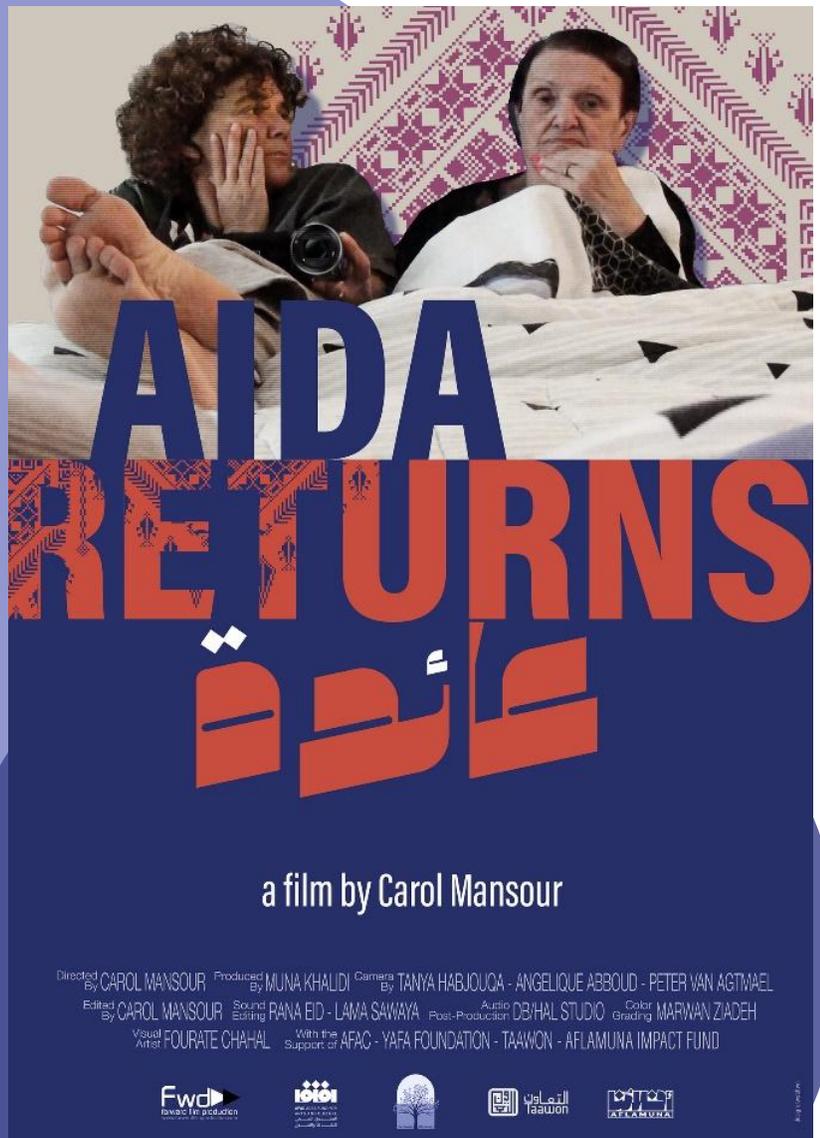


# PRESS KIT



For information please contact:

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Carol Mansour: [cmansour@fwdprod.com](mailto:cmansour@fwdprod.com); +961-3-420432

# SYNOPSIS

This film is a poignant, sometimes sad, sometimes painful, sometimes humorous, often absurd story of a multiple journey: the journey of loss as the director's mother Aida struggled with losing herself to Alzheimer's disease, but finding solace in her repeated "returning" to the Yafa and Palestine of her youth; the journey of the loss of a parent; and the ultimate return journey back to Yafa where Aida would finally find rest and be herself once more.

Close to four years after Aida's passing away, the director's friend and colleague Tanya who lives in Ramallah came to visit Beirut. When she heard about Aida's wishes and yearning for Yafa, Tanya suggested that she herself carries the ashes back. The film accompanies director Carol Mansour as she engineers a way to return her mother to Yafa in search of eternal rest and peace for her. A return that is aided by an unlikely set of friends and strangers all coming together to facilitate what should have been a simple journey. This journey is at the same time very private and personal, while resonating with hundreds of thousands of Alzheimer's sufferers and their families as well as hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees awaiting their return home.

This film is a tribute to the lost past of the director's family, an attempt to restore part of both an individual and a collective memory, a poetic nod and affirmation, and a call to action to all exiled Palestinians to defy the structures forbidding from returning to their homes, even after death.

# FESTIVAL SELECTIONS

## *Official Festival Selections:*

- ◆ **San Diego Arab Film Festival 2024**
- ◆ **Reel Palestine Film Festival 2024**
- ◆ **Arab Film Days Oslo 2024**
- ◆ **Annaba Mediterranean Film Festival 2024**
- ◆ **Prismatic Ground NYC Film Festival 2024**
- ◆ **Festival Cine-Palestine Marseille 2024**
- ◆ **Festival Cine-Palestine Paris 2024**
- ◆ **Kerry International Film Festival 2024**
- ◆ **Boston Palestine Film Festival 2024**
- ◆ **ANA Contemporary Arab Cinema New York 2024**
- ◆ **Palestinian Film Festival Amsterdam 2024**
- ◆ **Arab Film Festival San Francisco 2024**
- ◆ **Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival 2024**
- ◆ **Carthage Film Festival 2024**
- ◆ **Athens Palestine Film Festival 2024**
- ◆ **Falastin Film Festival Glasgow 2025**



# SPOTLIGHT SCREENINGS

Screenings are organized with a number of cinemas, universities, collectives and Arab/Palestinian led organizations around the world, including:

- ◆ Vanaja Collective – Kozhikode, India
- ◆ Edinburgh University Justice for Palestine Society – Edinburgh Scotland
- ◆ Listen Gallery – Glasgow, Scotland
- ◆ Filmtheater Kriterion – Amsterdam, Netherlands
- ◆ Jewish Voices for Peace – Boston, Massachusetts
- ◆ The Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova – Ljubljana, Slovenia
- ◆ Mashq Art Space – Bahrain
- ◆ Swana Rose – Portland Oregon
- ◆ Jovenes Salvadoreños por Palestina – San Salvador, El Salvador
- ◆ Northwestern University in Qatar – Qatar
- ◆ McGill University – Critical Media Lab – Montreal, Canada
- ◆ Casa Arabe – Across Spain
- ◆ Frames of Palestine – Lisbon, Portugal
- ◆ Instituto de Cultura Arabeco & Comunidad Palestina de Colombia – Across Colombia
- ◆ Majaz Café & Store – Shefa'Amr, Palestine
- ◆ Zawya – Cairo, Egypt
- ◆ Cultural Symposium Club – Al Khalil, Palestine
- ◆ New School Students for Justice in Palestine – New York, USA
- ◆ Temple University's Students for Justice in Palestine – Rome, Italy
- ◆ MultiChoice Talent Factory Academy – Nairobi, Kenya
- ◆ Mirsat – Brussels, Belgium
- ◆ Sursock Museum – Beirut, Lebanon
- ◆ Al Saraya Theater & Amnesty International – Yafa, Palestine
- ◆ Darat Al Funun – Amman, Jordan
- ◆ Filmlab Palestine – Ramallah, Palestine
- ◆ Thaqafat – Nazareth, Palestine
- ◆ Al-Ma'mal – Jerusalem, Palestine
- ◆ Glimmer of Hope – Adelaide, Australia



## GLOBAL SCREENING EVENT: March 18 2024

*In early 2024, we decided to challenge what was becoming a series of rejections from international film festivals. To break the blockade that was rising in our face and in the face Palestinian stories and the Palestinian narrative in general, we decided to take matters into our own hands. We reached out to colleagues, filmmakers, organizations, activist groups, and universities to arrange a Global Screening event. The response was overwhelming and resulted in holding scores of screenings all around the world!*

*On March 18th, 2024, on what would have been Aida's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday, "Aida Returns" made its way to more than 30 countries and 46 venues, bringing audiences together to witness Aida's journey of return to Palestine.*

*This map locates all the venues across the globe that participated in this event.*



*For a closer look and interactive viewing, visit <https://aidareturns.com>*

# Screenings part of Palestine Cinema Days: Around the World

- ◆ **Lucy Parsons Center** – *Boston, MA*
- ◆ **Haymarket House** – *Chicago, IL*
- ◆ **Cinematheque at Cleveland Institute of Art** – *Cleveland, OH*
- ◆ **Arab American National Museum** – *Dearborn, MI*
- ◆ **Kuykendall Hal** – *Honolulu, HI*
- ◆ **Arab American Cultural Center** – *Houston, TX*
- ◆ **Jackson Market** – *Los Angeles, CA*
- ◆ **Northwest Film Forum** – *Seattle, WA*
- ◆ **Cap City Video Lounge** – *Tallahassee, FL*
- ◆ **Lupino Screening Room** – *Canterbury, UK*
- ◆ **University of Warwick** – *Coventry, UK*
- ◆ **Not/Nowhere** – *London, UK*
- ◆ **La Parole Errante** – *Montreuil, France*
- ◆ **Archavli Cinema** – *Agios Nikolaos, Greece*
- ◆ **Free Social Space Scholeio** – *Thessaloniki, Greece*
- ◆ **Cinema de Vlucht** – *Amsterdam, Netherlands*
- ◆ **OSCAM - Open Space Contemporary Art Museum (Multiple Screenings)** – *Amsterdam, Netherlands*
- ◆ **Casa do Território** – *Famalicao, Portugal*
- ◆ **Beryti** – *Barcelona, Spain*
- ◆ **SAREAN** – *Bilbao, Spain*
- ◆ **Zentralwäscherei Zurich** – *Zurich, Switzerland*
- ◆ **Cinema da Fundação** – *Recife, Brazil*
- ◆ **Al Janiah Restaurant and Cultural Center** – *São Paulo, Brazil*
- ◆ **Mandaçaia Projects** – *Bocaina de Minas, Brazil*
- ◆ **Casa De La Cultura 2** – *San Vicente de Chucurí, Santander, Colombia*
- ◆ **Sendas, María Adelina Flores 50** - *San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas*
- ◆ **Ediciones Caradura: Cafeteøria** – *Tijuana*
- ◆ **Art Books** – *Copenhagen, Denmark*
- ◆ **Tvibit Scene** – *Tromsø, Norway*
- ◆ **Cinematket Trodheim** – *Trodheim, Norway*
- ◆ **Skēnē - space for contemporary art** – *Malmö, Sweden*
- ◆ **Netherlands Flemish Institute in Cairo – NVIC** – *Cairo, Egypt*
- ◆ **Studio Nassibian Theatre** – *Cairo, Egypt*
- ◆ **The Rainbow Theater** – *Amman, Jordan*
- ◆ **Petra Youth Center** – *Petra, Jordan*
- ◆ **Gwaira Youth Center** – *Wadi Rum, Jordan*
- ◆ **Zarqa Film Center** – *Zarqa, Jordan*
- ◆ **La Cinematheque De Tanger** – *Tangier, Morocco*



# Carol Mansour

## Director Biography & Filmography

**Carol Mansour** is an independent documentary film maker with over 25 years in documentary production who has achieved international recognition and honor for her films, with over seventy worldwide film festival screenings and official selections worldwide. Her films have won numerous prestigious awards. Carol's work reflects her concern for human rights and social justice, covering issues such as migrant workers, refugees, environmental issues, mental health, rights of the disabled, war and memory, right to health, and child labor. Carol is Lebanese/ Canadian of Palestinian origin.



### List of Documentary Film

- ◆ **"A State of Passion"** (2024); 90'; Genocide in Gaza through the eyes of British Palestinian Surgeon
- ◆ **"Aida Returns"** (2023); 77'; End of life with Alzheimer's Disease and "return" to Palestine
- ◆ **"Sisterhood"** (2022); 36'; Migrant Domestic Workers' solidarity in Lebanon
- ◆ **"Shattered: Beirut 6.07"** (2020); 17'; the aftermath of the Beirut port blast
- ◆ **"Thank you Soma"** (2018); 55'; the relationship between a young Lebanese woman and the migrant domestic worker who raised her
- ◆ **"Men on Hold"** (2018); 72'; the plight of Syrian refugee men in Lebanon
- ◆ **"Stitching Palestine"** (2017); 78'; 12 Palestinian women share their stories on the backdrop of traditional embroidery
- ◆ **"It's Just Another Place"** (2016), 36'; experiences of people living with Down Syndrome and their families
- ◆ **"We cannot go there now, my Dear"** (2014), 42'; the double-refugee experience of Palestinians from Syria
- ◆ **"Not Who We Are"** (2013), 71'; Syrian refugee women in Lebanon
- ◆ **"We Want To Know"** (2012), 42' ; exploring the memory of the Lebanese civil war
- ◆ **"Where do I begin?"** (2011), 36'; mental health in Lebanon
- ◆ **"All for the Nation"** (2011), 52'; examining the inability of Lebanese women to give the nationality to spouses and children
- ◆ **"I Come from a Beautiful Place"** (2010), 33'; Iraqi and Sudanese refugees in Lebanon
- ◆ **"Maid in Lebanon II: Voices from Home"** (2008), 40'; the connection of female migrant domestic workers with their home countries
- ◆ **"A Summer Not to Forget"** (2007), 27'; chronicling the Israeli war on Lebanon of 2006
- ◆ **"Invisible Children"** (2006), 26'; working children
- ◆ **"Maid in Lebanon"** (2005), 27'; highlighting the plight of female migrant domestic workers
- ◆ **"100% Asphalt"** (2002), 26'; street children of Cairo

# CREDITS

**Title:** Aida Returns

**Title in French:** Le Retour De Aida

**Title in Arabic :** عائدة

**Director:** Carol Mansour

**Producer:** Muna Khalidi

**Camera:** Tanya Habjouka, Angelique Abboud, Carol Mansour - Peter van Agtamael

**Editor:** Carol Mansour

**Music:** Nai Barghouti  
Michael Mansour  
Claude Sacre

**Sound Editing:** Rana Eid

**Re-recording Mixing:** Lama Sawaya

**Dialogue Editing:** Vanessa Kanaan

**Audio Post Production:** DB/HAL Studio

**Color Grading:** Marwan Zayed

# TECHNICAL INFO

**Languages:** Arabic, English and French  
(translation English and French)

**Translation:** (English & French): Rima Jureidini

**Subtitles Available:** Arabic, English, French, Italian,  
Spanish, Greek, Portuguese, Turkish

**Color:** Full color

**Aspect Ratio:** 1.7778

**Sound:** Video Surround

# STILLS

(All stills are the property of Forward Film Production)



**Aida Returns: Aida and Carol in the mirror**



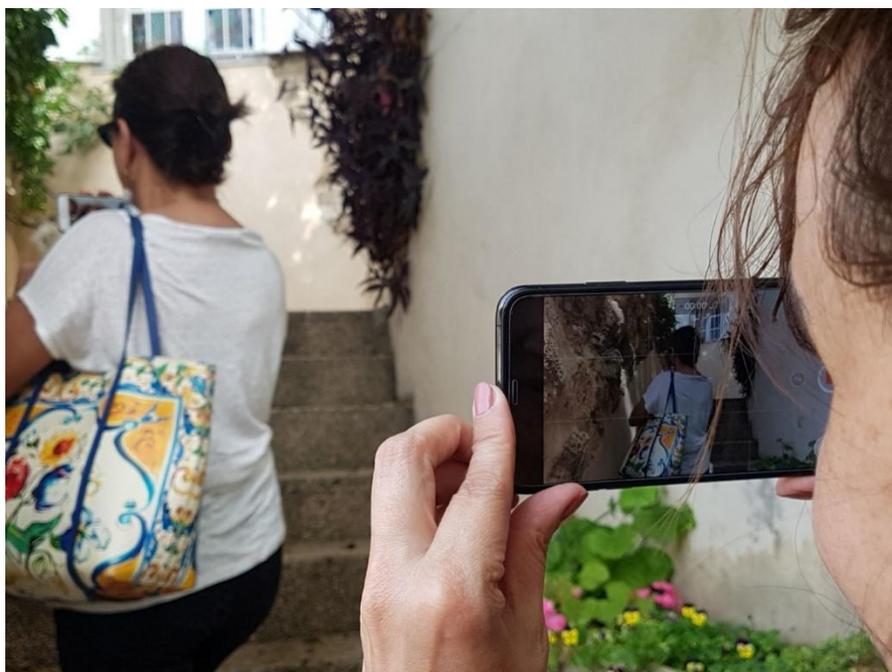
**Aida Returns: Aida en route to Ramallah**

# STILLS

(All stills are the property of Forward Film Production)



**Aida Returns: Tanya, Raeda, & Carol video call**



**Aida Returns: Walking up the stairs to the Abboud**

# FILM POSTER



# AIDA RETURNS

عائدة

a film by Carol Mansour

Directed By CAROL MANSOUR Produced By MUNA KHALIDI Camera By TANYA HABJOUQA - ANGELIQUE ABBOUD - PETER VAN AGTMAEL

Edited By CAROL MANSOUR Sound Editing RANA EID - LAMA SAWAYA Audio DB/HAL STUDIO Color Grading MARWAN ZIADEH

Visual Artist FOURATE CHAHAL With the Support of AFAC - Yafa Foundation - TAAWON - AFLAMUNA IMPACT FUND



design: taawon