



1. Please provide information on internet regulation by the Egyptian government up and until 2007, particularly as to whether they blocked gay websites.

Up and until 2007 the majority of internet content was not censored in Egypt. There were reports that the only websites the Egyptian government would ban regularly were political opposition websites such as the Muslim Brotherhood's site, www.ikhwanonline.com.¹ Only a recent decision by the Administrative Judicial Court in May 2009 ruled that the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology should ban pornographic websites, though it is unclear whether this has occurred.² According to Freedom House, no laws specifically grant the government the power to censor the internet, and prior to Administrative Judicial Court decision; the Egyptian authorities had resisted calls to censor websites.³

2. Are there any Arabic websites showing gay films?

Yes.

A search of the internet for gay films was conducted in Arabic and produced a number of English-language male gay porn sites which can also be viewed in Arabic, offering gay films. Two Arabic websites offering male gay porn films were also found. The search results also found a number of Arabic forums which offered links to male gay porn websites.⁴

A search of the local Egyptian Google site (www.google.com.eg) with the search terms 'gay' produced a large number of gay websites with some offering gay porn videos. The

¹ Youssef, N. 2005, 'Online Media Censorship in Egypt: Internet Police on the Nile' Qantara website, 30 December http://www.qantara.de/webcom/show_article.php/c-476/nr-501/i.html – Accessed 1 March 2010 – Attachment 1; Open Net Initiative (undated), 'Internet Filtering in Egypt in 2006-2007' Open Net Initiative website <http://opennet.net/studies/egypt2007> – Accessed 1 March 2010 – Attachment 2; The Initiative For an Open Arab Internet (undated), 'Freedom of Opinion & Expression in Egypt Annual Report 2007', Chapter 3 Electronic press and blogs <http://www.openarab.net/en/node/281> – Accessed 1 March 2010 – Attachment 3; Human Rights Watch 2005, 'False Freedom: Online censorship in the Middle East and North Africa', Human Rights Watch website, November <http://hrw.org/reports/2005/mena1105/mena1105webwcover.pdf> – Accessed 16 November 2005 – Attachment 4.

² 'Following the issuance of a ruling to ban pornographic websites The Arabic Network asks for judicial decision on ban rather than' 2009, The Initiative For an Open Arab Internet website, 13 May <http://www.openarab.net/en/node/958> – Accessed 1 March 2010 – Attachment 5; 'Egyptian court bans pornographic Web sites' 2009, *Sydney Morning Herald*, source: Middle East News Agency, 12 May <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-technology/egyptian-court-bans-pornographic-web-sites-20090512-b22h.html> – Accessed 1 March 2010 – Attachment 6.

³ Freedom House 2009, *Freedom on the Net: A Global Assessment of Internet and Digital Media – Egypt*, Freedom House website, 30 March <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=384&key=200&parent=19&report=79> – Accessed 1 March 2010 – Attachment 7.

⁴ Internet Search Results of Arabic websites showing Gay films – Attachment 8.

titles of these websites are translated into Arabic by the Google site. The search result also offered another search term 'gay film' which is also translated into Arabic.⁵

3. Please provide information on any mainstream gay films that had been released up and until 2007.

According to four websites which have listed the top gay films, major mainstream gay films include:⁶

- **My Beautiful Laundrette (UK, 1985)**

“After the death of his wife and his subsequent descent into alcoholic near-agoraphobia, a crotchety Pakistani intellectual convinces his shady entrepreneur brother to provide work for his son in this multi-layered portrait of the immigrant experience in Great Britain. Young Londoner Omar (Gordon Warnecke) isn't sure what he wants out of life, but his uncle Nasser (Saeed Jaffrey) provides a corrupt, capitalist role model as Omar graduates from washing cars for the old crook to running his run-down laundromat. After a chance meeting with Johnny (Daniel Day-Lewis), an old school chum whose flirtation with fascism deeply wounded Omar's principled Papa (Roshan Seth), Omar hires the young thug to work for him. Soon, the pair begin a romantic relationship that remains as under wraps as the illicit drug-running and enforcement work they perform for Nasser's associate, Salim (Derrick Branche). On the domestic front, Omar must balance his knowledge of Nasser's long-running affair with posh Brit Rachel (Shirley Ann Field) with his own loyalty and attraction to Nasser's westernized daughter, Tania (Rita Wolf). After successfully transforming his laundrette into a vision of resplendent pastel suds and providing a bright spot in his otherwise squalid London neighborhood, Omar seems to have a bright future in Nasser's organization. The spectre of Johnny's past, however, combines with Omar's conflicted immigrant loyalties to threaten the sense of identity the young man has managed to stake out for himself.”⁷

- **Parting Glances (USA, 1986)**

“Gay yuppie Robert (John Bolger) accepts an assignment in Africa that will put his strained relationship with his lover, Michael (Richard Ganoung), in limbo for the next few years. Michael, meanwhile, tends the needs of his ex, Nick (Steve Buscemi), whose punk band's video is getting MTV airplay even as he battles HIV and bittersweet memories in a claustrophobic apartment. After a farewell dinner thrown by Robert's foppish boss and his luminous wife, Michael and Robert fret and frolic with a host of Manhattan hipsters at a party thrown by their artist friend Joan (Kathy Kinney). These various crowd scenes set

⁵ Google (Egypt) results for 'gay' – www.google.eg – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 9.

⁶ 'Here is our current list of top 10 gay films' (undated), gaydrama.net
<http://www.gaydrama.net/top-10-gay-films.html> – Accessed 1 March 2010 – Attachment 10; 'The Fifty Greatest Gay Movies!' 2008, AfterElton.com, 7 September
<http://www.afterelton.com/movies/2008/9/50greatestgaymovies> – Accessed 1 March 2010 – Attachment 11.; Bugg, S., O'Bryan, W., & Shulman, R. 2009, '25 Gay Films Everyone Should See' *Metro Weekly*, 19 February
<http://www.metroweekly.com/feature/?ak=4063> – Accessed 1 March 2010 – Attachment 12; Williams, M. 2010, 'The Best Gay Movies of the Last 10 Years' suite101.com, 29 January
<http://independentfilms.suite101.com/article.cfm/the-best-gay-movies-of-the-last-10-years> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 13.

⁷ Dillard. B.J. (undated), 'My Beautiful Laundrette: Plot Synopsis' allmovie.com
<http://www.allmovie.com/work/my-beautiful-laundrette-33989> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 14.

the stage for a series of one-on-one interactions that explore the romantic and other tensions of early AIDS-era Manhattan without offering too many easy resolutions.”⁸

- **Maurice (UK, 1987)**

“Based on the novel by E.M. Forster, Maurice is set in pre-World War I England and examines the social repression of a college student dealing with his homosexuality. Maurice studied at Cambridge where he meets and falls in love with Clive Durham. Under pressure from his family Durham marries, but Maurice finally consummates his inclinations with Durham's gamekeeper Skudder. A gay love story that transcends wealth and class.”⁹

- **Longtime Companion (USA, 1990)**

“At the time of Longtime Companion's release in 1990, the devastating disease of AIDS was seen as a mysterious and deadly scourge, replete with rumors, lies, and panic. As the first narrative film to examine the AIDS epidemic, screenwriter Craig Lucas and director Norman René place the disease in an historical context, dramatizing the impact of the disease through time in a series of vignettes involving seven gay men. AIDS first made its presence felt surreptitiously, as an article in The New York Times reported on a rare cancer attacking gay men called Karposi's syndrome. Then the Village Voice began a series of in-depth articles concerning a "gay plague" which later became known as AIDS. The film follows the AIDS crisis through the lives of the seven main characters so that they are only aware of AIDS in the historical framework of each episode. The characters include former gay couple Willy (Campbell Scott) and John (Dermot Mulroney), first seen partying at a Fire Island club, who don't pay much attention to the mysterious article in The New York Times but become intimately effected by the disease. There is also Sean (Mark Lamos), a soap opera writer whose mind is slowly deteriorating because of the disease, and his supportive friend David (Bruce Davidson).”¹⁰

- **My Own Private Idaho (USA, 1991)**

“A poetic journey that focuses on the life of Mike, a young burnt out male prostitute and his object of affection, Scott, as they travel the backroads of US and Europe searching for Scott's mother.”¹¹

- **Philadelphia (USA, 1993)**

“At the time of its release, Jonathan Demme's Philadelphia was the first big-budget Hollywood film to tackle the medical, political, and social issues of AIDS. Tom Hanks, in his first Academy Award-winning performance, plays Andrew Beckett, a talented lawyer at a stodgy Philadelphia law firm. The homosexual Andrew has contracted AIDS but fears informing his firm about the disease. The firm's senior partner, Charles Wheeler (Jason Robards), assigns Andrew a case involving their most important client. Andrew begins diligently working on the case, but soon the lesions associated with AIDS are visible on

⁸ Dillard, B.J. (undated), ‘Parting Glances: Plot Synopsis’ allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/parting-glances-37317> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 15.

⁹ ‘Maurice: Synopsis’ (undated) gaydrama.net <http://www.gaydrama.net/show-film-info.1.23.Maurice.html> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 16.

¹⁰ Brenner, P. (undated), ‘Longtime Companion: Plot Synopsis’ allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/longtime-companion-29964> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 17.

¹¹ ‘My Own Private Idaho: Synopsis’ gaydrama.net <http://www.gaydrama.net/show-film-info.1.36.My-Own-Private-Idaho.html> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 18.

his face. Wheeler abruptly removes Andrew from the case and fires him from the firm. Andrew believes he has been fired because of his illness and plans to fight the firm in court. But because of the firm's reputation, no lawyer in Philadelphia will risk handling his case. In desperation, Andrew hires Joe Miller (Denzel Washington), a black lawyer who advertises on television, mainly handling personal injury cases. Miller dislikes homosexuals but agrees to take the case for the money and exposure. As Miller prepares for the courtroom battle against one of the law firm's key litigators, Belinda Conine (Mary Steenburgen), Miller begins to realize the discrimination practiced against Andrew is no different from the discrimination Miller himself has to battle against. The cast also includes Antonio Banderas as Andrew's partner, Joanne Woodward as Andrew's mother, and Stephanie Roth as Joe's wife."¹²

- **The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (Australia, 1994)**

“The usually menacing British actor Terence Stamp does a complete turnaround as Bernadette, an aging transsexual who tours the backwaters of Australia with her stage partners, Mitzi (Hugo Weaving) and Adam/Felicia (Guy Pearce). Their act, well-known in Sydney, involves wearing lots of makeup and gowns and lip-synching to records, but Bernadette is getting a bit tired of it all and is also haunted by the bizarre death of an old loved one. Nevertheless, when Mitzi and Felicia get an offer to perform in the remote town of Alice Springs at a casino, Bernadette decides to tag along. The threesome ventures into the outback with Priscilla, a lavender-colored school bus that doubles as dressing room and home on the road. Along the way, the act encounters any number of strange characters, as well as incidents of homophobia, while Bernadette becomes increasingly concerned about the path her life has taken”.¹³

- **Stonewall (USA, 1995)**

“After a long history of police raids, extortion, and brutality, a gaggle of drag queens at the Stonewall decide they have had enough and begin to riot when the police try to load them into a paddy wagon. Told by "La Miranda" (Hector), a regular customer at the Stonewall Inn, the film is a recounting of events that led up to that fateful day in 1969. "Matty Dean" is the handsome angry young man that La Miranda meets at the Stonewall one day and with whom she/he quickly falls in love. "Bostonia" is the self-styled Queen Mother of the drag queens and guides each initiate gently "into the life." Her lover, Vinnie, is the closeted proprietor of the Stonewall. His tragic response to the suffocation he feels bearing down on him from a homophobic world -- perhaps as much as anything else -- sparks the riots.”¹⁴

- **Beautiful Thing (UK, 1996)**

“A long hot summer on a housing estate in South London. Jamie is bunking off school, whilst his mother Sandra juggles job promotion and her relationship with hippy-dippy boyfriend Tony. Next door lives sassy Leah, who spends her day listening to Mama Cass records. In the same block, Jamie's class mate Steve, although sporty and popular at

¹² Brenner, P. (undated), 'Philadelphia: Plot Synopsis' allmovie.com

<http://www.allmovie.com/work/philadelphia-119903> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 19.

¹³ Kaye, D. (undated), 'The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert: Plot Synopsis' allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/the-adventures-of-priscilla-queen-of-the-desert-133443> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 20.

¹⁴ 'Stonewall: Synopsis' (undated) gaydrama.net <http://www.gaydrama.net/show-film-info.1.35.Stonewall.html> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 21.

school, is bullied by his drunken father. One-day, Steve seeks refuge in Sandra's flat and ends up sleeping head to toe with Jamie....”¹⁵

- **Ma Vie En Rose (France, 1997)**

“Ludo lives with his loving family in a candy coloured Paris suburb. Life is sweet. But there's a problem. Ludo knows what he wants. He has a dream. Ludo wants to be a girl... Hilarious and heart-rending, a beautiful bittersweet story of magic, desire and difference, the award-winning 'Ma Vie En Rose' features a truly stunning performance from the extraordinary Georges Du Fresne.”¹⁶

- **Hedwig and the Angry Inch (USA, 2001)**

“Adapted from the hit off-Broadway musical of the same name is this tale of an "internationally ignored" rock & roll singer who hails from Communist Berlin and who dreams of becoming an American sensation. Hedwig (John Cameron Mitchell), born a boy named Hansel, is raised by a single mother (Alberta Watson) who wishes to see her son do better than his poverty-stricken family. Some years later, Hansel is attracted to a good-looking American G.I, who promises a better life overseas for young Hansel, under one condition: that he undergo a sex-change operation to become a fully functional female who he can then marry. The operation is seriously botched, leaving the now-renamed Hedwig with an "angry inch" only to be stranded in a dingy Kansas trailer park on the day the Berlin Wall comes tumbling down. Hedwig then supports herself through a series of ill-fated lounge gigs and side jobs, meeting up with 16-year old Tommy Gnosis (Michael Pitt), a religious type who befriends her and later steals her songs and becomes the rock star Hedwig always dreamed of being. Undeterred, Hedwig continues to perform in the shadow of Tommy's sold-out stadium tour, attempting to make herself whole in spirit, if not physically. The film features several songs by composer Stephen Trask, who also appears as a member of Hedwig's disinterested rock band; Miriam Shor portrays Hedwig's newfound love and back-up singer.”¹⁷

- **Angels in America (USA, 2003)**

“God has abandoned Heaven. It's 1985: the Reagans are in the White House and Death swings the scythe of AIDS. In Manhattan, Prior Walter tells Lou, his lover of four years, he's ill; Lou bolts. As disease and loneliness ravage Prior, guilt invades Lou. Joe Pitt, an attorney who is Mormon and Republican, is pushed by right-wing fixer Roy Cohn toward a job at the Justice Department. Both Pitt and Cohn are in the closet: Pitt out of shame and religious turmoil, Cohn to preserve his power and access. Pitt's wife Harper is strung out on Valium, aching to escape a sexless marriage. An angel invites Prior to be a prophet in death. Pitt's mother and Belize, a close friend, help Prior choose.”¹⁸

¹⁵ ‘Beautiful Thing: Synopsis’ (undated) gaydrama.net <http://www.gaydrama.net/show-film-info.1.5.Beautiful-Thing.html> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 22.

¹⁶ ‘Ma vie en rose (My Life In Pink): Synopsis’ (undated) gaydrama.net <http://www.gaydrama.net/show-film-info.1.4.Ma-Vie-En-Rose.html> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 23.

¹⁷ Clarke, J. (undated), ‘Hedwig and The Angry Inch: Plot Synopsis’ allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/hedwig-and-the-angry-inch-237124> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 24.

¹⁸ ‘Angels in America’ (undated) gaydrama.net <http://www.gaydrama.net/show-film-info.1.38.Angels-in-America.html> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 25.

- **Bad Education (Spain, 2004)**

“Enrique Goded (Fele Martínez) is a Spanish filmmaker who is having trouble settling on a new project when he's approached by Ignacio Rodriguez (Gael García Bernal), who was his close friend when they were schoolboys. Goded, who fell in love for the first time with Rodriguez, barely recognizes the man as his former crush, but agrees to read the short story he's written. The tale turns out to be an semi-autobiographical account of their days in a Catholic boarding school, in which a cross-dressing night-club performer named Zahara (also played by Bernal) hooks up with a man named Enrique (Alberto Ferreiro), who turns out to have been his first lover when he was a student. Recalling their school days, Zahara tracks down Father Manolo (Daniel Giménez Cacho), one of his teachers from school with pedophilic tendencies, and threatens to expose the priest's attempts to seduce him and ruin his relationship with Enrique years ago. Goded decides to use the story as the basis for his next film, and Rodriguez, an out-of-work actor, makes it clear he's eager to play Zahara. However, Goded isn't certain if Rodriguez is the right actor for the role, or if he's even the man he claims to be; an angry conflict with Rodriguez leads Goded back to the real Ignacio's mother (Petra Martínez).”¹⁹

- **Brokeback Mountain (USA, 2005)**

“Ang Lee's adaptation of E. Annie Proulx's story Brokeback Mountain stars Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger as young cowboys named Jack Twist and Ennis Del Mar. Each of them is hired to corral sheep on the title location and they soon bond very closely. Their platonic relationship explodes into a physical one, but eventually the two are separated when their job comes to an end. Although the two follow different life paths -- one becoming a father of two and the other marrying into a successful business -- they have a reunion years later. Each is affected profoundly by the rekindling of their old feelings for each other. Those feelings lead each to consider what continuing their hidden relationship would cost them.”²⁰

- **Transamerica (USA, 2005)**

“The first film by Duncan Tucker, Transamerica stars Felicity Huffman as a pre-operative transsexual named Bree (whose given name was Stanley). One week before going under the knife, Bree learns that she fathered a boy who is now 17 and is in trouble with the law. Bree would like to ignore this information, but is forced to meet the young man, Toby (played by Kevin Zegers), by her analyst Margaret (Elizabeth Peña), who will not allow the surgery to happen unless Bree meets him and confronts this aspect of her past. Upon meeting, the son believes that Bree is simply a do-gooder. She buys a car and the two road-trip back to her home in Los Angeles, Bree all the while attempting to keep from Toby the truth of the situation.”²¹

- **Shelter (USA, 2007)**

“Love brings together two men who aren't sure where to fit a relationship into their lives in this romantic drama. Living in the oceanfront working-class community of San Pedro, Zach (Trevor Wright) is a young man in his early twenties who has been forced into the

¹⁹ Deming, M. (undated), ‘Bad Education: Plot Synopsis’ allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/bad-education-289497> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 26.

²⁰ ‘Brokeback Mountain: Synopsis’ (undated), msn.com <http://movies.msn.com/movies/movie-synopsis/brokeback-mountain> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 27.

²¹ Seibert, P. (undated), ‘Transamerica: Plot Synopsis’ allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/transamerica-308148> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 28.

role of emotional anchor for his dysfunctional family; his mother is dead, his father is too ill to work, his sister Jeannie (Tina Holmes) is too busy partying to look after her five-year-old son Cody (Jackson Wurth), and Zach is the only one with the wherewithal to hold down a job and keep the rent paid. He's sacrificed his dream of attending CalArts in order to help Jeannie raise Cody. Between cooking at a diner and looking after Cody, Zach has little in the way of spare time, but as often as he can he heads to the beach to indulge his passion for surfing. While hanging out with his surfing buddy Gabe (Ross Thomas), Zach meets Gabe's brother, the struggling homosexual writer Shaun (Brad Rowe), who has taken a break from Tinseltown while rebounding from a dysfunctional relationship. Shaun goes surfing with Zach one day, and the two discover they're powerfully attracted to one another, and a flirtation turns into a love affair. As Shaun has to explain to his girlfriend why he no longer wants to be with her, Zach tries to make Jeannie and his father understand why he's come out of the closet. *Shelter* was produced for the gay and lesbian-oriented cable television network Here, though it enjoyed a brief theatrical release before its broadcast premiere.”²²

The Arabic website www.al-bab.com contains a list of Egyptian films which explore sexual diversity.²³ These include:

- **The Yacoubian Building** (‘Omaret Yakobean’, 2006). Described as one of the most expensive films in Egyptian cinema; it includes two main male gay characters.²⁴

“The lives and loves of a handful of Egyptian aristocrats -- some flush, others living in shabby gentility -- set the stage for this epic-scale drama, based on a best-selling Egyptian novel. The Yacoubian is a luxury apartment building which was built in Cairo in the late '30s. At the dawn of the 21st century, the Yacoubian still has charm and a reputation for elegance, but is beginning to show clear signs of decay, and the rooftop laundry facilities now double as flats for the less fortunate. Among the residents of Yacoubian are Haj Azzam (Nour El Sherif), a self-made business tycoon noted for his strict religious views. However, Azzam's public morality is a far cry from his private life, in which he uses his fortune to buy both political influence and the hand of a beautiful widow (Somaya El Khashab). Hatem Rasheed (Khaled El Sawy) is a respected newspaper editor who has a shocking secret -- he's gay, and is romantically involved with handsome young soldier. Zaki Pasha (Adel Imam) is an aging self-styled lady killer who has long lived at the Yacoubian off the largesse of his family. When his sister kicks him out of their flat, he is forced to move into the office he used for his trysts. Zaki turns to his former girlfriend Christine (Yousra) for help, but she can do nothing for him. Meanwhile, Bosnaina (Hind Sabry), who lives in one of the rooftop apartments and cleans Zaki's room, has grown tired of her relationship with her boyfriend, Taha (Mohamed Imam), who has developed a troubling interest in Muslim extremism.”²⁵

- **An Egyptian Fairy Tale** (‘Hadduta Misriyya’, 1982): “Yehia is a film-maker, going to London.....for open-heart surgery. He has a brief affair with a taxi driver.”²⁶

²² Deming, M. (undated), ‘Shelter: Plot Synopsis’ allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/shelter-400829> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 29.

²³ ‘Gay and lesbian Arabs: Sexual diversity in films’ (undated) al-bab.com <http://www.al-bab.com/arab/background/gay.htm#films> – Accessed 1 March 2010 – Attachment 30.

²⁴ Shahine, G. 2006, ‘A taboo too far?’ *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue No.803, 13-19 July <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2006/803/eg6.htm> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 31.

²⁵ Deming, M. (undated), ‘The Yacoubian Building’ allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/the-yacoubian-building-346091> – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 32.

²⁶ ‘Youssef Chahine’ 2010, Wikipedia website, 22 February http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youssef_Chahine#Filmography – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 33. Please note: *Wikipedia* is a Web-based free-content encyclopaedia which is compiled collaboratively by volunteers. Wikipedia articles can be useful introductory reading for a new topic, and the list of references in Wikipedia

- **Alexandria, Why?** ('Iskindiriyya Leeh?', 1978). "Tells the story of two young men—one Egyptian, the other European—who fall in love during World War II."²⁷
- **The Malatili Bath** ('Hamam al-Malatili', 1973): "A homeless young man takes shelter in a bath house and meets a gay artist".²⁸

Attachments

1. Youssef, N. 2005, 'Online Media Censorship in Egypt: Internet Police on the Nile' Qantara website, 30 December http://www.qantara.de/webcom/show_article.php/c-476/nr-501/i.html - Accessed 1 March 2010.
2. Open Net Initiative (undated), 'Internet Filtering in Egypt in 2006-2007' Open Net Initiative website <http://opennet.net/studies/egypt2007> - Accessed 1 March 2010.
3. The Initiative For an Open Arab Internet (undated), 'Freedom of Opinion & Expression in Egypt Annual Report 2007', Chapter 3 Electronic press and blogs <http://www.openarab.net/en/node/281> - Accessed 1 March 2010.
4. Human Rights Watch 2005, 'False Freedom: Online censorship in the Middle East and North Africa', Human Rights Watch website, November <http://hrw.org/reports/2005/mena1105/mena1105webwcover.pdf> - Accessed 16 November 2005.
5. 'Following the issuance of a ruling to ban pornographic websites The Arabic Network asks for judicial decision on ban rather than' 2009, The Initiative For an Open Arab Internet website, 13 May <http://www.openarab.net/en/node/958> - Accessed 1 March 2010.
6. 'Egyptian court bans pornographic Web sites' 2009, *Sydney Morning Herald*, source: Middle East News Agency, 12 May <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-technology/egyptian-court-bans-pornographic-web-sites-20090512-b22h.html> - Accessed 1 March 2010.
7. Freedom House 2009, *Freedom on the Net: A Global Assessment of Internet and Digital Media – Egypt*, Freedom House website, 30 March <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=384&key=200&parent=19&report=79> - Accessed 1 March 2010.
8. Internet Search Results of Arabic websites showing Gay films.
9. Google (Egypt) results for 'gay' – www.google.eg - Accessed 2 March 2010.
10. 'Here is our current list of top 10 gay films' (undated), [gaydrama.net](http://www.gaydrama.net) <http://www.gaydrama.net/top-10-gay-films.html> - Accessed 1 March 2010.
11. 'The Fifty Greatest Gay Movies!' 2008, [AfterElton.com](http://www.afterelton.com), 7 September <http://www.afterelton.com/movies/2008/9/50greatestgaymovies> - Accessed 1 March 2010.

articles can provide useful leads to reliable sources. Many Wikipedia articles can be highly reliable, especially in regards to non-controversial historical or factual matters, and Wikipedia uses preventative measures against vandalism, bias and inaccuracy. However, the collaborative nature of Wikipedia makes it vulnerable to contributors with overt or covert agendas, and Wikipedia articles are thus prone to unacknowledged bias.

²⁷ 'Youssef Chahine' 2010, Wikipedia website, 22 February

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youssef_Chahine#Filmography – Accessed 2 March 2010 – Attachment 33.

²⁸ 'Gay and lesbian Arabs: Sexual diversity in films' (undated), [al-bab.com](http://www.al-bab.com)

<http://www.al-bab.com/arab/background/gay.htm#films> – Accessed 1 March 2010 – Attachment 30.

12. Bugg, S., O'Bryan, W., & Shulman, R. 2009, '25 Gay Films Everyone Should See' *Metro Weekly*, 19 February <http://www.metroweekly.com/feature/?ak=4063> - Accessed 1 March 2010.
13. Williams, M. 2010, 'The Best Gay Movies of the Last 10 Years' suite101.com, 29 January <http://independentfilms.suite101.com/article.cfm/the-best-gay-movies-of-the-last-10-years> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
14. Dillard, B.J. (undated), 'My Beautiful Laundrette: Plot Synopsis' allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/my-beautiful-laundrette-33989> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
15. Dillard, B.J. (undated), 'Parting Glances: Plot Synopsis' allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/parting-glances-37317> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
16. 'Maurice: Synopsis' (undated) gaydrama.net <http://www.gaydrama.net/show-film-info.1.23.Maurice.html> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
17. Brenner, P. (undated) 'Longtime Companion: Plot Synopsis' allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/longtime-companion-29964> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
18. 'My Own Private Idaho: Synopsis' gaydrama.net <http://www.gaydrama.net/show-film-info.1.36.My-Own-Private-Idaho.html> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
19. Brenner, P. (undated), 'Philadelphia: Plot Synopsis' allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/philadelphia-119903> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
20. Kaye, D. (undated), 'The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert: Plot Synopsis' allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/the-adventures-of-priscilla-queen-of-the-desert-133443> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
21. 'Stonewall: Synopsis' (undated) gaydrama.net <http://www.gaydrama.net/show-film-info.1.35.Stonewall.html> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
22. 'Beautiful Thing: Synopsis' (undated) gaydrama.net <http://www.gaydrama.net/show-film-info.1.5.Beautiful-Thing.html> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
23. 'Ma vie en rose (My Life In Pink): Synopsis' (undated) gaydrama.net <http://www.gaydrama.net/show-film-info.1.4.Ma-Vie-En-Rose.html> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
24. Clarke, J. (undated), 'Hedwig and The Angry Inch: Plot Synopsis' allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/hedwig-and-the-angry-inch-237124> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
25. 'Angels in America' (undated) gaydrama.net <http://www.gaydrama.net/show-film-info.1.38.Angels-in-America.html> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
26. Deming, M. (undated), 'Bad Education: Plot Synopsis' allmovie.com <http://www.allmovie.com/work/bad-education-289497> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
27. 'Brokeback Mountain: Synopsis' (undated), msn.com <http://movies.msn.com/movies/movie-synopsis/brokeback-mountain> - Accessed 2 March 2010.

28. Seibert, P. (undated), 'Transamerica: Plot Synopsis' allmovie.com
<http://www.allmovie.com/work/transamerica-308148> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
29. Deming, M. (undated), 'Shelter: Plot Synopsis' allmovie.com
<http://www.allmovie.com/work/shelter-400829> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
30. 'Gay and lesbian Arabs: Sexual diversity in films' (undated) al-bab.com <http://www.al-bab.com/arab/background/gay.htm#films> - Accessed 1 March 2010.
31. Shahine, G. 2006, 'A taboo too far?' *Al-Ahram Weekly*, Issue No.803, 13-19 July
<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2006/803/eg6.htm> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
32. Deming, M. (undated), 'The Yacoubian Building' allmovie.com
<http://www.allmovie.com/work/the-yacoubian-building-346091> - Accessed 2 March 2010.
33. 'Youssef Chahine' 2010, Wikipedia website, 22 February
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youssef_Chahine#Filmography - Accessed 2 March 2010.