

was a meeting with representatives of the film and television industry in Damascus, and it was a nice surprise to us to hear praise from Syrian intellectuals for Jean Marie Offenbacher's "Tea on the Axis of Evil." What seemed to touch them the most was seeing a "Western" representation of Syrian culture that reflected their world from their own perspective. I have no doubts that Offenbacher will achieve a similar success in this new venture and similarly let Iraqi culture speak for itself through stories and dishes. Such a presentation of cultures through what is essential and sustained in them is invaluable. It helps us to step away from our perceived ideas and attitudes and take a fresh look at other cultures.

Sincerely,



Shakir Mustafa

World Languages Center and Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures