

# **Lebanese Film Festival in Denmark LFF 2020/2021**

## **Overview**

The Lebanese film festival in Denmark **LFF** is an annual festival dedicated to Lebanese cinema and Danish society. Its the first edition of it, and it will take place from April 8th 2021 to April 11th, 2021.

Lebanese Film Festival in Denmark **LFF** comes out of the womb of the urgent need to introduce that aspect of the Lebanese culture to the Danish audience in order to give a truthful image about Lebanon, and hence, shorten up the distances between the two cultures and empower the arts.

The festival organizers believe in promoting successful Films who took the Lebanese cinema industry to a different level.

Culture is a mean that reflects the history and reality of a nation. Cultural exchange is a bridge to tighten up the distance between two countries. Cultural diplomacy consists of exchanging ideas, thoughts, arts and different layers of culture among countries and their people in order to enhance mutual cooperation and understanding.

Film is a very powerful tool. It is easily accessible and viewed by people who find difficulties to interact with any other form of art. This is why films can reach a wide audience that includes people from different ages, genders, social classes and nationalities. Not similar to any other medium or tool, a film creates a sense of immediate involvement and interaction.

## **Objective**

The main objective of this festival is a tribute to Beirut after the explosion that took place on August 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 and devastated not only Beirut and the Lebanese people but also the international community.

The festival is designed for Lebanese filmmakers who have invested in films:

- To encourage cultural diversity and understanding between nations
- To foster the Lebanese cinema by stimulating the development of quality cinema,
- To promote filmmakers and innovative works
- To discover and encourage new talents
- To promote meetings between cinema professionals from Lebanon and Denmark.

Every year, films from Lebanon, are selected in many festivals around the world and most of them are academy awards and Oscars winner like “Capernaum”, 2018, by Nadine Labaki and the “Insult”, 2017, by Ziad Doueiri, who will be screened during the festival. The Festival welcomes cinema professionals and the general public in Denmark. Besides cinema lovers the festival will

gather media professional artists, musicians, actors, producers, directors and “art and culture” students’.

This year festival includes six feature movies. In addition to its program of screenings, the Festival presents a wide series of film-related activities.

The opening ceremony starts with a song dedicated to the Danish people and international community entitled “I come with salute from Lebanon”, Composed and arranged by Jean Kairuz and interpreted by Zoya Awky

More than anything, the Festival is about a spirit of fun, good company, get connected. Every edition is a chance to get together and celebrate our passion for film. The multiple days Festival is designed as a space devoted to listen to Lebanese music, especially Fairuz songs (Fairuz is an international Lebanese singer who received lately a “Legion of Honor”, France’s highest award from President Macron). Lebanese food will be served for degustation (mezze) where film fans can come together with artists and professionals to exchange ideas in an informal setting. The Festival will also feature discussions with experts and filmmakers as well as workshops led by producers and Directors aiming to represent well the Lebanese movie industry, its challenges and opportunities.

## **Goal group**

Our goal is mainly to reach the regular Danish audience and the professional filmmakers that live in Denmark. Thus, a forum of interaction is created through film and strengthen the ground of cooperation between Lebanese and Danish filmmakers.

The festival program consist of six feature films.

## **Movie selection**

### **“1982” by Oualid Mouaness, 2019, 1h 40m**

During the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, at a private school on the outskirts of Beirut, 11 years old Wissam tries to tell a classmate about his crush on her, while his teachers on different sides of political divide, try to mask their fears.

Awards: Selected for international feature film Oscar category. Won jury prize, audience award, best film in different film festivals around the world.

### **“All this Victory” (Jedar el Sot) by Ahmad Ghossein, 2019, 1h 33m**

Lebanon, July 2006. War is raging between Hezbollah and Israel. During a 24h cease fire, Marwan gets trapped under the bombs, at his father’s friend house while searching for him. A group of Israeli soldiers enter suddenly the house, the next three days sees the situation out of control.

Awards: 3 awards in Venice International Film Critics’ week, audience award and Mario Sandrei’s award for best technical contribution.

**“Listen” by Philippe Aractangy, 2017, 1h 49m**

Joud a romantic sound engineer, falls in love with Rana from a different social and religious background. As rana’s parents forbid Joud from seeing her, he creatively finds a way of communicating with her, by editing together sound compositions.

Awards: Best Cinematography and Best script Lebanese movie awards 2017. Winner Film critic Award Alexandria film festival 2017. Official selection Golden Globes 2017

**“The Insult” by Ziad Doueiry, 2017, 1h 54m**

A minor incident between a Lebanese Christian and Palestinian refugee turns into an explosive trial that ends up dividing the two communities.

Awards: Academy Awards USA 2018 nominee, AFI 2017 Audience Award, BIFF award winner 2017, Silver Star winner El Gouna film festival 2017, Munich Film Festival 2018, and many more.

**“Broken Keys” by Jimmy Keiruz, 2020, 90m**

A pianist tries to escape persecution in his Middle Eastern town between Iraq and Syria, where modern ways of living and music have been banned by extremist groups.

Awards: official submission for best “International feature film” category of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Academy Award, 2021, a follow up among Cannes official selection.

**“Good Morning” by Bahij Hjeij, 2018, 1h 36m**

The film progresses through 16 sequences/days, each day a formal General and army Doctor meet in a café, and sit by a corner bay window overlooking Beirut life. They meet to play crosswords to preserve their memory and fight against oblivion. The two men’s thoughts in the context of the chaos that surrounds the region.

Awards: Rimbaud award 2020, Best Director at Malmo Arab film festival 2019, Lebanese movie award 2019.

## **Screening Program**

**March 4<sup>th</sup>**

**6 pm: Opening Ceremony**

**8 pm: 1982**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**6 pm: All this Victory**

**8 pm: Listen**

**March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**6 pm: Good Morning**

**8 pm: The Insult**

**March 7<sup>th</sup>**

**6 pm: Broken Keys**

Kindly note that the expected audience is fifty persons per screening according to governmental instructions due to “Covid-19” measures. The organizers will follow rules and regulations if any change takes place in due time.

## **Guests**

**LFF** is hosting the six directors of the screened movies and actor Adel Karam since he participated in two movies as a main character.

Oualid Mouaness for 1982  
Ahmad Ghossein for All this Victory  
Bahij Hjeij for good Morning  
Jimmy Keiruz for Broken Keys  
Ziad Doueiry for the Insult  
Philippe Aractangy for Listen  
Ahmad Ghossein for All this Victory

Adel Karam main actor for “The Insult” and “Broken keys”.

## **Our Contributors**

Lebanese Film Festival in Denmark aims to reach the largest possible audience. We have initiated collaborations with the following contributors; some helping financially and others with audience members.

The organizers believe that cultural organizations and artists’ syndicate are among their targeted audience and play a major role in making the festival a successful one.

Artists syndicate (directors, actors, journalists) and Culture Danish organizations are invited to actively participate in the festival.

## **Team**

The Idea of the Lebanese Film festival is founded in 2020. The Lebanese Film Festival in Denmark challenges the local perceptions of Lebanon, its people, culture and traditions, the negative impressions as well as the stereotypes associated with the Lebanese community in Denmark and their depiction in the media worldwide and provides an insight into contemporary Lebanese culture to the large Danish community.

- **Zoya Awky**, Founder and codirector.
- **Rana**, Cofounder and PR manager.

Budget Lebanese Film Festival 2021

Filmleje	7.800
Salleje	12.000
Flyers/posters	3.000
Sociale medier	4.000
Teknik	1.500
Transport, flybilletter	11.000
Forplejning	8.000
Print og kopi	1.000
Grafisk design	3.000
Fotograf	5.000
Musik	3.000
Hotel	6.500
I alt	65.800