

TNAASH طنعش

Arabic · Lebanon · 86 min · 2022 · Boudy Sfeir, writer-director

SOCIAL DRAMA · JURY-ROOM THRILLER

The destiny of a young refugee falls in the hands of twelve jury members.

SYNOPSIS

Post-explosion Lebanon. A fictional judicial reform creates the country's first jury trial. Twelve ordinary citizens, drawn from across Lebanon's sectarian, political, and social divides, are locked in a dilapidated room inside the national electricity company to decide the fate of a Syrian refugee accused of murdering a social activist. Two witnesses saw the accused fleeing the scene. Death penalty is in effect. One verdict required: unanimous. One juror votes innocent. Alone against eleven. The others are impatient to leave. What follows is not a debate about evidence. It is an excavation of everything Lebanon has buried.

THE ROOM

Filed inside a real room at Lebanon's national electricity company, chosen for its symbolic weight. The state of the location mirrors the state of the country: degraded, barely functional, impossible to ignore.

DIRECTOR'S VISION

"What would a group of Lebanese people, from different sectarian and political backgrounds, do when they have to take a unified decision? Would they be objective, even for once?"

Boudy Sfeir · director's statement



RECOGNITION

Best Local Feature Fiction

Lebanese Independent Film Festival · LIFF 2023

Official Selection · LAFA 2023

Official Selection · Oniros 2023

Official Selection · FFLF (France)

Every Arab knows this room.

Two audiences watch this film. One recognises every face in the jury: personally, viscerally, without subtitles. The other enters through a genre they already know and finds a film that genre was never equipped to make until now.

4 August

THE OPENING CONDITION

The Beirut port explosion, 2020. 218 dead. 300,000 displaced overnight.

The film begins one week later. Every Lebanese viewer knows exactly where they were.

14 M

DIASPORA AUDIENCE

People of Lebanese origin outside Lebanon, 3x the domestic population. FFLF selection confirms they are already watching. This film does not need to be discovered.

1 in 4

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

At time of filming, one in four residents of Lebanon was a Syrian refugee, the highest per-capita rate in the world. This is the man on trial.

“This realistic mood undresses the Lebanese society and reveals its collective subconscious. There’s a collective memory carrying a lot of wars, displacement, traumas, and disintegration.”

Cinema release press statement · November 2023

CORE AUDIENCE: MENA & DIASPORA

Lebanese, at Home and Abroad

Grand Cinemas Lebanon proved the domestic appetite. The **14M diaspora** (France, Brazil, the US, Australia, the Gulf) does not passively follow Lebanese cinema: it arbitrates it, and recommends outward. FFLF confirms the pipeline is live.

Arab World: Gulf, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq

5.5 million registered Syrian refugees mean the man on trial is not a symbol: he is a neighbour across Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and the Gulf. Gulf SVOD is the fastest-growing Arabic-language market: **\$1B+** projected by 2026, Shahid at **20M+** monthly active users.

BRIDGE AUDIENCE: INTERNATIONAL

A jury-room film in a country with no jury system

Lebanon has no jury trials. The premise requires twelve citizens to reach a unanimous verdict: civic imagination performed where it does not exist. Where **12 Angry Men** tested an ideal, Tnaash performs it in a country where it never has. International audiences read this as genre. Lebanese audiences feel it as provocation.

The acquisition pipeline is proven

Capernaum (Lebanon, 2018): **\$64M worldwide. Perfect Strangers** (Arabic, Netflix 2022): Netflix’s first Arab original: **1 in MENA** in five days, top 5 globally non-English in its debut week. **Farha** (Jordan): Netflix acquisition. **Four Daughters** (Tunisia, 2023): Cannes UCR. **Theeb** (Jordan): BAFTA, Film Movement distribution. Saudi Arabia: **\$245M box office in 2023**, from zero in 2017. These are the shelves this film belongs on.

Audiences leave debating the verdict

“How would you vote?”

Viewers leave with a verdict. They debate it, share it, disagree publicly. The formal constraint is built-in social content. No campaign required..



THEATRICAL RELEASE

Grand Cinemas Lebanon

November 16, 2023
ABC Ashrafieh · Verdun · Dbayeh

FESTIVAL CIRCUIT

Best Local Feature · LIFF 2023

LAFA 2023 · Oniros 2023 · FFLF (France)

FORMAT & DELIVERY

Arabic (original language)
English and French subtitles
DCP · Digital · Streaming-ready

PLATFORM PATHWAY

ARABIC-LANGUAGE

Shahid / MBC · Weyyak
StarzPlay Arabia · Jeem

INTERNATIONAL ARTHOUSE

MUBI · Criterion Channel · NEON
Film Movement · Icarus Films



Boudy Sfeir

Lebanese Film Director · Screenwriter · Creator

Sfeir has directed across genres (psychological thriller, folk comedy, digital farce), building toward *Tnaash*, his most formally rigorous work and the film that placed him on the international festival circuit. His previous credits include Shahid/MBC originals and Amazon Prime, making him one of the few Lebanese directors with a track record across theatrical film and major Arabic-language streaming platforms.

CINEMATIC APPROACH

Camera and lighting serve symbolic realism. Sfeir uses snap-zoom to make the viewer feel like a voyeur inside the room: present but uninvited. The camera follows actors as if they control it, then freezes to let them express freely. Fast-rate editing drives sustained tension through the film's ensemble conversation. Sound design layers street noise and military aviation, placing Lebanon's external state inside the sealed room.

FILMOGRAPHY

2026 · MICHA

Director/Writer · Psychological Horror · In Development
A young woman seeks help from an AI therapist. Something else answers back.

2025 · Zahrat Omri (زهرة عمري)

Director · Shahid Platform / MBC Iraq
[Watch on Shahid →](#)

2024 · Girls'Play

Creator/Director · Amazon Prime
[Watch on Prime →](#)

2024 · Harim Al Jarah

Creator

2022 · Tnaash (طنعش)

Director/Co-writer · 86 min
Best Local Feature · LIFF 2023
Official Selection · LAFA · Oniros · FFLF
Grand Cinemas Lebanon, November 2023

2021 · The Visit

Co-writer · Shahid Original

2019 · Red Lebanese

Director

2018 · Mala 3al2a (ملا علا)

Director/Writer

2017 · Ekil, Sherib, Neyim (أكل، شرب، نيام)

Director/Writer

2014 · Debut Feature

Psychological thriller. Village. Media, exorcism, collective belief.