



**Karlovy Vary**  
**International Film Festival**  
Documentary Films – Competition

# DREAMAWAY



**BY MAROUAN OMARA & JOHANNA DOMKE**

**Germany / Egypt - 2018, 86 min**

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## SYNOPSIS

It hasn't been so very long since rich tourists from around the world came to stay in the luxury hotels of Sharm El Seikh. But the Arab Spring and the confusion of the post revolutionary period quickly robbed the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula of its charm as a go-to summer resort. Saturated with elements of surreal fiction, the documentary takes us to a shimmering city of ghosts to visit its last inhabitants -resort employees who feverishly dream among the abandoned hotel suites.



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dreamaway focuses on the youth from a part of the world that just recently started questioning their limited choices in life. In face of the present political development in the Middle East and it's effects to the rest of the world, Dreamaway presents a micro scale snapshot of the encounter between young Arabs with western culture. Sharm El Sheikh draws a peculiar picture of this encounter, as the place caricatures both cultural customs. It gives insights but as well asks for responsibility.



**Johanna Domke - Director**

Johanna Domke studied Fine Arts at the Royal Danish Art Academy in Copenhagen and the Malmö Art Academy in Sweden. She received much attention for her video work in recognized art institutions around the world. Her fascination for film made her follow a post-graduate study in scriptwriting and directing at the Media Art Academy in Cologne, Germany. She is now living in Berlin producing work for cross-over field between art and cinema with a both structural and socio-political approach

**Selective Filmography:**

- \* 2018 “Dreamaway” feature documentary
- \* 2017 “Jabni” feature documentary
- \* 2013 “Crop” mid-length documentary
- \* 2011 “Untitled Epilog” short film
- \* 2010 “Man kenenki” short documentary
- \* 2009 “Søen i spelt” short film



**Marouan Omara - Director**

Marouan Omara is a filmmaker, working with film, video and photography, born in 1987 in Cairo, Egypt. He got his diploma in film-making at the Art & Technology of Cinema Academy and his BA in Applied Arts from Helwan University, Egypt. His works have a dreamlike notion, overlapping fiction and reality by it's directs responds to the surrounding and the closeness to everyday experiences. He currently works as an adjunct professor for film production at the American University in Cairo.

**Selective Filmography :**

- \* 2018 “ Dreamaway” feature documentary
- \* 2017 “One plus one makes a pharaoh’s chocolate cake” mid-length documentary
- \* 2015 “The Visit” mid-length documentary
- \* 2013 “Crop” mid-length documentary



## Credits

Screenwriters: Johanna Domke & Marouan Omara

Cinematography: Jakob Beurle

Editing: Gesa Jäger, Louly Seif

Music: Bilgehan Özis

Production: Germany, Egypt, Qatar

Produced by: Roman Roitman, Mark Lotfy, Arne Birkenstock

Duration: 86 minutes

Format: HD 5.1

Languages: Arabic, English

## Cast

Housekeeper: Horreya Hassan

Animation Girl: Shaima Reda

Driver: Hossam Abo Salama

DJ Taki: Khaled Ahmed

Masseur: Alaa Abo El Kassem

Entertainer/Statue: Rami Gomaa

The girl at the diving Center: Yousra Sayed

Monkey: Salam Yousry



## Production Notes

**Roman Roitman** is a film producer. He graduated from *Russian State University for the Humanities of Moscow* with a diploma in journalism. Since 2003 he has been involved in several theatre and film productions. Roman Roitman participated in the *Producers Workshop* at the Cannes Film Festival and was selected for the further education program *International Producing* by Simon Perry(ACE) at ifs/Cologne. In 2015 he co-founded the production company *Monokel*. In the same year, Roman Roitman won *The Film Prize of Robert Bosch Stiftung* and was selected by the *Film- und Medienstiftung NRW* for the *Rotterdam Lab* at the *CineMart*. ([www.monokel.de](http://www.monokel.de))

**Mark Lotfy** is the founder of Fig Leaf Studios since 2005, a production company based in Alexandria. He produces feature films, short films, documentaries and visual art guiding directors from concept and scriptwriting to shooting, editing and broadcasting including independent, low budget production and considers independent cinema as a driving force for future cinema production in Egypt and the whole world. ([www.figleafstudio.com](http://www.figleafstudio.com))

Dreamaway is a co-production with WDR and had support from the Film-und Medienstiftung NRW (Germany), the Doha Film Institute (Qatar), from the IDFA Bertha Fund Europe (Netherlands) from the Catapult Film Fund(US), Hot Docs Blue Ice Fund (Canada), Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (Lebanon) and FFA (Germany).