

Michel Khleifi



CONTACT ADDRESS

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Nationality: Palestinian / Belgian
Date of Birth: 03/11/1950

QUALIFICATIONS

Produced or directed five full-length features and seven documentaries for international release and broadcast.

Winner of several prestigious international awards for his films including the International Critics' Award, Cannes '87 and the Golden Concha, San Sebastian '87 for *Wedding in Galilee*

TELEVISION

As Writer/Director & Producer with RTBF (Belgian TV), a series of one-hour documentaries for the weekly program "*A suivre*"

The West Bank, The Palestinians' hope? January 1978

Israeli Settlements in the Sinai, September 1978

Achrafieh (co-directed with A. Darteville, First Prize of the Community of French-speaking televisions, documentary series, November 1979

Peace and the Palestinians, April 1979

The Road of El-Naim September 1981, a portrait of Naim Khader, PLO representative in Brussels, assassinated in 1981 by Mossad

FILM

As script-writer, director and producer:

Fertile Memory, Full-length documentary film, 16mm, 1980

Cannes 1981, Semaine de La Critique and several international awards

Dual portrait of Palestinian novelist Sahar Khalifeh and of Rumieh Farah, a working-class woman from Nazareth. The film was a groundbreaking work, both on a political and aesthetic level, treating the theme of womanhood under occupation in a haunting lyrical style. It was also the first documentary film to be directed by a Palestinian filmmaker inside Israel.

Maaloul celebrates its destruction 30' documentary, 1985

Until recently, the original inhabitants of the Galilean village of Ma'aloul, destroyed by Israel after the 1948 War, were only allowed to visit their old village once a year, on Israel's Day of Independence. The film follows them on that day and reveals a world of painful memories and the villagers' profound determination to cling to their ancestral land.

Wedding in Galilee, 110', Full-length feature film, 1986

Cannes 1987 - Quinzaine des Réalisateurs : Prix de la Critique Internationale; San Sebastian (Spain) 1987 : Golden Shell; Carthage Film Days 1988; Golden Tanit.

Probably the best known and most admired Arab film made in the last twenty years, *Wedding in Galilee* put both Palestine and Michel Khleifi on the international cultural map. Beautifully shot in Khleifi's by-now familiar blend of lyricism and high drama, it tells the story of a village Moukhtar determined to hold his son's wedding party despite an ongoing military curfew.

Canticle of the Stones, 100', Full-length feature film, 1990

Cannes - 1990 - Official Selection - Un Certain Regard ; Yamagata, Japan, Special Critics' Prize; Valencia F.F, Silver Prize.

This docu-feature was the first documentary ever to be chosen for the Official Selection of the Cannes Film Festival. A heart-breaking and powerful account of the Intifada, it tells in parallel the story of middle-aged lovers who meet after twenty years of separation.

L'Ordre du Jour, 115', Full-length feature film, 1992

Based on a novel by Jean-Luc Outers, one of Belgium's leading novelists, the film is a harsh parody of modern bureaucratic man and his contradictions, treated with a blend of surrealism and Kafkaesque comedy.

Tale Of The Three Jewels, 105', Full-length feature film, 1994/5

The first feature-film to be filmed in the Gaza Strip (while still under Israeli occupation), this is both fantasy tale and love story. Yussef, a twelve-year old whose father is in prison for activism and his brother on the run from the Israeli army, meets a gypsy girl his age who takes him on an adventure with the occupation acting as background.

Cannes - 1995 - Quinzaine des Réalisateurs; Isfahan 1995, Golden Butterfly

Forbidden Marriages in the Holy Land, 66 minute documentary, 1995

A study of mixed marriages between Arabs and Jews in Israel/Palestine and the effect of the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as religious law on several couples from different generations and backgrounds.

Route 181 - Fragments of a Journey to Palestine and Israel, 270 minute documentary, 2003

This film, which was co-directed with Israeli Eyal Sivan, is a documentary journey which follows the partition route of Palestine voted by the UN in November 1947. Broadcast on Arte in November 2003.

Amal, my star, a feature-length screenplay based on the life of Asmahan

Sous l'Ombre du Ciel, a feature-length political thriller, currently being completed for Arte, the French-German cultural channel, on the theme of Jerusalem

THEATRE

La Fuite au Paradis (Flight to Paradise) - As writer and director, for the Kunstenfestival des Arts, Brussels, Spring 1998. The full text of this play will soon be posted in French on this internet site.

EDUCATION

1971 - 1976 INSAS film school Brussels
Diploma in theatre, radio and television

TEACHING

1983 - 1988

Taught directing and producing at the Institut National Supérieur des arts du spectacle (INSAS), Bruxelles, Belgium

1987-88

Head of the Film Department at INSAS, where he designed the film course still used today for all directing and production students

1993-95

Initiated an ambitious technical training program on the film Tale of the Three Jewels, where Palestinian technicians were hired to work as paid trainees alongside their Belgian colleagues. In collaboration with the Med-Media Program of the European Community

1998-2001

Directing Program at the Jesuit University of Beirut

LANGUAGES

Fluent written and spoken Arabic, Hebrew and French. Working English

AWARDS RECEIVED (selection only)

Cannes 1981

Semaine de La Critique and several international awards

Cannes 1987

Quinzaine des Réalisateurs : Prix de la Critique International

San Sebastian (Spain) 1987

Golden Shell

Carthage Film Days 1988

Golden Tanit

Cannes - 1990

Official Selection - Un Certain Regard.

Yamagata, Japan
Special Critics' Prize

Valencia F.F.
Silver Prize

Isfahan, 1995
Golden Butterfly

Cannes 1995
Quinzaine des Réalisateurs