



IDFA
Int'l Doc Fest Amsterdam
 Reflecting Images



Silverdocs
AFI/Discovery Channel Doc FF
 Official Selection

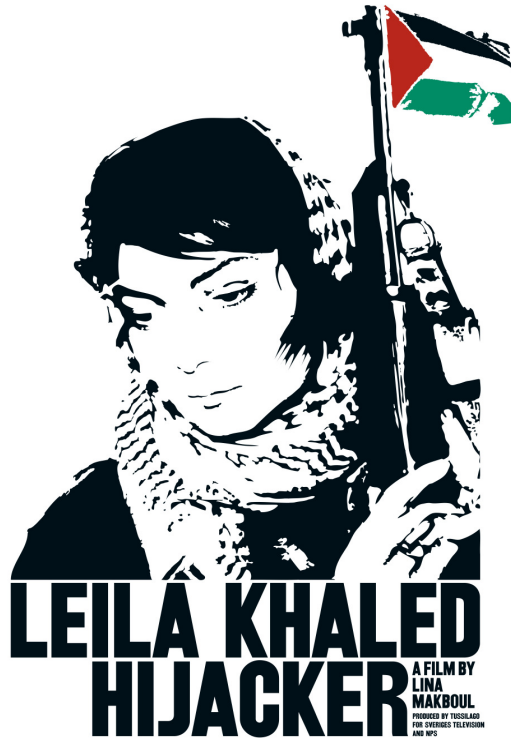


One World
Int'l Human Rights Film Fest
 Official Selection



LEILA KHALED: HIJACKER

A film by Lina Makboul



“An astonishing testimony on violence and femininity...”
Le Monde Diplomatique

"A rare gift...an unflinching and mesmerizing glimpse
 into the psychology of terror and the price of freedom."
Sky Sitney, Director of Programming, Silverdocs

“Extraordinary...a warm, honest human portrayal of a world icon...
 This film should be seen far and wide.”
Steven Markovitz, Executive Director, Encounters Festival and Distribution



A WOMEN MAKE MOVIES RELEASE

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SYNOPSIS



In 1969 Palestinian Leila Khaled made history by becoming the first woman to hijack an airplane. As a Palestinian child growing up in Sweden, filmmaker Lina Makboul admired Khaled for her bold actions; as an adult, she began asking complex questions about the legacy created by her childhood hero. This fascinating documentary is at once a portrait of Khaled, an exploration of the filmmaker's own understanding of her Palestinian identity, and a complicated examination of the nebulous dichotomy between "terrorist" and "freedom fighter."

When Makboul tracks Khaled down, she finds Khaled living an ordinary life in Jordan, still firm in her belief that her actions were necessary and fully justified. The film weaves together scenes with Khaled, archival footage, and interviews with the people who were on the planes Khaled hijacked. Makboul searches for a way to reconcile her understanding of the Palestinian national narrative - which now includes Khaled's actions - with the negative image she encounters from the rest of the world of Palestinians as bloodthirsty terrorists. At the same time, she comes to know Khaled for the very real person that she is as they talk, travel, and share meals. The result is a multi-dimensional film unlike any other in its skillful handling of the complexities that arise when liberation movements incorporate violence as a tactic.

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

For the most updated list, visit www.wmm.com

- Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Spectrum Award, Honorable Mention
- Int'l Documentary Film Festival (IDFA), Amsterdam
- Silverdocs, Silver Spring, MD
- Full Frame Documentary Film Festival
- Tekfestival, Rome, Italy
- DocuDays: Beirut Int'l Documentary Film Festival
- Encounters South African Int'l Documentary Festival
- One World Int'l Human Rights Film Festival, Prague, Czech Republic
- Riverside International Film Festival
- Chicago Palestine Film Festival
- CineMujer Film Festival
- Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival, Greece
- Jerusalem Cinematheque, Israel
- Doxa Documentary Film Festival, Vancouver, Canada
- Women's Film Festival, Seoul, Korea
- It's All True Film Festival, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Int'l Women's Film Festival, Créteil, France
- Gothenburg Film Festival, Sweden
- Belfast Film Festival, Ireland

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Lina Makboul is 33 years old and lives with her husband in Gothenburg, Sweden. Lina was born in Sweden by Palestinian parents who are from Nablus on the West bank. She started working as a



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LEILA KHALED: HIJACKER

journalist at the Swedish National Radio 1996. In 1998 she began working with television at the Swedish National Television, SVT. LEILA KHALED: HIJACKER is Lina's debut film.

Credits

Sweden, 2005, 58 minutes, Color

Director

Lina Makboul

Producers

**Tussilago Productions, Robert Danielsson
SVT (Sveriges Television)**

Writer/Script

Marcos Hellberg, Tarik Saleh

Cinematography

Jallo Faber

Editing

Andreas Jonsson

Directors of Photography

Jallo Faber

Music by

Mårten Ekehed

Creative Producer

Marcos Hellberg

Publicity Contact:

Julie Whang, Sales & Marketing Manager
Women Make Movies, 462 Broadway Suite 500, New York, NY 10013
212-925-0606 ex. 320
jwhang@wmm.com



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Chicago Tribune

FILM FESTIVAL

Palestinian film fest offers 13 days of thought-provoking fare

By Michael Phillips

Tribune movie critic

Published April 13, 2007

Like most labels, the phrase "Palestinian/Israeli conflict" blanches out the human element and leaves only a wall, dividing an untenable political struggle into factions who live, and die, to tell their stories. Beginning tomorrow and continuing through April 26 at the Gene Siskel Film Center, the Chicago Palestine Film Festival showcases a few of those stories.

The opening night presentation is "Leila Khaled: Hijacker"(***). It begins with a provocative assertion by director and narrator Lina Makboul. As a young, comfortably middle-class Palestinian growing up in Sweden, Makboul was enraptured by media coverage of Khaled, whose 1969 and 1970 hijackings on behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine made her a heroine to many. "My idol," Makboul calls her. This patronizing description came from an American newsman of the era: "A not unattractive girl ... she gives the movement a touch of glamour."

In a series of recent interviews, Khaled, now married and the mother of two and living and working in Amman, Jordan, reveals herself up to a point. She is a fierce but guarded firebrand, not given to regrets ("We had to do what we did") and snappish about the questions journalists asked her in her notorious heyday. All they wanted to know, she says, is whether or not she had a man in her life. "I'm a fighter," she tells Makboul. "Ask me about my work!"

Those who resist diary-form docs, where the interviewer is half the story, may well resist this one. For me, it works. The filmmaker's conflicted feelings regarding her subject feel honest, and the result is neither idolatry nor fallen-idolatry.

**** EXCELLENT *** GOOD ** FAIR * POO

mjphillips@tribune.com

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