



# THE ATTACK

A film by Ziad Doueiri

Produced by Jean Bréhat, Rachid Bouchareb  
Screenplay by Ziad Doueiri and Joëlle Touma

Based on the novel by Yasmina Khadra

Official Selection  
2012 Telluride Film Festival  
2012 Toronto International Film Festival

*102 Minutes  
35mm, Scope, Color  
Arabic/Hebrew  
English subtitles*

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## **SYNOPSIS**

Amin Jaafari (Ali Suliman) is an Israeli Palestinian surgeon, fully assimilated into Tel Aviv society. He has a loving wife, an exemplary career, and many Jewish friends. But his picture perfect life is turned upside down when a suicide bombing in a restaurant leaves nineteen dead, and the Israeli police inform him that his wife Sihem (Reymonde Amsellem), who also died in the explosion, was responsible. Convinced the official police report is wrong, Amin completely rejects their accusation but his conviction is shaken when he receives a posthumous letter from Sihem confirming her role in the carnage.

Shattered by the revelation and desperate to understand how he could have missed any signs of his wife's murderous intentions, Amin abandons the relative security of his adopted homeland and enters the Palestinian territories in pursuit of the zealots he believes recruited her.

Once there, he plunges into ever more dangerous places and situations where he is unaccepted and unwelcome. Determined and throwing caution to the wind, he presses on seeking answers to questions he never thought he'd be asking.

By the end of his journey, Amin is forced to confront a deeper, more appalling truth than he had ever expected; his inability to see who his wife truly was and his failure to understand the reality that created her.

THE ATTACK is adapted from Yasmina Khadra's international bestseller of the same name. Originally published in 2005, the novel has been translated into more than 40 languages and has won numerous awards worldwide.

## **ABOUT ZIAD DOUEIRI – DIRECTOR**

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, Ziad Doueiri grew up during the country's Civil War. He left Lebanon at 20 and studied in the United States, graduating in 1986 with a degree in Film from San Diego State University.

Ziad worked as an assistant camera and a camera operator in Los Angeles from 1987 to 1997 on numerous films including Quentin Tarantino's RESERVOIR DOGS, PULP FICTION, and JACKIE BROWN.

In 1998 Ziad wrote and directed his first feature film WEST BEIRUT, which earned him critical acclaim and numerous awards at festivals around the world. His second feature was LILA SAYS, a critical hit which played at Sundance among other festivals.

In addition to his film work, in 2005 Ziad directed the IMMIGRANT episode from Season 1 of the award winning and Golden Globe nominated Showtime series SLEEPER CELL.

Ziad is currently developing AFFAIRES ÉTRANGERES (FOREIGN AFFAIRS), co-written by Joëlle Touma (co-writer THE ATTACK and LILA SAYS) with Gérard Depardieu to star. Actor/producer and Academy Award-nominee Rachid Bouchareb's Paris-based company Tessalit, and 3B Productions' Jean Bréhat are producing. The film centers on a retired French diplomat (Depardieu) who is secretly sent by the U.S. government to negotiate an agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

## **ZIAD DOUEIRI FILMOGRAPHY**

### **WEST BEIRUT, 1998**

Directed and written by Ziad Doueiri

#### AWARDS

CANNES 1998	DIRECTOR'S FORTNIGHT
François CHALAIS AWARD	
TORONTO 1998	INTERNATIONAL CRITIC'S AWARD
PARIS 4 <sup>e</sup> Biennale des Cinémas Arabes	GRAND PRIX IMA, ARAB CRITICS AWARD
TAIPEI 1998	GRAND JURY PRIZE
CARTHAGE 1998	BEST FIRST FEATURE
	COE AWARD
FRIBOURG 1999	BEST SCREENPLAY
VALLADOLID 1998	YOUTH AWARD
BRUSSELS 1998	AUDIENCE AWARD
GOLDEN GLOBES 1999	LEBANON'S OFFICIAL ENTRY
AMPAAS 1999	LEBANON'S OFFICIAL ENTRY

#### FESTIVALS

Beirut, Goteborg, Rotterdam, New Directors/New Films (New York), Hong Kong, Singapore, Sydney, Melbourne, Wellington, Institut Franco-japonais de Tokyo, Berlin, Warsaw, View into the World, Tetouan, Sao Paulo, Helsinki, Rialto, Seventh Heaven Film Fest, Haifa.

### **LILA SAYS, 2004**

Directed by Ziad Doueiri; written by Ziad Doueiri and Joëlle Touma

#### AWARDS

GIJON FILM FESTIVAL	BEST FILM, BEST SCREENPLAY, BEST ACTOR
VERONA FILM FESTIVAL	GRAND JURY AWARD

#### FESTIVALS

Toronto, Sundance, Miami International

### **Ziad Doueiri's Camera Department credits:**

JACKIE BROWN by Quentin Tarantino (1997)  
STAND-INS by Harvey Keith (1997)  
TRIAL AND ERROR by Jonathan Lynn (1997)  
THE SECOND CIVIL WAR by Joe Dante (1997)  
COUSIN BETTE by Des McAnuff (1996)  
FROM DUSK TILL DAWN by Robert Rodriguez (1996)  
UNDER SIEGE by Andrew Davis (1995)  
THE FEAR by Vincent Robert (1995)  
FOUR ROOMS by Quentin Tarantino, Robert Rodriguez (1995)  
ACROSS THE MOON by Lisa Gottlieb (1994)  
PULP FICTION by Quentin Tarantino (1994)  
THE WRONG MAN by Jim McBride (1993)  
THREE OF HEARTS by Yurek Bogayevicz (1993)  
RESERVOIR DOGS by Quentin Tarantino (1992)  
UNDERCOVER (TV series, 1991, Warner Brothers)  
EDGE OF HONOR by Michael Spence (1991, Wind River Productions)  
VESTIGE OF HONOR by Jerry London (1990, CBS)  
TALES FROM THE CRYPT (TV series, 1987, Paramount)

## ABOUT YASMINA KHADRA- AUTHOR

“Yasmina Khadra is one of the rare writers capable of giving a meaning to the violence in Algeria today” - **NEWSWEEK**

Internationally renowned author Yasmina Khadra (né Mohammed Moulessehoul) was born in 1955 in Algeria. His best-known works include *Wolf Dreams*, *The Sirens of Baghdad*, *The Swallows of Kabul* and *The Attack*. His books have been published in more than 40 countries worldwide. *The Swallows of Kabul*, *The Attack* and *The Sirens of Baghdad* constitute a trilogy devoted to the mutually unheeding dialogue between East and West.

Yasmina Khadra is a Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur and Officier des Arts et des Lettres. In 2011, the Académie Française awarded him the Grand Prix de Littérature Henri Gal for his contribution to literature.

### SELECTED AWARDS AND SALES

#### ***The Attack* (2005)**

(600,000 copies sold in France alone)

Prix de Libraires  
Prix Tropiques  
Discovery Prize - *Figaro Magazine*  
Grand Prix des Lectrices Côté Femme  
Prix Gabrielle d'Estrées  
Young Critics' Award (Austria)  
Book of the Year (Happenheim, Germany)  
Segalen Prize - Singapore  
Finalist - International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award

#### ***What the Day Owes the Night* (2008)**

(540,000 copies sold in France alone)

*Lire* Book of the Year  
Prix Roman France Télévisions  
Finalist - Berlin Internal Literature Prize

#### ***The Swallows of Kabul* (2002)**

Book of the Year - *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Christian Science Monitor* Newsweek Awards (Kuwait)  
Prix de Salon Littéraire - Metz  
Algerian Bookshop Award  
Finalist - International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award

#### ***Dead Man's Share* (2004)**

Prix Littéraire Beur FM Méditerranée - Best French-language thriller

#### ***Cousine K* (2003)**

Prix de la Société des Gens de Lettres.

#### ***L'Écrivain* (2001)**

Médaille de vermeil - Académie Française.

## **CINEMA**

*Morituri* was adapted for the big screen as a French-Algerian coproduction, directed by Okacha Touita. *What the Day owes the Night* has been adapted (as *Ce que le jour doit à la nuit*) by director Alexandre Arcady, and will be released on September 12, 2012. *The Swallows of Kabul* is soon to be adapted as an animated feature.

## CAST

Amin	ALI SULIMAN
Siham	REYMONDE AMSELLEM
Kim	EVGENIA DODINA
Capt Moshe	URI GAVRIEL
Adel	KARIM SALEH
Raveed	DVIR BENEDEK
Faten	RUBA SALAMEH
The Priest	RAMZI MAQDISI

## CREW

Director	ZIAD DOUEIRI
Scriptwriters	ZIAD DOUEIRI AND JOËLLE TOUMA
Producers	JEAN BRÉHAT, RACHID BOUCHARÉB
Associate Producer	MURIEL MERLIN
Coproducer	GENEVIEVE LEMAL
Executive Production	LAMA FILMS - AMIR HAREL FRESCO PRODUCTION SERVICES - TONY COPTI SCOPE PICTURES
Line Producers	EFRAT BIGGER, TONY COPTI, GLADYS BROOKFIELD-HAMPSON
Postproduction Supervisor	CEDRIC ETTOUATI
1st Assistant Directors	MICHAL ENGEL, ORNA LIBKIND, EHAB BAHOUS, DAVID BALDARI
Editors	DOMINIQUE MARCOMBE, ZIAD DOUEIRI
Script Supervisor	LARA ZOABI
Director of Photography	TOMMASO FIORILLI
Sound Engineer	PIERRE GAUTHIER
Wardrobe Supervisor	HAMADA ATALLAH
Art Director	YOEL HERZBERG
Make Up Artist	STEPHANIE AZNAREZ
Mixers	PHILIPPE BAUDHUIN, RAMI DOUEIRI
Original Score	ERIC NEVEUX
Still Photographers	VERED ADIR, SOPHIE DAVIN
Production Company	3B PRODUCTIONS
Coproduction	BROADCAST MANAGEMENT WORLDWIDE, SCOPE PICTURES, DOURI FILMS
In Association with	CANAL+, CINE+, RANDOM HOUSE FILMS
French Distributor/World Sales	WILD BUNCH
Processing Lab	L'EQUIPE
Shooting Schedule	NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011 (8 WEEKS)
Locations	PALESTINE, BRUSSELS
Editing Schedule	JANUARY-APRIL 2012

Based on the novel L'ATTENTAT by Yasmina Khadra (© Editions Julliard – Paris, France)

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