



A HOUSE IN JERUSALEM

by Muayad Alayan

Palestine, UK, Germany, Netherlands, Qatar
2022 | 104' | Drama



SYNOPSIS

Young Rebecca is forced to move with her father from the UK to Jerusalem, in the hopes that a new beginning can help her heal from her mother's sudden death. Soon after settling into an old house in a neighbourhood known as the Valley of the Ghosts, a series of mysterious events begin and Rebecca is blamed. Diving deep into the mystery of the house and the mystical city of Jerusalem, Rebecca sets out on an enigmatic journey to discover what hides in the shadows of the house.

Crafted by the talented duo Muayad and Rami Alayan, *A HOUSE IN JERUSALEM* is an eerily suspenseful and touching story told through the eyes of a young girl, exploring the strength of memory and the power of love.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Muayad Alayan is a Palestinian film director and producer based in Jerusalem. His second feature film *The Reports on Sarah and Saleem* premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam where it won the Special Jury Prize of the Hivos Tiger Competition and the Hubert Bals Audience Award. It was also awarded the Grand Jury Prize at Seattle International Film Festival and Best Feature Film at Durban International Film Festival. The

film, which was supported by the Hubert Bals Fund, the Berlinale World Cinema Fund and the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture AFAC, has been distributed in over 30 territories.

His directorial feature debut *Love Theft and Other Entanglements*, premiered at the Berlinale Panorama in 2015 and went on to win two Best Arab Narrative Film awards as well as being nominated for several First Feature awards at Berlinale, Seattle International Film Festival, Taipei International Film Festival, Carthage Film Festival and others. It has been distributed in over 20 territories.

Alayan's first narrative short, *Lesh Sabreen*, premiered in competition at Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival and went on to compete at several other major festivals including Aspen Shortsfest, Cinemed, Palm Springs Shortfest and Dubai International Film Festival, in addition to over 60 other festivals worldwide.

Muayad worked extensively with youth and community centers and non-governmental organizations on projects promoting cinema culture and cinema infrastructure in Palestine. He also acted as instructor of directing and cinematography at several academic institutions. Alayan occasionally served as a jury member on several international and regional film festivals and funds.

A House in Jerusalem is Muayad's first English language film. He is currently in development of his first US set feature film.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In the foggy reality of adolescence, immersed in a disintegrating world, I wanted to talk about filial love, the transmission of violence, the vertigo of sexual discovery, trying to grasp what makes the border between hate and love so porous.

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

“The Reports on Sarah and Saleem” | 2018 | feature

“Love, Theft and Other Entanglements” | 2015 | feature

“Lesh Sabreen?” | 2009 | short

MAIN CREDITS

Title: A House in Jerusalem

Directed by: Muayad Alayan

Written by: Rami Alayan & Muayad Alayan

Cast: Johnny Harris, Miley Locke, Sheherazade Makhoul

Produced by: PalCine Productions, Wellington Films Limited

Co-produced with: Heretic, Metafora, ZDF / ARTE, Cocoon Films, Red Balloon Film, KeyFilm

Producer: Rachel Robey, Muayad Alayan, Dorothe Beinemeier, Hanneke Niens, Giorgos Karnavas, Alastair Clark, Rami Alayan, Abeer Salman

Co-producers: Isabelle Georgeaux

Countries of production: Palestine, UK, Germany, Netherlands, Qatar

Cinematography by: Sebastian Bock

Editing by: Rachel Erskine

Production design by: Bashar Hassuneh

Costumes by: Hamada Attallah

Make-up by: Kat Morgan

Music by: Alex Simu

Assistant director: Ina Luders

Line producers: Marie-Elena Dyche, Hanna Attallah

Associate Producer: Enas Al-Muthaffar

Sound by: Miguel Murrieta

Sound mix by: Thomas Knop

VFX by: Jorge Cañada Escorihuela, Stefan Beekhuijzen NVX

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Ioanna Stais

36, Alkmanos street, 11528 Athens, GREECE

+30 210 600 52 60 | ioanna@heretic.gr | www.heretic.gr