

ظل راجل

IN THE SHADOW OF A MAN




OFFICIAL SCREENING TIMES

DATE	CINEMA	TIME
12/02/2012	CineStar 7	17:00
13/02/2012	CineStar 7	11:30
14/02/2012	Cubix 7	17:30
17/02/2012	CineStar 7	19:30

MARKET SCREENING TIMES

DATE	CINEMA	TIME
13/02/2012	CinemaxX 16	14:20



In the wake of the Egyptian revolution, four women speak of their fight for the future and what it means to be a woman in Egypt. *In the Shadow of a Man* weaves through their worlds as they tell us their stories of marriage, divorce, love and resistance, mirroring their lives with Egypt's greater struggle for freedom and self-determination.



I've come to learn that small acts of resistance are not to be underestimated, especially when they are rooted in larger issues. They give me hope for the greater fight for emancipation. Deep down the women of Egypt know the future is theirs.

When I was at first approached with the idea of making a documentary about “women’s needs” in the aftermath of the revolution, I was deeply uncomfortable. I remember wanting to resist the project entirely. I felt that to focus on the subject of women itself was irrelevant and would follow a fetish that much of the Western media had become obsessed with. There are more important stories to tell, I thought. Luckily, thanks to many conversations with friends and family convincing me otherwise, I persevered despite my concerns. I came to realise that the problem wasn’t with the subject matter, but with the question itself.

I believe that documentaries are about learning from the people that you film. I started by wanting to ask Wafaa, Badreya, Shahinda, and Suzanne theoretical questions about what freedom meant for women, if society had limited their choices: if so what their solutions were; things like that. Instead, I moved, or in actual fact they moved me, to a much more intimate place where they started to tell me their stories: the very personal subtleties of the frustrations, the longings, the triumphs, and the inconsistencies of being a woman in Egypt. The truth is, they reframed the question for me, tracing the way that gender is constructed through the norms, relationships, and beliefs we live by. They showed me that our limits lie in the structures and beliefs that hold us back, and how the possibility of change is to be found in how we struggle to resist.

I often get asked why a film about women focuses so much on the relationships with the men in their lives. Marriage is one of the most important events in a woman’s life in Egypt: for many, it’s what defines the threshold between childhood and adulthood, and marks the beginning of life away from the guardianship of her family. It’s the choice that seals the dimensions of her destiny: what freedoms she is allowed, what freedoms she allows herself, how lonely, or how supported she’ll be, and it brings with it serious responsibilities and expectations that will frame the choices she makes from that moment on. Wafaa, Badreya, Shahinda and Suzanne come from very different Egypts: different generations, different classes, different places, different struggles. But their stories about who they chose to marry, who they refused, if they divorced and how, and why they stand by their choices, have shaped their lives.

**HANAN ABDALLA
DIRECTOR**

In the Shadow of a Man follows the lives of Wafaa, Badreya, Suzanne, and Shahinda as they tell us their stories of marriage, divorce, love and resistance.


Born in the backstreets of Cairo, 69 year old Wafaa is feisty, argumentative and irresistibly charming. While knitting a rug, she tells the story of her wedding night and how at 35 she insisted on divorce, travelling to any country that would offer her work. Independent and unrepentant, she lives and works in London, but her heart remains in Cairo.

Badreya lives in the beautiful farmland of Upper Egypt. Once ambitious to go to Art School, she struggles to give her four children the life she knows they deserve by selling chickens, ducks and rabbits. Lonely and unappreciated by her husband, she remains resilient for the love of her children.

Suzanne has been engaged six times. At 31 this is no easy feat. Raised in Damietta, her hard-won little shop gives her the independence to choose who she wants to share her life with. She's opinionated, vulnerable and strong, but having fought so hard for independence, she's confused about what to do with it.

Shahinda's life has been a series of personal and political battles, born out of loss. At the age of 73 she is ever passionate as she continues her life-long fight for Egyptian farmer's rights, keeping the memory of her husband alive.

In the Shadow of a Man weaves through the worlds of these women, mirroring their stories of resistance with Egypt's greater struggle for freedom and self-determination.



SYNOPSIS







Hanan Abdalla is a British-Egyptian freelance documentary filmmaker. *In the Shadow of a Man* is her first feature-length documentary. Born in London in 1988, Hanan graduated from Oxford University in 2010, where she studied Politics & Philosophy. After university, she pursued short filmmaking courses at the National Film & Television School, the Frontline Club and the Documentary Filmmakers Group.

Born into the third generation of a family of Egyptian political activists, Hanan has been in Egypt since February 2011, both documenting and participating in the turbulent struggles of the ongoing revolution. Hanan works with the independent media collective Mosireen in Cairo, and is currently in post-production on a feature-length documentary, with Zero Production and UN Women, on women candidates running in Egypt's first parliamentary elections after the fall of Mubarak.





UN WOMEN, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, operational since January 1st 2011, works towards accelerating the United Nations' goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women supports innovative and catalytic programmes, advocacy, and technical assistance related to women's human rights in countries throughout the world as part of the overall UN development cooperation system.

As part of the UN Women Egypt Country Office's ongoing communications and advocacy efforts, the office's first commissioned documentary film was developed in 2011. *In the Shadow of a Man* embodies the office's profound belief in the capacity of youth and the role that it can play in advancing gender equality, and more specifically, the power of films as a tool for lobbying and advocacy; better serving the organization's mandate of achieving gender equality and empowering women worldwide.

ZERO PRODUCTION is a film production house in Cairo working with film makers from across the region to produce high quality films. Founded on the belief independent cinema has an essential contribution to make to the cultural landscape, it is committed to finding ways to create new and sustainable models for film production in the Arab world. Zero Production participated in the founding of Mosireen, and is in the process of setting up Cimatheque, an alternative film centre in Cairo, due to open later this year.

MOSIREEN is an alternative media collective in Cairo born out of the explosion of citizen journalism during the revolution. It aims to support the growing citizen media community in Egypt. As well as supporting other media and cultural activists in their production, Mosireen produces its own media pieces with the collaboration of volunteers from the community. It seeks to build a network of independent artists, activists and journalists contributing to and supported by the Mosireen collective.




CREDITS

Director	Hanan Abdalla
Editor	Sara Abd Allah
Director of Photography	Hanan Abdalla
Sound Design	Moustafa Shaaban
Sound Editing	Ahmed Khoga
	Moustafa Shaaban
Music	Anouar Brahem
	Laila Samy
Colour Correction	Mahmoud El Touny
Subtitles	Lobna Darwish
Producer	Hanan Abdalla
Executive Producers	Cat Villiers
	Khalid Abdalla
	Tamer El Said
	Hossam Abdalla
Associate Producers	Louis Lewarne
	Cressida Trew
Produced in association with	Zero Production
	Mosireen
Commissioning Body	UN Women Egypt

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Duration	65.0	Colour/B/W	Colour
Originally shot on	Video HDV 1080i	Sound Format	Stereo
Festival Format	HDCAM	Film Language	Arabic
Screen Ratio	1:1.78 (16:9)	Subtitles	English
Frames/Sec	25	Nationality	Egyptian



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