



## FILM INFO

# LAST DAYS OF THE MAN OF TOMORROW

SHORT FEATURE - GERMANY / LEBANON - 2017

Written and directed by Fadi Baki

Production Company / Press Contact:

visual stories – Produktionsbüro Pfeiffers GbR, Berlin

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# Manivelle - Last Days of the Man of Tomorrow

## Original Title

Last Days of the Man of Tomorrow

## Arabic Title

الغد رجل أيام آخر

## Duration

29 min

## Language

Arabic

(Subtitle Versions: English, German)

## Production Countries

Germany, Lebanon

## Completion

Summer 2017

## Shooting Locations

Beirut (Lebanon), Berlin (Germany)

## Category

Fiction

## Genre

Fantastic / Mockumentary

## Topics

Lebanon

memory

regret

national narratives

Film about filmmaking

## Funded by

Robert Bosch Stiftung

Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien – BKM Germany

medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Germany

## Technical Data

**original material**

HD

**exhibition format**

DCP 2K

**color / black and white**

color (in parts bw)

**aspect ratio**

1 : 1,85

**frames per second**

25 fps

**sound**

Dolby Surround 5.1

## Manivelle - Last Days of the Man of Tomorrow



### Short synopsis *(205 characters)*

This is the tumultuous story of Manivelle, an automaton whose rise and fall mirrors that of Lebanon itself. Once the wonder of his age, today Manivelle is a rusty and mostly forgotten curiosity. Could the immortal „Man of Tomorrow“ really be dying and if so, what are his regrets?



### Long synopsis *(441 characters)*

Charting the rise and fall of Manivelle, an automaton gifted by France unto Lebanon on the occasion of its independence, the film catches up with the worn-out robot today. A young filmmaker investigates the legend that still haunts an abandoned mansion in Beirut. After being coaxed back out into the limelight, the people who knew Manivelle come forward to speak their mind, and the myth that Manivelle has constructed around himself starts to unravel.

# **Manivelle - Last Days of the Man of Tomorrow**

## **Director's Statement**

I would like to present you with the oft forgotten story of Manivelle, known to those who remember him as the man who had everything. Gifted to Lebanon on the occasion of its independence, Manivelle was a walking, talking automaton; a miracle of art and technology that represented the future of the new man of the Orient. His remarkable beginning as an item of wonder was quickly outshined by his accidental development of sentience. As such, Manivelle became a true heir of the Lebanese nation, traversing its history as its prodigal son. Yet born at such great heights only meant that his fall would be much further. Today, he is a relic of an era past; mechanical detritus in an age of quicksilver, remembered only for squandering his miraculous existence.

Being born in Lebanon during the 70s meant that my childhood played out against a backdrop of Star Wars, Japanese animation and a civil war. That holy trinity was instrumental in developing my tastes for science fiction and the fantastical, and has pushed me to seek out a career where I can indulge those inclinations. While these predilections are common escapism for kids everywhere, it helped children of my generation make sense of the chaos that was taking place outside our windows. Giant robots and space operas provided us with the mythological backdrop to understand and structure the struggle against which we grew up.

Yet, as I grew older and the Lebanese civil war ended, I discovered that our contemporary local culture was quick to abandon the fantastical. In many ways it reflected the national approach to dealing with the memory of the war: amnesia. When hostilities ended in '92, a general amnesty was decreed, a new page turned and the country was set to continue into the 21st century as if nothing had happened. The militiamen and their warlords traded in their weaponry for official positions and the country pretty much locked itself into repeating history. It is crucial that we address those gaps in our national narrative lest they consume us once again.

(Fadi Baki)

# Manivelle - Last Days of the Man of Tomorrow

## Cast and Crew

### Cast

Jannick Miklitz .....	Manivelle (man in suit)
Tony Harouni .....	Manivelle (voice)
Romy Melhem .....	Nour
Houssam Sabbah .....	Vartan

### Crew

Fadi [the fdz] Baki .....	writer, director
Omar Khouri .....	concept design
Chris Creatures .....	robot and puppet creation
Maia El Khouri .....	set decorator
Tobias von dem Borne .....	director of photography
Zeina Abul Hosn .....	editor
Lama Sawaya (db Studios) .....	sound design
Nadim Mechlawi .....	music
Lucid .....	color correction
Niklas Hlawatsch .....	producer
Bernadette Klausberger .....	producer
Jinane Dagher .....	producer
Sabine Sidawi .....	producer

# Manivelle - Last Days of the Man of Tomorrow

## CV Fadi Baki (writer, director)

Fadi [the fdz] Baki: Born in Beirut, 1977

A co-founder and co-editor of Samandal, one of the Middle East's premiere comics magazines, and Beirut Animated, the Lebanese animation film festival, Fadi currently divides his time between teaching, motion graphics, comics and filmmaking.



## Filmography Fadi Baki

2000 - It Came from Almakkab (medium length mockumentary)

2006 - El Burro Magnifico (short)

2007 - A Headline Romance (short)

2007 - Cecil Balmond interview for Louisiana Museum exhibition

2013 - Jibni (music video)

2013 - the Beatdown (music video)

2013 - Balut (short)

2016 - Shatila (documentary)

2017 - Last Days of the Man of Tomorrow (short)

# **Manivelle - Last Days of the Man of Tomorrow**

## **Production & Distribution (in Germany)**

### **visual stories – Produktionsbüro Pfeiffers GbR**

Niklas Hlawatsch, Bernadette Klausberger  
Oranienstrasse 17, 10999 Berlin, Germany  
office@visual-stories.org  
www.pfeiffers.info

### **Filmography visual stories (selection)**

2017 - Last Days of the Man Of Tomorrow – Regie: Fadi Baki (short)  
2012 - Stampede – Regie: Cyril Amon Schäublin (short feature)  
2011 - Tango – Regie: Miriam Bliese (short feature)  
2010 - Passanten – Regie: Ramon Zürcher (short feature)  
2009 - Next – Regie: Joshan Esfandiari Martin (experimental short)  
2008 - 35.000 Stunden – Regie: Julia Langhof (short feature)  
2008 - Reinhardtstraße – Regie: Ramon Zürcher (short feature)  
2008 - Lenny – Regie: Cyril Amon Schäublin (short feature)

## **Co-Producer (Lebanon)**

### **orjouane productions**

Jinane Dagher, Sabine Sidawi  
Beirut- Mathaf- Damascus street- Tyan Bldg- 1st floor  
orjouaneproductions@gmail.com  
www.orjouaneproductions.com

### **Filmography orjouane productions (selection)**

2017 - Yumna - by Rania Rafei (feature film, in development)  
2017 - Folktale of Palestine - by Dahna AbouRahme (documentary, in development)  
2017 - Last Days of the Man Of Tomorrow - by Fadi Baki (short film)  
2016 - Les Hommes Debout - by Maya Abdul-Malak (documentary) \* Yamagata Film Festival  
2016 - A Maid For Each - by Maher Abi Samra (documentary) \* Berlinale - Forum Section (Peace Film Prize)  
2013 - The Ugly One - by Eric Baudelaire (feature film) \*Locarno Film Festival  
2012 - 74 (The Reconstitution of a struggle) - by Rania and Raed Rafei (docufiction)  
\* FIDMarseille (GNCR award)  
2011 - Le Pays Revé - by Jihane Chouaib (documentary)  
2010 - We Were Communists - by Maher Abi Samra (documentary) \* La Biennale di Venezia- Orizzonti competition