

## 2023 PROGRAM

### April 20, 2023 (in-person)

#### 10:30 to 12: 45 Argu (Dream)

Omar Belkacemi, Algeria, feature, 2021, 97 min

**Yahya Laayouni, Bloomsburg University, PA**

Argu or Dream in the Kabylean Taqbaylit language tells the story of Koukou, a twenty-year-old man who is different from his peers. Living with his parents and siblings in the high mountains of Kabyle, Koukou is an empathic, artistic spirit, unapologetically himself and helpful with the women, and this behavior and outlook are perceived as threatening by male village elders. With Koukou's father's agreement they commit him to a mental asylum. When his brother Mahmoud returns from the city and finds out, he leads a fight to convince everyone of Koukou's innocence.

#### 2:00 to 3:15 Seeds of Memory

Philos Belliti, Short, Morocco, 20 min

**Ellen Hernandez, Camden County College**

Seeds of Memory highlights the Akrich Jewish cemetery and interfaith fruit tree nursery, its faithful guardian, and the neighboring Achbarou Women's Cooperative in new and beautiful ways, portraying these integrated projects as a model for sustainable interfaith Morocco.

#### What if the Goats Die

Sofia Alaoui, Short, Morocco, 2020, 23 min

A young shepherd named Abdellah, living in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco, must brave the snow to get food and save his cattle. When he arrives in the village, he meets a supernatural surprise.

#### 3:45 to 4:45 Music by Abderrahim Boutat

For an hour Mr. Boutat will play traditional Amazigh Moroccan music using "loutar," a unique musical instrument specific to the Atlas region in Morocco.

#### 5:30 to 7:45 Sound of Berberia

Tarik El Idrissi, Morocco, feature, 2022, 90 min

**Yahya Laayouni and Soubeika Wafa Bahri**

Two young musicians want to travel across North Africa in a quest for the authentic sounds of the Berbers. On their journey, they meet an ambitious female journalist who convinces them to cross the desert to the Tuaregs in northern Mali, but her intentions are unclear. When they realize what they have found, it is too late.

Reception 7:45 to 8:15

### May 2, 2023 (virtual edition)

Guest-speaker: Kevin Dwyer Professor of Anthropology: "Introduction to Moroccan Cinema"

#### Andromane (Blood and Coal)

Alaoui Lamharzi Azlarabe, Morocco, feature, 2012, 96 min

**Professor Kevin Dwyer and professor Zakia Salime, Rutgers University, NJ**

In a village where only boys inherit property, a poor charcoal trader and widower desperately seeks to secure his land by turning his older daughter into a boy. But inevitably the girl turns into a woman, who befriends a brave shepherd. Based on a well known novel by the French Moroccan writer Tahar Ben Jelloun.

#### Tamorthiw Azrou

Chahine Berriche, Tunisia, documentary, 2022

**Subeika Wafa Bahri, University of Colorado, Denver**

Set in Azrou, a small Amazigh village in southern Tunisia, the film traces the historical and social changes of the village through a number of 'dwellers' testimonials collected over the last ten years. Azrou is not simply a mountainous village in the film but a collection of memories that links the past, present, and future of Tunisian Imazighen.

#### The Shoeshiner

Aksel Rifman, Short, Morocco, 2009, 16 min

**Lucy McNair, LaGuardia Community College**

A rich business man drops his wallet at a city cafe and fails to notice. A shoeshine boy strives to return it.