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For Immediate Release

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4th Annual Milwaukee Muslim Film Festival to run April 22 - May 7, featuring 7 films, 10 shows, 4 venues, and all films are free admission!

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, March 21, 2018 — The Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition, the organizers of the Milwaukee Muslim Film Festival, announce the 4th annual film festival beginning on April 22nd. Due to the generous support of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Mary Nohl Fund, the festival returns this year with an array of films that highlight the Muslim experience.

Continuing the tradition of making each film an educational opportunity for attendees, there will be talkbacks, panel discussions and even a fashion show. Unique this year, in an effort to encourage student attendance and allow the films to be accessible to all, every show is free admission. Shows will be held at the UWM Union Theater, Marquette University's Weasler Auditorium, Alverno College's Wehr Auditorium and Cardinal Stritch University's Shroeder Auditorium.

"Milwaukee is one of only a few cities in the entire nation to have a Muslim Film Festival. With the extreme polarization that is happening in our country, experiences such as these are of vital importance to help build bridges of understanding and provide opportunities for dialogue in an artistic and communal environment," said Janan Najeeb, President of the Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition and the founder of the Milwaukee Muslim Film Festival. "Milwaukee is known for its wonderful ethnic festivals, maybe one day it will also be celebrated as the city that welcomes the greatest variety of unique film fests as well."

The festival opens at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 22nd in the UW-Milwaukee Union Theater with a single showing of the Oscar nominated film on the Syrian tragedy, "Last Men in Aleppo." The talkback will be by the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), American physicians that help run underground hospitals for civilians. Other films include "Victoria and Abdul," the extraordinary and little known true story of the close friendship between Queen Victoria (Academy Award winner Judi Dench) and a young Indian clerk, Abdul Karim.

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"The Judge" follows the remarkable career of Kholoud Al-Faqih, the first woman judge to be appointed to a Shari'a court in the Middle East, it will be followed by a talkback with Dr. Asifa Quraishi, a graduate of Harvard Law School, and currently a Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she teaches courses in Islamic law and U.S. constitutional law.

"By the Dawn's Early Light" is a documentary on former NBA standout, Mahmoud Abdul Rauf, aka. Chris Jackson, who learned to live with Tourette Syndrome, overcome poverty, and rise above prejudice. He also converted to Islam. Unwilling to compromise his obligation as a Muslim to speak out against inequality and domination, he paid the price with his NBA career. The ACLU of WI will conduct the talkback at UWM and Dr. Debra Majeed, a Professor from Beloit College and a scholar on the Black Muslim experience will conduct the talkback at Marquette.

"Stitching Palestine" highlights the lives of Palestinian women in the Diaspora and how traditional embroidery kept their connection to their homeland. Showcasing of traditional Palestinian dresses will follow the film.

The film "Arranged" follows the friendship of two female school teachers, a Muslim and an Orthodox Jew, both entering into arranged marriages. A panel discussion assembled by the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee will follow the film.

For a complete list of films, show times and talk back programs, please visit [mmfilmfest.com](http://mmfilmfest.com)

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