About the Film: “Daughter of Keltoum”

“Daughter of Keltoum” (“La Fille de Keltoum” or “Bent Keltoum”) by Mehdi Charef
Algeria, 2001
In Arabic and French with English subtitles
Running time: 106 minutes

Audience: This coming of age film has some universal themes: the mistreatment of women in some societies and situations, women’s complex reasons for giving up their babies for adoption, an adopted child’s search for her origins. It contains no scenes of nudity or sexuality – and violence is sometimes alluded to or shown partially, but is not explicit. There are, however, references to mature and difficult topics: abuse of women, poverty, the rage of a young woman “abandoned” by her birth mother, etc. These subjects can lead to a deep discussion by older teenagers/adults but need to be handled in a sensitive manner.

Brief summary of the film (no spoiler): “Daughter of Keltoum” is the story of a 19-year-old Swiss woman, Rallia, who arrives in the inhospitable mountainous region of Algeria to find the mother who gave her up for adoption years earlier. Her quest takes her on a difficult and sometimes dangerous journey and gives her new insights into the difficulties faced by the Berber women in the region.

For an extended description of the film and information about the director, cast, and crew, see the webpage on the Global Films Initiative website:

For a trailer: http://www.linktv.org/programs/gl_keltoum