

## Stereotypes transcript

[Arabs in the Media]

05: AYOOB: I think the image of the Arabs and the Muslims in this country, particularly the Arabs was never very flattering and there were lots of issues involved and there were lots of reasons for this. One was, of course, the stereotype of the oriental and since most Americans were of European origin they borrowed the European stereotypes of the Oriental which were primarily those of the Arab and Muslim world.

:32 AHMED: There were very powerful Orientalist images of Arab Americans. And they were of, you know, belly dancers and sheiks and Sinbads.

:44 SHAHEEN: His oil money, you know, is a threat to us just like in the past, in Nazi Germany, the Jewish so-called banking money, was a threat to Germany.

:56 WALTZER: these are stereotypes of Jewish power and Jewish influence that have a long, long history dating back hundreds and hundreds of years. And they're circulating now. And the saddest thing is that they're circulating in some Arab communities and some Arab newspapers.

1:16 SHAHEEN: Today's image of the Arab parallels exactly yesteryear's image of the Jew. All you have to do is go back and look at some of the editorial cartoons that were in German and Russian newspapers of the Jew and the manner in which the Jew was portrayed. And look at today's image of the Arab in editorial cartoons – the facial features are identical. The only thing that's different is the costume. And the Jewish merchant is squeezing the globe with his banking money and the Arab is squeezing the globe with his oil money. Otherwise it's the same. And we seem to have learned nothing from history.

1:53 AHMED: After 1967 and the Middle East war, there was a very powerful change for the bad after that. They moved from Orientalist image to war images.

2:08- 2:13 CAST A GIANT SHADOW (1966)

2:14: SHAHEEN: So all these ancient stereotypes have been mixed with these fresh stereotypes and being sort of a spiral, they're being seeing over and over and over again everywhere you go.

2:26 AYOOB: The negative image of the Iranian Revolution, particularly when the hostages were taken added a further negative layer of the Arab and Muslim world. There was a three reason on top of that and that was the oil boycott imposed against the friends of Israel so the oil prices, at least temporarily seemed to go through the roof, so that created further negative images sheiks (?) and their flowing robes and outlandish headgear, holding the world ransom by holding very tightly to the petrol pump.

2:55-2:58: ROLLOVER

3:02 AHMED: In terms of the media and media coverage on this, I think that, you know, we've had our good guys and our bad guys but the story really isn't the good guys.

3:16 SHAHEEN: The news image is the Hollywood Arab image. In other words they're seeing selected scenes of violence. We never see them mourn, we never see Arabs suffer, we never see them with family. And that's excluded, it's the violence, the selected frames of violence.

3:36 AHMED: So we have movies, hundreds of movies where Arabs are clearly the enemy.

3:41: SHAHEEN: you take a few select images and you repeat them over and over again and that's what we've done with the Arab.

3:38 AHMED: They've never found an Arab American guilty of terrorism in the United States in its entire history. I think that's a story that's untold, you know. And the problem is, even if you told that story or one other person tells that story, it's not a counterweight to all that's been piled up here.

4:09 AYOUB: And so I think there are these layers upon layers that have created a negative stereotyping of Muslims, in particular, Arab Muslims in the United States even before 9/11 happened.

4:22 WALTZER: I would welcome some opportunity to have a dialogue about the dangers of these kinds of stereotypes to both communities and to speak to members of both communities about it.

4:38 SHAHEEN: You know, I mean look at the – what's happening in Palestine, what's happening, or what happened recently in Lebanon. Those frames of suffering, those frames of commonality that show we're all common. We have more things in common than things that are different. We almost never see it.