LEBANESE JURY-ROOM DRAMA

tnaash

Twelve jurors. One Syrian defendant. One dissenting vote. In post-explosion Lebanon, Tnaash turns a first fictional jury trial into a fast pressure-cooker of prejudice and reasonable doubt.

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

> "What would happen if a group of Lebanese people, from different sectarian and political backgrounds, were forced to reach a unanimous decision?"
>
> BOUDY SFEIR, WRITER/DIRECTOR

OFFICIAL SITE

Visit tnaash.mov

Synopsis, stills, cast notes, director materials, and technical information in one place.

Open official site →

TRAILER

Play trailer

Premise, stakes, and tone in under two minutes.

Watch trailer →

SYNOPSIS

Post-explosion Lebanon stages its first jury trial and seals twelve citizens inside a deteriorating room at the national electricity company. They must decide whether a young Syrian refugee murdered a social activist. The death penalty is in play.

Eleven hands go up for guilty. One juror says not guilty, not because he is sure, but because the room has not earned certainty. From there the film moves by reversals and faction shifts until the case starts sounding like a country arguing with itself.

AWARDS & FESTIVALS

- WINNER — NEW CREATORS FILM AWARD — 2023
- Best Local Feature Fiction — Lebanese Independent Film Festival — LIFF 2023
- BEST EDITING — FLORENCE FILM AWARDS
- BEST ACTRESS — Socially Relevant Film Festival — 2023
- WINNER — LOS ANGELES FILM AWARDS — 2022
- WINNER — SoCal Film Awards — 2023
- WINNER — Five Continents International Film Festival — 2023
- Award Winner — Brussels Capital Film Festival — 2022
- WINNER — FESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL — 2022
- AWARD WINNER — Oniros Film Awards® - New York — 2022

A high-stakes Arab jury drama that lands first where accent, class, and nationality decide credibility.

It starts with viewers who know what it means to be read before they are heard, then widens through suspense and conversation.

113M
EGYPT
MENA's largest audience. Displacement, class friction, and the refugee argument are already daily life.

37M
SAUDI ARABIA
44% expatriate population. Status, accent, and belonging read instantly in everyday life.

#1 MENA
PERFECT STRANGERS
Adult Arabic conflict scales when the hook is clean and the conversation starts fast.

> **The film works because viewers locate themselves fast: who deserves doubt, whose accent counts against them, and who is rushing the room toward a verdict.**

WHO FEELS THIS FIRST

Egypt

The film reads instantly in Egypt: who gets believed, who gets suspected, and who is judged before the facts arrive. The Syrian defendant makes that fault line visible immediately.

Saudi Arabia

In Saudi Arabia, the film plays first as status sorting: who sounds local, who reads as outsider, and who gets the presumption of innocence. In an expatriate-shaped society, that lands fast.

Pan-Arab + Diaspora

Across the region and diaspora, the room feels familiar: macho certainty, sect memory, class shorthand, and institutions asking for trust they have not earned.

WHY IT PEAKS NOW

The pressures are hotter now than at first release: Syrian displacement is unresolved, Beirut still has no accountability, and Egypt has absorbed 1.5M Sudanese refugees since 2023. The story still plays as current, not catalogue.

COMPARABLE SIGNALS

Perfect Strangers

Arabic · Netflix · 2022

#1 MENA

in 11 Arab countries, debut week

Adult Arabic ensemble conflict scaled because the hook was immediate and the conversation started fast. Here the stakes are higher: a man's freedom.

Capernaum

Lebanon · 2018 · Nadine Labaki

$68M

worldwide on a $4M budget

Lebanese cinema travelled $68M on a live fault line. When the tension is specific, the film outruns its market size.

Farha

Jordan · Netflix · 2022

Viral

Cultural debate drove discovery

When the public argument is already hot, discovery follows. This film enters an unresolved argument.

Why It Travels

The first viewers live the argument. The next wave follows the hook: twelve jurors, one defendant, one holdout. At 86 minutes, it is easy to try and easy to recommend.

UNHCR 2025 · Saudi GASTAT 2024 · Netflix Top 10 · Omdia

Boudy Sfeir

Lebanese writer-director working across theatrical features, Arabic-platform originals, and streaming series

Sfeir combines authored feature instincts with platform-tested storytelling. His work moves from psychological thriller and folk comedy to premium Arabic series, and Tnaash condenses that range into an 86-minute jury-room film with a clean hook, escalating reversals, and serious thematic weight.

CINEMATIC APPROACH

Sfeir treats the jury room as a national pressure chamber. Snap-zooms, hard editorial pivots, and the noise of the street keep Lebanon pressing in on every exchange, turning speech into momentum and disagreement into suspense.

SELECTED WORK

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 · Premium Arabic series

2024 · Girls'Play
Creator/Director · Amazon Prime

2024 · Harim Al Jarah
Creator

2022 · Tnaash (طنعش)
Director/Co-writer · 86 min
Festival run including LIFF Best Local Feature, followed by theatrical release at Grand Cinemas Lebanon.

Selected earlier work

2021 · The Visit — Co-writer · Arabic platform original

2019 · Red Lebanese — Director

2018 · Mala 3al2a (ملا عالا) — Director/Writer

2017 · Ekil, Sherib, Neyim (أكل، شرب، نيام) — Director/Writer

2014 · Debut Feature — Psychological thriller about media, exorcism, and collective belief

CONTACT

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This ensemble gives the film multiple recognition pathways before the verdict even lands. **Tarek Yaacoub** led Broken Keys, Lebanon's 2022 Academy Award submission and a Cannes Un Certain Regard selection. **Christina Farah** and **Mohamad Assaf** appeared in The Insult, Lebanon's first Oscar-nominated feature. Assaf also anchored Al Hayba across six seasons, while **Ali Al Najjar** connects to Makhraj 7 and Haqq Arab.

That matters because the film does not arrive as an unknown-faced chamber piece. It carries festival-circuit credibility, premium-series familiarity, comedy and stage reach, and a recognisable Lebanese screen texture. **Sany Abdul Baki**, **Tony Dagher**, and **Sara Abdo** widen the appeal beyond straight arthouse viewing.

ENSEMBLE AT A GLANCE

Tarek Yaacoub IMDb IG
Broken Keys · Kteer Kbeer

Christina Farah IMDb IG
The Insult

Mohamad Assaf IMDb IG
Capernaum · Al Hayba

Sara Abdo IMDb IG
Glimpses of a Future · Stage

Yara Zakhour IMDb IG
A Sad & Beautiful World

Tarek Hakmi IMDb IG
Valley of Exile

Tony Dagher IMDb IG
Improv Lebanon · Ɜaka Ɜba

Ali Al Najjar IMDb
Makhraj 7 · Haqq Arab

Sany Abdul Baki IMDb IG
Stage · Acting Coach

Patrick Chemali IMDb
Awake

Shady Ardati IMDb
Theatre

Ali Choucair IMDb
Ensemble