



Locarno Film Festival
Official Selection

لايسل NIGHT

A FILM BY
AHMAD SALEH, SAED SALEH, SALEH SALEH

Germany, Qatar, Palestine, Jordan
15:57 min
2021

A SES-STUDIO, FABIAN&FRED PRODUCTION



Synopsis

The dust of war keeps the eyes sleepless. Night brings peace and sleep to all the people in the broken town. Only the eyes of the mother of the missing child stay resilient. Night has to trick her into sleeping to save her soul.

Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/566010057>



Crew

Writer, Director, Editor
Ahmad Saleh

Producer
Jessica Neubauer, Saleh Saleh,
Fabian Driehorst

Voice Actors
Mother: Hiam Abbass
Night: Rafia Aridi
Daughter: Salma Saleh

Art Director, DOP, Production Design
Saed Saleh

Animation
Basel Nasr, Leon Vidmar, Saleh Saleh

Music
Suad Bushnaq

Lullaby Singing
Rafia H. Oraidi

Sound Design
David Black, Marcus Zilz

Sound Mix
Marcus Zilz

Script Consultant
Selina Ukwuoma

Concept Art
Sae-Yun Jung, Nara Bak, Saleh Saleh

Animatic
Basel Nasr

Puppets
Saleh Saleh, Ahmad Saleh

Costumes
Kati Ostermann

Set & Props
Saed Saleh, Saleh Saleh

Post-Production
Thomas Schmidl, Saleh Saleh,
Kai Thorarensen

Voice Recording
Nassim El Mounabbih, Falah Hannoun

WRITER/ DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT


A sea of people panicking, running in one direction. Like the waves. Up and down. Up and down. Heavy shooting behind us. With every gun's shout, all the people would bend down while running in one synchronized move.

I wasn't born there and so I wasn't trained to go down at the right moment. I was a wrong cast in a real situation. One person appeared in between all the people. She seemed to be lost more than I was. She was walking in the opposite direction, as if she wanted to be shot.

She noticed that I noticed her, so she walked right towards me. She was covered in dust. She looked as if she was a stone that had been laying there since ages. Her face was beaten with tiresome. She held my arms and begged with a faded voice: please tell me that she is dead. That was like nothing I heard anyone beg for. And while I was confused, she repeated with a more disparate voice: please tell me that she is dead. I naively asked: who is she? My question shook her as a strong sound would wake a sleeping person suddenly. She felt embarrassed and walked away then started calling in a loud voice: daaughter. She kept walking and calling, leaving me with a question that I couldn't solve.

Why would a mother wish to hear that her daughter is dead?! She was begging for hearing it as a cancer patient would beg for morphine.

I wrote and made this film to tell her that wish to tame her hope so she may finally fall asleep.

A close-up portrait of Ahmad Saleh, a man with curly hair and a beard, looking directly at the camera. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue filter.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Ahmad Saleh is a Palestinian/German writer and director. His first film, HOUSE, 2012 won a second place in the German Short Film Award and his second film, AYNY, 2016 won an Academy Award. Recently he finished his third short film, NIGHT and is developing his first feature.

FILMOGRAPHY

2021 (debut)

Night

Stop Motion Animation, 16'

2016 (graduation film)

AYNY - MY SECOND EYE

Stop Motion Animation, 11'

2015 (student film)

MAA BAA

Hand Drawn Animation, 6'

2012 (student film)

HOUSE

Stop Motion Animation, 4'

A photograph of a family in a kitchen. A man with a beard, wearing a purple shirt, is focused on painting a small, light-colored ceramic cup. He is holding the cup with one hand and using a brush with the other. In the foreground, a woman with curly hair is partially visible, looking towards the camera. The background shows a kitchen counter with various items, including a stack of white plates and a stove. The overall atmosphere is warm and domestic.

THE SALEH FAMILY

Ever since they made their first film, HOUSE, Ahmad, Saleh, Saed and the entire family made films together and established their own family studio. Inspired by their mother's hobby of making ceramic flowers, the kids grow loving hand crafts. And that is probably what made building puppets and movie sets the natural medium to tell their stories.







HIAM ABBASS

We had the great pleasure to work with Hiam Abbass, the very known and generous actress, to be the voice of the mother. Her voice gave life to the character. The moment she screamed the line "did anyone see a child looking for her mother" in the studio, we all had to stay silent for a long while. This was the line that we couldn't dare to ask her to make another try of it.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Title

Night

Duration

15:57 min

Year

2021

Directed by

Ahmad Saleh

Countries

Germany, Qatar, Palestine, Jordan

Language

Arabic

Subtitles

English, French, German, Spanish

Animation Technique

Stop Motion

Format

DCP | color | 24 | 1:1,85 FPS

Audio

Surround 5.1, stereo

CONTACT

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Co-producer: Fabian&Fred
Fabian Driehorst
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Director:
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 [instagram.com/fabianfred](https://www.instagram.com/fabianfred)

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