



SHORT FILM

competition

FESTIVAL DE CANNES

يا مريم
السلام
عليك
AVE
MARIA

Rules are made for breaking

Synopsis

#1

An Israeli settler family crash their car outside an isolated convent in the occupied West Bank. Their only hope of getting home rests with five nuns who have taken a vow of silence.

#2

The silent routine of 5 Nuns living in the West Bank wilderness is disturbed when an Israeli settler family breaks down right outside the convent just as the Sabbath comes into effect.

#3

The Nuns of the 'Sisters of Mercy' Convent, in the middle of the West Bank wilderness, have their daily routine of silence and prayer disrupted when a family of Jewish settlers come knocking at their door for help after crashing into the convent's wall.

#4

Nuns of the 'Sisters of Mercy' convent in the middle of the West Bank wilderness have their daily routine of silence and prayer disrupted when a family of religious Israeli settlers crash their car into the convent's wall.

The Sabbath is approaching and they need to get home urgently, however, because of the Sabbath laws, the Israelis can't operate a phone to call for assistance, and the Nuns have taken a vow of silence. Together they have to come up with an unorthodox plan to help them get home.

Director's biography

Basil Khalil was born and raised in Nazareth, to a Palestinian father and an English-Irish mother. His first film job was as 2nd Assistant Director on award winning director Elia Suleiman's Divine Intervention. Basil studied for an MA in Screen Project Development at Screen Academy Scotland then moved on to London to work in Television productions. Basil is currently developing his debut feature comedy screenplay.

FILMOGRAPHY as Director:

2006: REPLAY REVENGE. documentary

2005: PING PONG REVENGE. short film

Director's statement

In the film I focus on these rules and obligations, which sometimes border on the absurd, preventing each of these groups from interacting despite living on the same piece of land. However sometimes, due to exceptional circumstances, their two worlds collide, leaving them no choice but to recognise the absurdity of their strict rules, and end up breaking them, whether they be political or religious "laws", they have to work together overcome their differences, even if it's just for a few hours.

It is these absurd and unique situations have always sparked my interest when finding new material, because here is where you find the deep, humane, yet fantastic life stories.

The nuns you see in the film live a life of silence under the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank, as well as a life of religious silence and solitude. On the other hand we have the Israeli settlers, who represent one of the reasons behind this military occupation, yet they are also "occupied" by their strong religious beliefs and rules.

I wanted to highlight the mutual distrust that these two groups have for one other, as well as their eventual cooperation and the learning experiences they eventually get from this adventure, and to show that it is possible for people to put aside their differences in the name of a common goal.

Credits

Director: BASIL KHALIL

Screenwriters: BASIL KHALIL & DANIEL YÁÑEZ

Producers: ERIC DUPONT & ERIC FANTONE

Co-producer: HELGE ALBERS

Director of Photography: ERIC MIZRAHI

Editor: BASIL KHALIL

Production Designer: BASHAR HASSOUN

Costume Designer: CHRIS ISSA

Hair & Make up: RASHA SULEIMAN

Music: JAMIE SERAFI

Sound Editor: MATHIEU CHOUX

Main cast:

Sr. Marie: MARIA ZREIK

Sr. Marie Angeline: HUDA AL IMAM

Moshe: SHADY SROUR

Esther: RUTH FARHI

Rachel: MAYA KOREN

Contact info

Production company: INCOGNITO FILMS

Producer: ERIC DUPONT

Email: eric.dupont@gmail.com

Phone: +33-(0)1-46-28-88-84 / +33-(0)6-64-66-54-99

Address: 76/78 Rue du Fbg Saint-Antoine 75012, Paris, France

Director: BASIL KHALIL

basil.khalil@me.com

International sales: OUAT MEDIA – FRED JOUBAUD

fred.joubaud@ouatmedia.com

International press: MAD SOLUTIONS – ALAA KARKOUTI

alaa.karkouti@mad-solutions.com / press@mad-solutions.com

French press: PAULINE ALONSON – during Festival de Cannes

palonso@festival-cannes.fr / +33-(0)4-92-99-83-65

Official FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/avemariafilm>

Official trailer: <https://youtu.be/4zkWieC8Z8w>

Clip: <https://youtu.be/5GQUz57z8Rg>

Technical info

Duration: 14:44 min (including credits).

Exhibition Format: DCP (24fps), ProRes/422/2K, Bluray (PAL)

Aspect Ratio: Cinemascope 1:2.39

Sound: Dolby Digital 5.1

Countries of production: Palestine / France / Germany

Year of Production: 2015

Original Language: Arabic, English and Hebrew

Subtitles Available: English, French, Italian, Spanish and Chinese.

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