



The U.S. Consulate General Dubai  
in collaboration with The Pavilion Downtown Dubai  
invites you to attend  
the UAE premiere of

***“End of September”***

film written and directed by  
Sama Alshaibi and Ala' Younis

*the screening will be followed by a discussion with the director*

May 23, 2012 at 7:30pm  
The Pavilion Downtown Dubai





### **About the Film Maker**

Sama Alshaibi is an artist born in Basra, Iraq to an Iraqi father and Palestinian mother and now a naturalized U.S. citizen. Alshaibi's works in photography, video art and sculpture to evoke the language of suffering, displacement, and loss. Her auto-ethnographic approach is informed by her own history of living in war and the double negation to her familial homelands. Alshaibi is interested in the spectrum of control and domination, whether it's the body's relationship to land and national identity, or the experience between humans competing for resources and power. Her work is rooted in the anxieties of the human experience.

Alshaibi's work has been exhibited at arts institutions and galleries in over twenty countries, including Impressions Gallery (UK), Exit Art (NYC), Institut Du Monde Arabe (Paris), Darat Al-Funun (Jordan), The Bronx Museum (NYC), and the Museum of Contemporary Art (Denver). She is represented by Selma Feriani Gallery (London) and Lawrie Shabibi Gallery (Dubai). In addition to exhibitions, her 25 time-based works (video art/films) have screened in numerous film festivals internationally including the Thessaloniki International Film Festival in Greece, CinemaEast Film Festival (NYC), DOKUFEST (Kosovo), and Les Instants Video festival (France). Sama Alshaibi received her MFA from the University of Colorado in Photography, Video, and Media Arts (2005). She is currently an Associate Professor of Photography/Video Art at University of Arizona (Tucson).

Sama Alshaibi's current visit to the UAE is made possible by the Bureau of International Programs of the U.S. Department of State. While in the UAE, she will carry out a range of programs with artists, students, and others across the Emirates

### **Film Synopsis**

End of September (2010) is a magical realist short film written and directed by Sama Alshaibi and Ala' Younis. Multiple mysteries of the past collide with the return of a Palestinian fedai to the country she thought she knew. As if an unknowing soul wandering through purgatory, Dalal (actress Majd Hijjawi) journeys between time periods and planes of reality, never able to trust what constitutes the "truth" in her many confrontations. In her search of fellow fedai "Jed" (actor Firas Taybeh) a heightened tension between the supernatural and real is paced through non-linear time. End of September poses questions about possibilities; by joining unstable narratives of its contentious histories with future speculations of a country post "occupation", the film urges broad imagination while grappling with questions of the Palestinian plight.

*The short dramatic film, End of September, has screened internationally, but not yet in the UAE.*