



Karlovy Vary
International Film Festival
Documentary Films – Competition

Antoine ARIS

Viviane ARIS

Toufic ARIS

Marie - Thérèse ARIS



THE SWING

المرجوحة

A film by
CYRIL ARIS

sound editor CEDRIC KAYEM colorist BELAL HIBRI LUCID POST music composer PAUL TYAN
story & editing consultant MOUNIA AKL edited, produced & directed by CYRIL ARIS.



أفاق AFAC

Supported by بدعم من
The Arab Fund For Arts and Culture
الصندوق العربي للثقافة والفنون - أفاق



SYNOPSIS

On the eve of his 90th birthday, life hangs by a thread for Antoine as he anticipates the visit of his daughter gone on a journey to South America, while his wife for 65 years, Viviane, also suffering from the aches of old age, endures an excruciating double sentencing: dealing with her daughter's tragic death, and, concealing this unbearable truth from her husband - truth that would inevitably end the last beats of his fragile heart.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

After the sudden passing away of my aunt in 2014 came the intriguing decision from my family to hide the terrible news from her own father - my grandfather Antoine - bedridden, weak, and barely hanging on to a heart operating at a quarter of its capacity. Sparing him from the immense emotional pain that would beset upon him during the last days of his life, the whole family embarked into an act of a white lie, creating a loving and protective bubble around him, ensuring that when he fades away, he does so with a smile. Consequently, the family simply told Antoine that his beloved daughter was abroad, traveling, and should be back soon.

In parallel, his wife for 65 years - my grandmother Viviane - found herself incapable of sharing the grief with her husband. Stuck in a grieving limbo, Viviane was forced to put a smile upon her face and swallow her pain, ensuring her husband doesn't follow the same fate as their daughter, should he discover the news.

Despite the specificity of this story to which I had first-hand and incomparable access, I quickly realized that the story of this couple reflected the state of Lebanese society, living in a self-imposed denial of its grievances and pains, struggling to re-build itself with shiny erected towers and burying stigmata from a bloody war. Studying this story was the equivalent of looking into the mirror of an entire culture, incapable of moving on from past grievances, and purposefully choosing to ignore them. Additionally, spending so much time with my grandparents during their last days made me raise questions about the futility of life, and what remains by the end of it, once we see our physical and mental abilities slowly drift away from us.



DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, EDITOR

CYRIL ARIS

Lebanese Director & Screenwriter living in New York and Beirut, currently in development for his first fiction feature, having just completed his debut feature documentary, ***The Swing*** (2018), recipient of a grant from AFAC, and which had its world premiere in the documentary competition at the 53rd Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

His previous fiction short film, ***The President's Visit*** (2017), premiered at the 42nd Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), won the US National Board of Review (NBR) grant award, was shortlisted for a student BAFTA, won the Muhr Jury Prize at the 14th Dubai International Film Festival, and the Grand Jury Prize at the 49th Nashville Film Festival, making the film eligible for an Oscar nomination in 2019. It was a recipient of grants from the Doha Film Institute, the Katharina Otto-Bernstein Film Fund and the Ministry of Culture of Lebanon.

Previous credits include short film ***Siham*** (2013), Jury Award at the 20th Palm Springs International ShortFest, LBC's TV series ***Beirut, I Love You*** (2011, 2012), and Yahoo's web-series ***Fasateen*** (2012), which both gathered several million views.

Producing work include ***Submarine*** (2016), directed by Mounia Akl, official selection of the 69th Cannes Film Festival (Cin fondation competition), TIFF, SxSW, won the Jury Award at the 13th Dubai Film Festival among other awards, and played in over 100 festivals worldwide. It was Staff picked by Vimeo, and received 350,000+ views.

Apart from directing, Aris taught Film at Columbia University, NHSI at Northwestern University and Barnard College. Aris holds an MFA from Columbia University in the City of New York.



CREDITS

DIRECTOR

Cyril ARIS

PRODUCER

Cyril ARIS

STORY & EDITING CONSULTANT

Mounia AKL

MUSIC COMPOSER

Paul TYAN

EDITOR

Cyril ARIS

SOUND EDITOR

Cedric KAYEM

COLORIST

Belal HIBRI

POST-PRODUCTION HOUSE

LUCID POST

CAST

Antoine ARIS

Viviane ARIS

Toufic ARIS

Marie-Thérèse ARIS

LUCID



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FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Official Selection at the:

*53rd Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, Czech Republic, 2018 | World Premiere

Awards:

* AFAC Documentary Grant, 2016

TECHNICAL DETAILS

RUNNING TIME	74 Mins
SHOOTING FORMAT	MiniDV, VHS
ASPECT RATIO	1.33: 1
EXHIBITION FORMAT	DCP 1920x1080, 5.1 Mix
COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION	Lebanon
DATE OF COMPLETION	2018
LANGUAGE	Arabic, French, Italian English Subtitles, French Subtitles



WEBSITE
SOCIAL MEDIA
IMDB
TRAILER

<http://www.cyrilaris.com/#/theswing/>
<https://www.facebook.com/theswingfilm/>
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8081100/>
<https://vimeo.com/275913236>

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