

MADAME COURAGE / feature film

Script and direction : **Merzak ALLOUACHE**

DURÉE DU FILM : 1H29MIN

COULEUR/COLOR - ARABE ALGÉRIEN/ALGERIAN ARABIC

DCP : 2K

SON : 5.1

FORMAT : 1.85, 24fps.

PRODUCTION

Producer : BAYA FILMS / Merzak ALLOUACHE (Algeria)

Co-producer : NEON PRODUCTIONS / Antonin DEDET (France)

TECHNICAL CREW & ARTISTICAL LIST

DOP : Olivier GUERBOIS
Sound : Amine TEGGAR
Editing : Tuong Vi NGUYEN-LONG / Yann DEDET
Assistant director : Amine KABBES
Script supervisor : Bahia ALLOUACHE

CAST

Omar : Adlane DJEMIL
Selma : Lamia BEZOUAOU
Sabrina : Leïla TILMATINE
Redouane : Abdellatif BENAHMED
Mokhtar : Mohamed TAKERRET

SYNOPSIS

Omar, an unstable and lonely teenager, lives in a slum in the suburbs of Mostaganem. He is addicted to a famous psychotropic, nicknamed "Madame Courage:" Artane tablets, very popular among young Algerians, for their euphoric effect of invincibility. Omar is a specialist in snatching. This morning, he goes downtown to commit his usual crimes. His first prey is a young girl called Selma, walking with her friends, prominently wearing a gold necklace. As he commits his larceny, their eyes meet.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Merzak Allouache is born in Algeria. He studied filmmaking in Algiers at the Institut National du Cinéma and subsequently at IDHEC in Paris. In 1976, he directed his first feature, "Omar Gatlato". He lived in France from 1983 until 1988, and then returned to Algeria to direct "Bab El Oued City" in 1993. Since then, he has directed films in both France and Algeria. "Normal!" (2011) won the prize for Best Arab Narrative Feature at the Doha Tribeca Film Festival. "The Repentant" (2012), screened in the Directors' Fortnight in Cannes, "The Rooftops" (2013) was selected for the official selection in Venice International Film Festival.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

With the film *Madame Courage*, I maintain a critical and uncompromising eye on Algerian society, through the story of Omar, an alienated teenager. He lives the social and psychological misery experienced by thousands of marginalized young people, that provides a breeding ground for violence. The scourges of radical Islamism and corruption have plagued Algerian society for decades. Nowadays, drugs, prostitution, violence and daily riots put the country at risk of social and political eruption and no one can measure its impact. I indeed think that a filmmaker originating or living in these profoundly changing societies cannot escape a duty of commitment in his or her films.

DIRECTOR'S FLMOGRAPHY

- 2013 **The Rooftops** (*Es-Touh*) feature film (France/Algeria)
Official selection – Venice Film Festival ; Best Arabic Film Award – Abu Dhabi Film Festival ; Best Arabic Director Award – Variety magazine ; FIPRESCI Award ; First Prize – Algiers Maghreb Film Festival Chicago South Asian Film Festival ; Munich Film Festival ; Amsterdam Arabic Cinema Festival ; Colcoa 2014 (Los Angeles) ; Cinemondo Villa Mediceis (Rome) ; Maghreb des Films (Paris) ; BFI London Film Festival...
- 2012 **The Repentant** (*El Taaib*) feature film (France/Algeria)
Directors' Fortnight – Cannes Film Festival ; Europa Cinema Award ; First Prize – Doha Film Festival ; Silver Hugo – Chicago Film Festival ; Best Actor and Best Actress Award – Angouleme Film Festival ; Best Actress Award – Cairo Film Festival ; Bilbao Human Rights Film Festival ; Scarborough Film Festival (Ontario) ; International Federation of Human Rights Film Festival (Geneva) ; Kerala Cinema Festival (India) ; FIPRESCI Award – Cannes Film Festival ; Brussels Mediterranean Cinema Festival ; Best Screenplay Award – Adis Abeba International Film Festival (Ethiopia) ; Pessac History Film Festival; Cordoba African Film Festival (Spain) ; Namur French-speaking Film Festival ; Best Actor Award – Pristina Film Festival (Kosovo) ; Rome Mediterranean Film Festival ; Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival ; Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival (Turkey) ; Warsaw Film Festival ; Rio de Janeiro Film Festival ; BFI London Film Festival ; Montreal World Films Festival ; La Rochelle Film Festival...
- 2011 **La Baie d'Alger**, TV feature film (France 2)
 Normal feature film (France/Algeria)
First Prize – Doha Film Festival ; Louxor Film Festival
- 2010 **Tata Bakhta**, TV feature film (France 2)

2009 **Harragas** feature film (France/Algeria)
 Venice Days - Special Jury Prize and Human Rights Award – Dubai Film Festival ; Gold Palm tree and Best Soundtrack Award – Valencia Film Festival (Spain)

2008 **Tamanrasset**, TV feature film (Arte)

2005 **Bab El Web**, feature film (France/Algeria)

2003 **Chouchou**, feature film (France)

2000 **The Other World** feature film (France/Algeria)

1999 **À bicyclette**, TV feature film (France 2)

1998 **La solitude du manager**, TV feature film (Arte)

1997 **Alger-Beyrouth pour mémoire**, TV feature film (Arte)
Life and Death of Journalists TV documentary (Arte)

1995 **Salut cousin**, feature film (France)
 Directors’s Fortnight – Quinzaine des réalisateurs Cannes Film Festival ; New-York Film Festival ; Gold Tanit – Carthage Film Festival – San Francisco Film Festival – Haïfa International film festival

1994 **Jours tranquilles en Kabylie**, documentary (Arte)

1993 **Bab El-Oued City**, feature film (France/Algeria)
 Un Certain Regard, FIPRESCI Award – Cannes Film Festival ; Telluride Film Festival

1991 **Voices of Ramadhan**, documentary (BBC 2)

1986 **Un amour à Paris**, feature film (France)
 French Cinema Perspectives Award – Cannes Film Festival

1983 **The Man who Watched the Windows**, feature film (Algeria)

1978 **The Adventures of a Hero** feature film (Algeria)
 Forum of Berlin Film Festival ; Gold Tanit – Carthage Film Festival

1976 **Omar Gatlato**, feature film (Algeria)
 Critics Week – Cannes Film Festival ; Moscow Film Festival ; Filmex Los Angeles ; Melbourne Film Festival

1974 **Tipasa la romaine**, documentary (France/Algeria)