

"Stitching Palestine" – "خيوط السرد"

A Documentary Film Directed by Carol Mansour



Produced jointly with **INAASH & Taawon-Lebanon**

Run Time: **78 minutes**

Year of Production: **2017**

Language: **Arabic with English subtitles**

Directed by: **Carol Mansour**

Research & Production: **Muna Khalidi**

Editor: **Carol Mansour**

Original Text by: **Sahar Mandour**

Embroidery Camera: **Talal Khuri**

Sound: **Nada Khoury**

Post-production: **Marwn Ziadeh**

Theme Song: **Nai Barghouti**



Best Feature Film Audience Award
2017 Boston Palestine Film Festival

For more information, contact: munakhalidi@fwdprod.com

Stitching Palestine: Synopsis

Twelve Palestinian women sit before us and talk of their life before the Diaspora, of their memories, of their lives and of their identity. Their narratives are connected by the enduring thread of the ancient art of embroidery.

Twelve resilient, determined and articulate women from disparate walks of life: lawyers, artists, housewives, activists, architects, and politicians stitch together the story of their homeland, of their dispossession, and of their unwavering determination that justice will prevail.

Through their stories, the individual weaves into the collective, yet remaining distinctly personal.

Twelve women, twelve life-spans and stories from Palestine; a land whose position was fixed on the map of the world, but is now embroidered on its face.

The women featured in the documentary are (in order of appearance):

1. Leila Khaled

Member, Palestine National Council
Member, Political Bureau of PFLP

7. Amal Ziad Kaawash

Artist
Singer/ Songwriter

2. Malak Hussein AbdelRahim

Founding Member, INAASH Association

8. Raeda Taha

Writer & Actor
Director, Khalil Sakakini Foundation

3. Mary Nazzal Batayneh

Barrister al Law
Activist

9. Laila Atshan

Consultant Psychotherapist

4. Sima Tuqan Ghandour

Founding Member, INAASH Association

10. Suad al-Amiry

Founder & Director of RIWAQ
Novelist

5. Salma el-Yasir

Director General
Institute for Palestine Studies

11. Huda al-Imam

Founder & Director
Center for Jerusalem Studies
Al-Quds University

6. Nazmiyyeh Salem

Embroiderer

12. Dina Nasser

Registered Nurse
Health Advisor

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/202956000>

WEBSITE: www.forwardfilmproduction.com

Director Biography & Filmography

Carol Mansour

Carol Mansour is an independent documentary film maker. She founded Forward Film Production in 2000 in Beirut, Lebanon. With over 25 years in documentary production, Mansour achieved international recognition and honor for her films, with over fifty film festival screenings and official selections worldwide.

Her films have been screened at several festivals in Europe and North America, winning numerous prestigious awards including most recently, the Best Documentary Award at the Al-Ard Film Festival in Sardinina, and the Women Film Critics Circle Award at Rated SR Festival 2015 in New York, for her 2014 documentary film “We cannot go there now, my Dear”. She was awarded Best Documentary at the Rated SR Festival 2014 in New York, and the Jury’s Special Mention at the FIFOG festival in Geneva for her 2013 film on the plight of Syrian refugee women "Not Who We Are". Her film on the 2006 Israeli war on Lebanon “A Summer Not To Forget” received Best Short International Documentary at the New Zealand Festival. She has also won the Jury’s Prize at the Institute du Monde Arab in Paris and Best Documentary at the Arab Film Festival in Rotterdam.

Carol’s work reflects her concern for human rights and social justice, covering issues such as migrant workers, refugees, environmental issues, mental health, rights of the disabled, war and memory, right to health, and child labor.

Carol is Lebanese of Palestinian origin. She studied in Montreal, Canada, and is currently living and working from Beirut, Lebanon.

List of Documentary Film

- "Stitching Palestine" (Premiered on March 29, 2017); 78'; Twelve women share their stories of Palestine on the backdrop of traditional embroidery
- "It's Just Another Place" (2016), 36'; experiences of people living with Down Syndrome and their families
- "We cannot go there now, my Dear" (2014), 42'; the double-refugee experience of Palestinians from Syria
- "Not Who We Are" (2013), 71'; Syrian refugee women in Lebanon
- "We Want To Know" (2012), 42' ; exploring the memory of the Lebanese civil war
- "Where do I begin?" (2011), 36'; mental health in Lebanon
- "All for the Nation" (2011), 52'; examining the inability of Lebanese women to give the nationality to spouses and children
- "I Come From a Beautiful Place" (2010), 33'; Iraqi and Sudanese refugees in Lebanon
- "Voices from Yemen" (2009), 30'; the challenges facing Yemeni working women
- "Maid in Lebanon II: Voices from Home" (2008), 40'; the connection of female migrant domestic workers with their home countries
- "A Summer Not to Forget" (2007), 27'; chronicling the Israeli war on Lebanon of 2006
- "Invisible Children" (2006), 26'; working children
- "Maid in Lebanon" (2005), 27'; highlighting the plight of female migrant domestic workers
- "100% Asphalt" (2002), 26'; street children of Cairo

Photos:



Carol Mansour



Thobe Front



Amal Kaawash



Laila Atshan



Huda al-Imam



Mary Nazzal Batayneh



Nazmiyyeh Salem



Sima Tuqan Ghandour



Salma el-Yassir



Malak Hussein AbdelRahim



Suad al-Amiry



Dina Nasser



Leila Khaled



Raeda Taha



Stitching 1



Stitching 2

From the Press:

- "عشرات الذكريات.
والصور.
والمشاهد.
والصيحات الصامتة.
والصرخات الداخلية.
والأحاسيس المتضاربة.

وعلامات الاستفهام التي حاولت من خلالها السيدات الـ12 محو غبار الأيام.
لماذا كل هذا الظلم؟"

<https://www.annahar.com/article/563846-%D8%AE%D9%8A%D9%88%D8%B7-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B1%D8%AF-%D9%84%D9%83%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%84-%D9%85%D9%86%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%B8%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%88%D9%81%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B2>

- "لدى نساء فلسطين ونسوياتها ما يقفنه. وهو ليس مائعاً كخطاب «حقوق الإنسان» بنسخته الليبرالية. لديهن تاريخ كامل ورغبة حقيقية بالمقاومة لألف عام أخرى".

<http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/274918>

- "Dans l'exil, l'artisane incorpore des soupirs de douleur à son ouvrage, avec la conscience de ressusciter, à coups d'aiguille, une image de sa patrie. Une relique transportée de Palestine et pétrie d'une Palestine nouvelle, réimaginée au gré de mémoires « transmises ». La broderie est de ces choses qu'un persécuté emmène avec lui et remodèle. Comme le souvenir. Avec la même obsession de le ressusciter."

<https://www.lorientlejour.com/article/1043977/-stitching-palestine-ou-la-palestine-qui-ne-cesse-de-se-recoudre.html>

- "But perhaps most refreshing is that the women, even as they talk about men and family, are the heroines of these stories, committing ordinary acts of resistance and finding courage in dire situations.

...

It takes female writers and filmmakers to disrupt the drawn-out narrative of women being and existing in relation to men. We may be daughters, sisters, wives and/or mothers, but the intricacy of life doesn't cease to exist because of broader political and social issues.

...

When these women thread their narratives like a tapestry, the result is personal stories that merge into a collective one, all of which many people can relate to, and feel for."

<http://www.sbs.com.au/topics/life/culture/article/2017/11/07/threads-life-power-telling-palestinian-stories>

- "the story was one of resistance, of heritage, and of sisterhood, beyond social class and status, binding Palestinians in the homeland and in the Diaspora.

Stitching Palestine introduces twelve women who are connected to Palestine in one way or another. The women represent different generations: Those who witnessed the Nakba in 1948, to those who lived their whole lives within the occupation, and those who only heard tales of a home in Palestine. Embroidery acts as a link to the Palestinian identity."

<http://beirut-today.com/2017/11/16/stitching-palestine-resistance-comes-many-forms/>