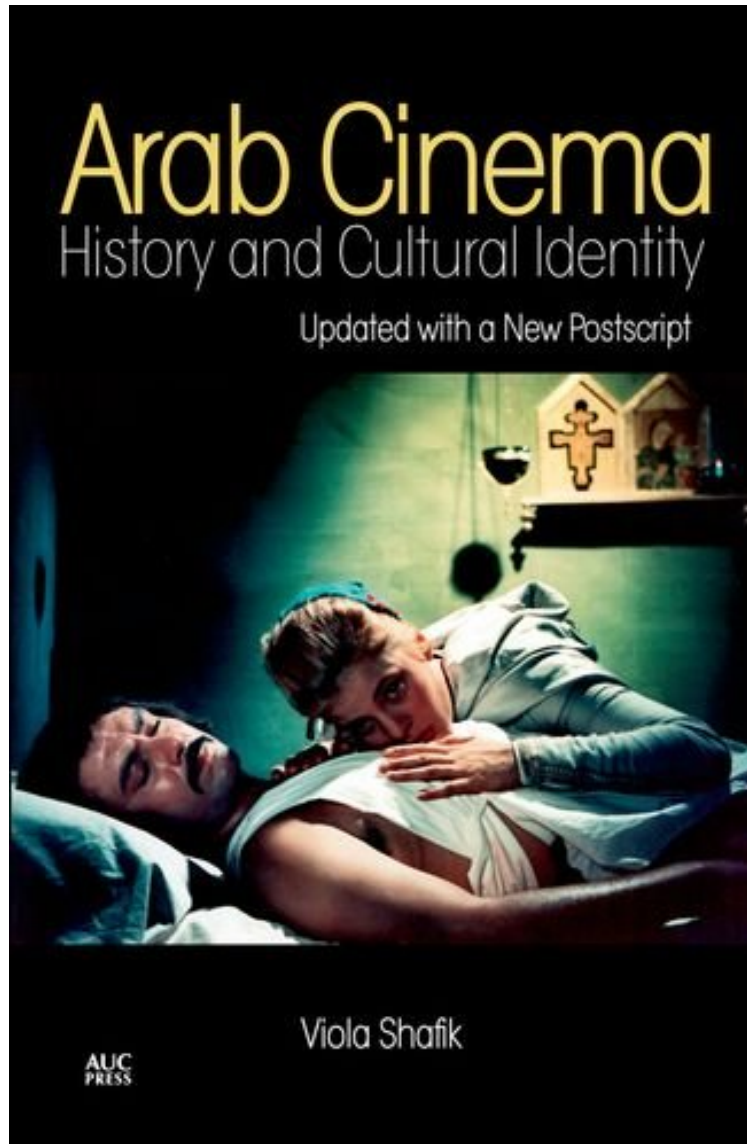


Arab Cinema: History and Cultural Identity: Updated with a New Postscript

Viola Shafik

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Book with an interesting point of view!By Melinda S.I had to

read this book for a class at school and was expecting it to be pretty boring. I was pleasantly proved wrong! This book is very interesting and the way in which she looks at film through the individual cultures within the Arab world. If you are interested in film or in Arab culture and history, this would be a great book for you. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A very brief review of Arab Cinema: History and Cultural Identity By N. Kader Great introduction to how Arab culture shapes Middle Eastern cinema. However, if you do not know much about Arabic culture, this may not be the best place to start. It can be overwhelming but is an important book to have for anyone who wants to learn more about the history of Pan Arab cinema. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Wafa Daoud Great

Since it was first published in 1998, Viola Shafik's *Arab Cinema: History and Cultural Identity* has become an indispensable work for scholars of film and the contemporary Middle East. Combining detailed narrative history-economic, ideological, and aesthetic-with thought-provoking analysis, *Arab Cinema* provides a comprehensive overview of cinema in the Arab world, tracing the industry's development from colonial times to the present. It analyzes the ambiguous relationship with commercial western cinema, and the effect of Egyptian market dominance in the region. Tracing the influence on the medium of local and regional art forms and modes of thought, both classical and popular, Shafik shows how indigenous and external factors combine in a dynamic process of "cultural repackaging." Now updated to reflect cultural shifts in the last two decades, this revised edition contains a new afterword highlighting the latest developments in popular and in art-house filmmaking, with a special focus on Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, and the Gulf States. While exploring problematic issues such as European co-production for Arab art films, including their relation to cultural identity and their reception in the region and abroad, this new edition introduces readers to some of the most compelling cinematic works of the last decades.

"Shafik discusses the history, genres, and esthetics of Arab film. She is very good at analyzing its antecedents in Arab literary, theatrical, storytelling, and musical traditions. She gives broad coverage to typical genres and is particularly good on realism and the cinema d auteur. Although Shafik focuses on Egyptian films, which comprise well more than half of all Arab films made, she discusses the films of the other Arab nations as well, delineating the differences and similarities among them. The author devotes the preponderance of the book to the films themselves, but she is also thorough in her analysis of the conditions political, religious, economic that determine what films are made, how they are made, and where they are seen. Intelligent, perceptive, and elegantly written, this volume deserves a broad readership. Highly recommended. All readers, all levels."--CHOICE About the Author Viola Shafik studied cinema in Hamburg and is a freelance film scholar, creative consultant, and filmmaker. She has directed several documentaries, most notably