



## MEDIA RELEASE

[www.gcfilmfestival.com](http://www.gcfilmfestival.com)

1 November 2010

For Immediate Release

### **Controversial Gaza Strip Documentary to Screen at Festival**

The Gaza situation is one fraught with danger and fear. Many have captured the turmoil in the area on film, but none with such chilling personal insight as ***Return to Gaza***, which receives its Australian premiere as part of the Gold Coast Film Festival 2010, presented by Australia Fair Shopping Centre.

***Return to Gaza*** provides deep personal insight from well known Australian musician Fetah Sabawi (*Superheist, Jericco*) a Palestinian-Australian who travelled to Gaza in the hopes of founding a music school for refugees just prior to the ill-fated Palestinian elections in 2006. On his return Sabawai finds himself up against the challenges of living in the region – check-points, constant military presence and squalor – all while persevering to put a human face on an issue that plagues both Palestinians and Israelis.

Fetah Sabawi and director Michael Weatherhead will be attending the premiere of their controversial documentary on the 14th November 2010 at 4.30pm and will provide a question and answer session at the close of the screening.

"Documentary is always a challenge because you don't know where the story is going to end up, but in a virtual war zone, those challenges are multiplied. Yet we were never shot at and we were given great hospitality from Israelis and Palestinians.

As sad as I feel about the Middle East, it was an incredibly powerful experience to go there and become immersed in other people's lives. More than news and current affairs documentary has a richness that is very rewarding." Michael Weatherhead, Director.



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Produced by One Planet Films in association with Denoux Films Productions between 2006 and 2010, it was filmed in Australia, Egypt, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. ***Return to Gaza*** has won two awards in the USA, including the Award of Excellence at Indie Fest, and has been nominated for three in the UK.

The Gold Coast Film Festival presented by Australia Fair Shopping Centre, will be held November 10-16 at Australia Fair Birch Carroll and Coyle Cinemas in Southport. Gold Coast City Council's Film Gold Coast is the major Government sponsor of the event. The full program of films and events is online now. For more details please see [www.gcfilmfestival.com](http://www.gcfilmfestival.com)

**ENDS**

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