

# 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.**

“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

## 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

Filmed 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.



## RECOGNITION

### Best Local Feature Fiction

Lebanese Independent Film Festival · LIFF 2023

Award · LAFA 2023

Award · Oniros 2023

Official Selection · FFLF (France)

## THEATRICAL RELEASE

### Grand Cinemas Lebanon

November 16, 2023

ABC Ashrafieh · Verdun · Dbayeh

## FORMAT & DELIVERY

Arabic original · EN/FR subtitles

DCP · Digital · Streaming-ready

# Twelve men decide if one of them belongs. 400 million Arabic speakers recognize the room.

Justice, identity, coexistence. Tnaash turns a jury room into the conversation the Arab world is ready to have.

## 113M

### EGYPT

MENA's largest audience. 1.5M Sudanese arrived since 2023. The question of who belongs is a daily conversation in Cairo.

## 37M

### SAUDI ARABIA

44% expats, fastest-growing cinema market. "Who belongs?" is the defining question of a nation reshaping itself.

## #1 MENA

### PERFECT STRANGERS

Arabic ensemble drama. 11 Arab countries. Top 5 non-English globally. The format works on platforms.

A Syrian refugee is on trial for murder. Twelve ordinary citizens must decide his fate. Their prejudices, traumas, and identities collide until what started as an open-and-shut case becomes a mirror for the entire society watching.

## WHY THIS RESONATES NOW

### Egypt

In the film, jurors argue whether a refugee deserves justice or deportation. In Egypt today, **1.5 million Sudanese** have arrived since 2023, joining existing Syrian and Yemeni communities. 113 million Egyptians are watching the same debate play out in their own neighbourhoods: who gets to stay, who gets a voice, who belongs. Egyptian audiences will recognise every character in that room.

### Saudi Arabia

One juror says: "Lebanese, only on my ID." He has a Syrian mother and a Lebanese father. He has spent his life proving he belongs. In Saudi Arabia, **44% of the population are expatriates**, 9 million Egyptians work across the Gulf, and Vision 2030 is redefining who a Saudi can be. The jury room is a room 37 million people already sit in.

### Pan-Arab + Diaspora

Every Arab country has its version of that room. The fault lines are universal: class, origin, religion, gender. ~15M Lebanese abroad, millions more Arab communities navigating identity between cultures. This audience drives organic discovery and long-tail viewership.

## WHY THEY STAY

**Built for completion.** Evidence dismantled piece by piece, votes shifting from 11-1 guilty to unanimous. No comfortable resolution. Viewers stay for the verdict, recommend it because the question follows them home. **7 awards and a FFLF world premiere** give platforms prestige Arabic drama that earns press, not just views.

## PLATFORM PERFORMANCE

### Perfect Strangers

Arabic · Netflix · 2022

## #1 MENA

in 11 Arab countries, debut week Arabic ensemble drama that forced uncomfortable conversations. Same format, same audience.

### Capernaum

Lebanon · 2018 · Nadine Labaki

## \$68M

worldwide on a \$4M budget Lebanese film about a refugee child. Cannes Jury Prize. Proved MENA stories travel globally.

### Farha

Jordan · Netflix · 2022

## Viral

Cultural debate drove discovery Conversation → trending → subscriber spike. Identity films generate the engagement platforms pay for.

### The content gap

Platforms have Arabic comedy, romance, and action. What's missing: prestige Arabic drama about shared identity that travels across the region. Tnaash fills that gap.

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

# Boudy Sfeir

Writer-Director



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 create voyeur proximity: present but uninvited. Fast-rate editing drives sustained tension through ensemble conversation. Sound design layers street noise and military aviation, placing Lebanon's external reality 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  
Award • LAFA 2023 • Award • Oniros 2023 • Official Selection • 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.

## CONTACT

### Boudy Sfeir

Writer-Director • Tnaash  
Representation: CULTSCALE  
[mnmm@cultscale.com](mailto:mnmm@cultscale.com)  
[cultscale.com](http://cultscale.com)

AVAILABLE FOR INTERNATIONAL ACQUISITION • Screener, DCP, and complete materials on request • Arabic original • EN/FR subtitles • 86 min  
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