

The Passport

Logline

When a man from Gaza dies during a layover plane to Belgrade on his way to Canada, authorities face an impossible dilemma as political tensions and closed borders leave his body in limbo.

Synopsis

The film follows Marwan, a man from Gaza in his late 40s, who finally gets a Canadian visa to visit his brother and mend an old rift. As he prepares to leave, his factory is destroyed in an Israeli attack. The only way out is through a smuggling tunnel with a bizarre group.

In Cairo, bureaucracy delays him. On his flight to Canada, he dies peacefully. In Serbia, a mortician mistakes him for her lost fiancé, leading to a surreal wedding and a failed body smuggling before he is finally sent to Canada.

DIRECTOR: Rakan Mayasi **PRODUCER:** May Odeh

Technical info:

Genre: Fiction / Dark Comedy

Production country: Palestine, Jordan, Germany

Language: Arabic, English, Serbian

Shooting location: Palestine, Jordan, Serbia & neighbouring countries

Total budget: €1,340,850

Funds secured: €53,000 (4%)

This project was selected from La Fabrique Cinema in 2025.

Producer May Odeh will be presenting the project at the Sørfond Pitching Forum.

Director's Note

Now more than ever, our Palestinian voice needs to be spoken loudly. Despite the gravity of the subject, I conceived **THE PASSPORT** as a light road movie that deals with identity and death through dark comedy. I believe humour expresses strength and resilience in times of suffering.

Recently, I have been travelling a lot and this got me used to airports. I felt trapped in a loop where my visas and passport were the most important tools to pass through their limbo state. The Passport emerged from this observation of airports as a sort of no-man's land and a reflection of the liminal state that Palestine is in. Is it all a big prison?

I was abroad when I was informed that my father had passed away. It was very difficult for me to be far and try to find a flight to Jordan where he was deceased. This personal experience opened in me the question of life and death and the dissolution of one's identity.

Director

Rakan Mayasi

Rakan Mayasi is an independent filmmaker from Palestine, based between Brussels and Beirut. He studied Cinema and received film training in South Korea and Hungary under the mentorship of Abbas Kiarostami and Béla Tarr.

He has written and directed several short films. Roubama was an official selection at the Locarno Film Festival in 2012. His short films Bonboné and

Trumpets in the Sky both premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, where the latter received an honorable mention for Best Short.



Producer's Note

The Passport brilliantly uses dark humour to confront an impossible reality — transforming despair into biting social commentary.

A deceased protagonist finally receiving rights denied to him in life offers a sharp, absurdist lens on Palestinian identity and human dignity.

As producers, the story speaks to us personally. Growing up with a Yugoslav passport, Zorana experienced the absurdity of borders during the war — buses changing licence plates to cross embargoes, passports losing meaning overnight. Despite holding a German passport today, the memory of having a “less worthy” document remains.



Producer May Odeh

May Odeh is an award-winning Palestinian producer, filmmaker, and founder of Odeh Films in Palestine, as well as the co-founder of Mayana Films with Berlin-based producer Zorana Mušikić.

May still lives her own endless battles with a Palestinian passport — lost time, suspicion at airports, even barriers travelling with her son. Humour became a survival tool, a way to claim dignity against injustice.

This film fuses Palestinian and Eastern European storytelling traditions — blending irony, tragedy, and absurdity.

Rakan Mayasi's vision, paired with Ahmed Amer's rich screenplay, crafts a film that entertains while exposing harsh truths.

We are proud to bring The Passport to life: a rare story that crosses borders, speaks from lived experience, and uses laughter as an act of resilience and resistance

– Zorana Mušikić & May Odeh.

Her work has been showcased and awarded at major international festivals, and she was named MENA Talent of the Year 2020 by Variety.

Odeh is known for producing 200 Meters, Hanging Gardens, Thousand Fires, Notes on Displacement, and more. Her

films have sold to numerous territories, major TV networks, and platforms.

She also curates the Palestinian Film Platform, celebrating Palestinian cinema globally.