

MAYANA
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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. The young company focuses on author-driven stories, fiction, documentary as well as hybrid formats, with a strong artistic vision and impactful social relevance. The idea of collaborative work and mutual care is a core value of their approach, empowering diverse voices in their projects and nurturing the relationships they build along the way.

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.



[LINK TO PROOF OF CONCEPT VIDEO](#)

PW: LastTrip

IN DEVELOPMENT

FEATURE FILM - FICTION

LAST TRIP

Genre: Psychological Thriller

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) & Tiresias Films (France)

written & directed by: Ziad Kalthoum

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

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

Participations | Support:

Berlinale Co-Production Market 2024

Red Sea Development Support & Medienboard Script Development Fund 2022



THE CRIMINALS

Genre: Drama, Roadmovie, Thriller

When Emre, a Kurdish Student and Clara, a French exchange student meet at a party in Istanbul, they decide to go on a road trip. As they embark, their romantic plan to explore the beautiful landscapes of Cappadocia gradually turns into a nightmare.

4K | 90 min.

in co-production with Tiresias Films (France)

written & directed by: Serhat Karaaslan

produced by: Laure Dahout, Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh

Participations | Support:

Torino ScriptLab 2024



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), Couronne Nord (Canada)

written & directed by: Lara Zeidan

produced by: Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh, Séverine Tibi, Cynthia Choucair, Julie Groleau
Awards | Participations | Support:

Crossroads Co-production Forum 2020 (CNC Development Award)

Red Sea International Film Festival 2021 (Special Mention Award at Red Sea Souk),
Beirut Cinema Platform, 2021, Doha Film Institute's Hezayah Screenwriting Lab, 2021,
Red Sea Development Support 2021, AFAC Production Grant 2022, Telefilm Canada
Production Support 2024



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)

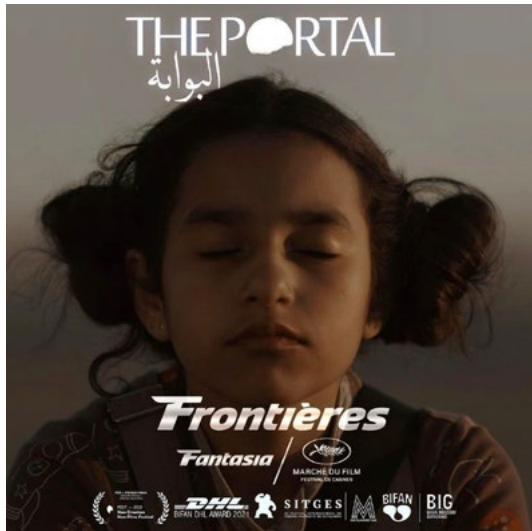
written & directed by: Rakan Mayasi

co-written by Ahmed Amer

produced by: Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh, Abdallah Ramahi

Awards | Participations | Support:

Atlas Ateliers - Festival International de Marrakech 2022, Jordan Film Fund Development Support 2023, GAIFF PRO Market Yerevan - Best Pitch Award & Post Production Award 2023, Crossroads Co-Production Forum Thessaloniki 2024



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

co-written by Judith Rose Gyabaah

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



FEATURE FILM - DOCUMENTARY / HYBRID

MY SKIN AND I

Genre: Hybrid 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 | 90 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), DOK Leipzig Co-Production Market (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: Marine Vaillant, Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh, Jana Wehbe

Participations | Support:

LabDoc#2 Méditalents Writing Residency (2021), Qumra (2024)

Ile de France writing support, South Region Development, Doha Film Institute Development Grant (2023), Production fund Aquitaine Region (2024)



TALE OF THE PLUM SPIRIT

Genre: Creative Documentary

An ageing bachelor from a declining Serbian village is trying to convince his grandniece from Berlin to find a husband and escape his fate. As they stubbornly argue, the village becomes a showcase for the nonsense of Balkan conflicts and social pressures that drag down an individual who doesn't fit in.

4K | 90 min.

in co-production with Big Time Production (Serbia)

written & directed by: Milica Đenić

produced by: Jelena Radenković, Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh

Participations | Support:

MakeCoProDox Forum (2021), Beldocs (2021) - Winner of DOKSrbija Encouragement Award, CIRCLE Women Doc Accelerator (2022)

Film Center Serbia Production Fund (2023)



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:

MASO Short Film Training Program (2024)

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



IN POST-PRODUCTION

FEATURE FILM - FICTION

A USEFUL GHOST

Genre: Supernatural Drama

Worrying about her son being allergic to dust, a dead woman returns as a ghost possessing a vacuum cleaner to get rid of dust and protect her family.

4K | 90 min.

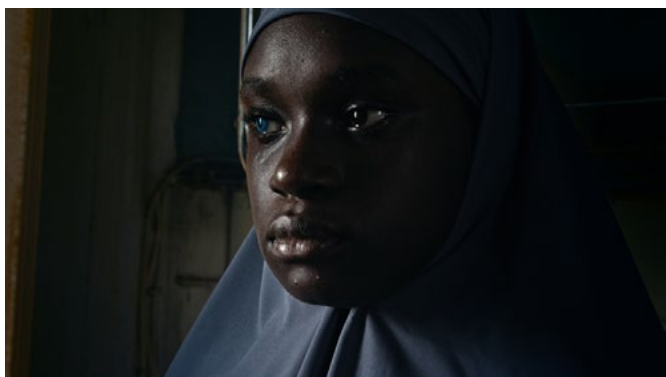
in co-production with 185 Films (Thailand), Momo Film (Singapore) & Haut Lesmain (France)

written & directed by: Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke

produced by: Cattleya Paosrijaoen, Soros Sukhum, Tan Sie En, Karim Aitouna, Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh

Participations | Support:

Berlinale World Cinema Fund 2023, HBF+EUROPE 2023, Aide aux cinemas du monde Co-Production Fund 2023, The Singapore Film Commission Co-Production Fund 2023, Next Masters Support Program Project Development Fund 2022, Open Doors Hub Production Support Locarno Film Festival 2021, Purin Pictures Production Fund Thailand 2021, SEAPITCH (Southeast Asian Project Pitch) Runner-up Prize Bangkok ASEAN Film Festival 2020, Southeast Asian Film Lab Most Promising Project Singapore International Film Festival 2017, Script Development fund – Ministry of Culture, Thailand



AISHA CAN'T FLY AWAY

Genre: Drama

Aisha; a 26 years old Somali caregiver lives in Cairo where she witnesses the underworld of African migrants' society and the tension between the different groups. Pressure, routine, dreary work and an undefined relationship make her dreams cross to her reality leading her into an impasse.

4K | 90 min.

in co-production with Bonanza Films (Egypt), Film Clinic (Egypt), Nomadis Images (Tunisia)

written & directed by: Morad Mostafa

produced by: Sawsan Yusuf, Mohamed Hefzy, Dora Bouchoucha, Zorana Mušikić, May Odeh

Participations | Support:

La Biennale di Venezia Final Cut Award 2024, World Cinema Fund 2024, El Gouna Co-Production Award 2023, Amman IFF Co-Production Award 2023, Red Sea Film Fund Production Support 2023, Al Mawred Al Thaqafy Production Fund, 2023 Doha Film Institute Production Fund 2023

Labs: Rotterdam Lab, Cinemed, Red Sea Lodge, Ouaga Film Lab, Fabrique des Cinémas du Monde, Cinefondation

PREVIOUSLY CO-PRODUCED FILMS BY ZORANA MUŠIKIĆ & 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 MUŠIKIĆ OR MAY ODEH



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