



Locarno Film Festival
Official Selection

النهر THE RIVER

a film by GHASSAN SALHAB

ALI SULIMAN

YUMNA MARWAN



INTERNATIONAL SALES
LES FILMS DU LOSANGE
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SYNOPSIS



It's autumn. A man and a woman are about to leave a restaurant situated in the heart of the Lebanese mountains. They are surprised by fighter planes screaming past at low altitude. In the distance, war seems to be breaking out once more. Losing sight of the woman, the man starts looking for her. He finds her on the other side of the mountain. Together they sink deeper into nature, which becomes increasingly spectral, just like the slender thread that ties them to each other.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I wonder if I've been changed in the night. Let me think. Was I the same when I got up this morning? I almost think I can remember feeling a little different. But if I'm not the same, the next question is 'Who in the world am I?'

Lewis Carroll

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

The River is the final part of a triptych that began with The Mountain and continued with The Valley. Three deliberately geographical titles, three territories. The link between these three films is essentially organic, an inalterable threat that affects everything, at every level, into the farthest recess, down to the very last of us, in our most private being, and which has hung over Lebanon so long that it, too, has imperceptibly become a territory.

The River recounts an afternoon spent until evening in the company of a young woman and a man, of whom we will know no more than what is exchanged and what can no longer be exchanged between them. One single afternoon, until day declines and plunges into night, amid nature that we tend to forget we are part of, and that is not simply a landscape, and this woman, this man, as the sole human presence, with a dog that appears out of nowhere, that follows them, deep in a forest, on a mountain, in the last days of fall, while yet another disaster seems to grip the country.



GHASSAN SALHAB

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Dakar, Senegal. In addition to making his own films, he collaborates on various scenarios and teaches film in Lebanon. He has directed eight full-length films: *Beyrouth Fantôme*, *Terra Incognita*, *The Last Man, 1958*, *The Mountain*, *The Valley*, *An open Rose/Warda* and *The river ...* in addition to numerous “essays” and different “video works”, including (Posthumous), *Chinese ink*, *Son Image*, and *Le voyage immobile*, with Mohamed Soueid.... La Rochelle International Film Festival, JCC Carthage and La Cinémathèque du Québec made a tribute to his work. He has also published different texts and articles in various magazines, and two books: “*fragments du Livre du naufrage*” and “*à contre-jour (depuis Beyrouth)*”.

FILMOGRAPHY



2021 *The River*

Locarno International Film Festival

2019 *An Open Rose / Warda*

Forum Berlinale

2014 *The Valley*

Toronto International Film Festival

Berlinale – Forum

2010 *The Mountain*

Toronto International Film Festival

2009 *1958*

Locarno International Film Festival

2006 *The Last Man*

Locarno International Film Festival

2002 *Terra incognita*

Cannes Film Festival – Un Certain Regard

1998 *Beyrouth fantôme*

Cannes Film Festival - ACID



*Why did she agree to see him ?
Why today, why not yesterday, the day before yesterday, or last week... ?*



Love is not enough.

ALI SULIMAN

2021 The River by Ghassan Salhab • Huda's Salon by Hany Abu Assad (in post-production) • Farha by Darin J. Sallam (in post-production) • Amira by Mohamed Diab • The Way of the Wind by Terrence Malick • **2020** Flash Drive by Dervis Zaim • 200 Meters by Ameen Nayfeh • **2018** It Must Be Heaven by Elia Suleiman • Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan (TV Series) Creators: Carlton Cuse & Graham Roland • The Looming Tower (TV Mini Series) Creators: Dan Futterman, Alex Gigney & Lawrence Wright • **2017** Baumschlager by Harald Sicheritz • The State (TV Mini Series) directed by Peter Kosminsky • **2016** Kaçıs by Kenan Kavut • Harmonia by Ori Sivan • The Worthy by Ali F. Mostafa • **2015** Rattle the Cage by Majid Al Ansari • The Idol by Hany Abu-Assad • A.K.A Nadia by Tova Ascher • **2014** From A to B by Ali F. Mostafa • A Borrowed Identity by Eran Riklis • Racing Hearts by Dominique Derudder • Mars at Sunrise by Jessica Habie • **2013** Lone Survivor by Peter Berg • Under the Same Sun by Sameh Zoabi • **2012** Inheritance by Hiam Abbass • The Attack by Ziad Doueiri • **2011** The Last Friday by Yahya Alabdallah • The Promise (TV Mini Series) directed by Peter Kosminsky • **2010** Do Not Forget Me Istanbul by Hany Abu-Assad, Stefan Arsenjevic, Aida Begic, Iosifina Markarian, Stergios Niziris, Omar Shargawi & Eric Nazarian • **2008** Pomegranates and Myrrh by Najwa Najjar • Body of Lies by Ridley Scott • Lemon Tree by Eran Riklis • **2007** The Kingdom by Peter Berg • **2005** Whispering Embers by Ali Nassar • **2005** Paradise Now by Hany Abu-Assad • **1996** Chronicle of a Disappearance by Elia Suleiman

YUMNA MARWAN

2021 The River by Ghassan Salhab • **2020** The translator by Rana Kazkaz & Anas Khalaf • Little Birds (TV Series) • Haifa Street by Mohanad Hayal • **2017** Writing on Snow by Rashid Masharawi • One of These Days by Nadim Tabet • The Incident (Short) by Meedo Taha • **2016** Submarine (Short) by Mounia Akl • Heaven sent by Wissam Charaf • **2015** 5th Floor Room 52 (Short) by Yahya Alabdallah • **2014** La Vallée by Ghassan Salhab

CAST

ALI SULIMAN
YUMNA MARWAN

CREW

Written and directed by
1st director's assistant
Produced by

In coproduction with

Production manager
Cinematography
Editing
Set design
Sound

Mixing
Music
Special effects

With the support of

GHASSAN SALHAB
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KHAMSIN FILMS (Lebanon)
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VISIONS SUD EST
WORLD CINÉMA FUND

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CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT**
<https://filmsdulosange.com/en/film/the-river/>

LEBANON, FRANCE, GERMANY, QATAR – COLOR – 101 min – 1:85 – 5.1

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