



LAST DAYS IN JERUSALEM

A Film By
Tawfik Abu Wael



Nour and Iyad, a Palestinian couple living in East Jerusalem, are preparing to move to Paris. He is a surgeon at the top of his game; she is a young actress from a Palestinian bourgeois intellectual background, attractive, independent and whimsical. On the way to the airport, a news report of a terrible accident means Iyad has to return to his hospital and delay their departure. Abandoned by her husband once again, Nour starts to question their future move as well as their marriage, while showing how attached she is to all that she is about to leave behind.



BIOGRAPHY

Tawfik Abu Wael was born in 1976, in Umm al-Fahm, a Palestinian town in Israel. He graduated in directing from Tel-Aviv University, where he also worked in the film archives. He then taught drama at the Hassan Arafat School in Jaffa. In 2001 he made his first short, *Diary of a Male Whore*, and the documentary *Waiting for Sallah Al-Din* before shooting his first feature film in 2004, *Atash (Thirst)*, which won the Fipresci Prize at the Semaine de la Critique in Cannes. Tawfik Abu Wael also works as a stage director.

FILMOGRAPHY

TANATHUR / *Last days in Jerusalem* (2011, 180 min, Feature Film, Fiction/Drama)

64th Locarno International Film Festival, Official Competition, 2011

36th Toronto International Film Festival, Contemporary World Cinema, 2011

ATASH / *Thirst* (2004, 112 min, Feature Film, Fiction/Drama)

Cannes Film Festival - International Critics' Week, 2004 / Fipresci Award

Jerusalem International Film Festival / Walgin Award (Best film)

Biennale of Arabic Cinema Paris, 2004 / Maroon Bagdahdi Award (Jury prize)

WAITING FOR SALLAH AL-DIN / *Nazereen Sallah Al-Din* (2001, 53 min, Documentary)

Mostra Internazionale Del Cortometraggio Montecatini, Italy, 2002

6e Biennale des Cinemas Arabes, Paris, 2002

Internationales Dokumentar Film Festival, München, 2002

Arab Screen Independent Film Festival Doha, Qatar, 2002

Doc Aviv, 2001

Human Rights Film Festival, Prague

I LEAVE, YOU STAY (1998, 8 min, Short Film)

INTELLECTUAL IN GARBAGE (1998, 2 min, Short Film)

CHARACTERS (1998, 4 min, Short film)

BREAD, HASHISH AND THE MOON (1997, 11 Min, Short Film)

“Any miserable families are alike. Any family is miserable-in its own way”. This introduction sentence of « Anna Karenine » novel by Tolstoy inspired me the movie “Last days in Jerusalem”.

I wanted to tell the ordinary misfortune of a middle-class Palestinian couple living in East Jerusalem... although, to me, this may happen anywhere in the world. The movie features two characters: a man, a woman, both good-looking and free of any material issues. However, something rotten in them makes it impossible to move forward and find happiness.

Iyad, a middle-aged surgeon, has no family and no friends anymore, in an endless struggle between life and death, captive, such as Sisyphus. He is deeply convinced he has no time left to invent himself a new life.

Nour is a young actress, in her early career... Her parents are separated and they're both too concerned about their own respective professional life, they don't have time to help her find her way in life.

Their relationship is the outcome of a mutual injury. As a confused pregnant young woman, she turns to him at the hospital. Why does she ask him to take care of the abortion? They are meant to meet... As if it was written that their destiny should come as one. Two wounded souls comforting each other.

Their encounter is death and birth, all at once. It comes as the end of loneliness they had felt separately. But it's also the birth of a couple, a “life spent together”.

They've been married for several years. Their new life has turned to be passive. They're likely to be struck by emptiness again. They fell they have no other choice but move and they decide to settle in Paris... To salvation, eventually...

The movie's core story is about their progression, from when they decide to emigrate to when they arrive in a new country. They are faced to the unexpected, causing once more birth and death, just like in the beginning of the movie.

Tawfik Abu Wael





Created in 1999, Sophie Dulac Productions aims to develop, produce and coproduce features and documentary films, principally focusing on « auteur » cinema and first director's films. Today the company is developing French and international coproductions.

In 2005 Sophie Dulac Productions coproduce with Argentina the feature film "El Cielito", directed by Maria Victoria Menis awarded at the San Sebastian Film Festival.

In 2007/2008, Sophie Dulac Productions has released two films produced by the company: "La Question humaine" (*Heartbeat detector*) by Nicolas Klotz, with Mathieu Amalric and Michael Lonsdale, selected for the 2007 Directors' Fortnight in Cannes Festival, and the first film from Israeli director Eran Kolirin "The band's visit" (*La visite de la fanfare*) starring Ronit Elkabetz and Sasson Gabai, which was also at the Festival de Cannes 2007, in the Official Selection section « Un Certain Regard ». Both films were very well received by the critics and audiences alike. In 2011, the society coproduce "Infiltration" by Dover Koshashvili (director of "Late Marriage") with the israelian producer Transfax Film.

The company Sophie Dulac Distribution was created in 2003 to distribute theatrically films produced by Sophie Dulac Productions and to act as a regular distributor, based on a privileged relation with the Parisian cinema complexes "Les Écrans de Paris" (The Paris's cinemas) which comprises seven movie complexes (15 theaters).



Lama Films is one of the leading production companies in Israel.

The company concentrates on projects with a social-cultural orientation, which include some of the core elements on which western society is founded. Whether they are documentaries or fictions, Lama Films' projects address phenomena that reflect the essence of Israeli existence, yet still appeal to diverse audiences around the world.

All of Lama Films' projects have been successfully distributed worldwide, giving Lama Films an international profile.

Among their Films are: jellyfish, Paradise now, Yossi & Jagger , 9.99\$, James Journey to Jerusalem, Children of the sun and more.

Lama Films is now initiating co-productions and projects with partners from different countries around the world.

CAST

LAST DAYS IN JERUSALEM

Lana Haj Yahia	Nour
Ali Badarni	Iyad
Kais Nashif	A'mer
Zuhaida Sabbagh	The Nurse
Huda Al Iman	The Surgeon

TECHNICAL CREW

LAST DAYS IN JERUSALEM

Director	Tawfik Abu Wael
Screenplay	Tawfik Abu Wael
Producers	Lama Films, Sophie Dulac Productions, Cabiria Films, Neue Pegasos
Director of photography	Caroline Champetier
1st assistant director	Gilly Ran
Sound	Tully Chen
Art Director	Nael Kanj
Costumes designer	Hamada Atallah
Editors	Guy Lecorne, Gaby Shikur
Sound Designer	Aviv Aldema
Sound Mixer	Jean-Christophe Julé
Line Producer	Baher Agbaria, Jean-Christophe Gigot
Location Manager	Jamal Kahlaile
Original Score	Gibram Wisam

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

LAST DAYS IN JERUSALEM

Genre	Fiction / Drama
Length	1h20
Visa	123 556
Production Date	2011
Nationality	Israel, France, Germany, Palestine
Language	Arabic
Subtitles	English, French
Frame Size	1.85 /Color
Sound Size	Dolby SRD
Screening Support	DCP, 35 mm, HD Cam SR
Shooting format	Digital HD/Color
Shooting locations	Jerusalem (Israel/Palestine) - Paris (France)

Festivals

64th Locarno International Film Festival (2011) / World Premiere

36th Toronto International Film Festival (2011) / North American Premiere



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