



*Ali Zaoua*

A Film by Nabil Ayouch



**MOROCCO, RUNNING TIME: APPROX. 98 MIN**

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## SYNOPSIS

Ali, Kwita, Omar, and Boukber are a group of street urchins living on the hard streets of Casablanca. Their everyday lives are filled with violence, begging, and indifference. In order to survive they create a bond of friendship and family between them. The bond is cut short when Ali is senselessly killed at the beginning of the film by a blow to the head; his life taken by a single act of a rival gang. Ali's friends decide not to report his death to the police, who would have the boy buried in a potter's field. Instead they decide to give him a worthy burial, to bury Ali on the private island he so often dreamed of. Ali Zaoua captures the power of dreams and presence of hope in the harshest of circumstances.

## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Nabil Ayouch's first feature, *Mektoub*, was Morocco's official entry in the 1999 Academy Awards. Mektoub became one of the most successful and acclaimed features in Moroccan history. For *Ali Zaoua*, Ayouch cast homeless children from the streets of Casablanca. *Ali Zaoua's* urban landscapes are a far cry from the iconic images of the legendary film Casablanca. However, Ayouch's compassion toward the children and their plight is evident in every frame of the film as he contrasts their stark reality with the fantastic dream world to which they seek to escape.

## CAST

Kwita -	Mounim Kbab
Omar -	Mustapha Hansali
Boubker -	Hicham Moussoune
Ali Zaoua -	Abdelhak Zhayra
Dib -	Said Taghmaoui
Madame Zaoua -	Amal Ayouch
The Fisherman -	Mohamed Majd
The Sailor -	Hicham Ibrahimi
Khalid -	Khalil Essaadi
Noureddine -	Abdessamad Tourab Seddam
Child From Marabount -	Karim Merzak
Old Lady -	Halima Frizi
School Girl -	Nadia Ould Hajjaj

## **CREW**

Director -	Nabil Ayouch
Screenwriter -	Nabil Ayouch, Nathalie Saugeon
Director of Photography -	Vincent Mathias
Camera Operator -	Renaat Lambeets
Casting Director -	Faical Bougrine
Set Designer -	Said Rais
Make-up -	Malika Bouizergarne
Costume Designer -	Nezha Dakil
Unit Manager -	Frantz Richard
Editor -	Jean-Robert Thomann
Sound Engineer -	Francois Guillaume
Mixer -	Philippe Baudhuin
Animation -	Sylvie Leonard for Folimage
Composer -	Krishna Levy

## **ABOUT THE CREW**

### **Nabil Ayouch (Director)**

Nabil Ayouch directed *Mektoub*, one of the most successful and acclaimed Moroccan films ever. *Mektoub* became Morocco's Academy Award® submission in 1999. Winner of the prestigious "Bronze Horse" at the Stockholm Film Festival, *Ali Zaoua* is his second feature film.

## **ABOUT THE CAST**

### **Mounim Kbab, Mustapha Hansali, Hicham Moussone, Abdelhak Zhayra**

The young people who play *Ali Zaoua* and his friends are not professional actors, but real street kids ("chemkaras") recruited from the streets of modern-day Casablanca. Over the course of a few years, Ayouch earned the trust of the children enabling him to evoke natural and beguiling performances.

## ACCLAIM

Ayouch's Nabil Ayouch's first film, *Mektoub*, is the most celebrated film in Moroccan film history and received his country's Academy Award® nomination. Ali Zaoua is an equally extraordinary film; it is a cinematic accomplishment.

WON - Ecumenical Jury Prize – *Montreal World FF*

WON – Bronze Horse Award – *Stockholm FF*

WON - Buster Grand Prix for Best Film – *Buster Int'l Children's FF*

WON – Interfaith Award – *St. Louis Int'l FF*

Official Selection – *Sundance FF, Toronto Int'l FF, Berlin Int'l FF, Seattle Int'l FF, Vancouver Int'l FF*

## ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

**Film Movement** is an innovative new film distribution company, created as a solution for millions of consumers across the nation whose access to outstanding film is limited by geography, lifestyle or lack of information. Film Movement has members in over 50 states and 1200 cities. Film Movement acquires award winning independent films from the world's top festivals, which they then release each month of the year to members on DVD through a subscription service, and theatrically through The Film Movement Series. Participating filmmakers are able to reach under-served film fans everywhere through Film Movement.

**The Film Movement Series** is a new theatrical film series featuring some of the best in original world cinema. Created by the team that invented the groundbreaking Shooting Gallery Film Series, Film Movement will release 6 of its 12 films per year in leading independent cinemas in major US cities to help outstanding filmmakers find the audience they deserve. All films are available to members exclusively on DVD upon theatrical release so that they may participate regardless of where they live.

Film Movement has partnered with some of the leading independent theaters in the country to exhibit the Film Movement Series. The schedule includes the following films:

- Wiebke von Carolsfeld's *Marion Bridge*
- Eric Eason's *Manito*
- Scott Hamilton Kennedy's *OT: our town*
- Donovan Leitch & Rebecca Chaiklin's *The Party's Over*
- Tjebbo Penning's *Morlang*
- Mina Shum's *Long Life, Happiness and Prosperity*
- Vicente Amorim's *The Middle of the World*
- Jacques Doillon's *Raja*
- Tony McNamra's *The Rage in Placid Lake*

- Rolf de Heer's *Alexandra's Project*