

## *Golden Age of Arab Cinema Exhibition*



Since the 1970's, Abboudi Bou Jaoudeh of Beirut has been scouring cinema houses in search of long-forgotten Arab cinema posters—salvaging hard-to-find print media dating back to the early 1930's.

Drawing from Jaoudeh's collection of over 2,000 posters, *Safar: A Journey Through Popular Arab Cinema*, will offer visitors a snapshot of the golden age of Arab cinema, taking place at the Arab American National Museum (AANM).

This golden age of Arab cinema started in Cairo when sound was first introduced to film and took place alongside Hollywood's "talkies" boom. From the 1930's through the 1970's, celebrities like Abdel Halim Hafez and Omar Sharif starred in films across genres—from musicals to dramatic thrillers—packing cinema houses in the bustling metropolises of Cairo and Beirut. This exhibition offers a collection of vintage film posters and memorabilia from this era.

Safar highlights the themes of exoticization, sexuality and danger in the context of popular poster design and illustration styles of the era. The collection challenges western stereotypes of the Arab World, while revealing the influence of early Hollywood on Arab cinema.

The exhibition is free with Museum admission and opens in the Lower Level Gallery at AANM on June 1 and closes September 24. The opening reception on Saturday, June 3, coincides with the *12th Arab Film Festival (AFF) at Cinetopia*, providing festival attendees a unique opportunity to contextualize emerging films from the Arab World with the films and poster designs of their predecessors. The reception is free and open to the public and will feature a special speaker, a gallery stroll with Detroit Symphony Orchestra performers and light refreshments.

*Safar: A Journey Through Popular Arab Cinema* was first exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London in 2014 as part of *The Arab British Centre's biennial Safar Film Festival*. The exhibition includes posters for box office hits *Cairo Station* (1958), *Watch Out for Zou Zou* (1972) and *Terrorism and the Kebab* (1993). A specially curated selection of film brochures and photographs from Beirut and Amsterdam based artist Mounira Al Sohl will be included in the exhibit.

For more information, call (313) 582-2266 or see [arabamericanmuseum.org](http://arabamericanmuseum.org). The Arab American National Museum is located at 13624 Michigan Ave. in Dearborn.