



# MAYDOUM HAL

Algeria

Agadir Sahara PAS workshop 2018

## MAIN DATA

**Category :** Documentary

**Length :** 90'

**Language :** Algerian arabic

**Shooting format :** HD 2K

**Shooting location :** Algeria

**Shooting dates :** November 2018

**Expected dates of completion :** June 2019

**Stage of production :** development stage

## PRODUCTION

**Budget :** 266 730 €

**Financing in place :** 52 730 €

**Production company :** Cactusco Films

**Workshops and platforms attended :** Agadir PAS workshop 2018

**Current situation :** Development stage, seeking for partners

## ABDALLAH BADIS - PRODUCER

After graduating from high school in 1971, Abdallah Badis started a steel worker in the Lorraine steelworks then engaged in other pursuits until 1979. A lucky encounter in 1973 with filmmaker René Allio, turned out to be life changing. Whether in the theatre as actor or stage director or in film as director or producer at Cactusco Films, Abdallah Badis has always tried to lend a voice to unnamed people, the world he comes from, staging common folks and their special ways: gestures at work and in daily life, ordinary words and silences. And this led him quite naturally to feel a strong need of bearing witness to the lives, mutations and upheavals of our times through film storytelling.



## NADIA CHOUIEB- DIRECTOR

Nadia Chouieb spent her childhood in Jijel, in Algeria. She moved to France during the years of terrorism and became a journalist. Then she devoted her energies to humanitarian actions and to the fight for the protection of the environment, subsequently becoming a photographer and videomaker. She returned to Algeria in 2008 and worked as a cultural operator in the Algerian Sahara. In 2009 she trained in documentary filmmaking and made her first documentary of creation "Back to a point of equilibrium". Always active in the cultural field, she lives now between France and Algeria.



## SYNOPSIS

"*Maydoum Hal*" is an Arabic phrase meaning "Nothing is permanent, everything is in flux." And this is what Nora experiences in her life on a daily basis.

Nora lives in an oasis in south-western Algeria with her husband and four daughters. Her town is propped like an island against the Grand Erg Occidental, or "Western Sand Sea," the largest expanse of sand dunes in the world. In that hostile environment, their life is often at odds with their austere surroundings. A vital drive pulses through their community, beating to the rhythm of births, deaths, unions, misfortunes and joys, as well as celebrations and rites. After the loss of her only son, Nora and some of her relatives take part in a pilgrimage (*ziyara*) into the desert – as an ultimate attempt to come to terms with that permanent change. An attempt to accept the changefulness which inevitably has death succeed to birth, joy to mourning, peace to agitation and day to night.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

« From my very beginnings in filmmaking, the desert has been part of my cinematographic questioning about reality, its essential sparseness allowing for a sharper perception of the rhythmic changes and transience of conditions in the world. Born to an Algerian father and a French mother, I found in Nora's family a second home upon my return to Algeria after the civil war. Going to live and work in the most grandiose desert in the world, the Algerian Sahara, has been a precious opportunity to pursue that questioning and the effort to put it on film. In that desert, I have built my new Algeria and conceived my daughter. Being myself a woman between two worlds, I am the bridge who can tell about Nora's place within her community and her stance in life. And I recognize myself in that stance of the roughened woman who keeps on betting on playfulness and still dares to plunge into the very movement of life...» (...)

## CONTACTS

### Producer

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### Director

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