

**Cimatheque – Alternative Film Centre Presents:**

**Atteyat Al Abnoudy**

**July 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>**

**At Arsenal Cinema**



RUSHES

The Cairo Cimatheque houses a very special archive: filmmakers can deposit their work there in the knowledge that it's not just in safe hands, but can also take part in a public discourse. One such filmmaker is Atteyat Al Abnoudy (1939–2018), who entrusted her films to the Cimatheque team in 2011, shortly after the revolution. Born in the Nile delta to a working-class family in 1939, Al Abnoudy worked from time to time as an actress to finance her law studies in Cairo. Before the backdrop of her work as a journalist and with numerous artists and authors already in her surroundings, she decided to study film at the Cairo Higher Institute of Cinema, where she became the first woman in Egypt to shoot documentaries. Renowned as a filmmaker dedicated to such themes as poverty, the oppression of women, and social injustice, her personal style ("no script, no actors, no direction, the camera follows the subject") left a lasting impression on documentary filmmaking in Egypt.

Tamer El Said, filmmaker and co-founder of the Cimatheque, will give an introduction to all programs.

**Program**

Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8pm, in the presence of **Claudia von Alemann, introduction: Tamer El Said**

RUSHES Egypt, late 70's until early 80's silent 20'

PERMISSIBLE DREAMS Atteyat Al Abnoudy Egypt 1983 OV/EnS 31'

After her death, outtakes and footage showing Al Abnoudy herself working with her team were found among her holdings. As the producer of her films, she carefully archived everything. To open the program, we are showing a selection of this material together with PERMISSIBLE DREAMS, the portrait of a female farmer in the Suez Canal zone. She talks of social injustice, the discrimination she faces as a woman, and her fervent desire for an education. Claudia von Alemann, who got to know Al Abnoudy within a feminist network, will be present at the screening.

Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 8pm, **introduction: Tamer El Said**

THE SANDWICH Atteyat Al Abnoudy Egypt 1975 OV 12'

RHYTHM OF LIFE Atteyat Al Abnoudy Egypt 1988 OV/EnS 58'

THE SANDWICH is an experimental short film with documentary and fictional elements. The focus is on the children of a rural area where time seems to have stood still. The film is showing together with the key work Rhythm of Life: the film shows the everyday lives of female land workers in a sort of symphony in four movements.

Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm, **introduction: Tamer El Said**

HORSE OF MUD Atteyat Al Abnoudy Egypt 1971 OV/EnS 12'

SAD SONG OF TOUHA Atteyat Al Abnoudy Egypt 1972 OV/EnS 12'

AMAL DONQOL – THE TALK OF ROOM NUMBER 8 Atteyat Al Abnoudy Egypt 1990 OV/EnS 26'

BUYERS AND SELLERS Atteyat Al Abnoudy Egypt 1992 OV/EnS 27'

HORSE OF MUD and SAD SONG OF TOUHA are two of Al Abnoudy's earliest and perhaps best-known films. HORSE OF MUD is dedicated to poverty in Cairo. The production of tiles is filmed as a rhythmical choreography, with the sequences of movement entering into a subtle connection with the personal stories of the workers. SAD SONG OF TOUHA is a dream-like portrait of the artists characteristic of life on the streets of Cairo. The unobtrusive camera accompanies fire-eaters, childlike serpent people, and others whose stories are told by the piercing voice of poet Abdel Rahman El-Abnoudy, husband of the director. Another famous poet, Amal Donqol, speaks in AMAL DONQOL – THE TALK OF ROOM NUMBER 8 about his work, fortunes, and politics, his feelings

of alienation in an increasingly materialistic society, and his fight against a disease. BUYERS AND SELLERS contrasts the fates of the haves and the have-nots. The early 90s were marked by the rapid adoption of neo-liberal economic policies. The film investigates the Egyptian population's relationship with the Suez Canal and hints at the social and economic changes that the last two decades of Mubarak's presidency were to bring with them.

Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 8pm, **introduction: Tamer El Said**

INTO THE DEPTH Atteyat Al Abnoudy Egypt 1979 OV/EnS 39'

SEAS OF THIRST Atteyat Al Abnoudy Egypt 1980 OV/EnS 44'

INTO THE DEPTH is the portrait of a school in a rural region and the challenges with which the pupils and village inhabitants see themselves confronted. In SEAS OF THIRST, Al Abnoudy moves to the north of the country, where she shows life close to the salt lakes in El Borrolas during a period of drought. The stark contrast between affluence and the inhospitable surroundings give an account of a social class that is increasingly disappearing.



A program as part of Archive außer sich, in cooperation with Cimatheque – Alternative Film Centre. With special thanks to Asmaa Yehia El-Taher and Yasmin Desouki.

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