

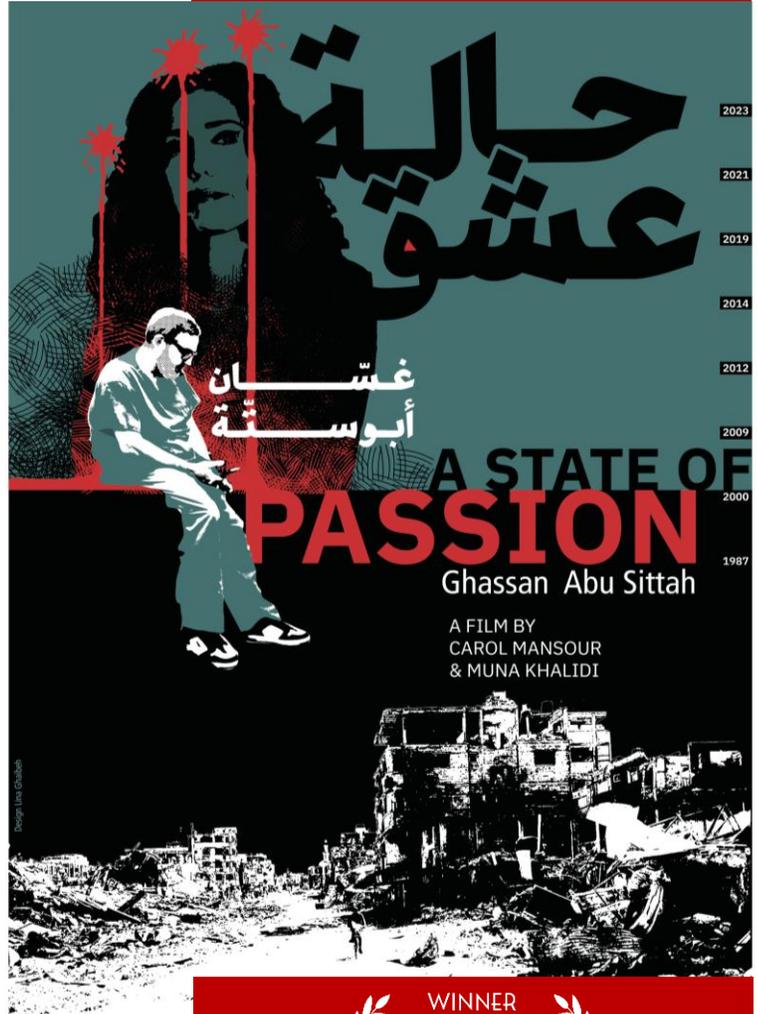
A State of Passion

حالة عشق

Press Kit



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Synopsis

A feature-length documentary film by Carol Mansour and Muna Khalidi.

After 43 horrific days working round the clock under constant bombardment in the emergency rooms of Gaza's Al Shifa and Al Ahli hospitals, British-Palestinian reconstructive surgeon, Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah, emerged to find himself as a face of Palestinian resistance.

With news footage of him pale and shell-shocked reverberating around the world, he spoke of a catalogue of horrors from lacerated bodies to amputations without anesthetics, orphaned children with no surviving family, and the deliberate targeting of medics and hospital facilities.

This was Ghassan's sixth and most horrific Gaza "war". Why does he do it? Where does he find the strength to face it again and again? How does it impact his family? How do they process the risks he takes? The answer lies simply in their shared passion: Palestine, a passion they articulate through their support of his perilous humanitarian work.

Filmmakers Carol Mansour and Muna Khalidi, close friends of the Abu Sittahs, share that same passion. They were waiting anxiously for Ghassan to emerge from Gaza, following a long and terrifying journey through the night, to meet him in Amman. Determined to capture his raw emotions, they began filming him the moment he arrived through the door. Following him to Beirut, Amman, London, Kuwait, and Dubai, they and he explore their common State of Passion.

Festival Screenings - Selection

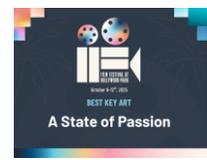
Official Festival Selections:

- ◆ Cairo International Film Festival [CIFF] 2024
- ◆ KARAMA Human Rights Film Festival 2024 (*opening film*)
- ◆ Reel Palestine Film Festival, Dubai [RPFF] 2025
- ◆ Athens Palestine Film Festival [APFF] 2025
- ◆ Al Ard Film Festival, Sardinia 2025
- ◆ International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights, Geneva [FIFDH] 2025 (*opening film*)
- ◆ Nordic Palestine Film Festival [NPFF] 2025
- ◆ International Journalism Festival [IJF], Perugia 2025
- ◆ Chicago Palestine Film Festival [CPFF] 2025 (*opening film*)
- ◆ San Diego Arab Film Festival [SDAFF] 2025 (*closing film*)
- ◆ Gabès Cinema Fen Festival 2025
- ◆ Between Women Filmmakers' Caravan | KCD-ONGD, Bilbao 2025
- ◆ SAFAR Film Festival, London 2025
- ◆ Palestinian Independent Film Festival, Limassol & Crete [PIFF] 2025
- ◆ Sheffield Doc/Fest 2025
- ◆ Toronto Palestine Film Festival [TPFF] 2025
- ◆ Palestinian Film Festival Amsterdam [PFFA] 2025
- ◆ Boston Palestine Film Festival [BPFF] 2025
- ◆ DocLisboa, Lisbon 2025



Awards

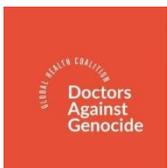
- ◆ *Best Arab Film – CIFF*
- ◆ *Feature documentary Award – CIFF*
- ◆ *Palestinian Film Award (2nd Place) – CIFF*
- ◆ *Audience Award – KARAMA Human Rights Film Festival*
- ◆ *Long Documentary Winner – Al Ard Film Festival*
- ◆ *Honorable Mention – NPFF*
- ◆ *Feature Documentary Longlist – One World Media*
- ◆ *Audience Choice Award – SDAFF*
- ◆ *Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature – BPF*
- ◆ *Best Documentary – Film Festival at Hollywood Park*
- ◆ *Best Key Art – Film Festival at Hollywood Park*
- ◆ *Human Rights Award – International Invisible Film Festival*
- ◆ *Outstanding Courage in Film Making Award – Tallgrass Film Festival*
- ◆ *Documentary Feature Award – Tallgrass Film Festival*



Spotlight Screenings

A number of screenings are organized in collaboration with medical and health professional groups and organizations, including:

- ◆ Doctors Against Genocide – Toronto, Canada
- ◆ East End Acts – Toronto, Canada
- ◆ Aotearoa Healthcare Workers for Palestine – Wellington, New Zealand
- ◆ Johns Hopkins University's Arab Student Union – Maryland, USA
- ◆ Graduate Students for Justice in Palestine – Maryland, USA
- ◆ Medical Students for Justice in Palestine – Maryland, USA
- ◆ Harvard FXB Center for Health & Human Rights – Massachusetts, USA
- ◆ Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights Harvard – Massachusetts, USA
- ◆ Harvard Law School Human Rights Program – Massachusetts, USA
- ◆ Trinity College Dublin Friends of Medecins Sans Frontieres – Dublin Ireland
- ◆ Deep Medicine Circle – San Francisco, USA
- ◆ Code Pink – San Francisco, USA
- ◆ Do No Harm Coalition – San Francisco, USA
- ◆ AROC Action – San Francisco, USA
- ◆ Cultural Symposium Club – Al Khalil, Palestine
- ◆ Filmlab Palestine – Ramallah, Palestine



FXB Center
for Health & Human Rights
at Harvard University



HARVARD Kennedy School
CARR-RYAN CENTER
for Human Rights



نادي الندوة الثقافي
Cultural Symposium Club



Filmlab
Palestine

CAROL MANSOUR

Director Biography

Carol Mansour is an independent documentary film maker who is deeply passionate about issues of social justice and human rights and believes that film is an important medium that gives voice to the marginalized. After ten years of working in television, she founded Forward Film Production in 2000 in Beirut, Lebanon. With over 24 years in documentary production, Mansour has covered the world from Sri Lanka to Lebanon to Yemen to Uzbekistan. She has achieved international recognition and honor for her films, with hundreds of film festival screenings and official selections worldwide.



MUNA KHALIDI

Co-Director Biography



Muna Khalidi holds a Ph.D. in health policy and planning, and with more than 34 years' experience working in the social and health development fields in Lebanon and the region. She has worked with various development and health organizations assisting them to develop strategic plans and to design and develop programs. In 2011, she started collaborating with Carol Mansour on the research and production of documentary films dealing with issues of social justice and human rights, bringing her experience in the academic, public, private, and NGO sectors into the documentary-making field.

Forward Film Production *Filmography*

List of Documentary Films

- ◆ **"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: A State of Passion

Title in Arabic: حالة عشق

Director: Carol Mansour

Co-Director: Muna Khalidi

Producers: Carol Mansour & Muna Khalidi

Camera: Carol Mansour; Tariq Keblaoui; Jamal Awar; Talal Khoury

Editors: Carol Mansour; Raymond Aftimos

Music: Mazen el-Sayed (El-Rass); Khyam Allami

Sound: Fadi Moussa

Sound Design: Rana Eid

Re-recording Mixing: Lama Sawaya

Dialogue Editing/Sound Editing: Tarek Dandan

Theme Song: "Holm", Emel Mathlouthi, Partisan Records, 2020

Audio Post Production: DB Studios

Color Grading: Chrystel Elias

Research: Muna Khalidi; Rana Khoury; Zeid Oweini; Vanessa Sterling; Ryan Younes

Production Assistants: Riam El Hakim; Rula Haddad; Joe Yacoub

Graphics & Animation: Fourate Chahal

Poster Design: Lina Ghaibeh

Impact Producer: Samira Koujok

Transcription: Soleiman Abu-Sittah

Archival Material: Al Jazeera Media Network; Agence France Presse (AFP); Alaraby Television; ITV plc; Amnesty International; Christine Garabedian – *Personal Archive 2022*

TECHNICAL INFO

Languages: Arabic, English (translation English & French)

Subtitle Languages: English, Arabic, French, Italian, Portuguese, Greek, Spanish, Turkish, German

Translation English: IPH Studios

Translation French: Rima Jureidini

Color: Full color

Aspect Ratio: 1.85

Sound: 5.1

STILLS *(All stills are the property of Forward Film Production)*



A State of Passion: Al-Shifa Hospital, Ghassan takes a break between surgeries



A State of Passion: Ghassan receives the news that his friend and colleague has been shot

STILLS *(All stills are the property of Forward Film Production)*

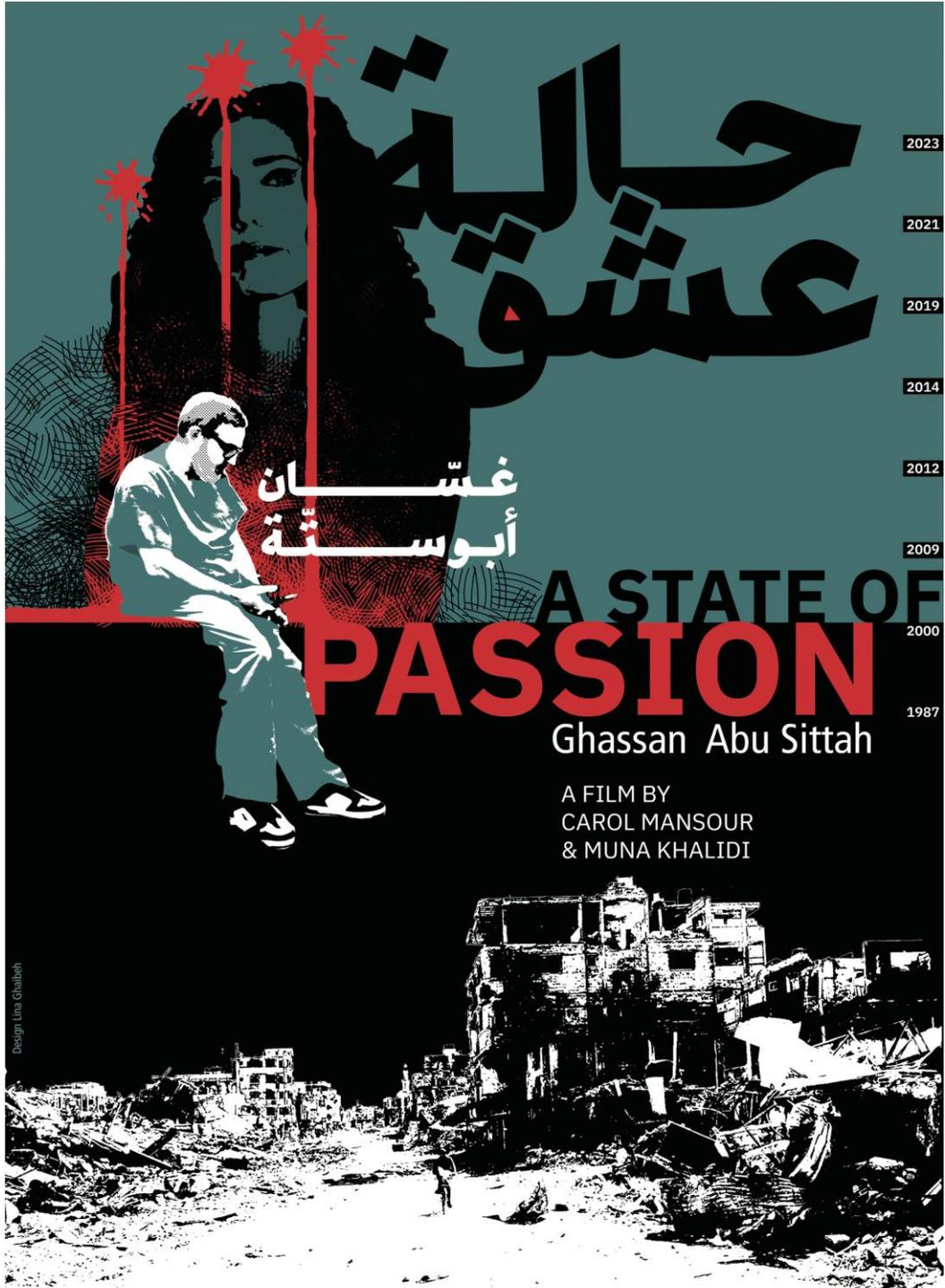


A State of Passion: Ghassan and Dima being photographed for the Washington Post



A State of Passion: Very little sleep as Ghassan works around the clock in Gaza hospitals

FILM POSTER



2023
2021
2019
2014
2012
2009
2000
1987

غسان
أبو سيدة

A STATE OF
PASSION

Ghassan Abu Sittah

A FILM BY
CAROL MANSOUR
& MUNA KHALIDI

Design: Lina Ghaleb

Fwd
forward film production
www.forwardfilmproduction.com