

5 BROKEN CAMERAS

DIR: EMAD BURNAT & GUY DAVIDI (2011)



Documentary **Palestine** **1h 34m**

With 5 BROKEN CAMERAS, we proudly launch TCFF Encores as part of TCFF Tuesdays — where we present an encore screening of a beloved film, often an audience award winner, from our incredible 18 years of the Traverse City Film Festival. It will not only give us an opportunity to honor the great cinema we've brought to Traverse City since 2005, but also our mission to save these films from becoming lost gems, keeping them in our hearts as some of the best movies we've ever seen.

We will start with this incredible documentary from TCFF 2012, 5 BROKEN CAMERAS, one of the rare Palestinian films that actually gets made. And this wasn't just "made," it became an instant masterpiece showcasing the true good that cinema can do. Oh, and by the way, it was also nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 2013 Academy Awards ceremony — the first such honor ever for a Palestinian film.

The movie follows Palestinian farmer Emad Burnat as he uses his home camera to document Israeli settlers bulldozing his village's olive groves in order to clear a path to build a barrier fence separating his West Bank village of Bil'in from the new Israeli settlement located right next door — instantly cutting off access to 60% of their farmland. For the next 5 years, Emad simultaneously films the growth of his children along with the struggle of his fellow villagers as they resist the barrier, are attacked by Israeli settlers and arrested by police. Some are even shot and killed. Emad himself is attacked over and over, and the destruction of his cameras by soldiers and cops quickly becomes an on-the-job hazard as camera after camera is smashed or shot or otherwise destroyed. But he keeps going, trying to keep himself alive and to keep his cameras rolling. Soon his footage is used by fellow documentarians, news agencies and people around the world.

Perhaps no selection in this Winter 2024 Season is more timely than 5 BROKEN CAMERAS. In this award-winning film, you are taken to a place you have not been, and shown life amidst the Palestinian conflict that you don't see on the news. You hear Palestinian voices and even occasionally see the guilt on an Israeli soldier's face because he has a conscience and knows this is wrong.

If you didn't see this film the first time we brought it, don't miss it this time. The enduring presence of this movie and it being the first of our new TCFF Encore screenings is a reminder that without the State Theatre, without this festival — well, let's just say you're never going to see this film at the Cherry Blossom.

Thanks to all who support us.