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TORONTO INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL 2024

# From **GROUND ZERO**

**A collection of 22 untold  
short stories from Gaza**



The Masharawi Fund for Films and Filmmakers in Gaza

present

# From GROUND ZERO



A collection of 22 untold  
short stories from Gaza

PALESTINE - FRANCE - QATAR - JORDAN - U.A.E.  
2024 - 1:77 - 5.1 - COLOUR - 112 MINUTES

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# Distribution

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# Press

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THE MASHARAWI FUND FOR FILMS AND  
FILMMAKERS IN GAZA

Email : [look@masharawifilms.org](mailto:look@masharawifilms.org)

Website : [www.masharawifilms.org](http://www.masharawifilms.org)

PRESS REVIEW: [HTTPS://WWW.COORIGINES-PRODUCTION.FR/EN/REVUE-DE-PRESSE/](https://www.coorigines-production.fr/en/revue-de-presse/)

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTOS: [WWW.COORIGINES-PRODUCTION.FR](http://WWW.COORIGINES-PRODUCTION.FR)

# From Ground Zero

From Ground Zero is a collection of short films initiated by Palestinian film-maker Rashid Masharawi, in response to the events following the attacks of 7 October 2023.

The project brings together 22 filmmakers from Gaza, offering a cinematic perspective on the daily lives, hopes and realities of the inhabitants.



## The idea behind the project



The Ground Zero project was designed to give a voice to the people of Gaza and to document their experiences, which often go unheard. In a context where artistic creation is complex, this project has captured the diversity of perspectives in Gaza through a 112-minute film in two parts, made up of 22 short films between 3 and 6 minutes. These stories explore a range of genres, from fiction to documentary to animation.

# Selection

A selection committee was set up to ensure the quality and viability of the short films in the From Ground Zero project.

The committee evaluated the projects, giving priority to personal, original stories told by talented filmmakers.

Once the projects had been selected, the committee ensured their development through to production, taking into account any obstacles that might arise.



# Feasibility

A person is shown in silhouette on the left side of the frame, sitting on a beach and talking on a mobile phone. The background features a calm sea with gentle waves lapping at the shore under a soft, hazy sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

The feasibility of From Ground Zero is based on meticulous organisation. Tutors based in the Middle East and Europe supervised the projects, while experienced coordinators on the ground in Gaza ensured the provision of the technical and human resources needed for filming.

Despite the many challenges, the local team overcame the day-to-day obstacles to ensure the success of every stage of the project, including the transfer of data for post-production in France.

In addition, the film rights were acquired before filming began, ensuring the possibility of international distribution.

# Partners and distribution

From Ground Zero was made possible thanks to the support of the “Masharawi Fund for Films and Filmmakers in Gaza”



- in partnership with the Coorigines Group
- Coproduction / support : Metafora, IMS, Sharjah Art Foundation, Royal Film Commission of Jordan, Doha Film Institute , Akka Films, Nomadis IMage
- Version subtitled in English, French and German for international broadcasting



# PART I : Films & loglines



★ Reema Mahmoud  
SELFIES

A flash drive and a letter sealed inside a bottle and thrown into the sea capture a woman's attempt to not lose herself in the wreckage of war.



★ Muhammad Al Sharif  
NO SIGNAL

A man's efforts to rescue his brother from under the rubbles. Their conversation is shrouded with uncertainty as they suffer equipment shortage and a long waitlist of families in similar situations delaying the civil defense forces.



★ Ahmed Hassouna  
SORRY CINEMA

Ahmed Hassouna, who has spent his life running from the art of cinema, now finds himself running to save his life and that of his family on a journey in search of food and safety. His priorities change and he apologises to cinema.



★ Islam Al Zeriei  
FLASHBACK

Farah hates the sound of planes and artillery, and after her house was bombed, she went to bed early for fear of the unknown. To combat the sounds of war, she puts headphones on her ears and practises her favourite hobby, dancing.



★ Mustafa Kolab  
ECHO

A long dark night at the Gaza Sea. The sounds of bomb, ambulances, and cries for help. The film captures the physical and metaphorical darkness enshrouding Gaza.



★ Nidal Damo  
EVERYTHING IS FINE

A stand-up comedian in Gaza borrows from the daily struggles of survival to bring solace to a wounded audience in a refugee camp.



★ Khamis Masharawi  
SOFT SKIN

Documentary animation exploring the war from children's perspective as they write their names on their bodies for identification in case they are killed by indiscriminate bombing.



★ Bashar Al-Balbisi  
CHARM

The dancing girl loses members of the dance group, during war and asylum she begins a journey to search for them, she manage to communicate with them spiritually.



★ Tamer Nijim  
THE TEACHER

A displaced teacher's daily journey from one queue to the next struggling to secure his most basic needs.



★ Ahmed Al-Danaf  
A SCHOOL DAY

Khaled, the hardworking student, makes his way through the tents, markets and ruins to his non-existent school and ends up sitting with his school bag in a cemetery in front of the shrine of his teacher, who died in the war.



★ Alaa Islam Ayoub  
OVERBURDEN

A young girl feels guilty because she did not take her books with her before she was forced to leave her home, making her feel like a prisoner in one of the novels about the Palestinian migration in 1948.

## PART II : Films & loglines



★ Karim Satoum  
HELL'S HAVEN

A panicked Karim wakes up wrapped in a white shroud. The film pieces together memories from the night before.



★ Alaa Damo  
24 HOURS

Within 24 hours, Musab is rescued twice from the rubble in areas he was told were "safe". An alive Musab reviews social media news of what happened that day.



★ Aws Al-Banna  
JAD & NATALIE

Aws, a theatre actor from Gaza, returns to his destroyed neighbourhood. Under the rubble of one home lies his beloved Nour, along with all their dreams of a life together.



★ Rabab Khamis  
RECYCLING

A refugee family must make the most out of their water, which has become a scarce commodity.



★ Etimad Washah  
TAXI WANISSA

Taxi Wanissa is a donkey from Gaza. When her beloved owner Ahmad is lost in an explosion, the heartbroken Waneesa refuses to leave him behind.



★ Mustafa Al Nabih  
OFFERINGS

A woman novelist's experience of displacement and collapse of civilization around her as she searches for a better life.



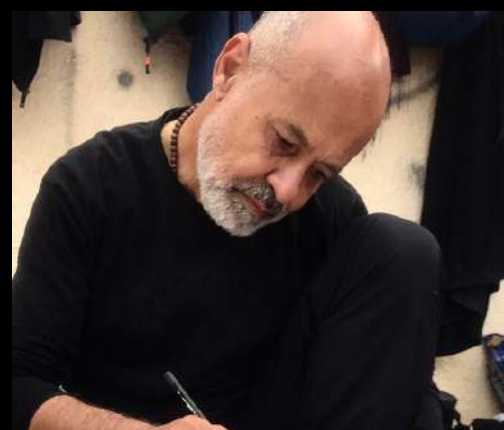
★ Hana Eleiwa  
NO

A filmmaker's journey to find a moment of joy in the midst of unimaginable destruction, death and loss in Gaza.



★ Wissam Moussa  
FARAH & MYRIAM

The documentary explores 10-year-old Farah's life after the war, in which she saw her best friend Mariam lose her family to a bombing. Having spent her life besieged in Gaza, Farah ponders freeing her father's pet birds from their own cage.



★ Basel El-Maqousi  
FRAGMENTS

A juxtaposition of video, photography, and paintings intercut with an artist working on a painting that is completed at the end of the film.



★ Neda'a Abu Hassnah  
OUT OF FRAME

A visual artist from northern Gaza returns to her destroyed studio, searching for what remains of her artwork. She tells us about her paintings in an effort to hold her art exhibition in words.



★ Mahdi Kreirah  
AWAKENING

A father who lost his memory ten years ago due to an explosion in 2014 regains it after one during the 2024 war.

## Liste technique

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editing & postproduction supervisor Denis Le Paven  
sound designer & mixer Sarah Fasseur-Leroux  
production coordinator (Gaza) Yafa Masharawi  
production coordinator (France) Alexis Auffret  
colour correction Denis Le Paven  
editor Pauline Eon  
graphic designer Ala' Abu Ghoush  
public relation manager (Cannes) Anaïs Pitkevicht  
music by Naseer Shamma

Produced by Masharawi Fund for Films & Filmmakers in Gaza  
Coorigines Production  
Rashid Masharawi  
Laura Nikolov

Project Supervisor  
coordination & production services

in coproduction with Metafora Production  
Sharjah Art Foundation  
Akka Films

## Artistic Advisers

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Dora Bouchoucha Laura Nikolov  
Layali Badr Rasmi Damo  
Nada Doumani Michel Kammoun  
Nadia Eliewat Hussam Hindi  
Abedsalam Alhadj Ala' Abu Ghoush

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Raja Ben Ayed



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