

SALT OF THIS SEA
MILIH MIN HADHA AL BAHIR
SEL DE CETTE MER
Palestine
First feature film

Annemarie Jacir

Palestinian filmmaker & writer Annemarie Jacir has written, directed and produced a number of award-winning films. Her latest short film, *Like Twenty Impossibles* premiered in Cannes, and has won numerous awards at international festivals. *Salt of this Sea* was selected for the Hubert Bals Development Fund as well as the Sundance Screenwriters Lab.

Filmography

Like Twenty Impossibles, 2003, 17 min, color, 35mm
The Satellite Shooters, 2001, 16 min, color, 16mm
A Post-Oslo History, 1998, 8 min, color, Video

Production Company :	Philistine Films (Palestine)	Shooting format:	Super 16
Category:	Fiction	Locations:	Palestine / Israel
Length:	90'	Technicians:	Kamran Rastegar (Music), Dana Farzanehpour (Sound), Emily Jacir (Art Director), Joan Abu Assali (Production Manager)
Language:	Arabic, English, Hebrew		
Shooting dates:	Spring / Summer 2006		

Introduction

The young and wild Soraya and Emad - a Palestinian Bonnie & Clyde story.

Synopsis

Ben Gurion Airport. An American passport is placed on the counter. The security agent looks up to find Soraya, a Palestinian-American refugee from Brooklyn who meets her gaze directly. Soraya is instructed to step aside for a thorough security inspection. The last passenger to clear customs, she is finally permitted to pass. She exits the customs hall to a sea of faces, welcome balloons, and kissing relatives -- none are for her. Fifty-seven years after her grandparent's exile, she has returned.

Soraya, wild at heart and independent, comes from a working-class community in the US and has always had to fight for everything she has. As a young man, Soraya's grandfather struggled to save money in a small bank account in Jaffa. In 1948, not only did the family lose their home, but the account was frozen and they were never reimbursed. Years later, the bank opens a new branch in Ramallah. Soraya is determined to reclaim what is hers.

Salt of this Sea is a story about young people in love trying to shake off the restraints that control them - of military occupation, of borders, of a corrupt government and of a social system that rejects them. Is it the story of a new generation wanting to live and knowing that sometimes, in order to do this, one has to take things in their own hands? Even if it's illegal.

Director's statement:

I would like to explore a story of urban youth today - young people who are like young people everywhere – struggling against conventions and rules and trying to make a space for themselves in the world - a story about the inequities of class divisions, about privilege, marginalization, a corrupt government and daily urban life in Palestine.

For Soraya, Emad, and Marwan, as young Palestinians, their desire for freedom to move freely, to explore the world around them, makes them suspect. For a Palestinian so much is illegal: to build a home, to travel to another town, to return from exile, to study abroad, or to even go to the sea – for most Palestinians, these are impossibilities, both practically and also legally.

After the protagonists of the film *do* actually commit a crime, they then become 'criminals' in a more traditional sense. But in this case, they empower themselves: they *choose* to become criminals. At the moment they decide to take things into their own hands, everything changes in their lives. There is no returning. I am interested in exploring how this plays out within this atmosphere of occupation and with characters who in many ways have been formed by a history of dispossession that has been passed down to them through several generations.

Production company:	Philistine Films (Palestine)
Budget:	800,000 euros
Partners attached:	Hubert Bals Fund (Nederland), Orbit TV (Italy)

Company Profile

Philistine Films is an independent production company, focusing on productions related to the Arab world and Iran.

Goals at Paris Project : Finding co-producers, co-financing, and funds

People attending Paris Project: Annemarie Jacir (director – producer), Kamran Rastegar (producer)

Philistine Films

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