



Incendies

Amish

Group 6

Alexandra, Bruce, Cindy, Erica, Henry, Lily, Nicole, Viola

Outline

- Introduction
- Film Analysis: War and History
- Film Analysis: Identity
- Film Analysis: Family Relation
- Film Analysis: Symbols
- Film Technique
- Conclusion

Introduction

Incendies

- Adapted from **Wajdi Mouawad**' s play of same name.
- Released in Quebec on 17 Septemeber 2010.
- Nominated for Academy Award for Best Foreign Film in 2011
- Won Eight Genie Award including **Best Motion Picture**



Plot Overview & Characters



Main Argument

Incendies shows how the changes of **individual identities** and **distortion of family relations** as a result of the civil war can still be **rebuilt** through searching for the truth and linking past and present.



Background Knowledge

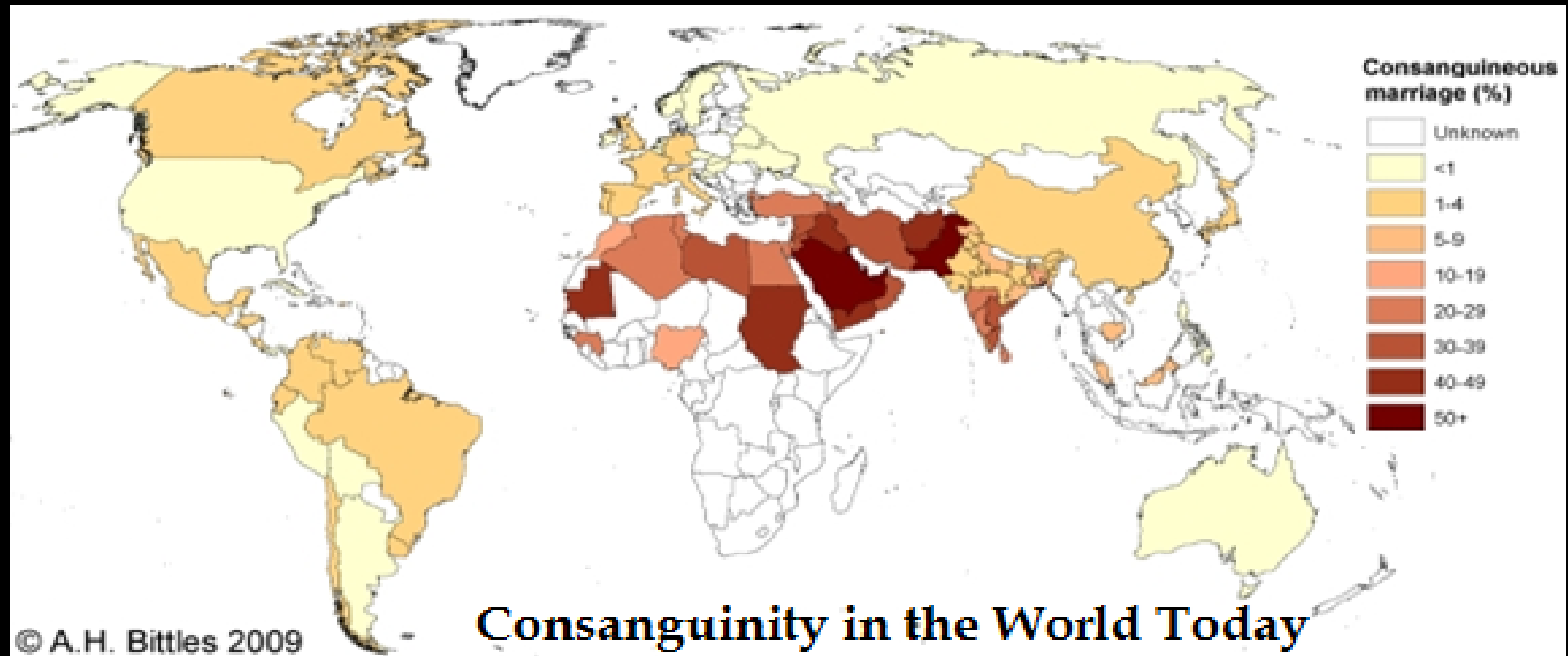
A tribute to to Greek tragedy- Oedipus

- ❖ Resemblance of the greek myth of Oedipus: rapes his own mother
- ❖ Difference: Nihad is not responsible for his dad' s death, but he is for other countless lives or separation of families.
- ❖ Reference to Oedipus' "scarred heel" → the three dots on Nihad' s heel



Background Knowledge

Cultural background: Incest





Background Knowledge

Cultural background: Honor killing



Historical Background

Analysis of War and History

Lily

- The Lebanese Civil war
- Religions conflict
- child soldiers
- war refugees

The Lebanese Civil War

Date 13 April 1975 – 13 October 1990
(15 years and 6 months)

First phase (1975 – 77) : Minor clashes in Lebanon had been building up towards all-out conflict (blasting fuse: bus massacre)

Second phase (1977 – 82) : Hundred Days War & 1978 South Lebanon conflict

Third phase (1982 – 83) : Negotiations for a cease-fire

Fourth phase (1984 – 90) : Taif Agreement

In the film it is a fictional country called



Bus Massacre & conflict in the south

- Date: 1975 April 13th
- A Maronite militia opened fire on a bus loaded with civilians
- Response to an attempt on the life of a Maronite militia leader
- Nawal: Based on Souha Bechara, but she actually failed in assassinating General Antoine Lahad (Christian militia)

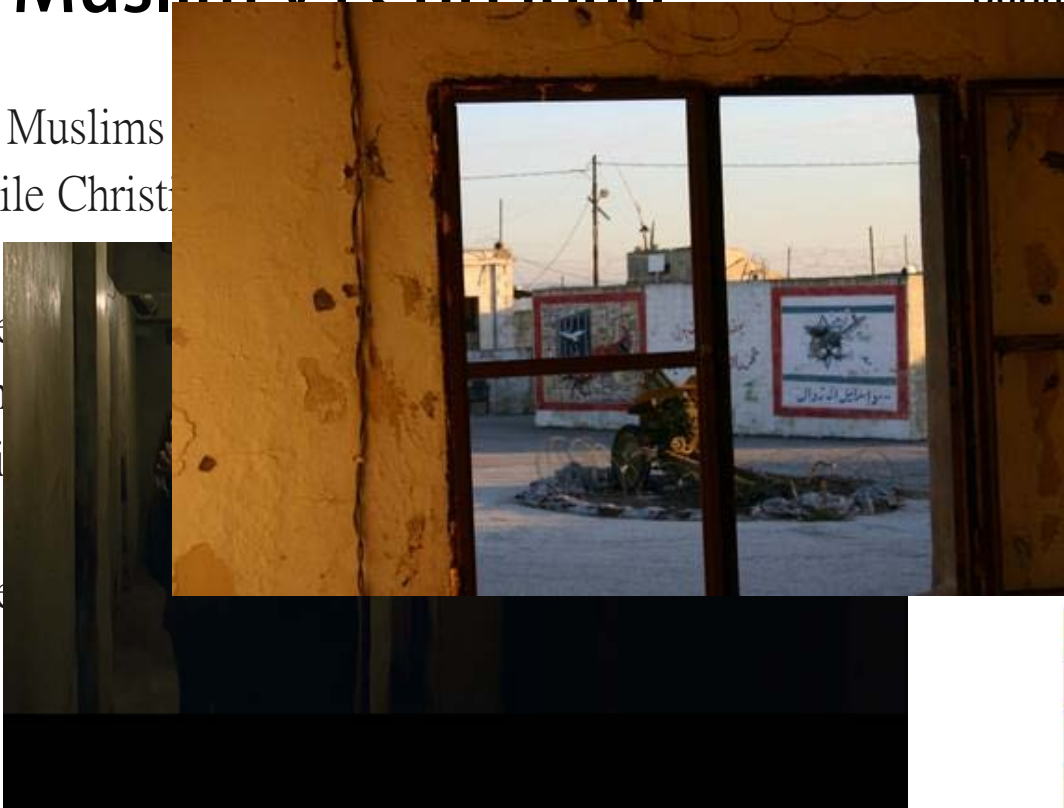


Based on Real Event: Bus Massacre



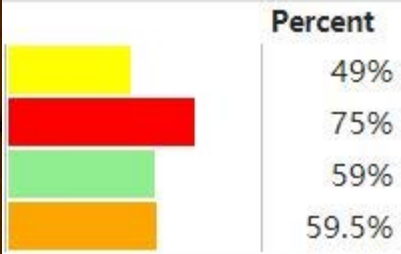
Religions: Muslim vs Christian

- Distribution: Muslims in Lebanon, while Christians in Beirut
- The two largest groups in Lebanon are Sunni Muslims and Shia Muslims
- Prison in Khirbat al-Tanburaj was turned into a prison for Muslims during civil war
- Related to the civil war



during civil war: religion seen as a key social identity marker

Muslims^{[10][11][12][13][14][15]}



Christians^{[10][11][12][13][14][15]}





CHILD SOLDIERS

- Many different sides in the Lebanese Civil War used child soldiers.
- Remain an unsolved issue in the world, especially in Middle East
- Eg: ISIS



Nihab was trained into a sniper/ killing machine/ torturer

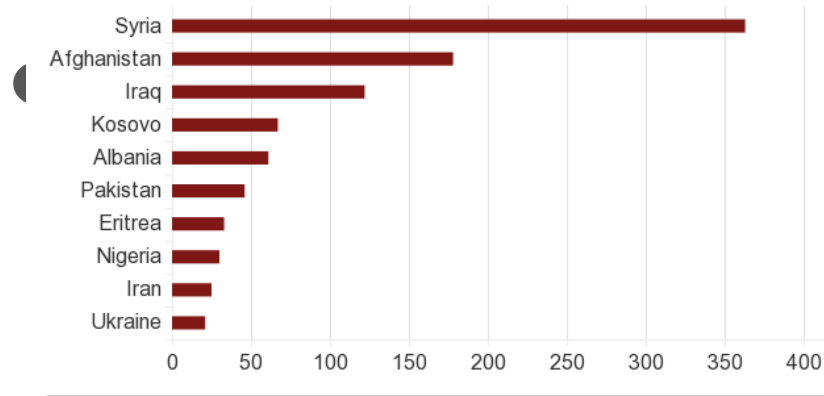


A child soldier in Kfar Ryat Prison

war refugees

- Palestinian refugees crossing the border into Lebanon
- The film actually casts Iraqi refugees

● **Top 10 origins of people applying for asylum in the EU**
First-time applications in 2015, in thousands



Source: Eurostat



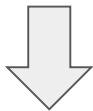
Nawal's Lover Wahab & Honoor



Identity

Bruce Fu & Erica Liu

1st Generation (Nawal): Switching Identities and Traumatization



2nd Generation (The Twins and Nihad): A Knock-On Effect

Identity



The war has a great impact on the family.

It first destroyed and distorted Nawal's identity as well as traumatized her and then the influence just flows to the next generation (their identity just became more complicated)

Nawal



Everything began with the war

She used to be a normal girl in a Christian family until one day the war broke out, driving many refugees out of their home.

That's how she met her boyfriend and gave birth to Nihad.....

Nawal



As we can see in this movie, at the beginning, Nawal's identity is simple: she is Christian as well as Arabian.



Nawal



She became an assassin and the Woman
Who Sings after she lost all her hope
(legend in local)

Nawal



After leaving Middle East, she became a secretary.

She is an immigrant and also a sufferer of trauma.

Jeanne



To some extents, Jeanne is an inspector or an outsider seeking to figure out her mother's identity and that process reconstructs Jeanne's as well.

Jeanne



Her identity is pretty clear at first: she is a mathematician and also the sister.



As a mathematician, she tried to find out definitive answers but her following experience just taught her that not everything can be explained by a clear formula.

Jeanne



War has cut off her connection with her mother's homeland. She is unable to speak Arabic and also she is not welcomed here

More and more historical stories are involved into her identity.

Jeanne



The twins finally know that they are born from incest.

Nihad/Abou Tarek

- The lost son who searches for his mother (martyrdom)
 - Soldier/killer
 - A torturer/rapist of his mother
- father
- Brother
 - Given a **new identity** by Chameseddine



Simon

- A son
- Twin brother of Jeanne
- An **outsider** as Jeanne
- **Resister** (of the quest) at first → turns helper

➤ Shares **similarities** with Nihad:

1. anger
2. isolated (Pike)



*"the key to freedom as an adult—getting rid of **anger** you have towards your parents in order to understand your childhood and the links between past and present" (qtd. in Villeneuve).*



Supporting Characters: Helpers that rebuilt the family relations

- The Notary, Jean Lebel: “a Godlike figure” (Pike)
- The Nurse: First saved and later identified the twins
- The Warlord, Chamseddine: Final revelation of the past/truth





Film Analysis: Family Relation

404110122 Nicole Liao



the Middle East VS Montreal, CA

the Middle East: the start



Montreal: the end





Connection & Disconnection

- ❖ Destruction of relations
- ❖ The consequence of war

● Leaving the family

- Wahab runs away with Nawal
- Nihad is sent away
- Nawal is exiled from her home

● Away from home

- Nawal and the twins are sent to Canada
→ Nawal disconnects with her past



Nawal and Wahab



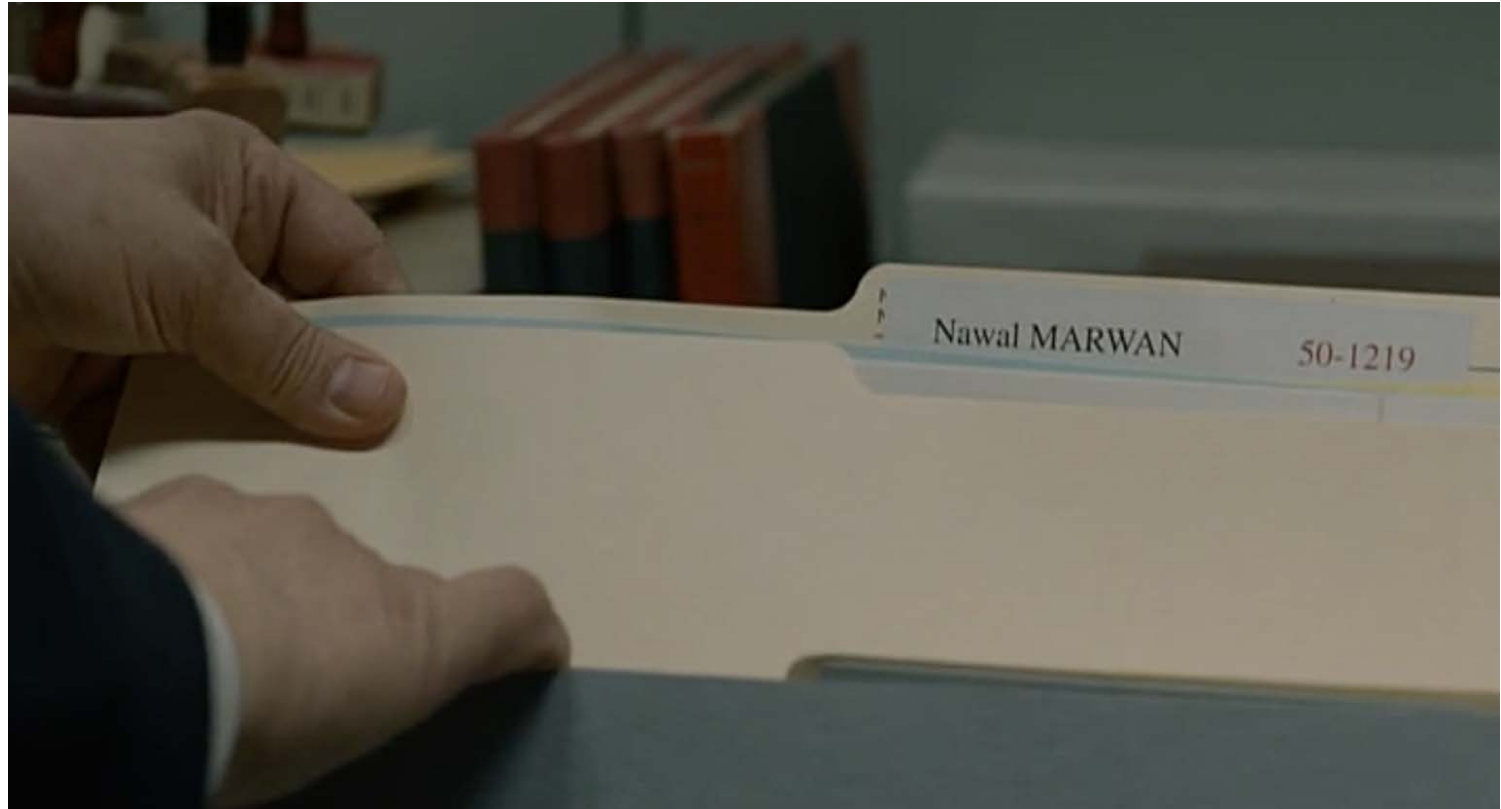
Nawal and Nihad



Nawal and her originated family



Nihad and the twins



Turning Point: Nawal's will



Connection & Disconnection

- ❖ Reconstruction of relations
- ❖ Globalization plays a big part

● global contacts

- cellphone network
(specifically: Jeanne calls Simon from the Middle East)
- Jeanne' s mentor introduce her to a fellow professor in Daresh
- Lebel hires a notary/ detective in Daresh
- Chamseddine helps settle Nawal and her children in Canada (the

f. N. d.)

reconstruction



Nawal and Nihad



Nihad and the twins

Film Analysis: Metaphor and Symbol

403110371 Cindy Chang

incendies

Destruction by fire

Scorched

Fire - Unjust, hatred, rage, pain



Shaving young boys' head

- Child soldier
- Control, Systematize
- Force to give up their past/identity

Hint to the following plot



3 black dots on heel

Identity

Greek Mythology

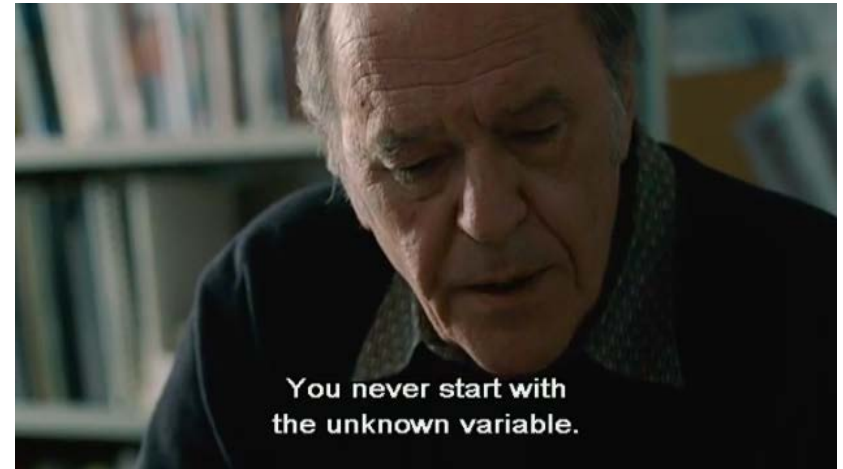
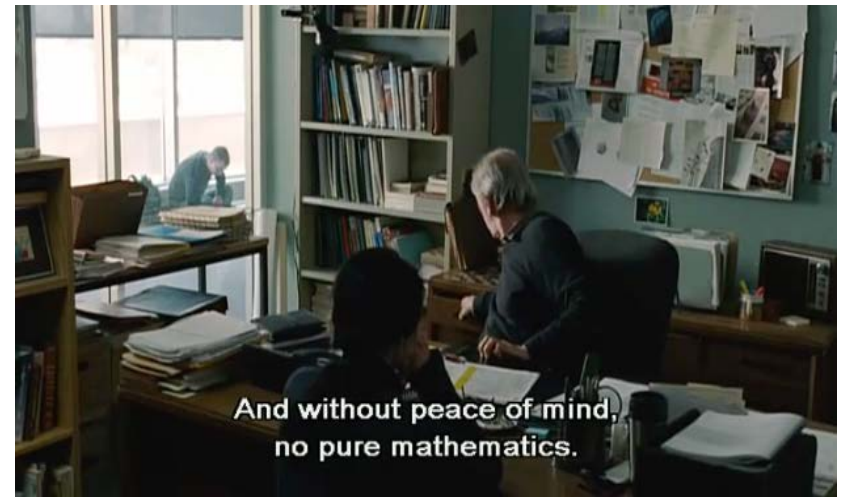
Hint



Math

-In the beginning: start from the thing
you already know but not from the unknown

$$-1+1=1$$



Water (Pool)



The Cross and Scarf

Identity as Christian and Arab

Switch identity when she is in need



Film Technique

● Music

- Radiohead - You and Whose Army?
- Nami Nami by Azam Ali
- Film Score

● Filming

- Long Shots / Aerial View
- Transitions

radiohead - you and whose army?

Come on, come on

You think you drive me crazy



...

We ride tonight

We ride tonight

Ghost horses

...

nami nami by azam ali

Sleep sleep, sweet little girl
Lets get alseep on the carpet
Sleep in the dark
Until the cloud moves away
And then we have some moon light,
That lights the whole neighborhood
Tomorrow your father is coming back
Carrying his lemon harvest
Bringing you a skirt and a shal
So that you get warm in December
You little, and smart girl
Your hair is black and fine
And he who loves you, kisses you
And he who hates you, can't get sleep



the woman who sings



FILM SCORE



comparison: montreal and middle east



long shots/aerial view



transition: university (DARESH)



transition: photos & typing sounds



parallel scenes: bus



parallel scenes: picked up by chamseddine



swimming pool



Conclusion

404110110 Viola Jian

Incendies -

“scorched”
“places where a fire
has occurred”

- *Incendies deals with the issue of warfare in the Middle East due to religious conflicts, and its traumatic effect upon those who are involved, particularly the characters in this film.*



Identity

- *In order to restore the broken relations
1st generation identity is constantly changed, distorted, and traumatized ; 2nd generation identities are increasingly implicated.*



Family Relation

- *While family relation can be destroyed due to the disconnections caused by the war, it can also be rebuilt through connections delivered by the mother's will and various global contacts under the influence of globalization.*



Metaphor & symbol

- *Incendies*
- *Shaving the boy's head*
- *3 dots on Nihad's heel*
- *Math*
- *Water/Pool*
- *The cross & scarf*

techniques

- Music

*The song
“You and Whose Army”
exists as a way to
represent the 2
dimensions in this film,
which are the present and
the past.*

techniques

- Music

*The arabic lullaby
“Nami Nami” sung by
Nawal, the woman who
sings, alludes her identity
as a mother and serves as
her only hope to survive,
which is to find her son.*

techniques

- Music

The flim score adds tension, suspense, and grief to the atmosphere.

techniques

- Filming

*-Long shots/aerial view
present the differences
between Montreal and
the unnamed city in the
Middle East.*

techniques

- Filming

-Photos/typing sounds are used as transitions.

-Parallel scenes presents the past of Nawal and the retrace at the present time.

techniques

- Filming


*-2 Different viewpoints
from Nawal & Jeanne at
the pool respectively
starts and ends the story.*

Questions

1. G 5 Why does the film use **outsiders'** perspective to present the whole story?
2. G 1: Why does the twins have **different attitudes** toward Nawal' s will?
3. G 2: Is the **incest** plot **necessary**?

Work Division

Introduction	Henry
Film Analysis: War and History	Lily
Film Analysis: Identity	Bruce and Erica
Film Analysis: Family Relations (Connection and Disconnections)	Nicole
Symbols	Cindy
Film Techniques	Alexandra
Conclusion + Discussion Questions	Viola



Thank you!

Any questions?