

MONDAY



MORAL FRICTIONS

Curatorial statement: This pairing exposes the fragile line between intention and perception, exploring how institutions shape — and sometimes destroy — the individuals within them.

- **THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE (GERMANY, 2023):** A TENSE, REAL-TIME SCHOOL DRAMA ABOUT A YOUNG TEACHER NAVIGATING SUSPICION, MORALITY, AND INSTITUTIONAL FAILURE. ([WATCH TRAILER](#))
- **ABOUT DRY GRASSES (TURKEY, 2023):** A SLOW-BURNING EXPLORATION OF A DISILLUSIONED TEACHER IN RURAL TURKEY CONFRONTING INNER DARKNESS AND EXTERNAL SCRUTINY. ([WATCH TRAILER](#))

CURATED BY TRIPLETS ON SET

TUESDAY

HIDDEN TRUTHS

Curatorial statement:

This selection of short films from the UAE explore the quiet tensions and emotional depths of lives shaped by tradition, identity, and change. From family conflicts and societal pressures to moments of personal reckoning and resilience, each story offers a glimpse into the unspoken struggles we carry — and the courage it takes to speak out.



CAGE

By Amgad Wagieh

HAJ AHMED

By Sayed Mousavi

HAMLOUL

By Hajar Abdeaziz

REVIVING EMAN

By Feras Awad

HAMMER

By Abdulla Alneyadi

IT'S NOT ABOUT KETCHUP

By Naser Saeed

MAY WE TALK ABOUT
LOSS

By Vera Novakovic

UMM SALAMA
THE MATCHMAKER

By Mariam Alawadhi

SHAME

By Fatema Al Mansoori

THE PORTRAIT

By Aafia Shah

CURATED BY ARAB FILM STUDIO

WEDNESDAY

EARTH, UNMUTED



Curatorial statement:

At The Climate Tribe, we believe that storytelling is one of the most powerful tools we have in the fight for our planet. Beyond data and policy, it's stories that move people. They help us connect. They help us feel. And most importantly, they help us act. That's why we've curated this series of films: to spark conversations around sustainability, creativity, and our relationship with the world around us.

Invisible Demons (India, 2023): In the sprawling mega city of Delhi, the dangers of climate change are present, not future, for 30 million inhabitants fighting to survive. Invisible Demons explores the dramatic consequences of India's growing economy, capturing a city in crisis, and our collective climate realities.

Director: Rahul Jain ([WATCH TRAILER](#))

Honeyland (Macedonia, 2019): Oscar nominated, The last female bee-hunter in Europe must save the bees and return the natural balance in Honeyland, when a family of nomadic beekeepers invade her land and threaten her livelihood. ([WATCH TRAILER](#))

CURATED BY CLIMATE TRIBE

THURSDAY



**CURATED BY
THIS IS GOOD**

ANCESTRAL ECHOES

Curatorial statement:

A fresh perspective on the traditions of the UAE, inviting the audience to reconnect with the natural world and the ancestral ways of life. In a rapidly modernizing world, we believe the path forward lies in looking back—honoring the wisdom, simplicity, and harmony with nature that once defined our culture.

The Way of Our Ancestors (UAE, short films)

Man and Animal: The Bond
Palm: Mother of Trees
Fishing: Protocol of the Sea

Rituals: Memories of a Wedding (Tunisia, 2024)

Taqwa Bint Ali returns to Zarzis in southern Tunisia, observing its wedding customs as cultural events that anchor families in history and heritage

FRIDAY



CURATED BY LIKE MINDS

PRESSURE POINT

Curatorial statement:

This pairing reflects on the quiet spaces between visibility and memory, labor and loss. It draws our attention to what often goes unnoticed—whether in the fading glow of analog technology or the silent movements of night work. Through meditations on time, obsolescence, and unseen effort, the works invite us to slow down, to revisit what has been left behind, and to honor the fragile, enduring presence of the past within the present.

Like Minds' special pick : Exploring a classic DIY film ; Be Kind, Rewind where two bumbling store clerks inadvertently erase the footage from all of the tapes in their video rental store. In order to keep the business running, they re-shoot every film in the store with their own camera, with a budget of zero dollars. ([Watch Trailer](#)).

Mandoob (Night Courier) (Saudi Arabia, 2023): In the heart of Riyadh, where desperation and opportunity collide, MANDOOB brings forth the gripping tale of Fahad Algadaani, a mentally fragile man racing against time to save his ailing father. ([Watch Trailer](#))

SATURDAY



CURATED BY SOULTROTTER

DOUBLE LIVES

Curatorial statement:

Though set worlds apart—Algiers in the shadow of historical trauma, and Hong Kong in the throes of organized crime—both films examine the blurred line between justice and deception. Through mirrored identities and fractured systems, they challenge our understanding of guilt, loyalty, and the self. These are not just thrillers—they are portraits of characters navigating shifting realities, where exposure is as dangerous as the secrets they carry.

Algiers (Algeria, 2024): The kidnapping of a little girl creates tension and suspicion in Algiers. Only Dounia, a brilliant psychiatrist, and Sami, a police inspector, can unearth the demons of the past. ([Watch Trailer](#))

Soultrotter's special pick: a Hong Kong Crime Drama

Idealistic police cadet Chan Wing-Yan is recruited by Police Superintendent Wong to go deep undercover as a member of the criminal Triad society. Into the same cadet class, crime boss Hon Sam installs new Triad member Lau Kin Ming to become a long-term mole for the gang. ([Watch Trailer](#))

SUNDAY



CURATED BY NYUAD

FUTURES ON HOLD

Curatorial statement:

Bringing CinamANA NYUAD to CineMAS with a program that brings together three strikingly original voices from the Arab world, each navigating the complexities of displacement, identity, and survival through deeply personal storytelling.

Mahdi Fleifel's To A Land Unknown (2024) is a raw, poignant exploration of exile and longing. It captures the psychological toll of statelessness, centering on characters whose dreams of escape are haunted by the impossibility of return. Through Fleifel's unflinching lens, we confront the human cost of borders—both physical and invisible. ([WATCH TRAILER](#))

In Laila Abbas's darkly satirical Thank You for Banking with Us (2024), systems of power are laid bare in a surreal corporate landscape that reflects the absurdities of modern bureaucracy. Abbas weaves humor and horror into a searing critique of financial systems, where personal agency is swallowed by institutional machinery. The result is as chilling as it is sharp. ([WATCH TRAILER](#))

Finally, **Scandar Copti's Happy Holidays (2025)** disarms with its biting wit and allegorical narrative. Beneath the surface of a seemingly festive occasion lies a deeper examination of collective memory, fractured societies, and the rituals we cling to in the face of instability. Copti's film challenges the comfort of nostalgia, replacing it with confrontation and reflection. ([WATCH TRAILER](#))



ACTIVATION: CREATIVE CIRCLE

CREATIVES CIRCLE IS A MONTHLY, LOW KEY, NO HYPE, JUDGMENT FREE SUPPORT GROUP FOR HUMANS WHO CREATE, DREAM AND DARE TO DO GOOD. THIS INITIATIVE WAS STARTED OUT OF A NEED TO SOLVE THE LONLINESS PANDEMIC BY BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN A SAFE (AND BRAVE) SPACE TO SHARE THEIR JOURNEYS AND WALK AWAY INSPIRED TO KEEP TAKING NEXT STEPS TO SEE THEIR CREATION TO FRUITION.

LOCATION: THEATRE
DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 30
TIME: 7:00PM



ACTIVATION: LIKE MINDS



LIKE MINDS UAE, AN ESTABLISHED CREATIVE AND ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITY KNOWN FOR CURATING INTENTIONAL SPACES OF CONNECTION. WITH A NETWORK OF OVER 80-100 ENGAGED MEMBERS, THEIR GATHERINGS ARE THOUGHTFULLY DESIGNED FOR FILMMAKERS, STORYTELLERS, AND INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS LOOKING TO EXPAND THEIR CIRCLES AND SPARK NEW COLLABORATIONS. EACH SESSION BEGINS WITH A SHORT SCREENING OF THE “WORK OF THE MONTH” — A STANDOUT PROJECT SELECTED FROM THE COMMUNITY — SETTING THE TONE FOR DIALOGUE AND INSPIRATION. FROM THERE, THE HOST OPENS UP CURATED CONVERSATION TOPICS, GUIDING THE ROOM THROUGH THEMES RANGING FROM CREATIVE PROCESS AND FUNDING TO DISTRIBUTION AND REGIONAL IDENTITY IN CINEMA. ATTENDEES ARE INTRODUCED ONE BY ONE, ENSURING EVERYONE IS SEEN, HEARD, AND WELCOMED INTO THE CONVERSATION. MORE THAN A NETWORKING EVENT, LIKE MINDS OFFERS A FRAMEWORK FOR MEANINGFUL EXCHANGE, SHARED GROWTH, AND COMMUNITY-BUILDING — ALIGNING SEAMLESSLY WITH CINEMAS’S COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING AN INDEPENDENT, COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL FILM CULTURE.

LOCATION: TAPARELLE
DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 31
TIME: 7:00PM



ACTIVATION: DINE W/ME



CREATIVE COLLECTIVE AND COMMUNITY, HANG W/ME BRING THEIR MUCH-LOVED DINE W/ME TO MANARAT AL SAADIYAT — A DAILY DINING SERIES WHERE CURATED MEALS ARE INSPIRED BY NOSTALGIC ANIMATED FILMS. THINK CINEMATIC COMFORT FOOD MEETS CURATED AMBIANCE, WHERE EVERY BITE IS A MEMORY AND EVERY MEAL TELLS A STORY. THIS THOUGHTFUL BLEND OF TASTE AND EMOTION TURNS EACH DAY OF THE FESTIVAL INTO A MULTISENSORY EXPERIENCE.

LOCATION: TAPARELLE

DAILY: 7:00PM - 8:00PM, 8:15PM - 9:15PM, 9:30PM - 10:30PM, 10:45PM - 11:45PM

[BOOK YOUR SLOTS HERE](#)

THE PROGRAMME

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>7:00PM: THE TEACHER’S LOUNGE</p> <p>9:00PM: ABOUT DRY GRASSES</p> <p>800PM - 11:00PM: DINE W/ME</p>	<p>7:00PM - 8:30PM: ARAB FILM STUDIO SHORTS</p> <p>9:00PM: PANEL DISCUSSION</p> <p>8:00PM - 11:00PM: DINE W/ME</p>	<p>7:00PM: HONEYLAND</p> <p>9:00PM: INVISIBLE DEMONS</p> <p>8:00PM - 11:00PM: DINE W/ME</p>	<p>7:00PM: THE WAY OF OUR ANCESTORS + MEMORIES OF A WEDDING</p> <p>8:00PM: Q&A</p> <p>8:00PM - 11:00PM: DINE W/ME</p>	<p>7:00PM: LIKE MINDS’ SPECIAL PICK: BE KIND, REWIND</p> <p>7:00PM: CREATIVE CIRCLE</p> <p>9:00PM: MANDOOB (NIGHT COURIER)</p> <p>8:00PM - 11:00PM - DINE W/ME</p>	<p>7:00PM - ALGIERS</p> <p>7:00PM: LIKE MINDS GATHERING AT TAPARELLE</p> <p>9:00PM - SOULTROTTERS’ SPECIAL PICK: INFERNAL AFFAIRS</p> <p>8:00PM - 11:00PM - DINE W/ME</p>	<p>3:00PM: TO A LAND UNKNOWN</p> <p>5:00PM: HAPPY HOLIDAYS</p> <p>7:00PM: POST SCREENING DISCUSSION</p> <p>9:00PM: THANK YOU FOR BANKING WITH US</p> <p>8:00PM - 11:00PM - DINE W/ME</p>