

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

أنا دلوقتي عايزه أكلكم عن السينما بمصر. مصر من زمان تعتبر هوليوود الشرق الأوسط. يعني من زمان أوي كان كل الممثلين العرب يجوا مصر عشان يبقوا معروفين عن طريق مصر. كانوا يجوا مصر عشان فيها كل شركات الإنتاج. ولسا النهار دا لسا فيها الكثير من الشركات. فعشان كده الممثلين والمغنيين كمان، يعني كل الفنانين، كانوا بيجوا مصر، كانوا بيجوا عشان يتعرفوا على طول، وكمان عايززة أركز على حنة الإنتاج، عشان إنتاج الأفلام في مصر ابتد من زمان أوي، ابتد من حوالي 150 سنة، يعني أقل بشويه، بس دي حنة مهمة جدا بنجاح الأفلام في مصر، أشهر الأفلام كانت الأفلام المصرية زي مثلا أفلام المرحوم الأستاذ شاهين، المخرج الكبير الأستاذ شاهين، إلي عمل أفلام المصير، وباب الحديد، والأرض. وأفلام مهمة جدا عشان كان ليها دور سياسي. هو معروف جدا كمخرج واخذ جوائز كثيره في كل العالم ومثل مصر في مهرجانات كثير، زي مهرجان مثلا مهرجان كان في فرنسا، أخذ جائزه هناك من تمن سنين كده عشان فلموا المصير. ممكن نقول أن كان أكبر مخرج مصري. معروف بالعالم كلوا، يعني كان في ناس ميعرفوش حاجة عن مصر غير اسم يوسف شاهين، وكده لعب دور مهم جدا في المجتمع عشان وري الحاجات الي إحنا مكناش عايزيين نشوفها، ودا فعلا دور المخرج. المفروض تكون المسؤولية بتاعتهم. فأنا بحترموا جدا وحزينه جدا أنو توفي من شهرين أو حاجة، توفي بالضيف، وأنا بالنسبة لي أكبر مخرج مصري. دلوقتي لو بنتكلم بشكل عام ممكن نقول أن الأفلام المصرية لعبت دور كبير في توعية الناس العرب. لعبت دور سايس واجتماعي في حياة المشاهدين العرب، عشان كانت الأفلام تعالج مواضيع سياسية زي الإحتلال، الإحتلال الإنجليزي، الإحتلال الفرنسي، ومثلا دور المرأة العربية.

English translation:

Woman (blue shirt): I now want to talk to you about cinema in Egypt. Egypt has long been considered the Hollywood of the Middle East. For a long time, all of the Arab actors used to come to Egypt in order to become famous, through Egypt. They used to come to Egypt because all of the production companies were there, and up to today there are still a lot of the companies So, because of that, actors and singers, too, I mean all artists, used to come to Egypt. They used to come in order to become famous right away.

I also want to focus on the production part, because the production of films in Egypt started a long time ago; it started about 150 years ago -- I mean a bit less, but this is a very important part of the films' success in Egypt. And the most famous movies were Egyptian films, like the films of the late Youssef Chahine,¹ for example, the great director Youssef Chahine, who made the movies *Destiny*, *The Iron Door*, and *The Soil*, and these movies are very important because they had a political role. He is very famous as a director, and he received a lot of prizes all over the world, and he represented Egypt in a lot of festivals, like the Cannes festival in France, for example. He received a prize there about eight years ago, I believe, for his movie *Destiny*. We can say that he was the greatest Egyptian director. He is famous all over the world; I mean, there were people

¹ Youssef Chahine was one of the most prominent Egyptian film directors of the twentieth century, if not the most prominent. He was born in 1926 and died recently, in July 2008. He directed and sometimes acted in more than fifty critically-acclaimed movies, and he won numerous international awards for his work. He was awarded the 50th annual lifetime achievement award at the Cannes Film festival in 1997.

who didn't know a thing about Egypt except Youssef Chahine's name. And, like this, he played a very important role in Egyptian society, because he showed the things that we did not want to see. And really, this is the role of the director; this is supposed to be their responsibility, so I respect him a lot, and I am very sad that he passed away two months ago, or something, I mean he died in the summer, and he is, in my opinion, the biggest Egyptian director.

Now if we are speaking generally, we can say that Egyptian movies played a big role in raising the conscience of the Arab people. They played a political and social role in the lives of Arab spectators, because the movies dealt with political subjects, such as the occupation -- the British occupation, the French occupation -- and the role of Arab women, for example.

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