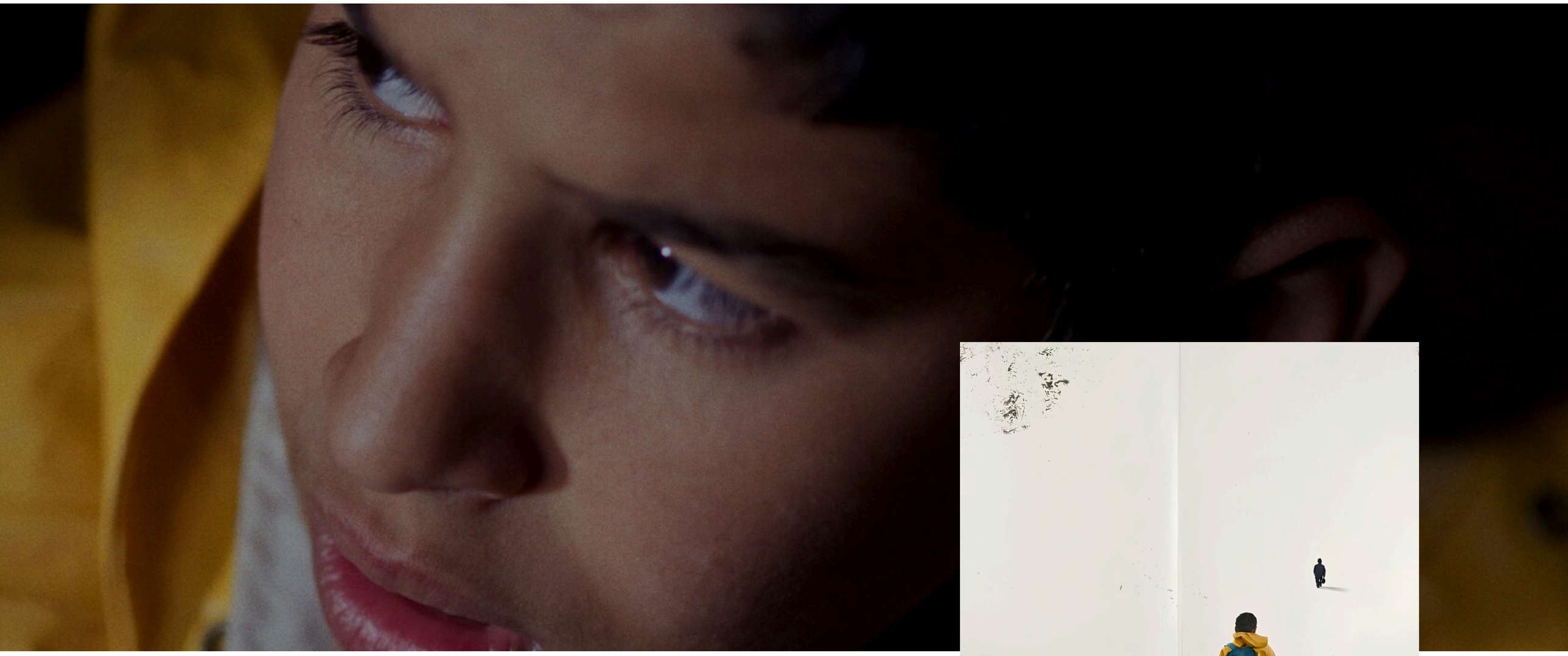
PRESS KIT

7 KM

A FILM BY **OUSSAMA BENHASSINE**

17 MIN | 2026 | ALGERIA | DRAMA, CHRONICLE

WWW.7KMTHEMOVIE.COM



synopsis

Algeria, 1992. As the country sinks into violence, two schoolboys walk seven kilometres every day to get home. After witnessing a terrorist murder, they flee and stop a passing van. Inside are two silent men — and a long road ahead. What begins as a familiar journey suddenly becomes a claustrophobic passage into fear and suspicion.

DURATION
17 MIN

ASPECT RATIO
2.39:1

LANGUAGES
ALGERIAN

SUBTITLES
ENGLISH

COUNTRIES
ALGERIA

YEAR
2026

GENRE
DRAMA
CHRONICLE

“THE WORLD STILL APPEARS TO MAKE SENSE. I WANTED TO CAPTURE THAT STATE.. BEFORE IT DISAPPEARS.

OUSSAMA BENHASSINE
[director]

THE FILM WAS MADE WITH THE SUPPORT OF

وزارة الثقافة والفنون الجزائر
MINISTERE DE LA CULTURE ET DES ARTS

ONDA

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS ALGÉRIE

AMFF

مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام
Doha Film Institute

Association Project'heurts

THE GOOD TONE STUDIO

director's statement

I did not want to tell a story about the years of terrorism that Algeria experienced in the 1990s, but about the mark they left on childhood. What interests me is not the historical event itself, but the way a familiar world can, almost without warning, become foreign. Childhood has its own perception of time and space: time feels vast, distances seem endless, and the world still appears to make sense. I wanted to capture that state before it disappears.

The film is built around a shift in perception. Serenity is not the opposite of violence; it is what makes violence more brutal when it suddenly arrives. I wanted the direction to first allow time, landscapes, silences, and bodies to breathe, before gradually making their transformation felt. Cinema then becomes a physical experience: space closes in, time contracts, and looks change. What was familiar becomes suspicious, and what once seemed insignificant becomes a threat.

At its core, 7 Km is about the loss of meaning. When familiar references disappear, incomprehension creates a space where fear can take hold, followed by suspicion. I do not want to explain this violence, but to make the audience experience the moment when it becomes impossible to understand. Through a deliberately contemplative form that gradually shifts into tension, I seek a cinema in which the audience does not simply watch a story, but feels a world changing before their eyes.

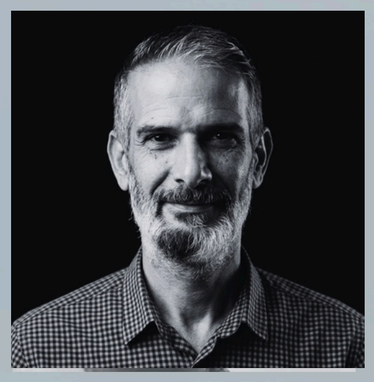
biography

Oussama Benhassine is an award-winning Algerian screenwriter and filmmaker. He began writing for television in 2008 before moving into directing. His directorial debut, Desert Rose (2023), was selected by several international festivals. 7 Kilometers is his second short film. His work explores Algerian history, memory, and human stories through a cinematic and intimate approach.

Khalil BENSAHLI
as Omar

Mohamed CHOUADRA
as Othman

Slimane BENOUARI
The Passenger



Issam BENOUARI
The Driver

The Children: A Search for Raw Truth

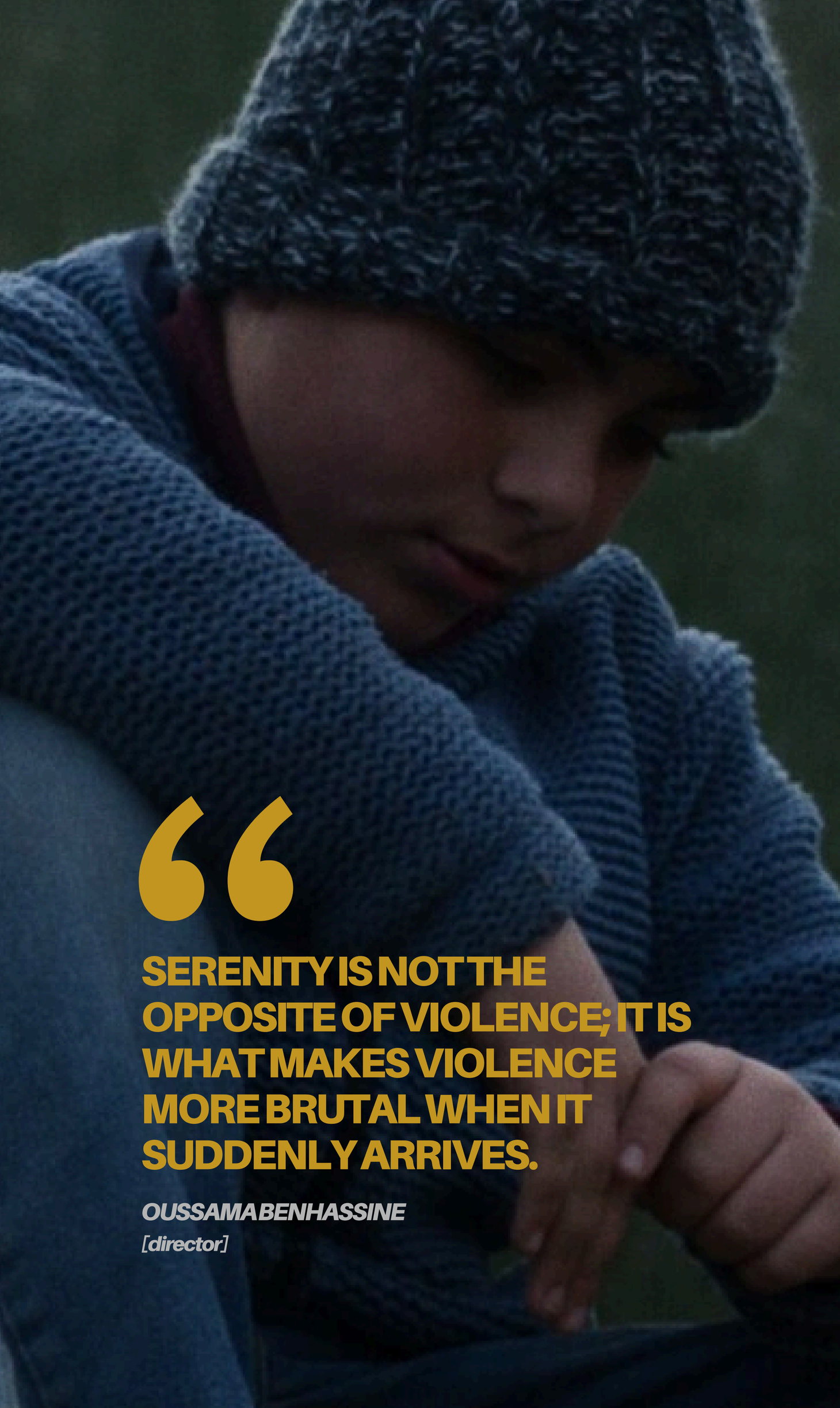
To embody the vulnerability and innocence of the two schoolboys, an intensive street-casting process was conducted in Hammam Guergour, an isolated region nestled high in the mountains of the Sétif province.

Over 70 local children were auditioned through multiple workshop stages. Khalil Bensahli and Mohamed Chouadra emerged as the natural choices—non-professional young actors whose unfiltered gaze, deep connection to this rugged mountain landscape, and natural bond bring an undeniable truth to the screen.

The Men in the Van: Local Roots & Experience

Slimane Benouari (The Passenger)
A prominent figure in contemporary Algerian auteur cinema, Slimane Benouari gained international recognition for his powerful leading role in Amin Sidi-Boumédienne's Abou Leila (Cannes Semaine de la Critique 2019), followed by performances in La Dernière Reine (The Last Queen, 2022) and Alger (2024). Native to this very same isolated mountain village of Hammam Guergour, Benouari brings a quiet, threatening intensity to the silent passenger in the van.

Issam Benouari (The Driver)
In a striking piece of real-life synergy, Issam Benouari—Slimane's real-life brother—plays the driver. Shared roots in the high mountains, unspoken family dynamics, and a deep familiarity with the terrain create a subtle, palpable tension within the claustrophobic space of the vehicle.



credits

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
OUSSAMA BENHASSINE

STARRING
KHALIL BENSAHLI
MOHAMED CHOUADRA
SLIMANE BENOUARI
ISSAM BENOUARI

PRODUCED BY
RMK 4000 DREAMS
MEKKI MESSAOUD

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
BMVISION
MEHDI BENBAHOU

IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH
CADC
AKHAM FILMS

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
MOHAMED BENZAI

FILM EDITOR
NINA KHADA

SOUND MIXING
YAZID CHABBI

PRODUCTION MANAGER
YOUCEF MANSOUR

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
ALI RACHID BOUCHROUR

SCRIPT GIRL
NAOUEL MESLATI

CHILD ACTING COACH
SLIMANE BENOUARI

SOUND RECORDIST
LYES GUETAL

MAKE-UP
HABIBA FELLAH

SET DRESSER
LEILA MADANI

PROPS MASTER
ALI HEJJAM

UNIT MANAGER
YOUCEF HAMALI

“SERENITY IS NOT THE OPPOSITE OF VIOLENCE; IT IS WHAT MAKES VIOLENCE MORE BRUTAL WHEN IT SUDDENLY ARRIVES.

OUSSAMA BENHASSINE
[director]

contact

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