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Documentary
Showcase

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مؤسسة الفيلم الفلسطيني
PALESTINE FILM INSTITUTE

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They Planted Strange Trees

A film by Hind Shoufani

Synopsis

A secular Palestinian filmmaker from the Levantine diaspora returns to the Galilee after 20 years of absence and her parents' death to reclaim her community in her ancestral Arab land.

Her quest challenges the navigation of the word "Home", embraces mourning in the valleys of the Galilee, and asks difficult questions on minority faith, the erosion of identity, patriotic allegiance, muddled citizenship and fragmented communal memory. Who are the indigenous Arab Galilean Christians, isolated from the region after 70 years of impossible borders?

What would have happened to her had she been born in the lands of her exiled parents? Why were these people from her homeland so beautiful? So strong? So alone?

Production Company:	Philistine Films & Scintilla Films
Producer:	Ossama Bawardi & Hind Shoufani
Running time:	90 minutes
Stage of Production:	Post Production
Expected date of release:	January 2022
Looking for:	Post Production funding, distribution, co-production, TV sales



Director Biography

Hind Shoufani is a Palestinian filmmaker, writer and poet. With over 20 years of both independent and commercial film experience, she has also published two books of poetry and edited two anthologies of creative writing, poetry and photography between Beirut and Dubai. She holds an MFA in film writing/directing from NYU, and was a Fulbright scholar from Jordan, as well as a 2011 participant in the International Writing Program at Iowa University. Hind has been a researcher, director, producer, editor of both video and the written word, poetry performer, event organizer, spoken word host, translator and university professor since 1999 - in Beirut, Amman, Dubai, Damascus, NYC, DC, and Europe.

She is also an award-winning director for her first documentary feature film "Trip Along Exodus" and will be completing her second Palestinian feature film, "They Planted Strange Trees" in 2021 as well as a TV series about female Arab poets that she has been filming for ten years. She nurtures 67 demanding plants, a few jars of glitter, and strives to hold on to a radical imagination in the face of all oppressive forces.

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They asked me to sue my mother

A film by Farah about kharroub

Synopsis

In 1994, Samia's stateless family obtained the Lebanese citizenship after 46 years of being Palestinian refugees. The family originates from The Seven Villages that had Lebanese ancestors between the Lebanese and Palestinian borders before the Exodus of 1948. Samia's name wasn't listed amongst her family members, and Samia's father had passed away and she was still a minor at that time, so the mother did not have the power to figure out where the problem was. After living years with no basic human rights, a lawyer proposed that Samia should sue her mother in order for her to obtain citizenship.

Production Company:	Coded Production - Lebanon/ Kosmos film - Germany
Producer:	Farah about kharroub & Maximilian Becht
Running time:	90 minutes
Stage of Production:	Production
Expected date of release:	October 2022
Looking for:	Funds, Festivals, distribution, sales agents, TV broadcast



Director

Farah, a Palestinian born in Lebanon, has a BA in Filmmaking from the Leb-Farah About Kharroub is a Palestinian director, writer, and producer who was born and raised in Lebanon. She holds a BA in Filmmaking from the Lebanese University in Beirut (2014) and she is currently pursuing an MFA in film directing from the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (FAMU) . She directed and produced TV shows for MBC TV, and she worked in various projects with renowned Arab directors. Farah was presented as a Producer under the spotlight in Cannes Marche du film 2020 for her debut feature film in development "The wind above the clouds", and afterwards the script was selected for SUNDANCE RAWI screenwriting lab in Jordan. She is currently producing and directing her debut feature documentary "They asked me to sue my mother". Her past short films are Nafas (2014), Florentina (2015), Summer 2006 (2018), The Seven Villages (2020) that was part of Jihlava Academy 2019, and News from Lebanon (2021). Farah works with both fiction and non-fiction formats, and through her work she explores themes that are related to women's rights, memory, borders, refugees, social inequality, corruption, and freedom.

Biography

Contact:

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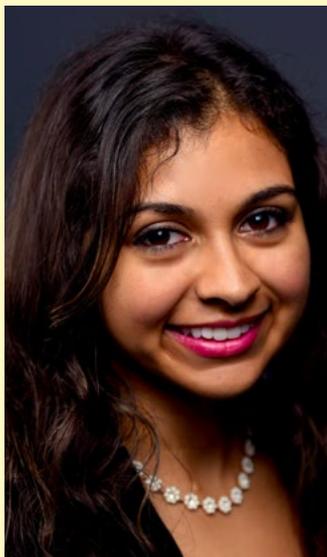


Traces of Home *A film by Colette Ghunim*

Synopsis

Filmmaker Colette Ghunim embarks on intertwining journeys with her parents to find the ancestral homes they were forced to flee as children in Mexico and Palestine. Along the way, she faces the ramifications of intergenerational trauma on her notions of home in suburban America. By sifting through family video archives and embarking on a family expedition, she experiences internal revelations through an intimate, first person point-of-view throughline.

Production Company:	Kartemquin Films
Producer:	Capella Fahoome
Running time:	75 mins/ 52 mins
Stage of Production:	Post Production
Expected date of release:	January 2022
Looking for:	Co-Productions, Pre-Sales



Director Biography

As a documentary filmmaker and nonprofit co-founder, Colette Ghunim's passion lies at the cross section of social impact and visual storytelling. Her first documentary, *The People's Girls*, received over 2 million views and Best Short Documentary at the Arab Film Festival for its bold spotlight on street harassment in Egypt. As part of the Hulu/Kartemquin Accelerator Program and the 2020 BAVC MediaMaker Fellowship, she is directing *Traces of Home*, her first feature-length film documenting her journey back to Mexico and Palestine to locate her parents' original homes, which they were forced to leave decades ago. Colette's work has been highlighted on international outlets such as Huffington Post, Al Jazeera, Univision, and TEDx. She is also the co-founder of Mezcla Media Collective, a nonprofit organization that lifts up over 500 women and non-binary filmmakers of color in Chicago.

Contact: coletteghunim@gmail.com



The last Projectionist

A film by Alex Bakri

Synopsis

Hussein Darby stands on the ruins of the cinema in his hometown Jenin, where he used to be the projectionist. Ten years before, a German NGO reactivates the then abandoned cinema. Hussein tries desperately to demonstrate his abilities to the new bosses, hoping to get his old job back. His efforts go unnoticed as the NGO grows bigger. The film questions the meaning of development aid and pays homage to a perished era of cinema culture in Palestine.

Production Company:	Odeh Films, Kaske Film
Producer:	May Odeh, Thomas Kaske
Running time:	90 minutes
Stage of Production:	Post Production
Expected date of release:	Autumn 2021
Looking for:	Sales agents, funds, TV presales, festival interest



Director's Bio

Alex Bakri was born in 1978 in the Palestinian village Beane in the Galilee. He has worked in many departments of film, as an actor (*The Time That Remains*, 2009), an editor (*Taste of Cement*, 2017), DOP (*Cinema Jenin*, 2011) and a writer (*Mussolini's sister*, 2018). He is currently working on his first feature documentary as a director.

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Three Promises

A film by Yusef Srouji

Synopsis

Three Promises is the product of a young man's journey rediscovering the time of civil and political conflict that changed the trajectory of his life. Yusef and his mother, Suha, embark into uncharted territory for their family, using home footage and oral storytelling to shed light on the daily impacts of war and the resilience of a family living in the midst of Palestine's Second Intifada.

Production Company: Suha Documentary LLC
Producer: Marielle Olentine
Running time: 90 minutes
Stage of Production: Production
Expected date of release: August 2021
Looking for: Co-Production; Funding; Distribution



Director Biography

Yusef is a first feature documentary filmmaker and long-time storyteller. His work centres around understanding the dynamics of occupation in Pal-estine, and community resilience in conflict zones. He holds a Master of Development Practice from UC Berkeley and hopes to use his skills to aid and empower marginalized communities in the Middle East. Yusef spent the first part of his childhood in Palestine, then relocated to Qatar with his family in the midst of the Second Intifada. He attended the University of British Columbia, where he earned a BA in Economics.

Contacts: suhadocumentary@gmail.com



Al Haya Helwa (Life is Beautiful)

A film by Mohamed Jabaly

Logline

Living the diaspora wasn't a choice. In forced exile, in the dark, arctic winter, Palestinian filmmaker Mohamed Jabaly is fighting using his camera to feed hope for a better future.

Production Company: Stray Dog Productions AS
Producer: Kristine Ann Skaret
Running time: 90 minutes
Stage of Production: Development
Expected date of release: January 2022
Looking for: Copro, Presale, Sales agent



Director Biography

MOHAMED JABALY (b. **1990**) is a Palestinian filmmaker and artist from Gaza. He is living and working as a film director in Norway since **2014**. He has been working as a filmmaker in several organizations and projects, training kids and young adults with filmmaking and photography. He has shot several documentaries, short films, and music videos. He has participated in many regional and international film festivals, exhibitions, and conferences in Europe, the USA, and the Arab world. Jabaly's first feature documentary "Ambulance" has won several prizes including the «One World Media» as Best Feature documentary **2017**.

Mohamed also received the «BBC Arabic Young Journalist Award», «Sun Bird Award» Days of Cinema Palestine, the «FIPA D'OR AWARD», and «JURY AWARD» as best feature documentary during FIPA in France.

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