



A MOHAMED JABARAH AL DARADJI FILM

THE JOURNEY



THE
JOURNEY
A MOHAMED JABARAH AL-DARADJI FILM

2017 | IRAQ - UK - FRANCE - QATAR - NETHERLANDS | 82 MINS | COLOUR | 1.85 | DCP 2K

WORLD SALES
PICTURE TREE INTERNATIONAL

Husemannstrasse 7
10435 Berlin, Germany
Tel. +49 (0) 30 42082480
Mob. +49 (0) 151 50617388
www.picturetree-international.com
pti@picturetree-international.com



SYNOPSIS

Baghdad, 2006.

Sara enters Baghdad station with sinister intentions for its reopening ceremony. As she braces to commit an unthinkable act, her plans are drastically altered by an unwanted and awkward encounter with Salam, a self-assured and flirtatious salesman.

With Salam now hostage to Sara's confused and deluded plan, he battles desperately to appeal to her humanity and sway her decision. In a moment of consideration and with her convictions crumbling before her, Sara is given the opportunity to witness the life and innocence she was so willing to destroy.

But is this a second chance or an admission of guilt?





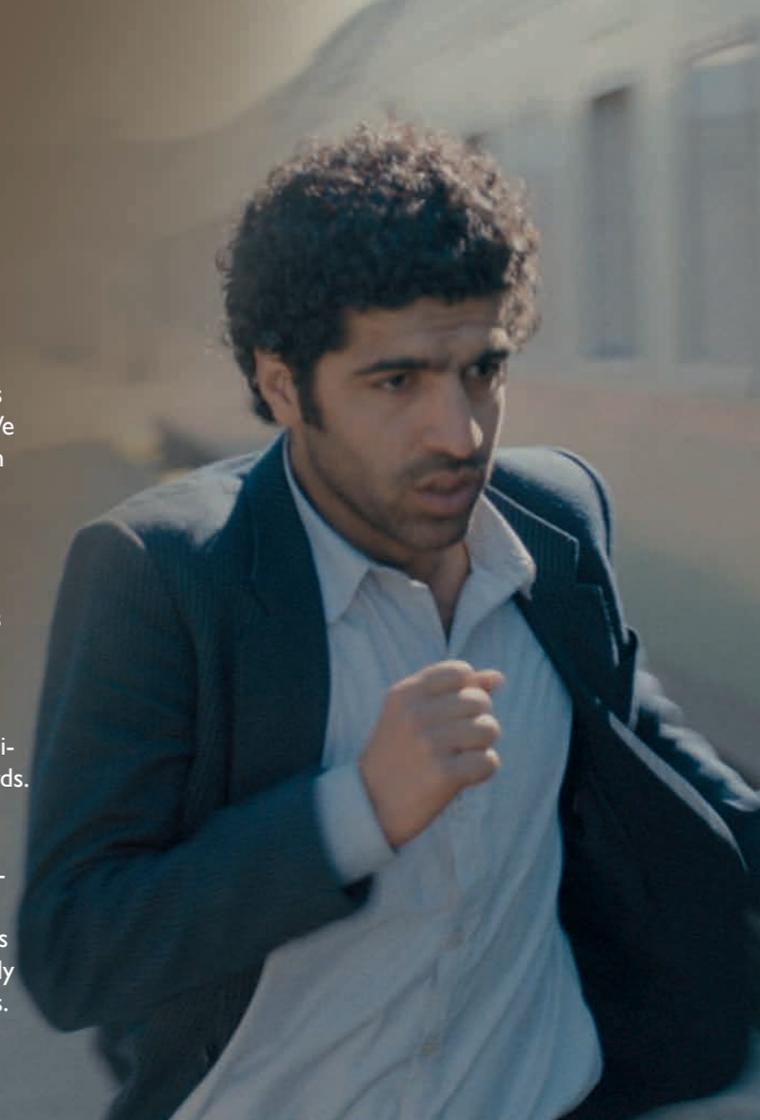
PROJECT ORIGINS

The female suicide bomber is invisible, untouchable; an unsuspecting asset to extremist missions. Many are preyed on by extremist factions operating in Iraq, throughout the Middle East and across the world. We all start life as innocents, so what changes a person and compels them to commit such an extreme and atrocious act?

The Journey was conceived in 2008. An Iraqi news article told about a female suicide bomber who entered a police station to confess her intentions five minutes before the bomb was due to explode. She was stripped of her clothes and tied her to the gates outside the police station to be publicly humiliated. She was just sixteen years old.

The story was troubling – a girl so young caught up in something so sinister. It was equally as shocking to see how she was treated afterwards.

This film is not intended as a political statement; it neither condemns nor glorifies terrorism. Instead, it offers audiences the rare opportunity to engage with a woman swept up in something she cannot fully fathom, the result of which is potentially disastrous and destructive. As filmmakers, we have a responsibility to tell such a story. Only if we fully explore this subject can we comprehend the causes behind these acts. Without understanding, there will be no end to suicide terrorism.



A close-up portrait of Mohamed Al-Daradji, a man with dark, curly hair and a beard, looking slightly to the right with a thoughtful expression. He is wearing a dark jacket.

MOHAMED AL-DARADJI

WRITER - DIRECTOR - PRODUCER

Mohamed Al-Daradji studied in Baghdad, Iraq and Hilversum, Netherlands before travelling to the UK to complete Masters degrees in Cinematography and Directing at the Northern Film School in Leeds.

In 2003, following the invasion of Iraq, Mohamed returned to his native country to make his first feature film, Ahlaam. The film screened at over 125 international festivals, receiving 22 awards, as well as Academy Award and Golden Globe consideration, establishing Mohamed as a revered international filmmaker.

Following the success of Ahlaam, Mohamed directed the multi-award winning and critically acclaimed, Son of Babylon (2010). His extensive work in Iraq also includes three long form documentaries as well as humanitarian work. In 2010, he established the Iraq Independent Film Center (IIFC); a film production and training institution based in Baghdad.

The Journey is Mohamed's third feature film, exploring the conflicted and confused state of mind of a female suicide bomber.

FILMOGRAPHY

The Journey (2017) | In The Sands of Babylon (2014) | In My Mother Arms (2012) | Son of Babylon (2010) | Iraq: War, Love, God & Madness (2008) | Ahlaam (2006)

ISABELLE STEAD

WRITER - PRODUCER

Isabelle Stead is co-founder of Human Film, a multi-award winning production company based in the UK, working predominantly with filmmakers in Iraq.

Isabelle's role as producer/writer has played a key role in the establishment of the Iraqi film industry. Her pioneering work has attributed to the success of four feature films such as "Son of Babylon" and "In My Mother's Arms" and two long form documentaries shot in Iraq, working in close partnership with Iraqi writer/director Mohammed Al-Daradji. Her work has garnered international attention and critical acclaim, screening at a host of premiere film festivals and receiving a number of prestigious awards.

HÉLÈNE CASES

CO-PRODUCER

Hélène Cases spent 17 years with Why Not Productions where she worked on more than 30 films. She produced Peau D'Homme Coeur De Bete by Helene Angel which won a Golden Leopard at Locarno in 1999. In 2008 Hélène founded Lionceau Films and produced the two-time Caesar award winning Angele and Tony by Alix Delaporte. Hélène produced Delaporte's second movie The Last Hammer Blow, which screened in competition at the Venice Film Festival in 2014. Hélène's most recent work includes Elementary, starring Sara Forestier, released in 2017 in France.

CAST

Sara Zahraa Ghandour
Salam Amir Ali Jabarah

CREW

Director Mohamed Al-Daradji
Screenwriters Mohamed Al-Daradji
Isabelle Stead
Producers Mohamed Al-Daradji
Isabelle Stead
Co-Producer H el ene Cases
Associate Producer Andy Guy
Director Duraid Munajim
Composers Mike Kourtzer
Fabien Kourtzer
Sound Designer Pascale CHavance
Editors Herve De Luze
Mohamed Al-Daradji

TECHNICAL NOTES

Running Time 82 Mins
Exhibition format DCP 2K
Aspect Ratio 1.85
Sound 5.1 SRD
Language Arabic & English
Subtitles English, French & Arabic

Edited using Avid Avid Media Composer.





HUMAN FILM

Human Film is a UK and Dutch company established in 2005, with a goal to seek and explore individual creativity whilst producing films with social conscience and impact.

Since its conception, Human Film has produced four feature films and two documentaries in Iraq supporting the work of acclaimed director Mohamed Al-Daradji.

IRAQI INDEPENDENT FILM CENTER

Following the international success Mohamed Al-Daradji's films, The Iraqi Independent Film Center (IIFC) was established in Baghdad in 2010. Working in long-term partnership with Human Film, the IIFC facilitates productions shot in Iraq as well as acting as a platform for emerging filmmakers. The institution holds regular short film academies and training schemes, providing opportunities to filmmakers in Iraq.

LIONCEAU FILMS

Lionceau Films is a French production company set up in 2008. Under the leadership of H el ene Cases, the company produced Alix Delaporte's debut *Angele And Tony*. The company has been active in international co-production, recently working on Mohamed Al-Daradji's *The Journey* and as well as developing Pavel Vesnakov's first feature film.

Picture Tree International GmbH is a worldwide sales & production company with headquarters in Berlin. The core business of the company is worldwide licensing of film rights and the coproduction of international feature films in an integrated business model.

Picture Tree International GmbH was founded in December 2012 and currently represents up to 12 theatrical feature films per year, ranging from mainstream to arthouse cross-over productions.



PRODUCED BY
HUMAN FILM
IRAQI INDEPENDENT FILM CENTRE

IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH
LIONCEAU FILMS
IRAQ AL-RAFIDAIN
IRAQI MEDIA NETWORK

WITH THE SUPPORT OF
CNC CINEMA DU MONDE
DOHA FILM INSTITUTE
AFAC
NETHERLANDS FILM FUND

DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT FROM
BFI NATIONAL LOTTERY
SANAD, THE ABU DHABI FILM FESTIVAL
SCREEN YORKSHIRE

COPYRIGHT © HUMAN FILM – IRAQI INDEPENDENT FILM CENTRE- LIONCEAU FILMS
2017 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



