



Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Film Profiles (videos)

Garbage Dreams

Iskander, Mai. *Garbage Dreams*. New York: Iskander Films, 2009. 35 mm, 79 min. <https://youtu.be/b26dBL5tQPk>.

Garbage Dreams follows three teenage boys born into the trash trade and growing up in the world's largest garbage village, on the outskirts of Cairo. It is home to 60,000 Zabaleen, Arabic for "garbage people." Far ahead of any modern "Green" initiatives, the Zabaleen survive by recycling 80 percent of the garbage they collect. When their community is suddenly faced with the globalization of its trade, each of the teenage boys is forced to make choices that will impact his future and the survival of his community. (Source: [Official Film Website](#))

© 2009 Iskander Films. Trailer used with permission.

This film is available at the [Rachel Carson Center Library](#) (RCC, 4th floor, Leopoldstrasse 11a, 80802 Munich) for on-site viewing only. For more information, please contact library@rcc.lmu.de.

[About the Environmental Film Profiles collection](#)

Further readings:

- Fahmi, Wael Salah. "The Impact of Privatization of Solid Waste Management on the Zabaleen Garbage Collectors of Cairo." *Environment and Urbanization* 17, no. 2 (2005): 155-70. doi: 10.1177/095624780501700212.
- Fahmi, Wael Salah and Keith Sutton. "Cairo's Contested Garbage: Sustainable Solid Waste Management and the Zabaleen's Right to the City." *Sustainability* 2, no. 6 (2010): 1765-83. doi:10.3390/su2061765.

Related links:

- Interview with Filmmaker Mai Iskander
<http://www.documentary.org/content/meet-filmmakers-mai-iskander-garbage-dreams>
- Garbage Dreams—The Game
<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/garbage-dreams/game.html>
- Cartoneros (Film Profile)

- <https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/cartoneros>
- Hauling (Film Profile)
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/hauling>
- Maputo Dancing Dump (Film Profile)
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/maputo-dancing-dump>
- Trash Dance (Film Profile)
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/trash-dance>

Websites linked in this text:

- <http://www.garbagedreams.com/>
- <http://www.carsoncenter.uni-muenchen.de/index.html>
- <https://www.environmentandsociety.org/multimedia/collection/environmental-films-project>