

Aurora Films in co-production with *Intramovies* and *Né à Beyrouth Films* present

DIRTY DIFFICULT DANGEROUS



a film by Wissam Charaf

83 Colour | Drama | FRANCE, ITALY, LEBANON | 2022

2K | ratio: 1.33 Arabic, Amharic, Bengali, English 5.1

PRODUCTION Aurora Films 9 rue Réaumur 75003 Paris France contact@aurorafilms.fr +33 1 47704301	CO-PRODUCTION INTERNATIONAL SALES Intramovies Via E. Manfredi, 15 00197, Rome, Italy sales@intramovies.com festival@intramovies.com +39 06 45777930	CO-PRODUCTION Né à Beyrouth George Haddad Str. Nahad bldg Beirut Central District Lebanon info@neabeyrouth.org +961 1 587 850	INTERNATIONAL PRESS Rendez-Vous PR Viviana Andriani Aurélié Dard viviana@rv-press.com festival@rv-press.com +33 6 80 16 81 39
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CREDITS

DIRECTOR
Wissam Charaf

SCREENPLAY
Wissam Charaf
Mariette Désert
Hala Dabaji

PRODUCED BY
Charlotte Vincent
Katia Khazak
CO-PRODUCED BY
Marco Valerio Fusco
Micaela Fusco
Pierre Sarraf

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Martin Rit

SOUND
Pierre Bompoy

EDITING
Clémence Diard

ART DIRECTOR
Tom Mattei

COSTUMES
Thomas Marini

CASTING
Sandie Galan Perez – Arda

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Anaïs Versini

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR
Chjara Fabiani

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Rémi Veyrié

ORIGINAL SCORE
Zeid Hamdan

CAST

Clara Couturet - Mehdia
Ziad Jallad - Ahmed
Rifaat Tarabey - Ibrahim
Darina Al Joundi - Leila



LOGLINE

Beirut, Lebanon. An impossible love story between an Ethiopian housemaid and a Syrian refugee whose body is witnessing mysterious changes.

SYNOPSIS

Beirut, Lebanon, nowadays.

Ahmed, a Syrian refugee, and Mehdia, an Ethiopian migrant domestic worker, are living an impossible love.

While Mehdia tries to free herself from her employers, Ahmed struggles to survive dealing in second-hand metal scraps, affected by a mysterious disease.

The two lovers have no future, but they have nothing to lose. One day, they take their chance and flee Beirut in a hopeful and desperate attempt to get away while Ahmed's physical condition gets worse, turning slowly his body into metal.

WISSAM CHARAF

Born in 1973, Wissam CHARAF is a Lebanese/French director, cameraman and editor. In



1998, he began to work with the French/German network ARTE, as a news cameraman, editor and journalist. He has since covered major conflict areas ranging from Lebanon and the Near East to Darfour, Afghanistan, Haiti or North Korea and worked with programs such as ARTE Info, ARTE Reportages, Tracks, Metropolis.

He directed 6 shorts: *Hizz Ya Wizz*, *A Hero Never Dies*, *An Army of Ants*, *After*, *Unforgettable Memory of a*

Friend and *Don't Panic* as well as the documentary *It's All in Lebanon*.

His first feature film, *Heaven Sent*, premiered at the ACID section of the 2016 Cannes Film Festival.

Dirty, Difficult, Dangerous, selected at Venice Days – 2022, is his second feature film.

He's currently working on a new short film.

Filmography:

2022. **DIRTY, DIFFICULT, DANGEROUS** (Feature film): Giornate degli Autori: Venice days – Venice Film Festival

2021. **DON'T PANIC** (Short film): Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival, Cinémed Festival

2018. **UNFORGETTABLE MEMORY OF A FRIEND** (Short film): Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival, Côte-Court festival – Pantin, Lebanese Film Festival, Cinémed Festival – Montpellier, Travelling Film Festival – Rennes, Ciné-junior Festival, Un poing c'est court Festival, Hiroshima International Film Festival, Cinema Arab Film Festival – Amsterdam, Les Nuits Méditerranéennes Festival, My Youth Film Festival, Gabes Film Festival, Visions sociales – Cannes

Awards: Special Mention Jury – Clermont-Ferrand Festival; Great Prize – Rhode Island Film Festival; GNCR Award – Côte-Court, Jurys Award – Hiroshima Festival; College Award – Un poing c'est court festival; Great Prize – Lama Festival.

Pre-selected for the best short film Cesar 2020.

2016. **HEAVEN SENT** (Feature film): ACID – Cannes, International Film Festival of San Francisco, International Film Festival of Marrakech, Warsaw Film Festival, Torino Film Festival, Entrevues Film Festival of Belfort, Mediterranean Film Festival of Montpellier, Festival East-West, Film Festival of Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux, French Film Festival of Lisbon

Awards: Long Short Great prize at Tubingen Film Festival; Mise en scène Prize at War on Screen Festival.

2016. **AFTER** (Short film): Cote-Court Film festival in Pantin, Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival, Brive Film Festival, Beirut Cinema days, Mediterranean nights Film Festival

Awards: Press Jury and Bande à Part at Coté-Court Film Festival; Ciné + Prize at Brive Film Festival; Titrafilms Prize at Mediterranean nights Film Festival.

2012. **IT'S ALL IN LEBANON** (Documentary): Vision du Réel, Carthage Film festival, Middle East Film Festival, MEDIMED, Online Film Festival Culture Unplugged, London International Documentary Festival, Al Jazeera Documentary Film, Doha Film Festival, Cine Martil Film Festival, Jacob Film Center de NYC (Contemporary Arab Cinema Program), Arab film festival in Berlin, Bagdad International Film Festival, Dubai...

Awards: Bronze Tanit for Best documentary - Carthage Festival 2012.

2007. **AN ARMY OF ANTS** (Short film): Locarno Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival, Premiers plans d'Angers, Dubai Film Festival, Entrevues de Belfort, Amsterdam Film Festival...

Awards: Jury prize – Festival of Mediterranean Cinema in Lunel.

2006. **A HERO NEVER DIES** (Short film): Paris Cinema, Kort (Norway), Amsterdam Shorts (Netherlands).

2004. **HIZZ YA WIZZ** (Short film): Festival de Clermont-Ferrand 2004, Premiers plans d'Angers, Entrevues de Belfort, Côte court Film festival.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"In today's Lebanon, two fallen angels, Ahmed and Mehdia, cross paths, two outcasts of the society come together only to have to face danger and racism. In this melodrama where cruelty, comedy and tenderness imbricate, we are offering an intimate vision of today's Lebanese society. The project describes the tragedy of three populations in only one country: the racism towards the domestic workers, the misery of the Syrian refugees and the moral decadence of the Lebanese people that harbor and employ them.

Even though I'm inspiring myself from a cruel reality, I don't want my work to be about pathos and misery. I want to create a light offset, shift toward the tale and redesign the reality... In this sweet and sour mix, the dramatic tone is often defused by incongruous situations in order to create a comic detachment in the scenes' composition. It aims at putting forward, by contrast, the absurdity of some situations instead of only representing the ordeal of the characters."

Wissam Charaf

ACTORS' BIO

Clara Couturet is a French actress that starred in several short films such as *Punch It* by Olivier Perrier and *Mehret va à l'Est* by Cécile Chaignot. *Dirty, Difficult, Dangerous* is her first feature film.

Ziad Jallad is a British actor, based in France. He appears in TV series (*Hanna* by Eva Husson, Amazon prime), shorts and long features, as *Skies of Lebanon* by Chloé Mazlo, selected at Cannes – Critics' week 2020, *Mascarade* by Nicolas Bedos, among others.

In *Dirty, Difficult, Dangerous*, he plays his first leading role.



PRODUCTION COMPANY BIO

Aurora Films, a production company based in Paris and founded in 2002, is specialized in French and international co-productions, and has produced about fifty films (shorts, documentaries and feature films). The company defends an arthouse cinema, with directors that have a singular vision, esthetic and identity.

6 feature films produced by the company were selected at Cannes, including *Return to Seoul* by Davy Chou selected at Un Certain Regard – Cannes 2022.

Among recent productions, *Angry Annie* by Blandine Lenoir selected in Locarno's Piazza Grande this year, *Dirty, Difficult, Dangerous* premiering in Venice days also this year, *Petite Solange* by Axelle Ropert, selected at the official competition of Locarno Film Festival 2021, *Diamond Island* by Davy Chou, which received the SACD prize at the Critic's Week in Cannes 2016 and *Heaven Sent* by Wissam Charaf, selected at ACID in Cannes 2016.

Aurora Films is currently working on the post-production of the new feature films by Patric Chiha and is in the preparation of the first feature film of Lkhagvadulam Purev-Ochir, Ze.