



CINEPHILIA
PRODUCTIONS
presents



A FILM BY
YASMINA HATEM

أش

ASH

CINEPHILIA PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
A FILM BY YASMINA HATEM
IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH OUTBOX FILM FESTIVAL
SCREENPLAY DEVELOPED AT THE CISL FOR SHORTS
ZAYN MAKDESSI . HUSSEIN KHAZAAL . NAJI HATEM . JOY KARAM . ASSAAD KASSAB
IN 'ASH' EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS YASMINA HATEM & DARINE HOTAIT
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY KARIM GHORAYEB PRODUCTION DESIGNER ISSA KANDIL
EDITED BY DARINE HOTAIT SOUND DESIGNER BILAL YAMANI MUSIC BY TAREK YAMANI
PRODUCED BY DARINE HOTAIT WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY YASMINA HATEM

INFORMATION

title: **ASH**

country of production: **USA – Lebanon**

production company: **CINEPHILIA PRODUCTIONS**

year of Production: **2013**

release date: **AUGUST 15, 2013.**

duration: **14'14"**

format: **Blu Ray | PRO RES | DIGITAL FILE (PAL.NTSC)**

ratio: **16:9**

language: **ARABIC**

subtitles: **ENGLISH**

audio: **STEREO**



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SYNOPSIS:

Twelve year old Said wants to help his ailing mother pay for her medication. He asks his older brother Jamal to find him a job. But delivering shisha turns out to be a lot more than he bargained for.

LOGLINE:

A young boy takes on a delivery job to help his ailing mother, but it turns out to be a lot more than he bargained for.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

Walking in the streets of Beirut, we see many children --begging for money, selling flowers, even sleeping on a corner. The story of Said is one of those street kids, and some of it is based on actual facts. Child labor, child exploitation, abuse, are recurring themes encountered in Lebanon, and not much is being done to protect them.

I want to tell this story because it is very real. Even though what I wrote is fiction, there are hundreds of boys and girls around the world who suffer from child prostitution, and in Lebanon, nobody even knows about it. Boys turn into men, and men who have lost their humanity can do terrible things to others, and the cycle goes on and on. When I heard about these young arguileh delivery boys, I was shocked to my core. I couldn't get it out of my head. I knew I had to tell this story.

YASMINA HATEM

Screenwriter | Director



Acting and writing have a part of her life ever since she was very young. When she was 7 years-old, Yasmina used to turn any scene of her life into a movie scene, whether pretending like she was shooting a shampoo commercial whenever she was taking a shower or imitating soap-opera drama when she would have a fight with her parents.

She wrote her first novel, “I Believe in Angels,” when she was 13 years-old. The book was eventually published for the full profit of the Children Cancer Center in 2006.

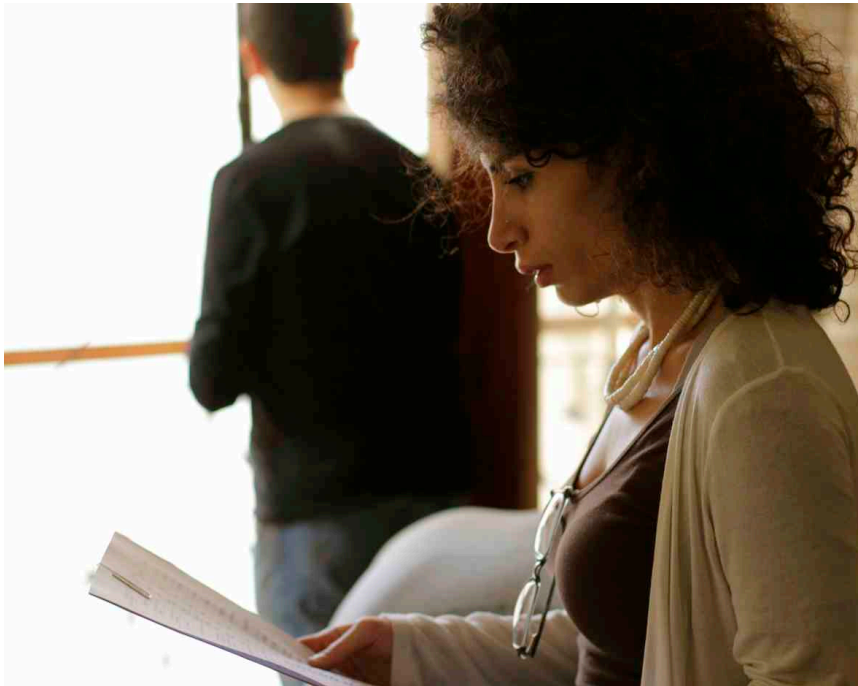
From age of 12 she had started acting in plays, at least one a year, and acting was her biggest passion. Eventually, as she grew older, it evolved. When Yasmina started studying journalism, her writing skills came flooding back. After her B.A. degree, she received a Fulbright scholarship and studied for her Masters at Columbia University in New York. Yasmina loves to write. But she also loves films, and only recently did she make the connection between writer, actor, filmmaker –all those roles that are connected. “Someone once told me a film gets written three times,” she says. “The first time as a writer, the second time as a director and the third time as an editor. And I love to be a part of the entire process.”

Three years ago, some friends started working on a web series “Beirut I Love You” and Yasmina was once completely hooked: what started as an acting role became a full time passion. Every week night they’d prepare for the shoot and every weekend they would be on set, and she was never happier.

Today, at 28 years old, she wrote and directed her first short film.

DARINE HOTAIT

Producer



Darine Hotait is an American Lebanese award winning screenwriter, director and producer. She received her Masters Degree in Film from the Art Center College of Design in California. In 2009, she founded Cinephilia Productions an independent film production house in New York. Her short films such as Beirut Hide and Seek, The Far Side of Laughter, Command or Truth, have been officially selected and awarded at international film festivals. Among the awards, Best short film at the Evolution International Film Festival, Honorable Mention at the Los Angeles International Film Festival, Audience Award at the Zero Film Festival, Nomination for Best Foreign Film at the International Filmmaker Festival of World Cinema in the UK...

She was an EMMY award finalist for directing the animated promotion ASHUR. Her work was featured in the Ohio State University Short Film Journal for DVD distribution.

Her debut feature screenplay has made the top 5 finalists at the San Francisco Hearst Screenwriting Competition 2012 and Sundance Sloan Competition.

In 2012, she founded the Cinephilia Intensive Screenwriting Lab For Shorts (CISL), a touring lab designed for filmmakers from the MENASA region. The lab offers a Best screenplay award and a production award where one screenplay gets funded and produced by Cinephilia Productions. 'Ash' is the first winning screenplay produced through the CISL for Shorts.

Darine resides in New York City.

FESTIVALS:

- . Official Selection Montreal World Film Festival - August 2013
- . Official Selection Beirut international Film Festival - October 2013
- . Screened in the Cinephilia Filmmakers to Watch screening series:
 - thejamjar Dubai - October 2013
 - Sidi Sou Said Language Center Tunisia - November 2013
- . Official selection at International Short Film Week in Resenburg – Germany - March 2014
- . Official Selection Lebanese Film Festival - August 2014
- . Official Selection Lebanese Film Festival, Sydney - Australia.
- . Screened at Cinemagics in Kuwait as part of Cinephilia picks in partnership with Nuqat Conference, November 2014



TRAILER:

<https://vimeo.com/72060726>



CAST:

Zayn Makdessi
as SAID

Hussein Khazaal
as JAMAL

Joy Karam
as THE MOTHER



Naji Hatem
as Mr. KAMEL

Assaad Kassab
as THE BOSS



CREW:

Written & Directed by Yasmina Hatem

Produced by Darine Hotait

Executive producers: Yasmina Hatem & Darine Hotait

Screenplay developed at the Cinephilia Intensive Screenwriting Lab for Shorts.

Director of Photography: Karim Ghorayeb

Production Designer: Issa Kandil

Music: Tarek Yamani

Editor: Darine Hotait

Sound Design: Bilal Yamani

Post Production services: Lila Post

International Sales & Distribution: Cinephilia Productions

In partnership with:



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