



UNDER THE BOMBS

(Sous Les Bombes)

"Raw, heart-wrenching and deeply powerful!"
--Susan Sarandon

Directed by Philippe Aractingi



**France/ Lebanon/ UK | 2007 | Drama | In Arabic with
English subtitles | 98 min. | 1:1.85**

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SYNOPSIS

During a cease-fire in the Lebanon-Israel conflict of 2006, a Christian taxi driver brings an untraditional Shiite woman from Beirut to the heart of the conflict in the country's south. While they scour the rubble of local towns for her son, who was sent to live with her traditional family while she was staying with her husband in Dubai, they discover that despite their very different backgrounds they have much in common. And during their trip through the desolate countryside, the two travelers develop a deep bond as a response to the death striking all around them.

The film was shot entirely on location during the summer of 2006, in the middle of the ruins of war-torn Lebanon. Aractingi only hired two professional actors, the rest are real refugees, journalists, soldiers, etc..., playing themselves.

BEHIND THE PRODUCTION

UNDER THE BOMBS is a visceral expression of anger and pain from a Lebanese man who could no longer tolerate seeing his country ransacked by a war that began on July 12th 2006. Ten days later, in the most precarious of circumstances, Philippe Aractingi began shooting "under the bombs." He only hired two actors. The rest of the characters in the film: refugees, journalists, soldiers, religious people and militants, all played their own roles. All of them are caught in the turmoil and in the ruins of a war-torn Lebanon; all living this new tragedy as an intimate part of themselves. This road movie is a fictional story set in a harsh reality, giving each scene a vivid poignancy. It is this innovative approach that convinced Hervé Chabelier at Capa Cinema to commit to this unique adventure and to form, around Philippe Aractingi's project, a team of producers: Paul Raphael (Starfield Productions), François Cohen-Séat (Art'Mell), Philippe Aractingi (Fantascope Productions), all of them convinced of the urgency of UNDER THE BOMBS.

FESTIVALS AND AWARDS (Selection)

WINNER – Altre Visioni and Human Rights Film Award, **Venice FF**

WINNER – Golden Pony Award, Best Film and Best Actress **Dubai Int’l FF**

WINNER – Grand Jury Prize, **Namur Int’l Francophone FF**

WINNER – NETPAC Award and Critic’s Award, **Antalya Golden Orange Festival**

WINNER – Special Mention, **Jerusalem Film Festival**

WINNER – Audience Award, **Human Rights Watch Film Festival of Montreal**

OFFICIAL SELECTION –

Sundance Film Festival

Seattle Int’l FF

Stockholm Int’l FF

Amiens Int’l FF

NY Human Rights Watch FF

Vancouver Int’l FF

St. Louis Int’l FF

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Philippe Aractingi

Of Franco-Lebanese origin, Philippe Aractingi was born in 1964 in Beirut where he grew up. He has made more than 40 films around the world, ranging from reports and documentaries to more personal films. A self-taught humanist, Philippe Aractingi spent 12 years in France before returning to his native Lebanon to make BOSTA, the country's first post war musical. BOSTA, a huge success in Lebanon and all over the Arab world, has been released in over twenty countries. It was selected to represent Lebanon at the 2006 Academy Awards. In July 2006, as war once again ravaged his country, Philippe Aractingi reacted in the heat of the moment, by shooting his second feature film: UNDER THE BOMBS.

WRITER'S BIOGRAPHY

Michel Léviand

Born in the USA in 1947, Michel Léviand has both French and American citizenships. A graduate of the prestigious Ecole Polytechnique, he joined the Army Cinema Corps before spending three years in Los Angeles, at UCLA, writing a thesis and making several short films. He is currently a TV and cinema screenwriter (LE PRIX DU SILENCE, PARADALIAN, LA FILLE DE D'ARTAGNAN). Michel Léviand is also a director (LA GUEULE DU LOUP). His new film, EN SOUVENIR DE NOUS, was released in August 2007.

CREDITS

CAST

Nada Abou Farhat
Georges Khabbaz
Rawya El Chab
Bshara Atallah

Zeina
Tony
The Receptionist
The Journalist

CREW

Director
Screenplay
Producers

Philippe Aractingi
Michel Léviand & Philippe Aractingi
Hervé Chabaliér
François Cohen-Séat
Paul Raphael
Philippe Aractingi
Anjo Rihane
Nidal Abdel Khalek
Mouhab Chanesaz
Deena Charara
René Aubry
Lazare Boghossian
Fabien Devillers
Piste Rouge
Bruno Seznec
Claude Chelli
Nathalie Leyendecker
Tima Khalil
Diane Aractingi
Art'mell Bénédicte Gardies

Arabic Transcript
Director Of Photography
Sound Supervisor
Editor
Original Score

Sound Mixers

Associate Producers

Line Producer Lebanon

Post-Production France