

Out of Cordoba

On June 16th 2012, 300 community leaders, academicians, physicians and professionals gathered in FunAsia to watch the documentary “Out of Cordoba”. The showing of the documentary was preceded by a reception with delicious food organized by FunAsia Dallas. The event was organized by Dr. Basheer Ahmed, Past President of Institute of Medieval and Post-Medieval Studies.

OUT OF CORDOBA is a documentary film, directed by Jacob Bender, about the legacy of the Spanish city of Cordoba and its meaning for our times. The film explores the dramatic biographies of Averroes (Ibn Rushd) the Muslim, and Rabbi Moses Maimonides the Jew, the two leading personalities of medieval Islamic Spain, and its heritage of “*convivencia*” (religious coexistence). Filmed in the USA, Spain, Morocco, France, Italy, Egypt, Israel and Palestine, and 10 years in the making, the award-winning film explores contemporary relations between Muslims, Jews, and Christians, the struggle against religious extremism and xenophobia, and the revolts for human rights and democracy in the Middle East. OUT OF CORDOBA has been screened over 100 times at universities, film festivals, mosques, churches, and synagogues around the world, including a special screening at United Nations Headquarters.

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, Mr. Bender, an American Jew, was one of the initiators of dialogue with the American Muslim community. He has spoken dozens of times at mosques and at large gatherings of Muslims in the United States, particularly at the conventions of the Islamic Society of North America, the largest Muslim organization in the USA.

Mr. Bender was recently selected as a Finalist for the prestigious 2012 Goldziher Prize for Jewish-Muslim Relations, named after Ignac Goldziher (1850-1921), one of the first serious European scholars of Islam in the 20th Century.

The program was supported by several Islamic Centers in Dallas, FunAsia, Islamic Relief, CAIR, MCC for Human Services, America Together Foundation and Individual businesses. The documentary was followed by a brief presentation, discussion and Question and Answer Session led by Mr. Jacob Bender. It was well received by all participants.

Dr. Ahmed thanked all the sponsors, volunteers and participants specially Professors representing, Southern Methodist University- Dallas, University of Dallas Texas, University of North Texas, Texas Christian University, Texas A&M University and South Western Medical School



أبو الوائلي محمد بن عبد الله
رب مשה بن ميمون

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