

TALISMAN

A SHORT FILM BY KARAR HAYDER ABED

SUBMITTER & DIRECTOR

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

In a final desperate visit to the village fortune teller, Sabreen, a rural Iraqi woman burdened with blame and trapped by expectations, seeks a talisman to help her conceive. In a place that offers little hope, and with mounting pressures, she longs for more than motherhood: a moment of freedom, a voice of her own, and a chance to reclaim what remains of herself.

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

Talisman is not a film that offers answers, nor a story that unfolds through events or transformations. It is a silent witness to an emotional truth: that the heaviest burden sometimes comes not from what others say, but from what is implied, from silence, from glances, from distance.

The pain here does not stem from overt injustice or visible violence, but from something closer and more wounding: unspoken emotional rejection, and the confinement within a narrow social mold imposed by those closest to the person.

The film reflects how a human being, when seen only through the lens of the “role expected of them,” can become a stranger in their own home, and in the eyes of those who supposedly love them. And even more estranged from themselves, when they can no longer see who they are outside of what has been forced upon them.

Their silence is not emptiness. It is resistance, sorrow, and memory.

With a contemplative and simple approach, the film does not seek to deliver a direct message. Instead, it opens a space for the viewer to silently empathize with the experience and observe it quietly.

There is no traditional plot, no dramatic climax, and no closed ending. It is a visual and human experience that gives the viewer the chance to become a witness in their own right, to discover the meaning for themselves after living through a full moment of repeated emotional collapse.

Talisman does not impose interpretation. It offers room for contemplation and invites each viewer to draw their own conclusion, based not on what is said, but on what is felt.

It is not a political film, nor a human rights statement. It is deeply human. And in its silence, it carries a muffled scream that represents many, those who were forced to choose between escape, confrontation, coexistence, or disappearance, and ended up choosing silence, not knowing whether that choice was life or something merely resembling it.

Between fleeing, fading, confronting, or coexisting, silence can sometimes feel like a fifth option: unspoken, but lived.

As for me, I still have no answer. All I know is that I feel what Sabreen feels. And this confusion, between all that is unbearable, is what drove me to make this film.

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Karar is a film industry worker and Amateur director from Samawah, a small rural town in southern Iraq. He studied cinema at the Academy of Fine Arts, University of Baghdad. His work delves into human experiences, social issues, and political themes through a contemplative realist style characterized by minimalism. His background as a field/location sound recordist on several films and TV series, including Immortals (2024) and Prime Target (2025) has refined his directorial vision and deepened his understanding of the filmmaking process.



PRODUCER BIOGRAPHY

A filmmaker based in Baghdad, with extensive experience producing films and content in conflict zones. Passionate about showcasing ancient cultures, indigenous communities, and exploring musicology, with a dedicated focus on preserving nature through art and cinema. Proficient in multiple aspects of film production, including photography, cinematography, sound recording, and production, with a diverse background in both cinema and commercial projects.





CAST MEMBERS

Ansam Salam "sabreen"

Wafeqa Kadhim "Haja Rawdha"

Ali Mohammed "Ayad"

Zahra Farouq "Sanaa"

Kadhimia Hindi "Om Ayad"



FILM SPECIFICATIONS

FILM TITLE : TALISMAN

PROJECT TYPE : SHORT

GENRES : DRAMA

THEMES : SOCIAL DRAMA

RUNTIME : 6 MINUTES 45 SECONDS

RELEASE DATE : APRIL 1, 2024

PRODUCTION BUDGET : 3,000 USD

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND FILMING : IRAQ

VERSION PRESENTED : FINAL VERSION

SHOOTING FORMAT : DIGITAL

RESOLUTION : 3840X2160

FILM COLOR : COLOR

LANGUAGE : ARABIC

ASPECT RATIO : 16:9



LEAD ARTISTIC & TECHNICAL TEAM

Producer	Murtada Faisal
Supervising Producer	Mohammed Alghadhban
Writer	Abbas Atta
Storyboard Artist	Abbas Thaer
Cinematographer	Moahmmed Fouad
Assistant Camera	Murtadha Majid
Art Director	Ali Moahmmed
Art Director Assistant	Ali Naser
Prop Master & PAD	Saif Salah
Costumer	Noor Abed Ali
Wardrobe & Set Dresser	Hussien Talep
Editor	Hussain Alwardi

Director, Co-Writer, Sound Recordist, BoomOperator,
Assistant Editor, Sound Editor, Sound Designer,
Credits Designer, Film Marketing Materials Creator
Karar Hayder Abed



WORKSHOPS

- NUHAT Workshops by Duhok International Film Festival and Goethe-Institut Iraq and.
- Short Film Production Workshop by cineiraq.

FUNDS

- NUHAT Workshops fund award.

SUPPORTERS

- Frame Vision Productions
- Video Line Productions
- Red Light Green Light Pronunciations



A landscape photograph featuring a row of trees in the middle ground, with a grassy field in the foreground and a hazy, sunset-colored sky in the background. The sky is a mix of soft orange, yellow, and light blue, with a small, bright sun or moon visible near the top center. The trees have green and some brownish-orange leaves. The text 'THANK YOU.' is overlaid in the center in a large, bold, white font. The period at the end of the text is a small yellow square.

THANK YOU.