

1001 Inventions-Discover the Muslim Heritage in Our World exhibit at the Science Center on the UCLA

From the moment you walk into the 1001 Inventions-Discover the Muslim Heritage in Our World exhibit at the Science Center on the UCLA campus you are immediately immersed in culture! You're immediately greeted by a wide screen projector and short film that takes the audience by modern way into the past to a period I which we know as the "dark ages" preferably referred to as "the golden ages." The video immediately disputes the common notion that the Greeks and Romans invented everything, instead brought to light that some used teachings handed down by the Greeks and Romans in which were enhanced and then later gave birth to some of the most important inventions in which we use today such as the camera.

After the short film you enter the main room or what I like to call the "meat and potatoes" of the exhibit, where you immediately come in contact with several Interactive exhibits that as you walk by signal you to come over and listen to an artistic impression of many key inventors. Key inventors such as the 19 century Abbas ibn Firnas (who dared to dream of flying 1000 years before the Wright Brothers.) Fatima Al-Fihari (who founded and built with her own money AQ a.k.a Al-Qarawiyn in the college complex now known as the world's oldest University,) Al-Jazari (who's invention aided in the industrial revolution the "crank and connecting-rod" system crucial to pumps and engines,) and Al-Zahrawi (born in the 10th century who invented the Catgut {for stitching up internal wounds,} and the scalpel which is still being used today virtually unchanged in modern hospitals.) Just to name a few.

The 1001 Inventions-Discover the Muslim Heritage in Our World exhibit contains information and the studies by members of the Muslim Culture pertaining to the earth, sky, sea, environment, travel and trade, health and welfare. It was also brought to light how during Muslim Civilization the Christians, Muslims, Jewish, Sabean and many scholars of many faiths worked together on discoveries and inventions.

The exhibit opens the eyes of many in reference to what we "think we know" and present us with a little more of a filler or background information. It broadens our horizons and presents new prospective. It's safe to say that this exhibit is by no means like the majority of those in which we've seen in our lifetime! This exhibit is by far the "must see" exhibit so far of 2011, if you have yet to take a visit to the UCLA Science Center now's the perfect opportunity and best part is you can take the family! - Report by Denise Cartwright