

A FILM BY
KAWTHAR YOUNIS



MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA
Official Selection

1932

90°

2022

صاحبي

■ MY GIRL FRIEND

PRESS KIT



LOG LINE

Ali gets trapped between two genders in order to spend the night with his girlfriend.

SYNOPSIS

Desperate for intimacy, Ali follows his girlfriend's suggestion that puts their relationship to the test. The plan unfolds unexpectedly when gender roles become blurred.

DIRECTOR'S BRIEF COMMENT

I belong in a society where couples are pushed to extreme measures to express their love for each other. *Sahbety* explores how gender constraints are shaping our perspective for our own identity. This film takes an up close look at a couple that are motivated by love and challenged by conventional gender norms through questioning: What if the tables were turned?

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

“If you put yourself in my shoes, you’d probably take them off too.”

From here the idea of the film came to surface. As women in middle eastern societies are subject each day to prejudice from their gender. And men are meant not to show fragility. In addition to laws that implement inequality and social norms that kills human freedom.

Beside, It’s illegal to show any public display of affection for both genders which was the trigger that led Sara to come up with this desperate, witty plan in order to share an intimate night with her boyfriend given her strict family.



All these factors were the ingredients that fueled me to express my inner rebel through this film. Which questions: What gender really is?

Through this film I’m exploring the complications of gender in my society.

Casting my actors, then shifting the main cast to naturally and subtly play with gender roles and attitude; in order to reach a raw performance was the most challenging and fun part of making this film.

Which helped me reveal and dig deeper in the complexity of gender relations in our modern days.

DIRECTOR, Kawthar Younis

Born in 1993, Kawthar is a filmmaker based in Cairo, Egypt. Known for her film "A Present from the Past", which was the first of its kind to set a record for audience demand in the Egyptian market. She works as a producer for films, mini series and TV commercials. Her latest short film "Sahbety / My Girl Friend" is the first Egyptian film to officially participate in the short film competition at Venice International Film Festival. Kawthar is also co-founder of the inaugural Rawiyat-Sisters in Film.

FILMOGRAPHY

Director – Short feature & documentary films:

- ٢٠ سبتمبر | A Present from the Past / 20 September | 2016 | Feature Documentary

- يوكو و ياسمين | About Separation | 2020 | Short Fiction

- صحبتي | My Girl friend | 2022 | Short Fiction

Producer – Feature Films:

- هدية من الماضي | A Present from the Past / 20 September (2016) | By Kawthar Younis

- دخل الربيع يضحك | April's fool | 2022 *in production | By Noha Adel

- الأيدي النظيفة | Clean Hands | in pre production | By Jaylan Auf | Long Feature



Producer – Miniseries:

- دراما كوين | Drama Queen | 2021 | By Khaled Marei | Original Netflix Mini Series

Producer – Short Films:

- الخد الأخر | The Other Cheek | 2020 | By Sandro Canaan

- ماما | Mama | 2022 | Viu | By Naji Ismail | Short Film

- اتحشر | Jammed | 2022 *to be released | By Rami Mansour

PRODUCER, Sandro Canaan

After finishing his bachelor's degree in Economics at the American University in Cairo. He then moved to Paris where he finished his Masters of Fine Arts in Directing Film at EICAR film school. He returned to Egypt where he worked as an assistant director for 6 years. His latest directorial effort is the short "The Other Cheek" which won Best Short Film in Amman Film Festival . His first work as a Producer is "Sahbety" by Kawthar Younis.

FILMOGRAPHY

Director – *Short films:*

- الخد الآخر | The Other Cheek | 2020 | *Short Film*

- الإيجار | Tolérance | 2016 | *Short Film*

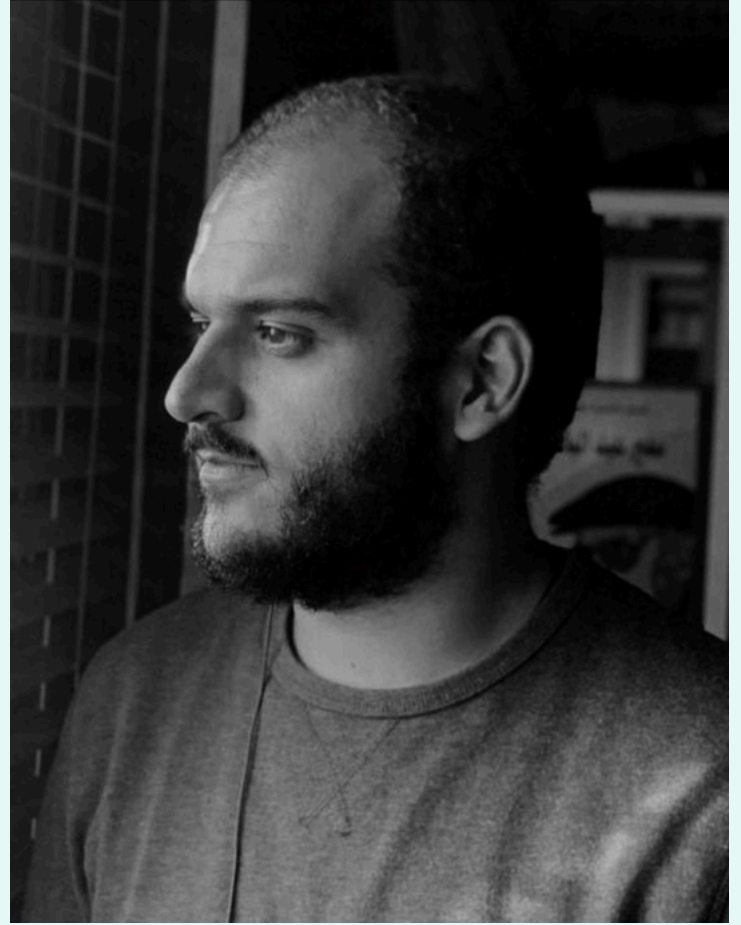
- Dix Minutes Par Jour | Ten Minutes Everyday | 2020 | *Short Film*

Editor – *Short Films::*

- يوكو و ياسمين | About Separation | 2020 | *By Kawthar Younis / Short Fiction*

- ماما | Mama | 2022 | Viu | *By Naji Ismail / Short Film*

- تلفزيون | Television | 2022 | *By Samar Hindawwi / Short Fiction*



Producer – *Short Films:*

- صاحبي | My Girl friend | 2022 | *By Kawthar Younis / Short Fiction*

- اتحشر | Jammed | 2022 *to be released | *By Rami Mansour / Short Film*

CO-PRODUCER & EDITOR, Khaled Marei

An Egyptian based director. He started his career as an editor for over 20 feature films. In 2007 he became director for feature films, shorts, and series. He is a multiple award winning editor and director. In 2022 he co-founded TRI Pictures alongside Waleed Sabry and Ahmed Youssef. Currently he's developing his latest long feature film, based on Gabriel Garcia Marquez novel "Chronicle of death foretold"

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Director – Feature Films:

- تيمور و شفيقة | Taimour and Shafika | 2007
- آسف علي الازعاج | Sorry For the Disturbance | 2008
- البلبل الحيران | El Bolbol El Hayran | 2010
- عسل اسود | Black Molasses | 2010
- لف و دوران | Laf w Dawaran | 2016
- خيال مائة | Scarecrow | 2019

Director – Series :

- البيت بيتي | The house is mine | 2022 | Original Shahid Series
- دراما كوين | Drama Queen | 2021 | Original Netflix Mini Series
- السبع وصايا | Elsabaa Wasaya 2014
- شربات لوز | Sharbat Loz | 2012
- العهد | El Ahd | 2015

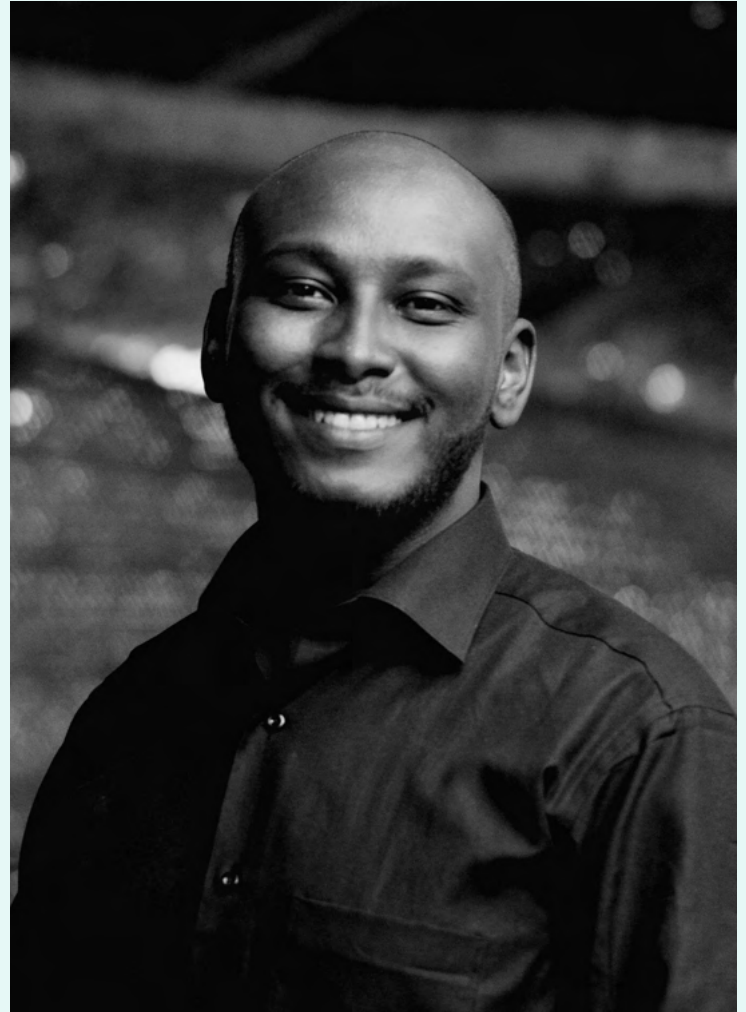


Editor – Feature Films :

- حب السيمة | Love Cinema | 2004 | Feature Film by Osama Fawzi
- ايام السادات | Days Of Sadat | 2001 | Feature Film by Mohammed Khan
- تيتو | Tito | 2004 | Feature Film by Tarek El Erian
- سهر الليالي | Sleepless Nights | 2003 | Feature Film by Hani Khalifa
- عمارة يعقوبيان | Yacoubian Building | 2006 | Feature Film by Marwan Hamed
- ابراهيم الأبيض | Ibrahim Al Abyad | 2009 | Feature Film by Marwan Hamed
- افريكانو | Africano | 2003 | Feature Film by Amr Arafat
- محامي خلع | Mohami Kholaa' | 2002 | Feature Film by Mohamed Yassin

CO-PRODUCER Mohammed Alomda

Mohammed Alomda is a Sudanese director and producer for over 10 years.. He was appointed head of film programming at Sudan Film Factory and a film programmer at Sudan Independent Film Festival. Later he co-founded Station Films which co-produced "You Will Die At Twenty". The film premiered at Venice and won the Lion Of The Future Award. The company continues to produce several independent films in Sudan, East African, and the Arab world.



FILMOGRAPHY

Producer – *Feature Films:*

- ستموت في العشرين | You Will Die At Twenty (2019) | By Amjad Abualala

- The Burdened | 2022 *to be released | By Amr Gamal |

- اتحشر | Jammed | 2022 *to be released | By Rami Mansour | *Short Film*

- Goodbye Julia | 2023 | *pre-production* | By Mohamed Kordofani

Producer – *Short Films:*

- صاحبي | My Girl friend | 2022 | By Kawthar Younis | *Short Fiction*

- Buzz | By Mohamed Fawi | *Short Film*

Producer – *In Development:*

- Ravens Of The City | Feature Fiction | By Adham El Sherif |

- Specters Of Alhoot | Feature Fiction | By Ahmed Mahmoud



CAST

Ali

Marc Haggar

Sara

Ilham Safei El Din

Sara's Father

Fadel El Garhi

Sara's Mother

Sonia Farid

CREDITS

Story by

Kawthar Younis

Director

Kawthar Younis

Producer

Sandro Canaan

Co-Producers

Khaled Marei
Mohammed Alomda

Screenwriters

Ahmed Essam El Sayed
Kawthar Younis

Director of Photography

Seif Eldin Khaled

Production Designer

Eman Elalby

Sound Designer

Mohamed Salah
Rami Hussein

Costume Designer

Yara Sameeh

Makeup Artist

Marina Osama

Digital Makeup

Gehan Sobhey Khalil

Colorist

Gehan Sobhey Khalil
Fady Tharwat

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION

Egypt

Film Title

Sahbety | My Girl friend

Length

17 mins

Genre

Romance - Drama

Shooting Format

Color - Digital 6K

Ratio

1.66

Language

Arabic



DIRECTOR

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