



Invitation

Sunday, 10 April 2016, 2 pm

Where are you going, Moshé?

Morocco/Canada 2007, 90 min., Arab. with En. ST
Directed by **Hassan Benjelloun**

Film Screening in the Framework of the ALFILM - Arab
Film Festival Berlin, **Discussion with Nora Lafi**



Boujad, a small town in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, not long after its independence in 1956: the village's rabbi is planning the emigration of his community to Israel with the support of Zionist agents. That plan suits the Muslim conservative forces that are gaining power: when the last non-Muslim leaves town, the sole existing bar has to close down, as the law dictates. Bar owner Mustapha (played by legendary actor Abdelkader Lotfi) has to fight for the preservation of his friends as well as his life's work. His son Hassan, who is in love with Rachel, daughter of the watchmaker and musician of the town, Shlomo, follows his father's footsteps. Mustapha, with Hassan's help, succeeds in convincing Shlomo to stay as the only Jew in town, saving the bar for the time being. This bittersweet comedy, for which Benjelloun has written the original screenplay, manages to assemble a great cast of secondary characters: strong women like the determined barkeeper Zaina, the transvestite Sem and the hillbilly Berbeq'ha. The Muslim and Jewish characters' stance towards leaving home tackles essential questions of identity and belonging, and explores the nature of the newly founded national state. Simon Elba, the main character, who is an actor and a musician, was himself born in Boujad and is today one of the most important representatives of the Judeo-Arabic music.

Dr Nora Lafi is a historian with a research focus on the history of the Ottoman Empire. With a background in Urban Studies she is a specialist in the history of Arab towns in North Africa and the Middle East during the Ottoman period. In recent years she worked and published on the history of the Jewish communities of these cities. Nora Lafi is part of the ZMO research field *Cities as Laboratories of Change*.

Ticket reservation:

<http://www.alfilm.de/en/shops/ticket-shop/>*

Ticket price: 7,50 €

*If online tickets are sold out, please check at the cinema counter for available tickets.

Venue

fsk Kino
Segitzdamm 2
10969 Berlin

