

FROM ANTOUN SEHNAOUI, PRODUCER OF THE ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATED DRAMA, THE INSULT
ORIGINAL SCORE COMPOSED BY ACADEMY AWARD® WINNER, GABRIEL YARED

BROKEN KEYS

THIS IS THE SOUND
OF DEFIANCE



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
OFFICIAL SELECTION
2020



A FILM BY JIMMY KEYROUZ

EZEKIEL FILM PRODUCTION PRESENTS "BROKEN KEYS" PRODUCED BY ANTOUN SEHNAOUI PRODUCERS FREDERIC DOMONT & VALENTIN DOMONT TAREK SIKIAS THE SINGER BEHUT ABLA KHOURY & LARA CHEKEROJIAN
FEATURING TAREK YACOUB ROLA BAKSMATI AMOUNIR MASHI JULIAN FARHAT IBRAHIM EL KURDI SARAH ABI KANAAN ADEL KARAM BADI BOU CHAKRAH GABRIEL YAMMINE HASSAN MRAO FADI ABI SAMRA LEILA KAMARI SAID SEHMAN
MUSIC BY GABRIEL YARED EDITOR YVES DELONIAK WITH MARIA MALEK LUTHER JOE SAADIE PRODUCTION DESIGNER ISSA KANOU COSTUME DESIGNER LARA KHANIS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MATHÉMATIC FRA EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PLATFORM STUDIOS WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JIMMY KEYROUZ
ANTOUN SEHNAOUI PRODUCTION COMPOSED BY GABRIEL YARED

COMING SOON



A sharp shooter contemplating the ruins of Kobane in Syria. (AFP)



Exhausted, this child rests after his town is liberated.

"The Syrian war is considered to be the world's largest humanitarian catastrophe. More than half of all Syrians have been forced to flee their homes, resulting in over 5.5 millions refugees" - The United Nations.



After being bombed, this elder finds solace in music.



A father treats his kids with a rare shower, water being scarce.



Residents of the besieged Yarmouk refugee camp near Damascus, Syria, crowding a destroyed street to get food being handed out. (UNRWA)



A mother prepares dinner in a ravaged neighborhood.



A young rebel fighter awaits for his next battle.

Director's Statement

Through the transcendent power of music, Broken Keys explores survival, resistance, defiance, war, and hope, against the backdrop of a conflict-ravaged Middle Eastern neighborhood staged in the fictional town of Ramza in Syria where music has been made unlawful by a terrorist group.

This film represents the fight for art and the profound impact that it has on a broken society. It's a reminder that even in a world torn by war, terrorism, and daily abuses of human rights; the beauty of music and its unifying properties don't lessen, making it a cause worth fighting for.

The narrative is based on the true story of a young pianist, Akram. He was discovered playing piano; with aspirations of kindling hope back into his neighbor's lives, defying the power in place in his village, Ramza.

This story was the inspiration behind Nocturne in Black, the short version of Broken Keys which was decorated with a BAFTA Award and shortlisted for the 2017 Oscars.

This feature film will convey music as a beacon of hope, filling the void left by the battle for survival in a war-torn world, affecting millions of souls trapped in this calamity.

"Music is what feelings sound like."

Jimmy Keyrouz

The Story

2013. Karim, 20's, lives in a hideout, in a war-torn village in Syria. His dream is to escape the country to Europe. The only way he can get the money to leave is to sell his most precious possession, the piano he inherited from his mother. Karim often plays the piano at night to lift up the morale in the hideout. Ziad, 10 years old, also lives in the hideout. He is the son of a resistance fighter. He is fascinated by the music and admires Karim. An attack occurs and one of the resistance fighters gets injured. Out of medical supplies, the makeshift doctor asks Karim to play the piano to ease the injured man's pain. It is daytime; the occupying militia hears the music. They raid the hideout, wreck the piano and kill Ziad's dad. Karim is now more resolved than ever to leave.

Karim goes on a quest to retrieve parts for the broken piano. His search starts in his village but he doesn't find what he needs. In the meantime, Ziad gets captured by the militia and is held captive in a training camp. He manages to steal a pipe bomb and sneaks out, planning to avenge his father's murder. He comes back to the hideout and confesses his plans to Karim.

Karim confiscates the bomb and convinces him to lay low.

Ziad tells him about a grand piano, located in the distant town of Ramza, which is at the heart of the conflict. Karim decides to go to Ramza where he can find the parts to fix his piano.

On the outskirts of the city, he meets a vegetable smuggler that gets him inside Ramza. The city is ravaged and under siege. He meets a resistance fighter named Samar who agrees to help him find the piano, in exchange for safe passage outside of the city.

The ordeals they face together strengthen their connection and they start having feelings for each other. But both of them are on a mission. They have to part at the gate of the city and Karim returns to his village.

Back in his village, Karim realizes that there is a price on his head and Ziad's. He repairs and sells his piano. Karim realizes the resistance fighters need his help and he decides to save Ziad's life instead of his own. He buys the ticket out for the child with the money. Karim puts in motion an ambush to overthrow the militia.

The End

Director



Jimmy Keyrouz is an award-winning director/writer. His latest film *Nocturne In Black* won the Gold Medal at the 43rd Student Academy Awards, the BAFTA Student Film Awards, the Director's Guild of America Film Award, and was shortlisted for the 2017 Oscars in the Live Action Short category. *Nocturne in Black* also won Jury Selects at the Columbia University Film Festival as well as the National Board of Review Grant, the Caucus Foundation production grant, the Marion Carter Green Award, and the IFP Audience Award. It premiered at the Lincoln Center in May 2016 and screened at Telluride, LA Shorts Fest and many film festivals around the world. In 2012, Jimmy joined the Screenwriting/Directing Master in Fine Arts program at Columbia University, New York. Jimmy recently directed and edited *The Holy Goats*, a feature documentary film about the social impacts of climate change.

The Cast



Tariq Yaakoub as Karim



Rola Beksmati as Samar



Adel Karam as Tarek



Issa El Hajj as Ziad



Sarah Abi Kanaan as Maya



Julien Farhat as Abbas



Mounir Maasri as Abou Moussa



Hassan Mrad as Akram



Gabriel Yamine as Mounif

Composer



Gabriel Yared was born in 1949 and lived in Lebanon for the first eighteen years of his life where he learned the fundamentals of music by himself by exploiting his school's library. He later benefited from a classical education from great masters, Dutilleux and Maurice Ohanna, which allowed him to perfect his craft. During the 1970s Yared collaborated as a song writer and orchestrator with, Johnny Hallyday, Sylvie Vartan and the Costa Brothers among others. He has also made a name for himself by writing music for dance. He performs on multiple occasions in world renowned venues such as the "Philharmonie de Paris". Since the 1980's, Gabriel Yared has developed an interest for film composition and has become one of the leading figures of his industry.

Yared has been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Score on three occasions. He won for *The English Patient* in 1996. He was also nominated for *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1999) and *Cold Mountain* (2003). He has also received three Golden Globe and three BAFTA nominations for the same films, and won both awards for *The English Patient*. He has been nominated for two Grammy Awards, again winning for *The English Patient*.

Yared has worked on over seventy movies to date, including *Betty Blue*, *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, *Sylvia*, *Cold Mountain* and *The English Patient* directed by Anthony Minghella which received numerous prestigious awards and worldwide renown. This is the first time in his career that Gabriel Yared agrees to work on a Lebanese feature film.

Gabriel Yared



Ezekiel Film Production

Antoun Sehnaoui is a leader in many fields. Chairman of SGBL, he is also the owner of "Pikes Peak National Bank" in Colorado and the "Banque Richelieu" based in France and Monaco.

To fulfill his deep love of cinema, Antoun Sehnaoui created Ezequiel Film Production, a company based in New York, that has produced more than 30 films. Among those films, Sils Maria, which won 19 awards and 42 nominations. But the ultimate recognition for Antoun Sehnaoui as a producer came with the Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Language Film in 2018 for The Insult, a film that also cumulated 15 prizes - including best actor at the Venice Film Festival - and 12 nominations. Antoun Sehnaoui is also one of the three pillars of Rouge-International, a production company based in Paris, which aims to develop art-house cinema.



The Crew of The Insult posing for the 89th edition of the Academy Awards.

Following the insult's success, Ezekiel film production in support to the Lebanese cinema produced Broken Keys, the first feature length movie of the young director Jimmy Keyrouz. After the success of his short movie, Broken Keys promises with certainty multiple selections in the biggest movie festivals and a nomination to the Oscars.

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First Lebanese movie to be nominated for best foreign film at the Academy Awards.

Behind The Scenes



Ninety percent of the movie was shot in Lebanon, the war-torn landscape of Syria was faithfully recreated through a mix of practical set design and cutting edge virtual effects.



Behind The Scenes



