

Edited

Man without a Cell Phone (Ish lelo selolari)

France, Palestine, Israël, Belgium /2010/80 mins/Arabic, Hebrew/Colour/35mm

Director Sameh Zoabi

DOP Hichame Alaoui

Editor Simon Jacquet

Music

Designer Nael Kanj

Cast Razi Shawahdeh, Basem Loulou, Louay Noufi, Maysa Abd Elhadi, Sanaa Shawahdeh, Sama Wakim, Fouad Qutbi, Lutuf Nweiser

Synopsis

Twenty-something Palestinian-Israeli slacker Jawdat just wants to have fun with his friends, talk on his cell phone and find love. Instead, he navigates unconvincing dates with Muslim, Christian, and even Jewish girls, and wrestles with the Hebrew college entrance exam. Meanwhile, his stubborn olive-farming father, Salem, is determined to drag Jawdat and his whole community into a fight against a nearby Israeli cell phone tower that he fears is poisoning the villagers with radiation. As Salem's efforts to remove the tower disrupt Jawdat's precious cell phone reception, preventing any further communication with his potential girlfriends, Jawdat is forced to face the battle and grow up to be a man.

About the director

Samen Zoabi was born in 1975 and raised in Iksal, a Palestinian village near the city of Nazareth, Israel in 1975. In 1998, Zoabi graduated from Tel Aviv University with a dual degree in Film Studies and English Literature. The following year, he was awarded a merit scholarship to pursue a Master's Degree. In February 2005, Zoabi completed his M.F.A. in Film Direction at Columbia's School of the Arts. His previous short film *'Be Quiet'* (19 mins) is an international award winning film, including the Third Prize at the Cinefondation Selection at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival. *Filmmaker Magazine* named Zoabi as one of the Top 25 New Faces of Independent Cinema. *Man without a Cellphone* is Zoabi's feature film debut.

Festival Participation/Awards

South Africa : Durban IFF

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