Delve Deeper into “9 Star Hotel”
A film by Ido Haar

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Shaun Briley of the San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary “9 Star Hotel” that premieres on July 22nd, 2008 at 10 PM (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

“9 Star Hotel” documents the lives of a group of young Palestinian men working illegally as construction laborers in the Israeli city of Modi’in. Caught between Israeli security laws and a Palestinian Authority they see as having failed them, they work for Israeli contractors by day while hiding from police by night. Like youths everywhere, they pass their idle hours talking about love, marriage and future hopes. Israeli filmmaker Ido Haar has crafted a powerful vérité film that illuminates the plight of young men questioning their own culture while struggling to survive in the midst of bitter conflict.

ADULT NONFICTION


Cypel, Sylvain. Walled: Israeli Society at an Impasse. New York: Other Press, 2006. An account by a former U.N. worker who was responsible for monitoring the impact of the wall that separates the West Bank and Israel on Palestinian lives.


Makdisi, Saree. Palestine Inside Out: An Everyday Occupation. New York: W. W. Norton, 2008. Examines how the security wall isolates Palestinians from their livelihoods and from each other, as well as how the peace process has failed them so far.

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Shehadeh, Raja. Strangers in the House: Coming of Age in Occupied Palestine. South Royalton, VT: Steerforth Press, 2002. The autobiography of a prominent lawyer describing what it was like to grow up Palestinian in Israel.

Tolan, Sandy. The Lemon Tree: an Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East. New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2006. The story of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is told through the histories of two families disputing the claim to the same property.

Wasserstein, Bernard. Israelis and Palestinians: Why Do They Fight? Can They Stop? New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2003. The author contends that neither Israelis nor Palestinians are naturally extreme, and that their struggle can be seen in terms of understandable interests and values such as work, land, security and dignity.


ADULT FICTION

Glanville, Jo (Editor). Qissat: Short Stories by Palestinian Women. San Francisco: Telegram, 2006. Contains a variety of short stories reflecting the everyday lives of Palestinians.


NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

“Encounter Point”. A film by Ronit Avni and Julia Bacha. Typecast Releasing, 2006. (89 min.). Tells the stories of both Israeli and Palestinian participants in a grass-roots peace movement. Typecastfilms.com

“Promises.” A film by Justine Shapiro, B.Z. Goldberg & Carlos Bolado. New Yorker Video, 2004. (102 min.). Chronicles the very different lives of seven Palestinian and Israeli children who grow up no more than 20 minutes away from each other. www.promisesproject.org


“Until When...”. A film by Dahna Abourahme. Arab Film Distribution, 2004. (76 min.). A documentary following four Palestinian families living in a refugee camp near Bethlehem. www.arabfilm.com

“Wall”. A film by Simone Bitton. Lifesize Entertainment, 2005 (96 min.). This documentary shows the impact of the separation fence on the historic landscape as well as those enclosed on either side. lifesizeentertainment.com