



SHADOW OF A MAN (Sayyarat Batal) Lebanon

Category : Fiction
Shooting format : HD
Length : 105'
Location : Lebanon
Shooting dates : Aug-Oct 2013
Stage of production : Development stage

Budget : 497 263 €
Financing in place : 50 000 \$
Workshops attended : Med Film Factory 2011,
Rotterdam producer's Lab 2012,
Development grant from the Doha Film Institute 2011
Current situation : Seeking for European coproducer,
international sale agent



© Freelance producer Lara Abou Saifan

Lara ABOU SAIFAN – PRODUCER



Born in 1975 in Lebanon. Lara Abou Saifan is an Independent Producer and Production Manager based in Beirut. She holds a BA in Communication Arts (Radio/TV/Film) from the Lebanese American University in Beirut, with credits in major regional and international networks like Al Jazeera, MBC, BBC, and the Sundance Channel. Her TV production credits include the well-known series "Muslim Women" and the Middle East episodes of "On the Road in America", among others. Lara worked as Line Producer on Emmy Award winning web series "Shankaboot" and produced several short independent films. "Shadow of a Man" is her debut feature narrative.

Niam ITANI – DIRECTOR



Born in Beirut in 1980, Niam Itani is an award winning Lebanese independent screenwriter and filmmaker. She worked for five years as a programs producer at Al Jazeera Channel in Doha, Qatar. Her first independent narrative, "Super.Full." screened in several festivals around the world including the Venice Film Festival. She has an MFA in Screenwriting from Hollins University, Virginia, and teaches Scriptwriting at the Lebanese American University in Beirut. "Shadow of a Man" is her debut feature narrative. Other works she directed include feature documentary "Rokam Al Bared".

SYNOPSIS

Ahmad, 26, is the best mechanic in the mountains of Lebanon. The only car he has not had time and courage to fix yet is his father's Peugeot from 1984; the year his dad was killed.

When the July War breaks out in 2006, Ahmad finds the chance he's always waited for. Amidst the ongoing chaos, the refusal of his mother and the sarcasm of his village men, he slowly starts transforming the bullet ridden rusty car into his wedding ride. But as days pass by and the car gradually comes back to life, dark events ensue and deep wounds surface.

CONTACT:

Company office : + 961 3968439
Lara Abou Saifan : lsaifan@gmail.com
Niam Itani : niametany@gmail.com

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (extract)

"Shadow of a Man' is a very personal story about a character who struggled to keep buried his childhood memories during the civil war, until another war forces them back into his adult life. It is a story of family, love, loss, courage, home, redemption and coming-of-age. I want to make this film. I owe this to the people who've never witnessed war firsthand in Lebanon and all over the world. For me it is an anti-war message that tells people it is okay to talk about the wounds, since acknowledging is a first step to acceptance [...].

'Shadow of a Man' is not that genius script that I thought of and wrote in one sitting or one day. Not even one month. This story has taken a lot of time, tears and passion to be sculpted to its current shape. And I intend to have it take even more tears and more passion to be transferred to the screen. After all, what is art if it were not born from passion and hard labor?"