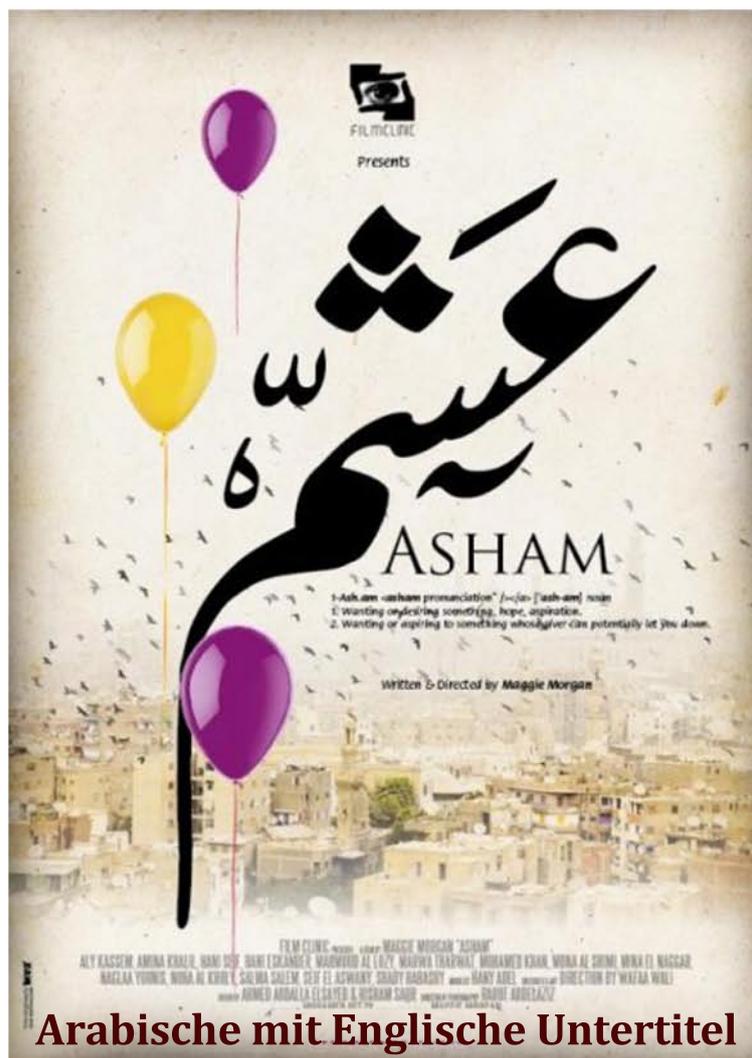




Der Kulturrat und Direktor der Studienmission
Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ghoneim
gibt sich die Ehre, Sie
zu der Vorführung des Ägyptischen Films
"Asham (Erwartungen)
einzuladen



am Donnerstag den 30 Oktober 2014 um 19:00 Uhr
in die Kulturabteilung & Studien Mission
der Arabischen Republik Ägypten
Charlottenstr. 81 , 10969 Berlin

R.S.V.P.

Tel:030-2593760 Fax:030-25937610 Email: berlin@egyptculture.de

Asham

A 87-minute feature film.

Written and directed

By Maggie Morgan

Asham

Six intertwined stories about aspiration, disappointment, and hope set against the backdrop of a restless Cairo, itself on the brink of change.



1-Ash.am <asham pronunciation" /> [‘ash-am] noun

1. Wanting or desiring something, hope, aspiration.
2. Wanting or aspiring to something whose giver can potentially let you down.

Synopsis

Asham is a jack-of-all-trades. Shop owners hire him to wear masks and over-sized costumes and hand out flyers on the street. He hates the costumes. They make him feel invisible and ridiculous. He calls himself an "artist," people call him a clown. Sometimes, they ask him about the meaning of his name, "Asham," an Egyptian word that means hope or expectation. More often though, they make fun of the strange name. Asham dreams of escaping the confines of his stuffy costumes and creating a different life for himself.



Asham is a film in the style of **Coffee** and **Cigarettes** and **Nine Lives**. Six intertwined stories about aspiration, disappointment, and hope are tied together loosely through the character of Asham who encounters the characters at critical points in their lives. The stories take place against the backdrop of a restless Cairo before the January 25 revolution. The city is troubled: traffic is gridlocked, a man threatens to throw himself off a building to protest government injustice, street peddlers are harassed by the police. The tension is palpable.

Note: The film is edited in a way that intertwines all the stories below. Asham meets the main characters on various days. The meetings with Asham and the characters add an "unreal" element to the film. Some of the characters also cross paths with each other. The summary below tells the stories separately for the sake of simplifying this treatment. The actual edited film will show the stories as they progress, mixed with one another, on the various days. The editing is still a work-in-progress.

The story that begins and ends the film is "El Andaleeb" (The Nightingale), follows the development of an unlikely friendship between Magdy, a young doctor about to emigrate to the United States and Ibtisam, a nurse's assistant tentatively discovering a new world far from her rural upbringing.



“Min Enaharda” (From Now On) is the story of Nadia, who undergoes a profound change in outlook as she waits for the results of her husband’s cancer tests.



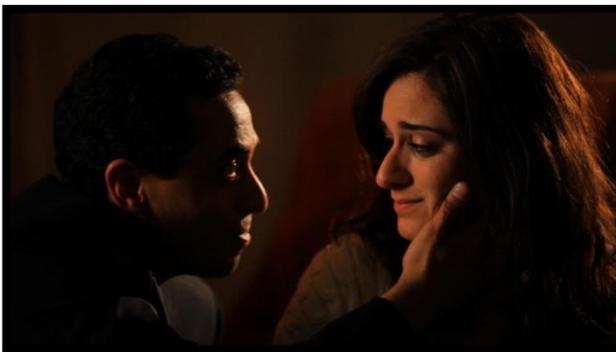
“Reda” follows Reda’s metamorphosis from gauche country girl limited to working as a bathroom attendant to ambitious, street-smart salesgirl with a job at a chic boutique.



In “Fostoq” (Pistachio), childhood sweethearts Dalia and Ashraf are forced to examine their de facto relationship when Ashraf is offered a job abroad.



“El Manwar” (The Skylight), traces the story of Nadine and Ramzy, a married couple coming to terms with the possibility that they may never have children.



The heroine of the final story, “**Farida**,” is a successful, attractive woman with strongly held convictions about freedom and individuality. A chance encounter with an old friend reminds her of a bittersweet but suffocating summer romance that took place several years ago.



The characters are all at points of transformation. Some realize their aspirations; others must accept the limitations of their lives. They all share a longing for something better, something different; they all share "asham."

Director's Biography

Maggie Morgan

An Egyptian filmmaker based in Cairo

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Maggie Morgan is an Egyptian filmmaker born in Alexandria and living in Cairo. Since 1998, she has worked as a director and producer in Cairo, making documentaries, short features and medium-length features.

In 2002, her first documentary, *The Picture*, was shown at various Arab festivals and then on OTV. In 2006, she wrote and directed, *Minhom Feehom* (From Within: Her Stories), which was released in March 2007 at the First Arab Women's Film Festival in Cairo and critically acclaimed in the Egyptian press. It was screened at a large number of festivals, including the Abu Dhabi International Film Festival and the Arab Film Festival in San Francisco in 2007. The film was later broadcast on OTV. In 2009, she completed her second documentary, *Egypt in the Eyes of Mair*, commissioned by and screened on MBC's Al-Arabiya Channel. The film was the winner of the second prize at the 03 Productions Competition. In 2010, she began working on *Asham*, her first feature-length fiction.

She has also collaborated with many independent directors as a producer and development producer. These include Ibrahim El Batout, Hassan Khan, Nadine Khan, Eman El Naggar, Tamer El-Said and Viola Shafik on the development and production of their work.

Maggie has acted as part of the Interfilm jury twice: at the Cannes Film Festival in 2005, and at the Locarno Film Festival in 2006. In 2008, she was a jury member for the short film competition at the Abu Dhabi International Film Festival. She also worked with Marianne Khoury (Misr International Films, Youssef Chahine and Co.) on the first edition of the Cairo Film Connection, an initiative of the Cairo International Film Festival. She is currently a jury member of the committee appointed by the Egyptian Ministry of Culture to choose best scripts of features, documentaries and short films for production grants.

Main Cast

Asham

Shady Habashy

Nightingale

Mina Al Naggar

Mona Al Shimi

From Now On

Noha Al Kholy

Mahmoud Al Lozy

Amgad Reyad

Dina Reda

Reda

Naglaa Youniss

Ali Kassem

Seham Abd Al Salam

Mariam Elias

Pistachio

Hany Seif

Salma Salem

Safeya Sami

Manwar/Skylight

Amina Khalil

Mohamed Sarhan

Mohamed Khan

Farida

Marwa Tharwat

Seif El Aswany

Hani Eskander

Salwa Mohamed Ali

Note on the Visuals and the Editing of the Film

Asham was shot using a Canon 5D, on location in Cairo and Alexandria.

The style of the multiple intertwined stories of Asham, showing people coming to and fro, within the city meant that the film gained momentum and energy by shooting on location. We wanted to shoot on the streets and in real homes, cafes, and buses.

Because the film tells the stories of different people, we wanted to have an eclectic shooting style, varying between styles of lighting and camera movement.

Camera movement was intentionally simple because there was an ongoing process of improvisation between the actors and the director. The camera moved—on a crane or chariot—only when it was absolutely necessary.





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Presents

عاشم

ASHAM

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2. Wanting or aspiring to something whosoever can potentially let you down.

Written & Directed by Maggie Morgan

FILMCLINE PRESENTS A FILM BY MAGGIE MORGAN "ASHAM"

ALY KASSEM, AMINA KHALIL, HANI SEIF, HANI ESXANDER, MARMOUD AL LOZY, MARIWA THAWAY, MOHAMED KHAN, MONA AL SHIMI, MONA EL NAGGAR,

NAGLA YOUNIS, NINA AL KHILY, SALMA SALEM, SEIF EL ASHWANY, SRAZY BABASSY, MUSIC BY HANY ADEL, EDITORIAL DIRECTION BY WAFRA WALI

PRODUCED BY AHMED ABDALLA EL SAYED & HUSAM SAJJR, EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: EMMANUEL ABDELAZIZ

PRODUCED BY MOHAMED NETZY, WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MAGGIE MORGAN

ASHAMTHEMOVIE.COM

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