



76. Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin

Berlinale Perspectives

وقائع زمن الحصار  
فيام لعبدالله الخطيب

CHRONICLES FROM THE SIEGE

A FILM BY ABDALLAH ALKHATIB

A Film by  
**Abdallah Alkhatib**

Produced by  
**Taqiyeddine Issaad**  
**EVIDENCE FILM**  
**ISSAAD FILM PRODUCTIONS**

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FILMS

Coproduced by  
**Sofiane Zermani - 2 PRINCES FILMS**



**Algeria – France - Qatar**  
**2026 | 94 min**

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# SYNOPSIS

While Arafat struggles to survive amid hunger, isolation, and the lack of psychological support, a group of friends slips through wall openings to gather what they need to face the winter cold, only to find themselves in Arafat's abandoned video store, where their friendship is put to the test.

Waleed pursues a simple pleasure that has become a rare treasure under the siege, while Fares, a relief activist, relies on his friends to clear the way so he can share a moment of intimacy with Huda amid the chaos of war and social constraints.

Farah, in her final month of pregnancy and seriously injured, struggles alongside her husband Saleh, a notorious war profiteer, to secure what is needed to save her life and that of her unborn child.

Between hunger, cold, desire, small pleasures, and survival, the film weaves a tapestry of ordinary lives upended by a suffocating siege, exploring how siege distorts priorities and turns the simplest human gestures into matters of survival.

Inspired by the director's personal experience during the siege of Yarmouk camp, the film reflects the broader Palestinian experience of siege, from the Nakba to the present day.



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# ABDALLAH ALKHATIB

*(Writer-Director)*

Abdallah Alkhatib, born in Damascus in 1989, began his academic journey studying sociology at the University of Damascus. He is currently continuing his studies in social work in Germany, where he lives and works as a writer, social researcher, and filmmaker.

In 2014, he was named “Peace Maker of the Year” by Greenpeace magazine in Germany, and in 2016, he received the Swedish Human Rights Award.

Abdallah directed his first feature-length documentary, Little Palestine, which won numerous awards at international film festivals.

In 2023, he completed his first short fiction film, Sokrania. He is currently in post-production on his second narrative feature, CHRONICLES FROM THE SIEGE.

*“I ended up in the film industry by accident. I never thought I would work in cinema, let alone become a director.”*

**ABDALLAH ALKHATIB.**





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# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I never intended to make films. I came to cinema by chance, when a camera fell into my hands in the besieged Yarmouk camp.

There, as a powerless witness, I began filming the echoes of a siege, capturing the first images of what would become Little Palestine, Diary of a Siege. The editing process was an act of survival and remembrance not a pursuit of aesthetics, but a revenge through images against the world's indifference, a cry against oblivion.

That first film could not contain all the stories lived through years of war. Faced with this limitation, the project initially felt futile. But recent images of the siege of Gaza revived the memories of Yarmouk and reignited the urgency to continue telling the story.

Chronicles from the Siege was born from this necessity: to carry the narrative forward, to transmit not only what the eyes have seen, but what the heart cannot remain silent about.

**ABDALLAH ALKHATIB.**  
*Writer-Director*







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## CAST



NADEEM RIMAWI



SAJA KILANI



AHMAD KONTAR



MARIA ZREIK



IDIR BENAIBOUCHE



AHMAD ZITOUNI



SAMER BISHARAT



EMAD AZMI



## CAST



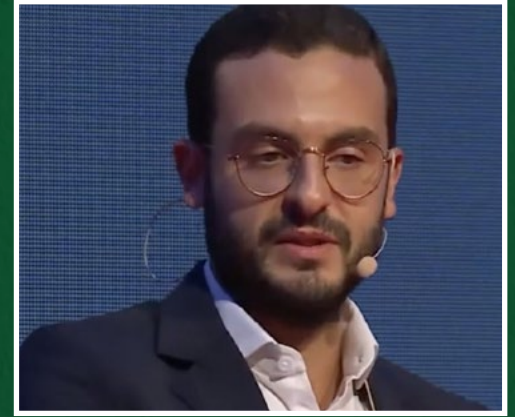
NOUR SERAJ



HAMZEH MAHADIN



HAYAT ABU SAMRA



OMAR ALMAJALI



WASSIM FEDRICHE



OMAR RAMMAL



ABDALLAH ALKHATIB



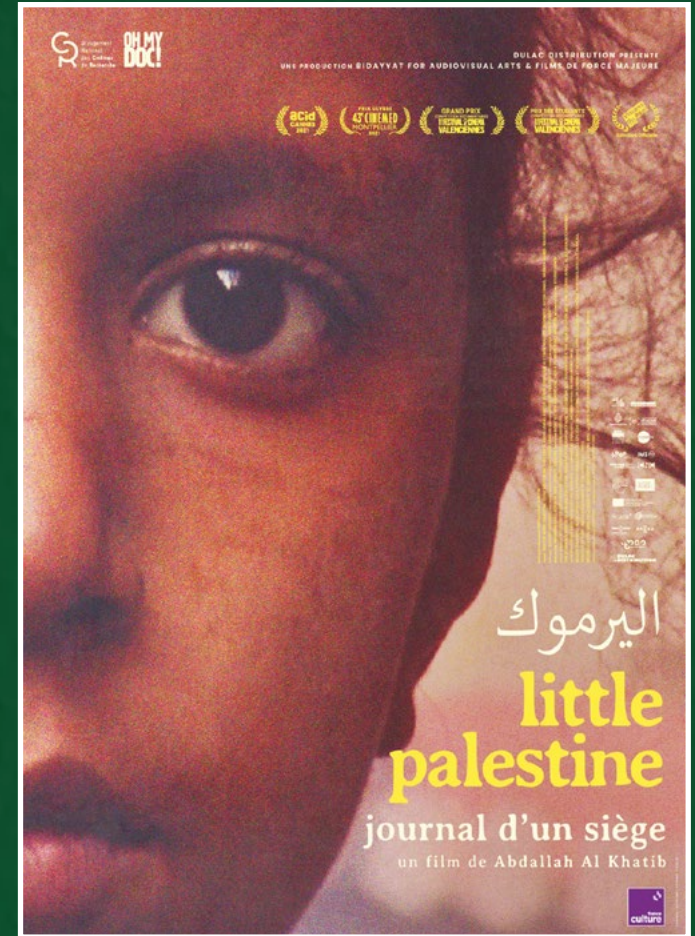
MAJD HIJAWI



# FILMOGRAPHY

## LITTLE PALESTINE : “Diary of a Siege” Documentary - 2021

- **Visions du Réel** (Switzerland, 2021) – Interreligious Award
- **ACID Cannes** (France, 2021) – Coup de Cœur des Jeunes (ACID Award)
- **IDFA** (Netherlands, 2021) – Best of Fests
- **Vancouver International Film Festival** (Canada, 2021) – Impact Audience Award
- **Filmfest Hamburg** (Germany, 2021) – Commerzbank Audience Award & Audience Award
- **Ajyal Film Festival** (Qatar, 2021) – Bader Best Feature Film Award
- **Journées Cinématographiques de Carthage** (Tunisia, 2021) – Tanit d'Or & TV5 Monde Award
- **Amman International Film Festival** (Jordan, 2022) – Best Feature-Length Documentary
- **Torino Film Festival** (Italy, 2021) – Gli Occhiali di Gandhi Award
- **BFI London Film Festival** (United Kingdom, 2021) – UK Premiere
- **Palestine Cinema Days** (Palestine, 2021) – Palestinian Sunbird Award for Best Documentary
- **Mostra – São Paulo International Film Festival** (Brazil, 2021) – Special Jury Mention
- **War on Screen** (France, 2021) – Press Jury Award
- **Festival 2 Cinéma de Valenciennes** (France, 2021) – Documentary Grand Prize & Student Prize
- **CINEMED** (France, 2021) – Ulysse Award
- **International Film Festival Innsbruck** (Austria, 2021) – Best Documentary Award
- **Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival** (Japan, 2021) – Best Film Award
- **International Film Festival Ottawa** (Canada, 2022) – Audience Award
- **The Critics Award for Arab Films** (France, 2022) – Best Documentary Award
- **Santa Barbara International Film Festival** (United States, 2022)
- **Mammoth Lakes Film Festival** (United States, 2022) – Courage Award (Documentary)





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**DIRECTOR & WRITER** Abdallah Alkhatib

**PRODUCER** Taqiyeddine Issaad

**SUPERISING PRODUCER** Salah Issaad

**COPRODUCER** Sofiane Zermani

Yacine Medkour

**EXICUTIVE PRODUCER** Mohammed Bendjebour

Mohammed Siam

Lara Abul-Failat

**CINEMATOGRAPHER** Talal Khoury

**EDITOR** Alex Bakri

**SOUND DESIGNER** Rana Eid

**COMPOSER** Nicolas Montaigne

**COLORIST** Michael Derrossett

**MIXING 5.1** Thomas Besson

