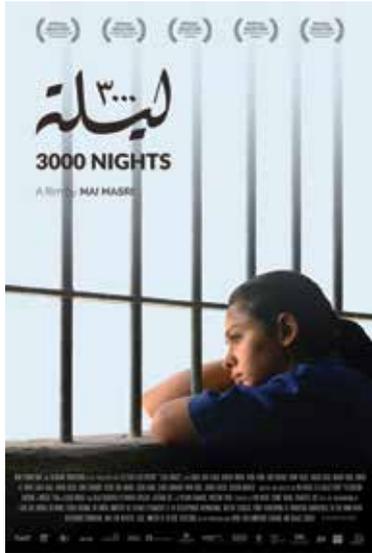


**3000 NIGHTS**

Directed by Mai Masri



*Palestine/France/Jordan/Lebanon/United Arab Emirates/Qatar | 103 minutes |*

Railroaded into an Israeli prison on a terrorism charge, a young Palestinian woman discovers that she is pregnant just as a group of her fellow inmates launches a revolt against the prison administration. A story of motherhood in the most dire of circumstances, *3000 Nights* makes a prison into a metaphor for Palestine under occupation, exploring how the institution shapes the complicated interplay of resilience, empathy, and psychological manipulation.

Mere minutes after young bride Loyal (Maisa Abd Elhadi) picks up a young man hitching a ride on a West Bank road, she finds herself handcuffed and arrested. Charged with aiding a Palestinian

militant group in an operation against the occupying Israeli army, she is given a long sentence in a high-security penitentiary. Barely has Loyal become acquainted with the prison's codes of survival when she discovers she is pregnant, facing the terrifying prospect of having a baby behind bars. But she becomes caught up in a larger struggle when, defying the perverse system of control that the prison administrators deploy to thwart solidarity among women, the prisoners stage an insurgency to defend their basic rights.

A veteran documentary filmmaker making her first fiction film, Mai Masri conducted extensive research with former women prisoners, including many who delivered children while serving a sentence.

The all-Palestinian cast delivers compelling performances, notably Raida Adon in the role of Shulamit, an Israeli heroin addict who is abused by the prison warden. But despite the bleak circumstances it portrays, *3000 Nights* is not a dark film. Quite the opposite; it is a hopeful and lucid elegy to the resilience of the human spirit in its tireless struggle for dignity.

Since the film's world premiere at Toronto International Film Festival, *3000 Nights* has been well received in film events. The film competed at Busan International Film Festival in South Korea and had a full-house screening at BFI London Film Festival.

A Palestinian co-production between France, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Lebanon, *3000 Nights*

stars Maisa Abdelhadi and Nadera Omran. Intramovies is in charge of World Sales and MAD Solutions is in charge of Arab distribution of the film.

Mai Masri studied film at UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University (USA) where she graduated with a BA degree. Her filmography includes *Under the Rubble* (1983), *Wild Flowers: Women of South Lebanon* (1986), *War Generation - Beirut* (1998), *Children of Fire* (1990), *Suspended Dreams* (1992), *Children of Shatila* (1998), *Hanan Ashrawi: A Woman of Her Time* (1995), *Frontiers of Dreams and Fears* (2001), *Beirut Diaries: Truth, Lies and Videos* (2006) and *33 Days* (2007).

*Review by Rasha Salti, Toronto International Film Festival*