

LITTLE MAGNET  
FILMS



Locarno Festival  
Official selection

# CHAOS

a film by

SARA FATTAHI

PRESS KIT

 Bundeskanzleramt



AFAC أفاق | The Arab Fund For Arts and Culture  
المصندوق العربي للثقافة والفنون - أفاق



مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام  
Qumra DOHA FILM INSTITUTE



بدايات



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CHAOS is the story of three Syrian women, each living in a different time and place, separated by the very thing that unites them – fear itself and trauma itself.

## CREDITS

### CHAOS

Austria, Syria, Lebanon, Qatar, 95 min, Arabic / German  
Written and directed by SARA FATTAHI

Produced by PAOLO CALAMITA  
Edited by RAYA YAMISHA  
Cinematography by SARA FATTAHI

Camera LUKAS SCHALLER  
Underwater Camera TALAL KHOURY  
Steadicam Operator THOMAS MAIER

Sound BRUNO PISEK  
Sound Editing RAYA YAMISHA  
Sound Mixing ALEXANDER KOLLER  
Sound Design LENJA GATHMANN

Colorist SHIRINE SINNO

Production Manager PAOLO CALAMITA  
Translations and Subtitles STEFAN TARNOWSKI  
Actress JASCHKA LÄMMERT

With RAJA, HEBA

A LITTLE MAGNET FILMS PRODUCTION

with the Support of:

The Austrian Federal Chancellery  
The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture  
Doha Film Institute  
Bidayyat for Audiovisual Arts  
City of Vienna

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## SYNOPSIS

The film narrates the story of three women in three different cities. They have given up on life. One lives in Damascus. She has stopped speaking to others entirely, isolating herself in her flat.

The other has left Damascus as a result of the war and went to Sweden, where she imprisons herself in her paintings, hoping through them to rid herself of the torments of the past.

The third ended up in Vienna and faces an unknown future, like the ghost of a woman who fled Austria after the Second World War.

It is a discussion between a woman stuck in Damascus, a second stuck in exile, and a third who has recently left. It is a conversation between the interior and exterior – an impossible conversation.



## BIOGRAPHY

Sara Fattahi, born in Damascus in 1983, studied Law at Damascus University and graduated at the Fine Art Institute in Damascus. Storyboard artist & animator for several channels such as Al Jazeera Kids and SpaceToon, as well as art director of soap-operas from 2003 to 2008. Since 2010, independent filmmaker and producer. Since 2014 collaborations in research and writing for independent short films.

First short documentary 27 METERS in 2013. Fattahi's first feature length documentary COMA was produced in 2015 and was granted the 'Regard Neuf Award' for the Best First Feature Film at Visions du Réel 2015, the FIPRESCI Award at the Viennale 2015, and has been screened at numerous festivals such as MoMA's Doc fortnight 2016, Berlinale's Critics' Week 2016, São Paulo 2016.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In the shadow of an unending war, or perhaps wars, we are blind in the face of a future we cannot see completely, which we are almost completely unable to read and make sense of.

How can people protect themselves from hatred when there is so much loss and pain surrounding them? What propels them towards the unknown? Is it the unknown itself?

The film begins from the particular and moves to the general, from the personal to questions of universal humanity. It resembles a biography that has been fragmented, its narrative following my memory rather than an attempt at reconstruction. It is an attempt to translate the truth of human terror faced with the thought of death, and the final opportunity to debate with catastrophe. It is a work of research into the specificities of isolation and the deep loneliness in the midst of a world receding slowly to oblivion, across the repeated shocks that the three characters face, and the attempt to bridge that other abyss of consciousness through an in-depth study of the particularities of the human interior.

Sara Fattahi



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SCREENINGS AT 71<sup>ST</sup> LOCARNO FESTIVAL  
Concorso Cineasti del presente

Thursday 9/8/2018

18:30 · PalaCinema Sala 1 · Sub. English, French

Friday 10/8/2018

14:00 · L'altra Sala · Sub. English, French

Saturday 11/8/2018

09:30 · PalaCinema Sala 2 · Sub. English

FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT

LITTLE MAGNET FILMS GMBH

Mr. Paolo Calamita | Wildpretmarkt 1 | 1010 Vienna

T +43/1/581 29 27 | office@littlemagnetfilms.com

www.littlemagnetfilms.com

[www.chaos-film.com](http://www.chaos-film.com)