMARK (2019)
DIRECTOR: MARWA ZEIN
RUNNING TIME: 72 MINS
LANGUAGES: ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

A group of exceptional young ladies in Khartoum are determined to play football professionally. They are prepared to defy the ban imposed by Sudan's Islamic Military government and they will not take no for an answer. Their battle to get officially recognized as Sudan's National Woman's team is fearless, courageous and often laughable. But their struggle is unwavering. Through the intimate portrait of these women over a number of years we follow their moments of hope and deception. Despite the National Football Federation getting FIFA funds earmarked for the women's teams, this team continues to be marginalized. However, there is a new spark of hope when the elections within the federation could mean real change of the entire system.



WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2020
ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAY

Those Who Come, Will Hear

DOCUMENTARY: CANADA (2018)
DIRECTOR: SIMON PLOUFFE
RUNNING TIME: 77 MINS
LANGUAGES: AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE,
 EASTERN CANADIAN INUKTITUT,
 ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Those Who Come, Will Hear proposes a unique meeting with the speakers of several indigenous languages of Quebec – all threatened with extinction. The film starts with the discovery of these unsung tongues through listening to the daily life of those who still speak them today. Buttressed by an exploration and creation of archives, the film allows us to better understand the musicality of these languages and reveals the cultural and human importance of these venerable oral traditions by nourishing a collective reflection on the consequences of their disappearance.

Presented in partnership with UNESCO-RILA, glasgow.ac.uk/research/az/unesco/.



WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2020
NAKBA DAY

The Tower

DOCUMENTARY/ANIMATION: FRANCE, NORWAY, SWEDEN (2018)
DIRECTOR: MATS GRORUD
RUNNING TIME: 80 MINS
LANGUAGES: ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Beirut, Lebanon, Today. Wardi, an eleven-year-old Palestinian girl, lives with her whole family in the refugee camp where she was born. Her beloved great-grandfather Sidi was one of the first people to settle in the camp after being chased from his home back in 1948. The day Sidi gives her the key to his old house back in Galilee, she fears he may have lost hope of someday going home. As she searches for Sidi's lost hope around the camp, she will collect her family's testimonies, from one generation to the next.



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WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2020
WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Tiny Souls

DOCUMENTARY/ANIMATION: JORDAN, LEBANON, QATAR, FRANCE (2019)
DIRECTOR: DINA NASER
RUNNING TIME: 85 MINS
LANGUAGES: ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Marwa, her mother and siblings are stranded in Zaatar Refugee Camp – Jordan, where they arrived in 2012 after escaping war in Syria. Marwa is nine, and like any child, her concerns revolve around school, and her interests around playtime. Throughout the film, her playful character comes to life with her mischievous younger brother Mahmoud and her sassy younger sister, Ayah, whose character also reveals the depth of the emotional impact war can have on a little girl. Four months into camp life, Marwa expects that they'd likely stay there for another week, maybe two. Over the ensuing four years, the director follows Marwa's day to day life in the camp, where she blossoms from a child to a young woman, where life perseveres time and again, despite its unusual shape. Amidst daily challenges, we witness humour, friction, and a range of survival sentiments, but above all, resilience is vivid. As a young, open spirit, Marwa envisions herself as a "free pigeon" in her own words, unrestricted by high walls and barbed wires. As the years go by, Marwa gets attached to her camp life, friends, and make-shift home, until one day, her elder brother is called upon by authorities for interrogation about his association with militant extremists. Only then their "settled" life takes an immense turn, and questions the certainty of their narrative.



OUR HISTORY

GRAMNet formally launched in early 2010 following a unique workshop aimed to assess the potential for establishing a network on a cross-cutting research theme addressing migration, asylum and refugees. The event engaged knowledge exchange partners in the public and third sector to identify themes and co-design potential future work for a research network in this field.

Based at, and supported by the University of Glasgow, GRAMNet has now established Glasgow as one of the leading centres for integrated research and knowledge exchange in the field of migration, refugee and asylum studies. Nationally and internationally amongst scholars, NGOs, public bodies and civic organizations GRAMNet's approach and work has found resonance. A raft of new projects have been developed to address public needs and problems identified by partners where working together will enhance understanding and action.

One of the network's major accomplishments is our annual Film Series hosted by CCA Glasgow, organised in partnership with BEMIS, the Iona Community and this year, with the Diversity and Equality Unit, UNESCO – RILA at the University of Glasgow, IberoDocs and Document Human Rights Film Festival. Our audience is from diverse academic, organisational and societal backgrounds, and continually shifts in response to the context explored in each screening. The Film Series provides a safe space for people to present their views and perspectives and successfully integrates local and global narratives through the use of film produced both internationally and locally.

ABOUT US

GRAMNet

A NEW APPROACH TO MIGRATION

GRAMNet brings together researchers and practitioners, NGOs (non governmental organisations) and policy makers concerned with migration issues in Scotland and beyond. The research initiative, currently involving Universities from all over the world, focuses on migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. The network provides a forum through which policy makers and academics can work together to connect communities through knowledge exchange, research and development. The city of Glasgow is host to the largest population of refugees and asylum seekers under the UK Government's dispersal policy and also has a history of attracting large communities of migrants. GRAMNet aims to build a context for the study of migrant communities based on the city's unique position.

GRAMNet

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glasgow.ac.uk/gramnet**

BEMIS Scotland

EMPOWERING SCOTLAND'S ETHNIC AND CULTURAL MINORITY COMMUNITIES

BEMIS Scotland is the Ethnic Minorities led national umbrella organisation for the Ethnic Minorities Voluntary Sector and the communities that this sector represents. As a strategic national infrastructure organisation, BEMIS Scotland aims to empower the diverse Ethnic Minority third sector. We are committed to promoting inclusion, democratic active citizenship, and recognition of diversity, human rights education, and wider representation. Our vision is of a Scotland that is Equal, Inclusive, and Responsive: A society where people from diverse communities are valued, treated with dignity and respect, have equal citizenship, opportunities and quality of life, and who actively participate in civil society.

**Glasgow Office
 Mezzanine, 70 Hutcheson Street
 Glasgow G1 1SH
 E-mail: mail@bemis.org.uk
www.bemis.org.uk**

CCA

CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS

The Centre for Contemporary Arts is Glasgow's hub for creative activity. The building is steeped in history and the organisation has played a key role in the cultural life of the city for decades. The year-round programme includes cutting-edge exhibitions, film, music, literature, spoken word, festivals, Gaelic events and much more. For the full programme visit www.cca-glasgow.com

CCA

**350 Sauchiehall Street
 Glasgow G2 3JD
 tel: +44 (0)141 352 4900
 fax: +44 (0)141 332 3226
www.cca-glasgow.com**

Access

There is level access to CCA from Sauchiehall Street. All upper levels are fully accessible by lift. There is an induction loop at the Sales and Information desk and CCA4. For more information, please see cca-glasgow.com/about-cca/access-statement

The Iona Community

The Iona Community is a dispersed Christian ecumenical community of men and women from different walks of life and different traditions in the Church working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship.

We are engaged together, and with people of goodwill across the world, in acting, reflecting and praying for justice, peace and the integrity of creation; convinced that the inclusive community we seek must be embodied in the community we practise.

We are a Scottish Charity (SC003794), and have bases in Glasgow and on Mull and Iona in Argyll.
www.iona.org.uk

Sponsored by GRAMNet, BEMIS and the Iona Community with the support of the Equality and Diversity Unit and UNESCO-RILA, University of Glasgow, IberoDocs and Document Human Rights Film Festival.



CCA: Centre for Contemporary Arts



DOCUMENT 

Film stills kindly provided courtesy of distribution companies/directors:

Film Name

Hamada
Destierros
Compulsory Figures
Four Parts of a Folding Screen
Of Love & Law
Khartoum Offside
Those Who Come, Will Hear
The Tower
Tiny Souls

Director / Distributor

Deckert Distribution
F3M Distribution
Square Film Studio, Rise and Shine World Sales
Anthea Kennedy
The Hakawati
Filmotor
F3M Distribution
Jour2fête
Syndicado

glasgow.ac.uk/gramnet
www.bemis.org.uk
www.iona.org.uk

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