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EGYPT THROUGH FILM

Before you explore the wonders of ancient and modern Egypt, why not check it out on the big screen? Here's a diverse selection of Egyptian-made films, including a critically-acclaimed classic, a fan-pleasing soap opera, and some tough-subject political dramas. And we couldn't help but mention a couple of famous Hollywood movies. They may not have Egyptian stars, but they do feature some awe-inspiring Egyptian scenery.

CAIRO STATION (BAB EL HADID – THE IRON GATE) (1958)

DIRECTED BY YOSSEF CHACHINE

Considered one of the great achievements of Egyptian cinema, this comedy-drama was banned for years in Egypt but was re-released to international acclaim in 2010. *The New Yorker* thought that this bittersweet film about a newspaper vendor's love for a beautiful lemonade seller combined warmhearted glimpses of the characters with audacious social criticism. The BBC described it as a "cinematic triumph."

CAIRO 678 (2012)

DIRECTED BY MOHAMED DIAB

A drama about three women from different sectors of Cairo society who come together to fight against sexual harassment. Based on real-life cases that led to Egypt's first anti-harassment laws, *the Hollywood Reporter* called it "blunt but powerful" while *the New York Review of Books* described it as "at last giving voice" to the long-standing problem and the increasing protests by Egyptian women against it.

CLEOPATRA (1963)

DIRECTED BY JOSEPH L. MANKIEWICZ

Got four hours to spare for a Hollywood epic about the legendary Egyptian queen manipulating and wooing Julius Caesar and Mark Anthony? This film drew headlines, not least for how much money it cost Twentieth Century Fox and for the off-screen romance of its stars, Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. We'll leave it to you decide how historically accurate the film is.

DEATH ON THE NILE (1978)

DIRECTED BY JOHN GUILLERMIN

Hollywood has frequently used Egypt as the backdrop for movies more about Egypt's breathtaking scenery than its people. *Raiders of the Lost Ark* is one example. Another is this all-star whodunnit based on an Agatha Christie book with Peter Ustinov as the eccentric investigator Hercule Poirot. A new version of the film is due out in 2020.



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THE CLASH (2017)

DIRECTED BY MOHAMED DIAB

Another political drama directed by Diab, *The Clash* explores the unrest following the army's 2013 overthrow of the ruling Muslim Brotherhood party. The film is set entirely within the cramped confines of a police van. Held within the van are rival demonstrators. London's *Evening Standard* said, "it's a tiny movie but feels like a big deal" while *the Times* called it a superb drama.

THE YACoubIAN BUILDING (2012)

DIRECTED BY MARWAN HAMED

This comedy-melodrama, based on a best-selling novel about life in a Cairo apartment building, was a hit with Egyptian audiences. *Premiere magazine* described it a soapy but revelatory slice of modern Egyptian life that smashes long-standing communal taboos, especially by featuring a gay character.