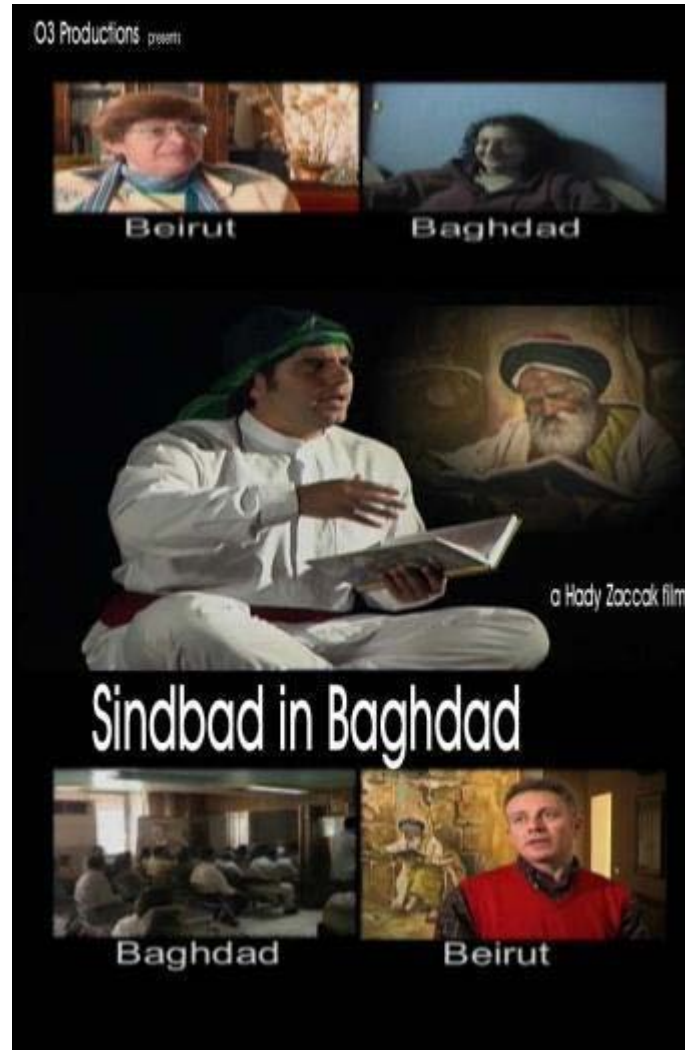


Sindbad In Baghdad / Press Kit



Sindbad in Baghdad

A Hady Zaccak socio-political documentary

Original title: Sindibad fi Baghdad.

Year of production: 2003

Original language: Arabic (with English subtitles)

Photography: Tony El Khazen

Sound: Koussay Hamzeh

Editing: Hala el Khoury

Music: Emile Aouad

Executive production: Beirut DC

Producer: Mohamad Soueid

Production: O3 Productions (Dubai-UAE)

Written and Directed by Hady Zaccak

Format: Mini-DV

Running time: 25 minutes

Cast: Joe Kodeih (Sindbad)

Participants: Walid Zaccak-Rawane Nassif-Najat Nassif



Synopsis

Three different portraits of Sindbad.

- The Sailorman, famous character from “Arabian Nights”.
- The businessman visiting Baghdad
- The young student who visits the Iraqi capital with the “Human Shields”, on the eve of the war in 2003.

Three Sindbads in a “mythical”, “Saddamic” and “American” Baghdad.

N.B This documentary was part of a series entitled “In and Around Iraq” and was broadcasted on Al Arabiya News channel three times.

It was selected by the UNESCO to participate in the “Open Frame Festival 03”, held in New Delhi, India and the film is now part of the audiovisual e-platform created by the UNESCO to promote independent documentaries.



Screenings

| Date | Place or broadcaster | Context |
|----------------|--|------------------------|
| 25 & 26/5/2003 | Al Arabiya News Channel, Dubai, UAE | TV broadcasting |
| 19/6/2003 | Monnot Theatre, Beirut, Lebanon | Lebanese Premiere |
| 24/8/2003 | Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi | Open Frame O3 festival |



Press Reviews

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«الدليل» / العدد 551 / الجمعة 22 آب 2003

"السندباد في بغداد" لهادي زكّاك وثائقي عن العراق ما بعد الحرب



عوّداً لهادي زكّاك أعماله السينمائية - الوثائقية، فمن الجميل ان نرى مثابرة هذا المخرج في توثيق معلومات وصور واستقطاب شهادات من وجهات نظر مختلفة تتعلق بلبان والعالم العربي. فبعدما لخرج وولف "لبنان من خلال السينما" ما هو، ويلمح البصر، يفوس في خضم موضوع جديد - قديم، بغداد، العراق، العروبة... "السندباد في بغداد" فيلم وثائقي - درامي اخراج هادي زكّاك، انتاج 03، اتى وكأنه يكمل فيلمه السينمائي القصير "الف ليلة وليلة" الذي نال اعجاب النقاد والجمهور، كان محطة عاطفية يرى من خلالها هادي زكّاك الازمة الفلسطينية منذ بدايتها، وكيف باع القادة العرب بلدانهم وخانوا قضية نبيلة. "السندباد في بغداد" يفتح ملفات حرب العراق، بحكمة خيطة من وجهة نظر افراد زاروا العراق في الأونة الاخيرة. تلجس، درع بشري وشخصية خرافية. يقول زكّاك: "الشخصية الاسطورية السندبادية لها شق ثان هو رجل الاعمال. اما الجانب المفاخر من شخصية السندباد فيتجسد بفنائه لبنانية تدعى روان ذهب تحت الحمم لتصبح درعاً بشرياً". وعندما سألناه عن سبب تصوير هذا الوثائقي اجاب: "صور هذا الفيلم ضمن سلسلة افلام وثائقية عن العراق في فترة ما بعد المعارك. ارتباطي بهذا الموضوع يعود الى ايام تصويري "الف ليلة وليلة" فكان لي نظرة ثابتة على مشكلات العالم العربي، ومشكلة مزمنة اساسية هي الزعامات السائدة والانحطاط في هذا الجزء من الكون. وكان الحكم والانظمة تخدر الشعوب، فالشعب يحتاج الى الثقافة كي يستيقظ، فيستطيع المطالبة بانظمة جديدة". موقف زكّاك مناهض للحرب، ولحرب العراق بالذات ليس لديها اي اسس شرعية". اما عن شخصية "الصحاف" وزير الاعلام

هادي زكّاك

العراقي السابق التي رايهاها اخيرا على كل شاشات العالم، فركز عليهما زكّاك في "السندباد في بغداد". عرض الوثائقي ثلاث مسرات على فضائية "العربية" كما سيشارك في مهرجان الافلام الوثائقية في العاصمة الهندية نيودلهي.

جو قديح

"دليل النهار" Daleel An Nahar 22-8-



Sunday, Aug 24, 2003

0930 *Best of Doordarshan*

Romance on the Wheels, Mridul Gupta, 45', on the discontinuation of the toy train of Darjeeling marking the end of an era

Hamlet of Mountain Monarch, A. Anwar, 21', on the nearly extinct Nilgiri Tahr and its newfound safe abode in the forests of Kerala

1000

Seminar: 'Networked and diversified publics; media strategies in the contemporary world'

Discussants include: Ravi Vasudevan, Shuddhabrata Sengupta, Lawrence Liang

In partnership with Sarai: The New Media Initiative

Venue: Gulmohar, IHC

1100

Children's Programming

Iran: The Truth and the Wind, Amir Hassan Nedaei, 60', (2003) a young boy brings back the old teacher of the village to remind elders what it was like to be a child

1200

Forum: The challenge of directing with children

Amir Hassan Nedaei, Radhika Kaul Batra

1400

The Vote, Pankaj Rishi Kumar, 60', (2003) is a deconstruction of the Indian electoral process exploring how democratic ideals adapt itself to surrounding social, political and cultural contexts

1530

Television & Conflict

Nongdi Tarak Khidare (But it Never Rained), Ningthouja Lancha, 39' (2002) is the story of a community, unfavoured by history as it struggles to survive against the backdrop of the Naga-Kuki ethnic conflict which has ravaged their region

Lebanon: Sindbad in Baghdad, Hady Zaccak, 26', (2003) offers three different portraits of Sindbads in a "mythical", "Saddamic" and "American" Baghdad

Yeh Gulistan Hamara, Fareeda Mehta, 30', (2003) takes a look at communities living in segregation, not allowing for an intermingling of ideas, values, traditions and customs

Palestine: Invasion, Nizar Hassan, 50', (2003) an Israeli views a documentary on the aftermath of the Israeli invasion of Jenin

1800

Forum: Television and Conflict: A Tool for Understanding

Amar Karwar, Ningthouja Lancha, Hady Zaccak, Fareeda Mehta, Nizar Hassan

1900

Hawa Mahal, Vipin Vijay, 55', (2003) on the evolution of radio in India

Girl Song, Vasudha Joshi, 30', (2003) on poet, composer, singer Anjum Katyal and the magic of the music she creates

Lights, camera, action!

When film-makers from different parts of the world get together to showcase their talents, the results, needless to say, are spectacular. However, when the same film-makers get together to party, the evening is a success from the word go!

Friday evening saw India Habitat Centre playing host to a dinner organised by the Public Service Broadcasting Trust. The counsellors of the trust—Mrinal Sen, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Shyam Benegal, Kiran Karnik, Sharmila Tagore, Rajiv Mehrotra amongst others made their presence felt.

Rajiv Mehrotra seemed exceptionally happy with the entries for the PSBT film festival and said, "The

movies being screened are of excellent quality. This year, our participants have increased tremendously and we look forward to such quality input every year. The festival also serves as a platform for film-makers from different countries to come together and exchange notes on film-making."

Also seen were several international film-makers, including Amir Hussain, H Zaccak and Farroque Beg from Pakistan, who circulated amongst the guests and exchanged notes on the film-making scene in their countries. Since the festival is held in association with UNESCO, Rosa M Gonzalez was there represent-

ing her organisation.

However, needless to say, the star attraction of the evening were the stalwarts of Indian cinema Shyam Benegal, Adoor Gopalakrishnan and Mrinal Sen. Guests were seen surrounding them and debating the finer points of cinema across the world.

Yesteryear's heart-throb Sharmila Tagore charmed everyone even though she was around only for a short time. Seen socialising with everyone was Sunita Narain from the Centre for Science and Environment. Meenakshi Gopinath, the principal of Lady Shri Ram College was also seen at the do. Drinks over; it was time to partake some of the delicious spread....



Shyam Benegal and Mrinal Sen



Suneeta with Adoor Gopalakrishnan



Amir Hussain, H Zaccak & Farroque Beg



Rajiv Mehrotra and Kiran Karnik



Sharmila Tagore

"Delhi Times" 25-8-2003

Open Frame Festival program





Public Service Broadcasting Trust

A - 86, Nizamuddin East
New Delhi-110 013
Tel : (91-11) 24355941
Fax: (91-11) 24353825
Email: psbt@vsnl.com
Web: www.psbt.org

Trustees

Adoor Gopalakrishnan
Chairman
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Habib Tanvir
Kiran Seth
Mark Tully
Prannoy Roy
Pt. Ravi Shankar
Ravi Vasudevvan
Sashi Kumar
Susie Thiru
Vandana Shiva

Tuesday, September 02, 2003

Dear Hady

We were delighted and honored to screen your film at our festival and to be able to host you, even if briefly. This was enormously enriching for all of us. I do hope we will stay in touch and collaborate in the future.

It remains one of PSBT's regrets and a personal one that we were not able to get to know you better at a personal level, distracted as we were with organizing only our second festival.

My colleagues join me in sending you our warmest greetings and regards, and wish you happy productive film making.

Please do stay in touch.

Very warmly

Rajiv Mehrotra.



Photos



More pictures @ www.hadyzaccak.com/sinbadphotos.html

