

In Between

Cert 15 Israel 2017 101 mins

Crew

Director /
 Screenplay Maysaloun Hamoud
 Cinematography Itay Gross
 Film Editing Lev Golster &
 Nili Feller
 Original music MG Saad



Cast

Mouna Hawa Leila
 Shaden Kanboura Nour
 Sana Jammeliéh Salma
 Mahmud Shalaby Ziad Hamdi
 Henry Andrawes Wissam

Synopsis

Tel Aviv, the present. Nour, a shy and sweet-natured devout student, seems distinctly out of place with her new flatmates - Leila, a successful lawyer, and Salma, a club DJ. Their lives seem to be very different from hers - Leila, a Muslim, has a Jewish boyfriend, and Salma, a Christian, is a lesbian, and they both seem to spend every night drinking and partying.

But as they get to know each other it's clear that the three share more than just a flat, as they try to be true to themselves and still co-exist with their traditional communities.



Booking Information

Distributor: Peccadillo Pictures

DVD bookings:

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 020 3617 4979
 kahloon@peccapics .com
 www.peccapics.com

Available: now



Reviews

While films and TV series about the trials and tribulations of female friends living, loving, and working in a big city may be fairly common (*Sex and the City* and *Girls* to name a couple), Arab-Israeli writer-director Maysaloun Hamoud refreshes the genre's tropes with her energetic feature debut *In Between*. What makes this spiky dramedy so compelling are the Palestinian-Israeli protagonists, whose split lives have rarely been depicted on screen. These strong, modern, sexually active women, living independently in the centre of Tel Aviv, away from their families and the weight of tradition, struggle to be true to themselves when confronting the expectations of others.

....Hamoud's clever, nuanced screenplay offers a critique of traditional, patriarchal Palestinian society, threatened by modernity, feminine power, and the court of public opinion. It also highlights the casual racism of Israeli-Jewish society toward Arabs, from the people on the street who might shy away from a woman in a headscarf to the snarky manager at the restaurant where Salma works who yells at the kitchen staff for speaking to each other in Arabic.

While the entire cast is ace, the three leads, and the chemistry among them, are especially fine; they poignantly convey the sense of living "in between" and the toll that it takes on their lives. Cinematographer Itay Gross shows the freedom and vibrancy of the women's Tel Aviv life with bright colours and wide open spaces in contrast to the dull colors and claustrophobic spaces of village life.

Alissa Simon, Variety, September 2016

....A complicated ensemble piece with a lot going on, *In Between* is an astonishingly mature feature debut from Hamoud, who balances themes and events with great skill. Importantly, the women at the centre of her story never really seem remote from the Palestinian Israeli society around them, but emerge from it as part of an organic whole. ... It doesn't just raise women's voices; it tells a very human story about women who are complex and believable and intriguing.

Jennie Kermode, Eye for Film, September 2017

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ Writer/director Maysaloun Hamoud was born in Hungary to Palestinian parents. She studied film-making in Tel Aviv. She is an Israeli citizen.
- ☆ After being criticised for taking Israeli state funding for *In Between*, her debut feature, she found herself the subject of death threats and a fatwa, accused of being a heretic and harming Islam.
- ☆ Elsewhere, the film has been well received. Hamoud was awarded the Women in Motion Young Talents award at the 2017 Cannes festival. Isabelle Huppert, who selected her for the award, declared that "the free spirited and joyful women [Hamoud] portrays... are true heroines of our time".