Source: *TODAY*, p27
Date: 17 October 2016



Controversial Iranian movie Paternal House will be screened at The Projector as part of the Middle Eastern Film Festival. PHOTO: THE PROJECTOR

MOVIE PICKS

Life in the Middle East

Middle Eastern Film Festival includes recommended film by Tom Hanks

SINGAPORE – We all know Tom Hanks, the affable Oscar-winning actor who made his name in critically acclaimed movies such as Forrest Gump, Saving Private Ryan and Sully. So when Hanks tweets that a movie is a must-watch, it is probably worth watching.

On July 28, Hank had tweeted: "If there's any way you can see Clash by Egyptian director Mohamed Diab, you must. You simply must. The film will break your heart, but enlighten all."

Set in Cairo during the summer of 2013, two years after the Egyptian revolution, Clash takes place in the wake of the ouster of Islamist president Morsi, following a police truck full of detained demonstrators of divergent political and religious backgrounds roaming through violent protests. The film raises the question about whether these detainees can overcome their differences to stand a chance at surviving.

You will be able to catch this highly recommended film at The Projector this month during the inaugural Middle Eastern Film Festival here, which is running from Oct 20 to 30.

The Projector and The Middle East Institute (NUS), with support from Luna Films, are presenting a wide range of movies spanning different parts of the Middle East, as a celebration and a reminder of the region's diversity, struggles, conflicts and strengths.

Another festival highlight is the controversial Iranian movie The Paternal House about honour killing, a taboo subject in Iran. Originally approved by the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, it was never released upon completion. Director Kianoush Ayari managed to secure support from the cultural arm of the Iranian State Police — Naji Films — but upon its premiere in Venice, the film was banned in Iran.

Other films include A World Not Ours by Mahdi Fleifel, an intimate, and often humorous, portrait of three generations of Palestinians living in exile at the refugee camp of Ein el-Helweh, in southern Lebanon, and Barakah yoqabil Barakah by Mahmoud Sabbagh — a wacky romantic-comedy for anyone who is curious about everyday life in Saudi Arabia based on the quirky adventures of a civil servant and amateur actor falling in love with a beautiful woman from a wealthy family.

REENA DEVI

> The Middle Eastern Film Festival runs from Oct 20 to 30 at The Projector. Tickets are available online on The Projector's website or at the counter.