



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

Niklas Hlawatsch & Bernadette Klausberger

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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

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Oranienstrasse 17, 10999 Berlin, Germany
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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