



EMBODIED CHORUS

Danielle Davie & Mohamed Sabbah
Germany, Lebanon

Production: Julia Wagner - HEARTWAKE films GmbH
(Germany) / Yara Abi Nader, Madama le tapis S.A.L.
(Lebanon)

Length: 80 min

Completion Date: autumn 2020

Estimated Budget: 365.000,00 €

Acquired Budget: 119.200,00 €

Project Stage: Financing

SYNOPSIS

Embodied Chorus is an artistic exploration of living with sexually transmitted infections through a cinematic dialogue by two filmmakers. Danielle has filmed herself since she found out that she is HIV positive in 2009. She observes how “her” disease interferes with her body, in raw, violent and melancholic images. Mohamed is a gay man who lived a challenging experience with HPV. Purely visual moments transmit physical sensations and emotions in his poetical fiction. Danielle and Mohamed invite an ensemble of actors to express and embody the stories of five other Lebanese individuals. While exploring the shame related to STI experiences, Danielle and Mohamed touch base with their own conflict. The images and stories interact. Transformation is happening, the process of resilience begins.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Embodied Chorus is dealing with a theme that might sound dark and heavy, but we aim to break the fear and traumatic side of these stories. We are an HIV-positive woman and a gay man living with an infection in Lebanon, where sex and sexuality are a taboo and living with an STI is living with a wound, a trauma. We and people living with such a trauma have the need to wake up in the morning with the feeling that everything is possible. We face and confront our inner conflict coming from silence, rejection, physical weakness and pain; all shaped by shame. By surpassing this shame, we reach beauty and step into resilience. This, for us, is the reason to create *Embodied Chorus*.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS



Danielle Davie

Danielle Davie holds a PhD in Documentary and Anthropological Cinema. She made 10 shorts and directs experimental documentaries while working as coordinator and assistant professor at ALBA-UOB, USEK and UL.

FILMOGRAPHY

Les Oiseaux (2019)

Azouba Range sa Tente (2009)

Let's Go (2009)



Mohamed Sabbah

Mohamed Sabbah's films address body relationships, death and politics. His short films and feature *Chronic* screened and were awarded internationally.

FILMOGRAPHY

There (2018)

Where there is Nothing but Water (2014)

Chronic (2017)

ABOUT THE PRODUCER



Julia Wagner

Founder and producer Julia Wagner worked on fiction and documentary films including *In the Aisles*, *what doesn't Kill* and *The White Treasure*. She is EAVE Producers Workshop 2019 participant and member of WIFT and EWA Network.

HEARTWAKE films

HEARTWAKE films produces work with inspiring characters and ambitious artistic vision. Current projects include *Mascha*, by Carl Gerber, *Loose*, by Julia C.Kaiser and *Iris*, by Natalia Sinelnikova.

CONTACTS

Julia Wagner, HEARTWAKE films
t. +49 176 - 62 95 94 02
e-mail. julia.wagner@heartwake.de
web. www.heartwake.de