



SYNOPSIS

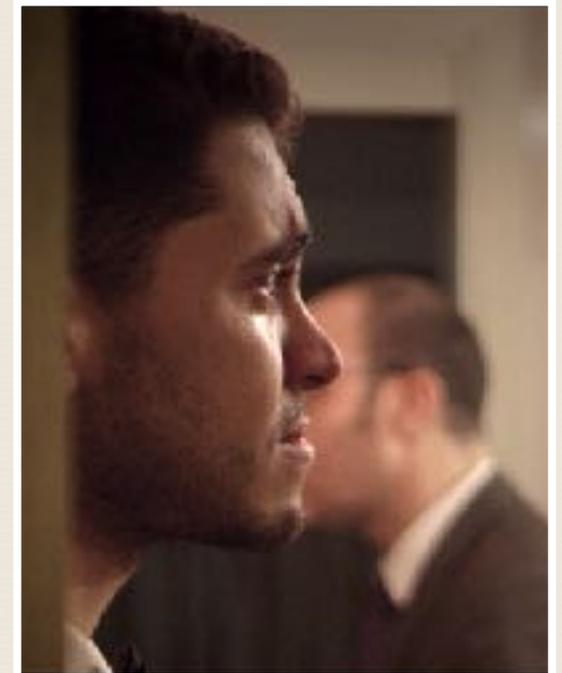


It's Sherif's wedding day. He doesn't seem very enthusiastic and everyone suspects he's hiding something. However, when it becomes obvious that he does not love the bride, the event takes a different turn...

I AM A FILM PRODUCTIONS
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WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF SOCIETY FORCES YOU TO PROVE YOUR MASCULINITY?



“It’s a tale of toxic masculinity in the middle east. An evident consequence to what happens to a man who was taught in his childhood that crying is shameful.”





Director's Statement

One pressing social issue that has always compelled me to write is the troubling phenomenon of forced marriage. Lately, there has been a growing spotlight on the subject of women subjected to arranged or coerced unions. Yet, it remains a far less explored territory when we consider that men too can fall victim to this distressing practice. This is precisely the predicament faced by Sherif, the central character in our film. He grapples with the mounting pressure to marry a woman he does not love, all in a bid to prove his masculinity to his family and society.

Sherif's father, like generations before him, pushes his son to buy into the notion that marriage is the path to manhood. In their family, this tradition has been handed down, with each generation of men following the same pattern - marrying solely to fulfill their societal roles. As the wedding day looms, the pressure intensifies, leaving Sherif with no choice but to marry a woman he has no genuine affection for, all in the name of proving his masculinity to the community. This mounting pressure ultimately turns his wedding into a disastrous affair, forcing him to make a heart-wrenching decision.

“ARE YOU MAN ENOUGH?”

the complex dynamics of machismo, the assertion of dominance among men, and the inherent fragility that often underlies expressions of masculinity. It underscores how, within this context, a man's precarious sense of self-worth can tragically escalate into acts of violence.



In our film, we sought to confront the rare portrayal of a man crying or sobbing, as it is still stigmatized as a symbol of weakness in many Middle Eastern societies, including Egypt. We deliberately opened with a shot of an unidentified man standing alone, tears streaming down his face, inviting the audience to ponder the mystery behind his sorrow before gradually delving into the raw emotion that lies beneath.

Furthermore, the film takes a stand against the prevalent practice of teaching boys not to cry in schools, a lesson rooted in the belief that it equates to humiliation. We believe it is high time to challenge this toxic masculinity, which is why we included Sherif's father's speech to exemplify this archaic mindset.

Our aim was to craft a character that resonates with viewers, a vulnerable man who lays bare his fragility on one of the most significant days of his life. By doing so, we hope to provoke empathy and challenge the deeply ingrained norms that contribute to the perpetuation of forced marriages and the suppression of emotional expression in our society

Country of Production: Egypt

Duration: 14 mins

Awards:

- Best Short at Zanzibar International Film Festival
- Jury Silver Award at Luxor African Film Festival
- Jury Special Mention at Cinema Africano Verona

