

MAYANA
MIANA

MAYANA FILMS

Mayana Films was founded in 2022 by Zorana Mušikić and May Odeh in Berlin. Both have collaborated before by co-producing the short film “Maradona’s Legs” in 2019 by Palestinian director Firas Khoury.

Having experienced an extremely fruitful collaboration and a mutual love for strong voices who aim to portray current topics and inspire social change, they have joined forces to create Mayana Films as a hub for intriguing stories in the framework of independent international cinema - with a focus on talents that move through the uniqueness and courage of their storytelling, films that touch and leave traces.

Both film-makers are bringing in their expertise as well as their networks of their previous projects and are starting with full force into the development of exciting fiction and documentary feature films with directors like Ziad Kalthoum, Lara Zeidan, Rakan Mayasi, Chadi Abo, Milton Guillén & Fiona Guy Hall or Aurelia Makdessi. They are complementing their feature film portfolio with two exciting shorts, “Lifescore”, written and directed by Zorana Mušikić and “Ascending” by emerging Saudi writer/director Bashayar Abdulaziz.

Zorana Mušikić’s producing experience with her former company schaf oder scharf film dates back to 2009, when she produced the feature documentary “Ruhr” by American avant-garde film maker James Benning, a co-production with German TV (3sat / ZDF). “Ruhr” was running on innumerable international A-film festivals and had its theatrical release in 2010 distributed by Arsenal Film Verleih.

May Odeh’s first fiction feature as a producer was “200 Meters” by Ameen Nayfeh, that debuted in the Venice Days Competition of the Venice Film Festival, received the Variety Middle East and North African Region Talent Award at the El Gouna Film Festival and got more than 25 awards worldwide. Her second feature “Hanging Gardens” by Iraqi director Ahmed Al-Daradji has premiered at Venice Film Festival in 2022, won several international awards and was selected as Iraq’s entry for the Oscars 2023. The film is still running on festivals worldwide. May has also worked on numerous other successful films from the Middle East, among them Academy Awards nominated and BAFTA Award winning short film “The Present” by Farah Nabulsi.



IN DEVELOPMENT

FEATURE FILM - FICTION

LAST TRIP

Genre: Psychological Drama

Karim, a Syrian refugee seeking a new life in Berlin, is reminded by guilt and a tormenting feeling of culpability that a new existence is not possible until he faces his old one.

4K | 90 min.

in co-production with Endorfina Studio (Poland)

written & directed by: Ziad Kalthoum

co-written by: Nadja Dumouchel, Lea Bethke, Nicola Sangs

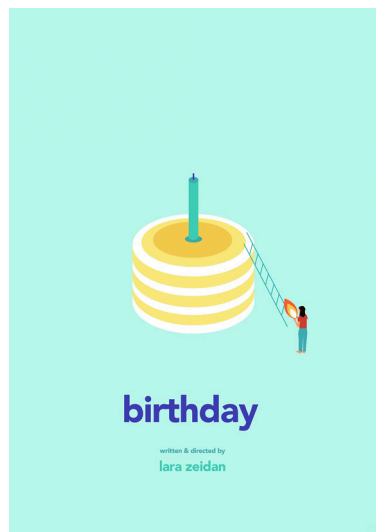
DOP: Talal Khoury

produced by: Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh, Marta Golba-Naumann

Participations | Support:

Berlinale Co-Production Market 2024

Red Sea Development Support & Medienboard Script Development Fund 2022



BIRTHDAY

Genre: Coming of age

Beirut, May 2008. A regular after-school day for Razan, who turns fourteen tomorrow, is disrupted by gun battles that erupt throughout the city. Regardless, Razan's teenage concerns remain unchanged as she tries to enjoy a normal birthday.

4K | 90 min.

in co-production with Sevana Films (France), Road2Films (Lebanon)

written & directed by: Lara Zeidan

DOP: Piero Cioffi

produced by: Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh, Séverine Tibi, Cynthia Choucair

Awards | Participations | Support:

Crossroads Co-production Forum 2020 (CNC Development Award)

MFI Script 2 Film workshop 2020, Reelworld E20 Program 2020

Red Sea International Film Festival, 2021 (Winner of the Special Mention Award at the Red Sea Souk), Beirut Cinema Platform, 2021, Doha Film Institute's Hezayah Screenwriting Lab, 2021, Red Sea Development Support 2021, AFAC Production Grant 2022



THE PORTAL

Genre: Fantasy, Dark Sci-Fi

In a war zone, a little girl prays for salvation. A cosmic power comes to help her. From now on, Sana will resurrect dead children.

4K | 100 min.

in co-production with Hecat Studio (France), Sama Art Production (Syria), Film Clinic (Egypt)

written & directed by: Chadi Abo

mentored by: Lucile Hadžihalilović

produced by: Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh, Chadi Abo, Ruba El-Khesh Khair, Mohamed Hefzy

Awards | Participations:

Marché du Film Cannes (Frontières Platform & Fantastic 7) 2022, Fest Film MarketHub Script Mentorship 2021, BIFAN NAFF DHL Award 2021, Sitges Pitchbox Special Mention 2019



THE PASSPORT

Genre: Dark Comedy

When a man from Gaza dies during a layover plane to Belgrade on his way to Canada, authorities are left clueless about how to handle his corpse as the borders with Gaza are closed.

4K | 90 min.

in co-production with Zenobia Pro (Jordan)

written & directed by: Rakan Mayasi

co-written by Ahmed Amer

produced by: Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh, Abdallah Ramahi

Awards | Participations | Support:

Atlas Ateliers - Festival International de Marrakech 2022

GAIFF PRO Market - Golden Apricot International Film Festival in Yerevan - Best Pitch Award & Post Production Award 2023



FEATURE FILM - DOCUMENTARY

MY SKIN AND I

Genre: Creative Documentary

A son watches as his father, exiled from their home country, plots retribution for his unjust imprisonment and expulsion. The child exists in a waking dream, and through his gaze the film blends past, present, and the narrative of its own making.

4K | 80 min.

in co-production with Solaris Films (USA)

written & directed by: Milton Guillén, Fiona Guy Hall

produced by: Milton Guillén, Fiona Guy Hall, Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh

Participations | Support:

CPH:Forum (2024)

Kartemquin Accelerator Fund, BAVC Media Maker Fellowship, Tribeca All Access Fund, Harris Research Fund, LEF Pre Production Fund, LEF-FSC Harvard Fellowship, College of the Arts and Science, Cochran Fund (2022-2023)



NIEMEYER 4 EVER

Genre: Creative Documentary

In northern Lebanon, an improbable place revives hope: the International Fair of Oscar Niemeyer, yet officially closed to the public. The walls do not prevent dreams, nor birds from flying.

4K | 90 min.

in co-production with Special Touch Pictures (France) & The Attic Productions (Lebanon)

written & directed by: Aurélia Makdessi

produced by: Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh, Marine Vaillant, Jana Wehbe

Participations | Support:

Ile de France writing support, South Region Development, Doha Film Institute Development Grant (2023)

lifescore:

Helping People in Need



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SHORT FICTION

LIFESCORE

Genre: Dark Dystopia

Imagine the value of your life was calculated in a score. Imagine the less worthy you are considered for our global society the higher your personal “lifescore” would rise! Imagine now this score would be monetized – how much would your life be worth?

4K | 20 min.

in co-production with 2o9nine Films (Nigeria) & Tiresias Films (France)

written & directed by: Zorana Musikic

DOP: Christian Marohl

produced by: Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh, Damilola Orimogunje, Laure Dahout

Awards | Participations | Funds:

Drama International Short Film Festival Pitching Lab 2023

Short Film Klinik | Red Sea Film Festival / Goethe Institute Gulf 2022/23

FFA - German Film Fund Production Support 2023

Interfilm International Script Pitch Award 2016

ASCENDING

Genre: Drama

When a self-imposed abortion procedure goes wrong, Hajar, an overburdened mother in a small village in Saudi Arabia, desperately turns for help from her 6-year-old son.

4K | 15 min.

Mayana Films

written & directed by: Bashayar Abdulaziz

produced by: Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh

Awards | Participations:

Short Film Klinik | Red Sea Film Festival / Goethe Institute Gulf



CO-PRODUCED FILMS BY ZORANA MUSIKIC & MAY ODEH

SHORT FILM - FICTION - RELEASED

MARADONA'S LEGS - IJRAIN MARADONA

Genre: Children's Film

In a Palestinian village during the Football World Championship 1990, the young brothers Rafat and Fadel are searching for "Maradona's legs" - their World Cup album's last missing sticker. Will they master the obstacles and accomplish their mission?

2k | 23 min.

schaf oder scharf film in co-production with Odeh Films (palestine)

directed by: Firas Khoury

produced by: Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh

DOP: Christian Marohl

edited by: Marwan Hechkel, Heike Parplies

funded by: Robert Bosch Foundation, Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

distributed by: Lights On

VOD: Netflix, Canal+, Canal+ International, Shorts TV, argo shorts. Curia TV, ...

It was broadcasted by MDR Unicato and RAI Cinema and is licenced by various airlines like Air Canada and Air Korea.

Festivals | Awards:

World premiere: Palm Springs Shortfest, USA 2019

"Maradona's legs has played over 150 international Films Festivals (Aspen Shorts, Hollyshorts, Leeds International Film Festival, PÖFF Shorts, Mo&Friese, Dresden Film Festival) and has won over 50 awards, among them: Sunbird Award at Days of Cinema Palestine 2019, LUCAS - International Festival for Young Film Lovers 2019, Ajyal Film Festival 2019, Alice nella Città Italy 2019, Audience Award at Tampere Film Festival Finland 2020, Busan International Kids and Youth Festival 2020, Cinemed - Festival International Cinéma Méditerranéen de Montpellier, Ismailia International Film Festival 2021 and many more.



SELECTION OF PREVIOUS WORK
PRODUCED INDIVIDUALLY BY ZORANA MUSIKIC OR MAY ODEH



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