

**Los Angeles Filmforum presents**  
***Gate of the Sun (Bab El Shams)*, directed by Yousry Nasrallah**  
**Sunday June 8, 2025, 1:00 pm**  
**At 2220 Arts + Archives**

Los Angeles Filmforum is the city's longest running organization dedicated to weekly screenings of experimental film, documentaries, video art, and experimental animation. 2025 is our 50th year. [www.lafilmforum.org](http://www.lafilmforum.org)

*GATE OF THE SUN (Bab El Shams)*

Directed by Yousry Nasrallah

Egypt, 2004 , digital, color, sound, Arabic, French & English (w/ English subtitles), 278 min.

Screenwriters Elias Khoury, Mohammed Souied & Yousry Nasrallah

Based on the esteemed novel *Gate of The Sun (Bab el Shams)* by Elias Khoury

Distributed by Rialto Pictures / Studio Canal

There will be an intermission after about 137 minutes.

Complimentary snacks at intermission provided by Leela.

Synopsis

Sheherazade's tales of the Arabian Nights were a ploy to stave off her execution. So too, Khalil, a Palestinian Fida'i' turned revolutionary doctor as he keeps Younes, a resistance hero, alive by the rivers of talk.

Younés is Khalil's mentor. He now lies in a coma, in the Beirut camp of Shatila. Khalil's stories cover fifty years of Palestinian history, from the birth of the State of Israel and the exodus of 1948 down to the Oslo peace agreements.

About the Novel: by Elias Khoury

*Bab El Shams*, published by Dar El Adab in Beirut in 1998, is the first epic tale of the Palestinian diaspora to appear in Arabic. It begins with a portrayal of everyday life in Galilee in 1948 and follows the subsequent flight into the Lebanese camps. The story is rooted in oral history—collected accounts from villagers expelled from Palestine, verified by Palestinian historians. It can be read as a family saga, though it distorts the genre into a complex, polyphonic structure in which time and space fracture and shift. *Bab El Shams* is without doubt the major novel of Palestinian exile. It contains all the elements of a social fiction masterpiece: mesmerizing characters, a moving plot and subplot, and a cyclical structure that holds the reader's attention.

## Directors Biography

**Yousry Nasrallah** was born in Cairo in 1952, educated at the German school in Cairo, studied economics and political science at Cairo University before joining the Film Institute there in 1973.

In 1978, Nasrallah moved to Beirut where he remained for four years, earning his living as a journalist with the film magazine *As-Safir*. From 1980 onwards, he embarked upon a full-time career, working as production assistant on Volker Schlöndorff's *Circle of Deceit* in Beirut in 1981, then as assistant director on Youssef Chahine's *La Memoire* (Memory). In 1985, he co-wrote Chahine's *Adieu Bonaparte* (Farewell Bonaparte), as well as working as assistant-director on the production. In 1987, he wrote and directed his first film, *Vols d'ete* (Summer Flights) co-produced by Chahine, a film which won numerous prizes and marked the rebirth of Egyptian cinema. In 1988-1990, he again co-wrote and worked as assistant on a film by Youssef Chahine, *Alexandrie Encore et Toujours* (Alexandria Again and Forever), before, in 1993 directing *Mercedes*, a work acclaimed by critics. In 1994, he made two shorts, *The Extra* and *A Day in the Life of Youssef Chahine*, part of a film special produced by Canal+. In 1995, he directed a documentary, *Boys, Girls and the Veil* which again received numerous prizes. In 1999, he directed *La Ville* (The City), co-produced by ARTE, which received a Special Jury Prize at the Locarno Film Festival. During 2001, he co-wrote the screenplay for *Bab El Shams* with Elias Khoury, adapted from Khoury's novel of the same name.

**Leela** is a food centered curatorial project that honors the gestures that transform spaces into homes. Inspired by the warmth of small gatherings and the wisdom passed between generations, this practice invokes the spirits of those who create sanctuaries for rest, celebration, music, thought, communing, strategizing, and friendship. Rooted in Indo-South African heritage, we are actively reclaiming an ancestral and anticolonial practice of cooking—where recipes carry stories across borders, and sharing a meal becomes an act of resistance, allyship and joy.

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Los Angeles Filmforum screenings are supported by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture, the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles. This activity is supported in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency. Learn more at [www.arts.ca.gov](http://www.arts.ca.gov). We also depend on our members, ticket buyers, and individual donors.

Coming soon:

June 14 (Saturday) - Co-presenting Brazilian handmade films presented by Tetsuya Maruyama at Whammy Analog

June 15 (Sunday) - Co-presenting *Water and Power*, by Pat O'Neill, at the Philosophical Research Society

June 22 (Sunday) - Co-presenting *Los Angeles Plays Itself*, by Thom Andersen, at the Philosophical Research Society

June 29 - Co-presenting Flaherty Seminar LA show at USC

Memberships available, \$40 Student \$75 Individual, \$125 Dual, or \$225 Silver Nitrate

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