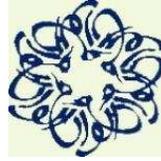


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Alwan for the Arts

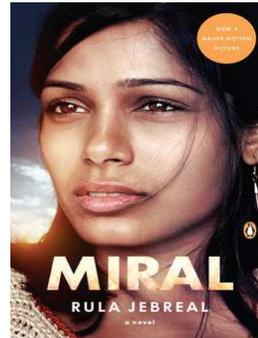
Is Proud to Present

A Book Reading and Signing: *Miral, A Novel*, by Rula Jebreal

Monday, December 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Alwan for the Arts is proud to present a book reading and signing by Rula Jebreal, who will discuss her new book *Miral, a Novel* on Monday, December 13, 2010. Ms. Jebreal will follow her talk with a discussion open to the audience. This event will be held at Alwan for the Arts at 16 Beaver Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10004. Admission is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

About the Author and Book:



Rula Jebreal was born in Haifa in 1973, and spent her early years living in East Jerusalem with her family. After her mother's death she entered the Dar El-Tifel orphanage and school at age five. She remained there until she received her diploma in 1991. After receiving a scholarship from the Italian government, Jebreal left East Jerusalem to study medicine at the University of Bologna. While there she obtained a degree in physiotherapy and then decided to go back to school to study journalism. She began working for Italian newspapers specializing in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the growth of Islamic fundamentalism.

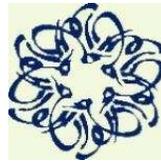
In 2000, Jebreal became the first foreign anchorwoman in Italy to broadcast the evening news on national television. Since 2004, Jebreal has hosted numerous high profile Italian television programs including: Omnibus, her daily talk show in which she interviewed Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, Palestinian President Abu Mazen, and Nobel prize-winner Mohammad El Baradei, among others. Jebreal was recognized by Media Watch in 2004 for her coverage of the Iraq war. She is the author of *The Bride from Assuan*, which was awarded the International Fenice Europe Prize, and *Divieto di soggiorno*, a study of the history of immigration in Europe.

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Miral is a novel that focuses on remarkable women whose lives unfold in the turbulent political climate along the borders of Israel and Palestine. The story begins with Hind, a woman who sacrifices everything to establish a school for refugee Palestinian girls in East Jerusalem. Years later Miral arrives at the school after her mother commits suicide. Hind sees that Miral has the potential to change the world peacefully-but Miral is appalled by the injustice that surrounds her, and flirts with the notion of armed resistance. Hind desperately works to persuade her to stay the course of education, hard work, and non-violent resolution-but is she too late?

Miral, the novel, has been made into a major motion picture directed by Julian Schnabel (*The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*) and starring Freida Pinto (*Slumdog Millionaire*). The cast also includes Hiam Abbass as Hind, Willem Defoe, and Vanessa Redgrave. It premiered in September at the Venice Film Festival and will be released in the US in the spring of 2011. Publication rights have been sold in 13 countries



About Alwan for the Arts

Since its founding in 1998, Alwan for the Arts has been an organization dedicated to the presentation and production of the arts and cultures of the Arab world, Middle East and North Africa. Alwan organizes film festivals and screenings, book/poetry readings and signings, lectures and conferences, art exhibits, musical and theatrical performances, and language and literature classes. In 2003, Alwan established a center at 16 Beaver Street in lower Manhattan. In the second decade of its existence, Alwan remains committed to providing a space for reflection, dialogue, and growth in the arts and cultures of the peoples of the Arab world, Middle East, North Africa, and their diasporas, serving their communities and educating the broader public through programs that enrich the artistic and cross-cultural encounter.

*Alwan for the Arts is grateful to **Union Square Awards** for its support in 2007 and 2008. Alwan is also grateful for support from **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council** and the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs**.*