Cinema Sabaya
Facilitator Guide

Cinema Sabaya

Director: Orit Fouks Rotem
Release Date: 2021
Runtime: 1h 31m
Content Warnings: Audio depiction of domestic violence, discussion of domestic violence and PTSD, discussion of homophobia.

Accessing the Movie

Cinema Sabaya can be streamed for free on Kanopy. Access Kanopy with a public library card or university log-in. It can be rented or purchased on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Google Play Movies & TV and YouTube.

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CINEMA SABAYA
סינמה סבאיא سينما صبايا

"Impressive, authentic and powerful."
– SCREEN DAILY

Written and Directed by **Orit Fouks Rotem**

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About the Program

Cinema Sabaya follows a group of Jewish and Arab women employed by the Hadera municipality taking a film course. It's inspired by real-life courses the director Orit Fouks Rotem ran, and fictionalized versions of the course participants and their experiences. Throughout the course, the women tackle social issues, examine their relationships with others and themselves, and explore what's different—and the same—between Jewish and Arab society in Israel. By centering the lived experiences of women, *Cinema Sabaya* provides an entry point for American Jewish audiences to learn more about identity, gender, Arab society, Jewish-Arab relations, and shared society initiatives in Israel.
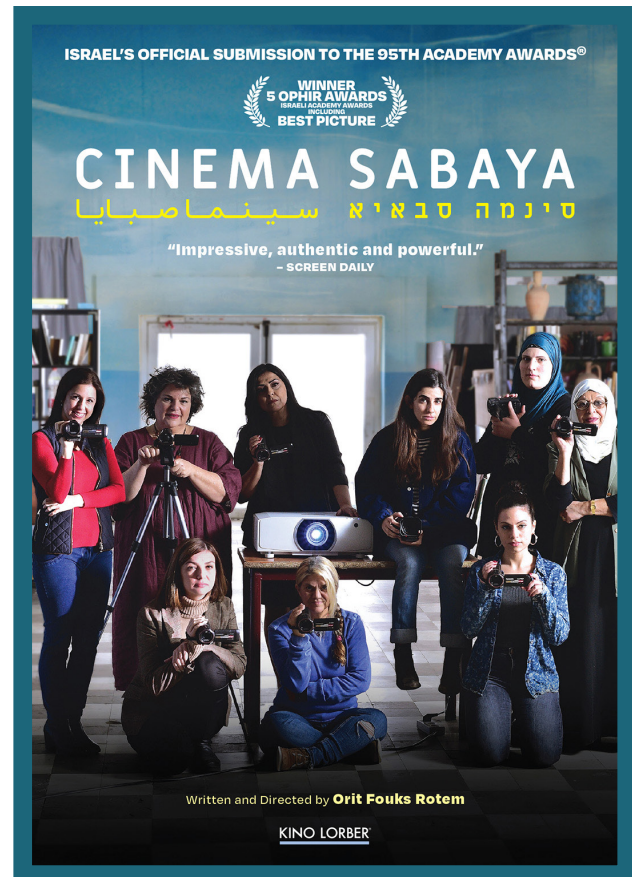
Learning Outcomes

- Foundational understanding of Arab citizens of Israel and the complexities of Jewish-Arab relations within Israel.
- Recognition of the internal diversity within Arab society in Israel and a greater understanding of how different social identifiers (language, gender, religion, ethnicity, class, etc.) overlap and complicate each other.
- Greater understanding of shared society and Jewish-Arab relations in Israel.
- Curiosity regarding Arab citizens of Israel and a desire to learn more!

Suggested Structures

The following recommendations are general suggestions that can be adapted to fits the needs of your audiences, goals, and constraints. They can be adapted for an in-person, hybrid, or remote program.

Selected Clips

If you are unable to screen the entire movie or wish to show clips as part of your program, consider pulling thematically grouped clips to discuss. This grouping of clips highlights key conversations in the film on identity, culture, and more.:
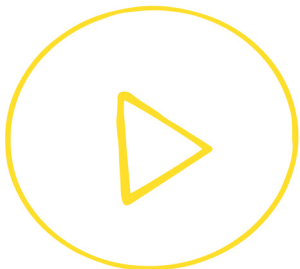
» Hebrew and Arabic in everyday interactions (3:55-4:23)
» Language and translation (4:26-4:50)
» The group introduces themself (5:30-13:38)
» Group conversation/argument about hot button issues. (22:07-25:02)
» Discussion of domestic violence and PTSD (30:26-35:11)
» Discussion about LGBTQ+ identities and religion (53:30-55:40)
» Marriage and divorce (58-1:00:36)
» Ethics of the course and filmmaking (1:21-1:23:36)
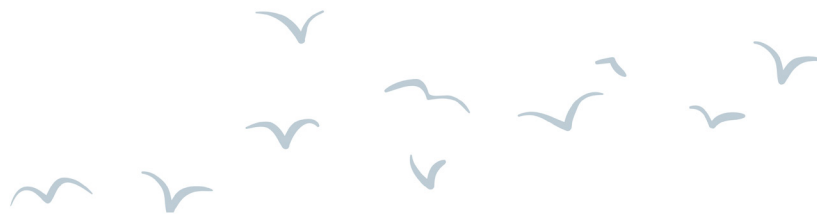
What is "Shared Society?"

Cinema Sabaya takes place at the fictional Center for Social Equality at the Coexistence Center. The program run in the film is considered a "shared society" program.

➡ Shared society refers to a cohesive and inclusive society where communities with different ethnic, national, and religious backgrounds have equitable access to resources, power, and work in partnership.

➡ It requires long-term engagement to promote social and economic inclusion and political participation. In a shared society framework, diversity is a source of strength for a country and community.

Resources on Shared Society

We recommend the following resources to supplement a program introducing shared society, or to share with participants who want to know more:

» [Israel Is Touting a Hollow Coexistence in Haifa. The Real Story Is Much More Inspiring - *Haaretz* - Jonathan Shamir - 4.24.2023](#)
» [In an Israeli Oasis, a Model for Peace, if Messy and Imperfect - *The New York Times* - Hiba Yazbek - 9.30.2023](#)
» [Podcast: Envisioning Shared Society - *Identity/Crisis* - Yehuda Kurtzer and Rana Fahoum - 1.10.2023](#)

Hybrid and Remote Format:

1. Distribute the Movie Guide and [Exploring the Topics of Arab Citizens and Jewish-Arab Relations in Israel](#) before participants watch the film. Ensure participants watch the film ahead of the discussion, independently or in small groups.
2. Schedule a time for an in-person, remote, or hybrid film discussion.
3. When starting the program, remind the group of important information about the program and guidelines for constructive conversations (see below).
4. Ask the first question in the Movie Guide to the full group to begin generating ideas.
5. If size allows, split participants into small groups to continue the discussion. They can use the Movie Guide's discussion questions to steer their conversations. Each group should designate a "recorder" to take notes and a "reporter" to summarize the recorder's notes after the small group discussion.
6. Conclusion: If participants were split into small groups, have each "reporter" briefly summarize their discussion using the "recorder's" notes. If you remained as one group, ask participants to share their takeaways to wrap up the program.

Tips for Hybrid or Virtual Engagement:

- At the end of the program, utilize an interactive whiteboard program (like [Padlet](#)) to encourage participation among all virtual participants. Possible prompts include:
  - » Share something another participant said that stuck with you.
  - » What questions do you have about the film or topics explored by the film?
- Use an online polling resource (like [Mentimeter](#)) to gauge participant's feelings, opinions, and knowledge levels in real-time.

In-Person Format: Film Viewing & Group Discussion

1. Distribute the Movie Guide and [Exploring the Topics of Arab Citizens and Jewish-Arab Relations](#) in Israel to students.
2. Screen the film to your group, briefly reviewing the background information before the film starts, and reminding participants of the content warnings.
3. After the film, take a short break before gathering as a group for a discussion.
4. Remind the group of guidelines constructive conversations (see below).
5. Ask the first question in the Movie Guide to the full group to begin generating ideas.
6. If size allows, split students into small groups to continue the discussion using the Movie Guide's discussion questions. Each group should designate a "recorder" to take notes and a "reporter" to summarize the recorder's notes after small groups.
7. Conclusion: If participants were split into small groups, have each "reporter" briefly summarize what their group talked about. If you remained as one group, ask participants to share their takeaways to wrap up the program.

Suggested Guidelines for Constructive Conversations

1. Our purpose today is to explore more a facet of Israeli society that may be less familiar to us and to learn from and with each other. This is a discussion, not a debate.
2. This film presented one snapshot relating to Arab citizens of Israel. As we saw in the film, Arab society is diverse and this isn't representative of all stories and experiences.
3. Listening doesn't necessarily mean agreeing. Have an open mind to ideas that may be less familiar or comfortable. Consider how you might experience the film and this discussion differently if you had different identities (Palestinian, Israeli, gender etc.)
4. Remember to make space for different voices in your conversation.

Note for facilitators: It's okay not to have all the answers! Don't try to make something up if you don't know. Instead, work with learners to find out more together.

Work With Us

The Task Force on Arab Citizens of Israel was created by a coalition of major American Jewish organizations to serve as a non-partisan educational resource on Arab citizens and Jewish-Arab relations in Israel. We would be happy to plan a more-depth in program with you and bring leading speakers on Arab society in Israel to your programs. Reach out to Miranda Hellmold Stone, Task Force Programs and Operations Associate, for more information (mirandahe@jdc.org).