
Contents

- Introduction 1
Mizrahi Cinema: Definition and Parameters
Notes on Methodology and Theoretical Frameworks
The Structure of the Study
- One Mizrahi Ethnicity and Israeli Cinema 18
The Mizrahi Dilemma: A Critical Overview
The Mizrahi on the Israeli Screen: Historical Context
Critiquing Mizrahi Representation in Israeli Films
- Two The Cinematic Construction of Mizrahi Identity 49
Culture and Identity: Beyond the Essentialist/Constructionist Dyad
The Reconstruction of the Past
 The Dual Valence of Arab-Jewish Identity
 Salvage Cinema
 The Utility of Rootedness
 The Ethnic as a Symptom
 The Cultural Past and the Political Present
 Mediated Constructions of Mizrahi Identity: Ambivalence
 and Performance
Conclusion
- Three The Mizrahi Space 92
Brushing with the Postmodern
*The Collapse of Postmodern Playfulness: The Redrawing of
 Ethnic Boundaries*
Cinematic Topos: The Inscription of Marginality

Marginality as a Normative Space

The Mizrahi Niche

Film Funds

Television

Four The Absence of Power and the Power of Absence:
Victimhood, Struggle, and Agency 147

The Dialectics of Power: Casting Subaltern Agency

Protest in Mizrahi Cinema

Modalities of Mizrahi Protest in Cinema

Attenuated Protest

Corrective Histories

The Coupling of Victimhood and Agency in

Mizrahi Protest Cinema

Protest Films

Sderot Cinematheque

The Remaking of Identities

Five Intersectionality and Alliances 195

The Mizrahi Woman

The Ethnoclass Dilemma

The Ethnoreligious Juncture

Alliances and Inspirations

Afterword: What Is Mizrahi in Mizrahi Cinema? 251

Appendix 1. Israeli Films Cited 257

Appendix 2. Interviews 263

Works Cited 265

Index 283