



Taqwacore: The Birth of Punk Islam

On November 30, Film Streams and Project Interfaith will present a screening of the provocative punk rock documentary, with a post-show discussion about identity and diversity within the Muslim community.

OMAHA (10/27/10) – When Michael Muhammad Knight published his acclaimed debut novel “The Taqwacores” in 2003, the book’s central concept — the emergence of a punk rock scene within the young Muslim community — was exactly as advertised: fiction. Then, in a remarkable example of life imitating art, the very music community Knight imagined started to take shape in the form of bands like San Antonio’s Vote Hezbollah, Vancouver’s Secret Trial Five, Chicago’s Al-Thawra and Boston’s The Kominas.

Directed by Omar Majeed, the 2009 documentary TAQWACORE: THE BIRTH OF PUNK ISLAM follows Knight and his real-life kindred spirits on their first U.S. tour. The film then travels to Pakistan, where members of the first Taqwacore band, The Kominas, bring punk to the streets of Lahore and Knight begins to reconcile his fundamentalist past with the rebel he has now become. (The documentary is actually one of two films inspired by Knight’s book; the other, a narrative film called THE TAQWACORES, was released theatrically earlier this month).

On **Tuesday, November 30 at 7 p.m.**, Film Streams and Project Interfaith will present a special screening of TAQWACORE: THE BIRTH OF PUNK ISLAM, with a post-show discussion about identity and diversity within the Muslim community.

The special screening of TAQWACORE on November 30 is part of Film Streams’ Community Development Program, which facilitates partnerships with other nonprofits and community groups on film-related events that speak to their missions and programming. The mission of Project Interfaith is to grow understanding, respect and relationships among people of all faiths, beliefs and cultures (see the next page for more information).

Tickets for the screening and discussion are \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors, students, teachers and military, and \$4.50 for Film Streams Members. For questions, requests, or more information, please contact Casey Logan at (402) 933-0259 or casey@filmstreams.org.

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About Project Interfaith

Mission: Project Interfaith grows understanding, respect and relationships among people of all faiths, beliefs and cultures.

Vision: Project Interfaith strives to create a community and world where people of all faiths, beliefs and cultures are valued, included and protected. As such, we seek to serve as a leader and resource on interfaith and religious & cultural diversity issues.



How We Do This: Project Interfaith moves forward our vision and mission by:

- Offering original and inspiring community building programs that educate and engage audiences on issues of faith, religion, identity, belief, and culture;
- Advancing and safeguarding the fundamental rights and freedoms which enable a person to freely chose to practice or not practice a religion or belief system;
- Ensuring access to reliable information and resources on religious diversity; and
- Promoting objective teaching and learning about religion and religious & cultural diversity in age-appropriate, academic ways in schools, workplaces, and communities

For more information, visit <http://www.projectinterfaithusa.org>.

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Film Streams is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the cultural environment of the Omaha-Council Bluffs area through the presentation and discussion of film as an art form. For more information, visit www.filmstreams.org.



Film Streams is grateful for the wonderful support of our members, individual donors, corporations, foundations, and government organizations who make our programming possible, including support from:

