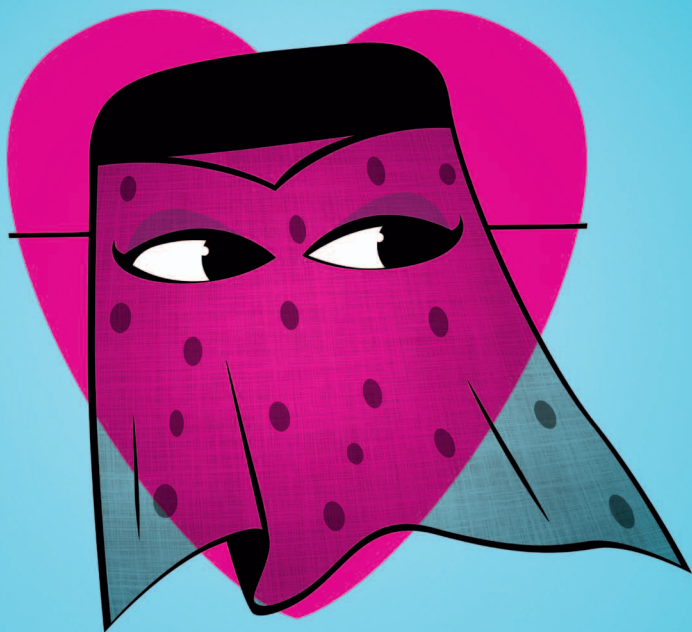




FROM THE PRODUCERS OF  
**WADJDA AND PARADISE NOW**



# Halal Love (and Sex)

A FILM BY  
**ASSAD FOULADKAR**

RAZOR FILM IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH SABBABH MEDIA CORPORATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH GINGER BEIRUT PRODUCTIONS IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH ZDF, ORF, ARTE, FERNSEHSTIFTUNG, IN COOPERATION WITH ARTE  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH FILMS DISTRIBUTION WITH THE SUPPORT OF MEDIENBOARD BERLIN-BRANDENBURG, NITEL DEUTSCHE MEDIENHÖRORUNG, FILMFÖRDERUNG ANTI-TAL, SUNDANCE INSTITUTE FEATURE FILM PROGRAM FUND,  
OPEN DOORS - FESTIVAL DEL FILM LOCARNO PRESENT "HALAL LOVE" WITH DARINE HANZE, RODRIGUE SLEMAN, MIRNA HOUKARZEL, ALI SAMHOURY, HUSSEIN HOKADDEM, ZEINAB WIND KHADRA, FADIA ABI CHAHINE  
INTRODUCTION BERLIN TAGE DER CHRISTI BASED PRODUCTION HANNAH NIKLAS HANWATZCH PRODUCTION DESIGNER TANJA ARLT HAAL EL KHOURY COSTUME DESIGNER CLAUDIA TOSSELLO MAKEUP ARTIST DOROTHEA WIEDERMANN  
RECORDING MIXER MARC MEUSINGER EDITOR MATTHIAS SCHWAB SOUND DESIGNER SEBASTIAN SCHMIDT, SEBASTIAN HEYER EDITOR NADIA BEN RACHO COMPOSER AMINE BOUHAFAT DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY LUTZ REITEMEIER (B.V.)  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS ABILA KHOURY LARA KARAH CHEREDJIAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LARA SABBABH PRODUCED BY SABBABH PRODUCED BY ROMAN PAUL, GERHARD HEINER WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ASSAD FOULADKAR



RAZOR FILM & SABBAAH MEDIA PRESENT



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**WADJDA** AND **PARADISE NOW**

# Halal Love (and Sex)

A FILM BY  
**ASSAD FOULADKAR**

2015 / GERMANY - LEBANON / 95 MIN / 1.85  
ORIGINAL TITLE : BIL HALAL

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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## Synopsis

3 individual but intertwined stories in which devout Beiruti Muslims try to manage their love lives and desires without breaking any of their religion's rules.

Awatef, middle aged mom of two girls, is recruiting a second wife to help her satisfy her overly loving husband.

The young and excessively jealous Mokhtar needs to find his ex-wife another man to be able to marry her again - for the 4<sup>th</sup> time.

Loubna, freshly divorced, can finally marry her true love, but on a short-term contract only since he has a family.





## Director's Note

September 11 changed the world and disturbed the West's consciousness by revealing to them a great new threat: Islam.

This threat had already appeared during the Islamic revolution in Iran. Today, it emerges as the greatest enemy of the West, and its repercussions are ever-increasing. Political discord with Islamic countries and individual groups has prevented the West to view Muslims in other capacities but potential terrorists

As for me, I grew up in Lebanon. I left my country during the great conflicts between the West and Islam. Since then I have felt the inspiration to share the stories I have seen, or heard during my childhood. These are stories that are far from the clichéd stories of terrorists, weapons, Islamic Jihad, and hate. These stories revolve around a single subject: How to experience love, and how to manage emotions and desire.

Telling stories about this subject matter aims to highlight moments in the lives of real and normal people who have the natural concern of living love while respecting their religion.

The stories in this film are real and authentic. The characters are ordinary but they experience real-life events that take place on a daily basis.

I want to capture the humor of these individuals and show how they deal with the challenges of faith, desire, and love in an Islamic environment.

## THE SPACE, THE PRIVACY AND THE LOOK (THE ARTISTIC APPROACH)

Are we telling forbidden stories in Halal?

The real answer is “I don’t know”, for the simple reason that, it has never been done before.

The film takes place in Beirut which is not only cosmopolitan and liberal but also heavily Islamic and restrictive at the same time. It all depends in which community you live, and what are the governing rules there. The streets and houses play a major role in the film. The stories could not be told properly without them. They must be rooted in reality which is the reason why the film was shot exclusively in original locations, never in a studio.

These are stories that look behind the curtain of Islamic Society, and the design of the film reflects this: Things are initially not clear to us which is deliberate, as if we were looking through a veil but then we lift it which

might be perceived as voyeuristic: For example a woman cannot take off her veil in the presence of a stranger in the reality of these places - but in this film the viewer has the opportunity to get inside these characters private spaces without breaking any intimacy. I did this for a reason: don’t we sometimes enjoy peeping at people? When we do so, is it the child hidden in us that is doing this? And why is this child trying to find out more - because it wants to learn something about life. I hope the audience feels closer to the people on screen whose secrets are being revealed. This is exactly how and why **HALAL LOVE (AND SEX)** was made: to unveil what make us believe we’re different only to find out that we have more in common than we originally thought.







## Assad Fouladkar

Fouladkar was born in Lebanon, studied filmmaking at Boston University in the US, and lived for a few years in Australia before returning to Lebanon, where he teaches film at the Lebanese American University in Beirut. His thesis short film **GOD HAVE MERCY [Kyrie-Eleison]** won 13 international awards and was a finalist at the Oscar competition for Best Student Film. In Lebanon, Assad presented a weekly radio program on cinema and wrote critiques in a national daily newspaper, in addition to directing some corporate videos and two television series before he shot his first feature film **WHEN MARYAM SPOKE OUT** that won major film awards in the Arab world, Europe and the United States. The film was Lebanon's official entry to the Academy Awards. The treatment of **HALAL LOVE (AND SEX)** was selected by Open Doors of the Locarno Film Festival. **THE CEDAR TREE** a feature script written by Assad was selected to The Sundance Screenwriters' lab in the US.



## Cast

Loubna	Darine Hamze
Abu Ahmad	Rodrigue Sleiman
Awatef	Mirna Moukarzel
Salim	Ali Sammoury
Mokhtar	Hussein Mokaddem
Batoul	Zeinab Hind Khadra
Bardot	Fadia Abi Chahine
Hiba	Berlin Badr
Nasma	Christy Bared





## Crew

Director  
Screenwriter  
Producers

Executive Producer  
Associate Producers

Director of Photography  
Composer  
Editor  
Recording Mixer  
Re-Recording Mixer  
Sound Designers

Production Designers

Costume Designer  
Makeup Artist  
Production Manager

Assad Fouladkar  
Assad Fouladkar  
Roman Paul  
Gerhard Meixner  
Sadek Sabbah  
Lama Sabbah  
Abla Khoury  
Lara Karam Chekerdjian  
Lutz Reitemeier (b.v.k.)  
Amine Bouhafa  
Nadia Ben Rachid  
Marc Meusinger  
Matthias Schwab  
Sebastian Schmidt  
Sebastian Heyser  
Tanja Arlt  
Maia El Khoury  
Claudia Torsiello  
Dorothea Wiedermann  
Niklas Hlawatsch





