



INFORMATIONS GENERALES / INFO SHEET

THE UNKNOWN SAINT

LE MIRACLE DU SAINT INCONNU

de ALAA EDDINE ALJEM

durée : 100 minutes / Couleur / Format : 1.85 / 2K / 5.1 / 2019

Nationalité : Maroc, France, Qatar, Allemagne, Liban / Langues : Darija

Visa : 149 578

Contacts

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PRODUCTION	COPRODUCTION
LE MOINDRE GESTE Francesca Duca +212 6 45 42 90 87 fra.duca@gmail.com	ALTAMAR FILMS Alexa Rivero +33 6 60 56 11 68 alexa@altamar-films.com



Synopsis

ANGLAIS

Synopsis Short

Moments before his capture by police, a thief digs a grave to hide a bag of money.

Released from prison years later he returns to retrieve the bag, only to find a shrine to an Unknown Saint build directly over his loot, and a brand new village constructed all around it.

Synopsis Long

Amine steals a big bag of money and escapes into the hills with the police hot on his trail. Before he is arrested, he digs a grave to bury the cash and disguises it as a modest tomb. Years later, Amine is released from prison and sets off to find his money. In the meantime, a religious shrine has been built directly over the place he buried his cash. The mausoleum honors an unknown saint from the region whose tomb was recently discovered.

Down the hill from the resting place of the "The Unknown Saint", a new village subsists on the pilgrims who travel from far and wide to visit the mausoleum. Amine settles into the village and begins plotting a way in. But with the loot now hidden in a holy place, retrieving it suddenly becomes much more complicated.

FRANCAIS

Au beau milieu du désert, Amine court. Sa fortune à la main, la police aux trousses, il enterrer son butin dans une tombe bricolée à la va-vite.

À sa sortie de prison, l'aride colline est devenue un lieu de culte où les pèlerins se pressent pour adorer celui qui y serait enterré : le Saint Inconnu. Obligé de s'installer au village, Amine va devoir composer avec les habitants sans perdre de vue sa mission première : récupérer son argent.



Biographie du réalisateur

ANGLAIS

Trained at ESAV Marrakech and INSAS in Brussels, Alaa Eddine Aljem directed several short films, among them 'The Desert Fish' (2015), which gained great acclaim in the film festival circuit and took the Critics, Screenwriting and Grand Prize at the Moroccan National Film Festival. 'The Unknown Saint' is Aljem's debut feature. With this project, Aljem participated in the Open Doors Lab at the Locarno Festival, where it won the ICAM award. Aljem also took part in La Fabrique des Cinémas du Monde in Cannes in 2016, and in the Sundance Screenwriters' Lab. In 2016, Alaa was named by 'Screen International' as one the Five Arab Stars of Tomorrow.

FRANCAIS

Né à Rabat au Maroc, Alaa Eddine Aljem étudie le cinéma à l'ESAV Marrakech puis à l'INSAS à Bruxelles en master réalisation, production et scénario. Alaa travaille pour le cinéma et la télévision en tant que scénariste et assistant réalisateur avant de fonder avec Francesca Duca, Le Moindre Geste, une société de production basée à Casablanca.

Alaa réalise plusieurs courts-métrages de fiction dont LES POISSONS DU DÉSERT en 2015 qui remporte le grand prix du meilleur court-métrage, le prix de la critique et du scénario au Festival National du film au Maroc et est sélectionné dans de nombreux festivals internationaux.

LE MIRACLE DU SAINT INCONNU est son premier long-métrage en coproduction franco-marocaine, tourné à Marrakech. Lors du développement le projet, Alaa participe à Open Doors de Locarno et y remporte le prix ICAM, au Screenwriters' Lab du Sundance Institute et à La Fabrique des Cinémas à Cannes en 2016.

Filmographie du réalisateur

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|------|---|
| 2015 | LES POISSONS DU DÉSERT - THE DESERT FISH (court-métrage / short-film) |
| 2011 | DERNIER HOMMAGE - TRIBUTE (court-métrage / short-film) |
| 2009 | EDUCATION NATIONALE - NATIONAL EDUCATION (court-métrage / short-film) |
| 2008 | LE RITUEL (court-métrage / short-film) |



Note du réalisateur - Director's Statement

ANGLAIS

In my work, my starting point is often an absurd situation. 'The Unknown Saint' starts with a mausoleum, a spiritual place, under which a bag of money is buried. This mausoleum is considered holy to the inhabitants of the surrounding village. The village is sustained solely on the income generated by tourism around the shrine, even though the saint it honors neither existed nor was buried there. This mausoleum is the place around which multiple, entangled stories involving spirituality and greed converge. Nowadays, there is nothing so holy as money. In this film, I also wanted to show how mere rumours quickly spread and can turn into legends. 'The Unknown Saint' is shot in the vein of my previous films, in a simple and uncluttered way that underlines the gravity of certain situations yet also offers a space for the burlesque and the absurd.



Cast / Liste artistique

Amine (the thief / le voleur) Younes BOUAB
Ahmed (the Brain / le Cerveau) ... Salah BENSALAH
Hassan Bouchaib ESSAMAK
Brahim Mohamed NAIMANE
The Doctor / Le docteur..... Anas EL BAZ
The Nurse / L'infirmier..... Hassan BEN BDIDA
Aziz (the guard / le gardien) Abdelghani KITAB
The Hairdresser / Le coiffeur.. Ahmed YARZIZ

Crew / Liste technique

Director / Réalisation..... Alaa Eddine ALJEM
Producers / Productrices Francesca DUCA, Alexa RIVERO
Screenplay / Scénario Alaa Eddine ALJEM
Cinematography / Image Amine BERRADA
Editing / Montage Lilian CORBEILLE
Sound / Son Yassine BELLOUQUID, Paul JOUSSELIN, Matthieu DENIAU
Production Design/ Décors ... Kaoutar HADDIOUI
Music / Musique Amine BOUHAFA