

## **THE SETTLEMENT**

**A Workplace Thriller by Mohamed Rashad**

**Countries of Production: Egypt, France, Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia**

**Year of Production: 2025**

**Duration: 94 min**

### **Logline:**

As two brothers navigate their new roles in a factory, they begin to question whether their father's death there was truly accidental.

### **Synopsis:**

Inspired by real events, **THE SETTLEMENT** follows two brothers — 23-year-old troublemaker Hossam and his 12-year-old brother Maro — living in a marginalized community in Alexandria who are offered jobs by the local factory after their father's untimely death in a workplace accident as compensation for their loss in lieu of pursuing legal action. As they navigate their new roles, they begin to question whether their father's death was truly accidental.

### **About the Director:**

Mohamed Rashad is an Egyptian director, writer, and producer who graduated from the University of Alexandria with a degree in civil engineering. After completing a two-year filmmaking workshop at the Jesuit Cultural Film School of Alexandria, he directed two short fiction films: **FROM AFAR** (2005) and **MAXIM** (2007). He later served as an assistant director on several notable films, including **COMING FORTH BY DAY**, directed by Hala Lotfy, with whom he co-founded Hassala Films.

In 2016, he directed his first feature documentary film **LITTLE EAGLES**, which premiered at the Dubai International Film Festival and won the Best Documentary Award at the Malmö Arab Film Festival and the Jury Award at the Luxor African Film Festival. Later in 2019, he served as a producer on Ramez Youssef's feature documentary **THE PROFESSION**, which received a Black Iris Award-Special Mention at the Amman International Film Festival.

His feature film debut is **THE SETTLEMENT**, which is set to world premiere as part of the Perspectives section of the 75th Berlin International Film Festival.

**Director's Statement:**

Working on THE SETTLEMENT took five years, and throughout the journey of the film, I was able to fulfill my ambitions, such as casting completely unknown actors and involving real workers in important roles and groups. I also filmed in real locations, capturing scenes in Alexandria that closely matched what I had envisioned along with the industrial atmosphere that I find artistically rich.

**Festivals:**

- Berlin International Film Festival (World Premiere - Perspectives Section)

**Funds:**

- Berlinale World Cinema Fund
- IFFR's Hubert Bals Fund Script and Development Initiative
- IFFR's Hubert Bals Plus Co-Production Minority Support
- Doha Film Institute
- Arab Fund for Arts and Culture
- Red Sea Development Fund
- Fonds Image De La Francophonie Fund
- El Gouna Film Festival's CineGouna Funding

**Cast & Crew:**

- Written and directed by Mohamed Rashad
- Cast: Adham Shukry, Zeyad Islam, Hanaday Abd El Khaleh, Emad Ghoniem
- Producer: Hala Lotfy
- Co-producers: Etienne de Ricaud, Kesmat Elsayed
- Production companies: Hassala Films, Caractères Productions, Seera Films GmbH, and ART
- DOP: Mahmoud Lotfi
- Editor: Heba Othman

- Music: Tony Overwater
- Sound: Mohamed Salah
- World Sales By: MAD World
- Arab Sales and Distribution By: MAD Distribution