



CANNES FILM FESTIVAL
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NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL
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These Girls (El-Banate Dol)

A film by
Tahani Rached



“Inspired...compelling...jaunty...”
Duane Byrge, *The Hollywood Reporter*

**“Presents their day-to-day lives with sympathy
unadulterated by analysis or First World pity.”**
Jay Weissberg, *Variety*



A WOMEN MAKE MOVIES RELEASE

Women Make Movies • 462 Broadway, 5th Floor • New York, NY 10013
Tel: 212.925.0606 • e-mail: webinfo@wmm.com • www.wmm.com

These Girls

SYNOPSIS



Screened to audiences at the Cannes, Toronto, and New York film festivals, this fresh, irresistibly lively, and intensely engaging documentary from world renowned and widely acclaimed Egyptian director Tahani Rached (SORAÏDA, WOMAN OF PALESTINE and FOUR WOMEN OF EGYPT) follows a band of teenage girls living on the streets of Cairo. Rached won astonishing access to the girls' world; this vigorous, cinematic film is built upon the deep trust of its subjects and the long experience of the filmmaker. Already at a disadvantage as impoverished and abused girls in a Muslim society, they encounter rape, drug addiction, prostitution, pregnancy and motherhood on the streets. While the girls' troubles are not downplayed, neither are their courage, playfulness and vibrant camaraderie.

Rached brings alive the pulse of Cairo's streets, offering an unsentimental portrait that avoids traps of guilt or cheap pity. What stands out is the strength and sheer joy that these girls project. With deft skill Rached reveals an invisible world and offers a loving homage to the inspirational, fierce girls who inhabit it.

FESTIVALS SCREENINGS

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

- Cannes Film Festival
- Toronto Int'l Film Festival
- NY Film Festival
- Festival Cinéma Méditerranéen, Montpellier, France- Prix Ulysse
- Carthage Film Festival- Jury Award
- Sheffield Documentary Film Festival
- Miami Int'l Film Festival
- Montreal Festival de Nouveau Cinema
- Stockholm Int'l Film Festival
- Cairo Int'l Film Festival
- Dubai Int'l Film Festival



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DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY



Born in Egypt, **Tahani Rached** settled in Quebec in 1966. After attending Montreal's École des Beaux-Arts, she was involved in community action until she made her first film, ***Pour Faire Changement*** (1972), a documentary produced by Le Vidéographe, which set the tone for all her future work. In 1979, her first feature film, ***Les Voleurs de Jobs***, revealed her distinctive view of the world. A documentary on immigration, it demonstrated her ability to capture reality. This was followed by a series of six half-hour documentaries for Radio-Quebec on Quebec's Arab community.

As a NFB staff filmmaker from 1980 to 2004, she tackled sensitive topics: war in ***Beirut! Not Enough Death to Go Round*** (1983); the resourcefulness of the disadvantaged, through the songs in ***Au Chic Resto Pop*** (1990); and a doctor's battle against AIDS in ***Doctors with Heart*** (1993). ***Four Women of Egypt*** (1997) features four women who couldn't be more different but who are nevertheless united in their search for meaning and tolerance through 50 years of contemporary Egyptian history. In ***Emergency! A Critical Situation*** (1999), an entire emergency room team speaks about their difficult work, while in ***For a Song*** (2001), it is extracurricular activities such as singing in a choir that are found to restore social ties, lift the soul and create beauty. ***Soraida, A Woman of Palestine*** (2004) captures the reflections, concerns and imagination of a Palestinian woman, her family and her neighborhood, the soul of a nation that is doing its best to survive the war and occupation. In 2006 she shot her latest film ***El-Banate Dol*** (THESE GIRLS), in Egypt.

PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY



Born in Egypt, **Karim Gamal El Din** attended the American University, Cairo until 1984 where he majored in Psychology, Literature and Mass Communication. In 1987, he graduated with a Bachelor of Mass Communication from Menlo College (Paolo Alto, California).

In 1988, he founded the company ORKA for Digital Special Effects, the first of its kind in the Middle East, and then in 1990, the company ELIXIR for Film Production and Distribution.

In 1997, the company ELIXIR was the first to introduce off-line editing in Egyptian cinema. In the year 2000, ELIXIR expanded by landing lease on the mythical Studio Misr, one of the first and largest film studios in Egypt, and the one that launched the Egyptian film industry. Since then, the name was slightly transformed to become Studio Masr (as pronounced by Egyptians, meaning "Egypt") of which Karim is the CEO.

Karim directed and produced ***Hassan and Aziza: A State Security Case*** in 1999 as well as a number of documentaries including ***The Inauguration of Cairo Arts Palace*** and ***The Inauguration of Nubia Museum in Aswan***. Most recently, he produced ***El-Banate Dol*** (THESE GIRLS) by Tahani Rached.



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These Girls

CREDITS

Egypt, 2006, 68 minutes, Color

Director

Tahani Rached

Producer

Karim Gamal El Din

Cinematography

Nancy Abdel-Fattah

Music

Tamer Karawan

Editor

Mona Rabie

Sound

**Sameh Gamal
Marie-Claude Gagne
Salma Radwan**

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QUOTES

“A brief but haunting window into a tragic world, the film captures the young women in all their persevering strength and marginalized wretchedness.”

Nick Schager
Slant magazine

“Presents their day-to-day lives with sympathy unadulterated by analysis or First World pity.”

Jay Weissberg
Variety

“Inspired...compelling...jaunty... in keeping with the overpowering child-like energy of the girls themselves.”

Duane Byrge
The Hollywood Reporter

“Follows the lives of these young women without sentimentalizing or sensationalizing their plight, but depicts the severity of their tragedy by allowing audiences to observe their lives at face value.”

Mark Deming
All Movie Guide



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