

Ahlan Simsim: “Piece of the Past” - Chicago Premiere



Live-action TV

USA, Arabic

27 minutes

Directed by: Tamer Naber

Only in Chicago! The exciting new series Sesame has produced for Arab-speaking countries dealing with issues like empathy, and displacement. Additionally, it explores the fascinating local cultures - as only Sesame can. In this episode, the friends learn how to identify and manage big feelings – with lots of fun, laughter, and learning along the way.

Screenings:

- **CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS** Grades K-2

Cinema Rex - North American Premiere



Animated Short

Israel, Arabic, English, Hebrew

8 minutes

Directed by: Mayan Engelman and Eliran Peled

Jerusalem in 1938 is a divided city. At the "Cinema Rex", a Jewish boy and an Arab girl form a friendship crossing language barriers. They find common ground based on a mutual fascination with the language of cinema.

Screenings:

- **WORDS AND DEEDS Grades 3-5**
- **MAKERS AND SHAKERS Grades 3-5, Ages 8-10**
- **OUT AND ABOUT Ages 8-10**

Mum - Chicago Premiere



Documentary Short
United Arab Emirates, Arabic
10 minutes
Directed by Mariam Al Awadhi

After 15 years of averting the source of her anxiety, Mariam at last walks the journey of voicing her avoided emotions regarding her non-Emirati mother. She will attempt to repair the uneasiness she felt about her mixed background in the Emirati society.

Screenings:

- **WOVEN THREADS Ages 13+**

Seventh Grade - World Premiere



Documentary Feature

Norway, Arabic, Norwegian, Tamil

77 minutes

Directed by Anne Silje Bø and Sunniva Sundby

The documentary film “Seventh Grade” follows Zahra, Nilani and Nora throughout their final year at elementary school. They live in an area in Oslo, Norway, with the highest level of poverty and social challenges. Through stories about close friendship, loneliness, the big closing party before school finishes, soccer dreams, we learn the personal challenges of these girls. Daily classmates and neighbors, the girls have normal fears – why isn’t my friend since kindergarten wanting to hang out anymore? Another girl is super shy – when can she find confidence to share her feelings and talents to others? Facing not only normal coming-of-age circumstances, they must also face racial confrontation, hate crime against them, and coming to terms with their identity – are they Norwegian, are they Muslim – can’t you be both? An empathetic look at three girls that goes to a deep level, characters who through uncompromising honesty and strong presence learn about daring to trust oneself and finding your own way.

Screenings:

- **WEEKDAY FEATURES Ages 11+**
- **WEEKEND FEATURES Ages 11+**

Sukar - North American Premiere

CICFF Arabic-Language Theme Sheet



Live-action Short Film
France/Morocco, Arabic
10 minutes
Directed by: Ilias El Faris

On a Casablanca beach, two teens seek romance, but are constantly interrupted. Will they ever catch a break?

Screenings:

- **LOVE LETTERS Ages 13+**