

LA ISLA

DE PEREJIL

ليلا

A FILM BY AHMED BOULANE

فلم لأحمد بولان

جزيرة المعدنوس

Summary

- Logline
- Synopsis
- Director's Statement
- Filmography
- Cast
- Movie Stills
- Data sheet
- Contact

Logline

Ibrahim, a Moroccan soldier, is sent to a deserted island off the Mediterranean coast of Morocco. His orders are to monitor the movements of smugglers and illegal immigrants, but--a pawn in a larger game--he is being used by his superiors for murkier aims. Ibrahim finds a Sub-Saharan man, Mamadou, washed up on the beach. While the unlikely pair tries to survive on the small, stony island, their presence inadvertently triggers a diplomatic incident that crescendos into a regional military crisis.



Synopsis

Ibrahim, a Moroccan man in his 40s who lives in a small city in the north of Morocco, is a soldier, husband and father of three children. One morning when he reports for duty, his captain orders him to prepare for a special mission. He is given the responsibility of monitoring the illegal immigrant traffic on the Mediterranean coast between Morocco and Spain. He is to be based on a small, deserted island located a few hundred meters off of the African continent.

After a difficult crossing, Ibrahim arrives on the miniscule island with half of his supplies soaking wet. His radio no longer works.

Now completely alone, he finds shelter in a military bunker, abandoned from a much earlier international conflict. He moves in and begins to construct his existence. To create some semblance of normality, Ibrahim tours the island every morning and collects objects washed up on the beaches.

One morning during a routine inspection, the Spanish Guardia Civil observes the Moroccan flag floating in the wind over the island. Since the island is supposed to be under Spanish jurisdiction, this piece of intelligence quickly arrives to the offices of the central government in Madrid, and the incident takes on another dimension, one amplified far beyond the reality of the situation.

Meanwhile, Ibrahim has learned how to survive on the barren island, despite the diminishing supply of water and a broken radio. One day he stumbles across a Sub-Saharan man, Mamadou, lying unconscious on the beach. He was the only survivor from a boat of illegal immigrants that had perished during a storm.

Despite initial mistrust, Ibrahim gradually gets to know and understand his African "prisoner", and the two become friends. They join forces in their combat to stay alive on the island. One evening Mamadou tells him about the perilous journey across the Sahara to the Mediterranean in his attempt to get to Europe.

Unbeknownst to them, Ibrahim's official presence on the small island is now provoking international repercussions. The Spanish military prepares to take the island by force. Moroccan and Spanish diplomats begin negotiations. And, eventually, the United States is forced to take a position in the mediation.

Spain sends in its special forces to occupy the island and Ibrahim is evacuated. He returns to his family and small village with a hero's welcome.

The tiny island once again becomes a no man's land, neither Spanish, nor Moroccan. Mamadou, who had lain low during the invasion, comes out of hiding and begins a new life.

Director's statement

Perejil for the Spanish or *Leila* for the Moroccans, is a small, rocky island sitting only two hundred fifty meters off of the Moroccan Mediterranean coast. It has been under the control of several different flags over the centuries. The Moroccans, Spanish, Portuguese and even the Americans have all declared their sovereignty over this miniscule piece of land. And despite its small size, 480 meters by 480 meters, the jurisdiction of the tiny island was the inciting incident in 2002 of an armed conflict between the two countries sitting on either side of the Strait of Gibraltar: Morocco and Spain.

Outside several new reports, none of which attracted much attention from the general public, there has been no fictional account of this incident. In the screenplay « La Isla » the story is told from the perspective of a simple soldier, Ibrahim, sent to *Perejil/Leila* by the Moroccan military to monitor illegal immigration and drug smuggling in the Mediterranean. Without any pretensions to be a faithful historical account, the sarcasm with which the story is told is simply a reflection of the absurd dimensions that the reality eventually took on. A handful of Moroccan naval cadets based on a « big rock » triggered the Spanish military invasion, Operation Romeo-Sierra, and the mediation of the United States.

I would simply like both the Moroccans and the Spanish to smile at ourselves and reflect on an unusual moment of our long, shared, history.

Ahmed Boulane





Ahmed Boulane

Writer/Director/Producer

Born in Salé, Morocco, in 1956. From 1974 to 1979, actor with the Moroccan National Theater Company and the national troupe of Radio Télévision Marocain in Rabat.

From 1979 onwards, a wide and varied film experience, both in cinema and television, as actor, casting director, and 1st assistant director in more than fifty international productions.

Since 1997, Ahmed Boulane founded his own production company, Boulane O'Bryne Production, to produce and direct his own films.

1989 - PLATEAU IDEAL, 10-minute documentary in 35 mm produced by M.P.S.

1990 - CRIME IMPARFAIT, 7-minute comedy in 35mm produced by M.P.S.

1992 - Music video for ALIF (French-Moroccan musical group) broadcast by 2MI.

1992 - ABDENNOUR, 14-minute documentary in video.

1993 - ADOPTE-MOI, documentary produced by MIA PROD.

1997 - VOYAGE DANS LE PASSE, 24-minute fiction in 35 mm produced by BO'B PROD.

2000 - ALI, RABIAA ET LES AUTRES, feature film in 35mm produced by BO'B PROD.

2001 - MIDNIGHT FLY, directed by Jacob Chung produced by FILMKO& BO'B PROD.

2001 - CASABLANCA. CASABLANCA, Co- scriptwriting with Farida Belyazid.

2002 - "FETCHING WATER" and "GO KARTS", 5-min videos for "Teletubbies" BBC, UK

2003 - MOI, MA MERE ET BETINA, TV film produced by 2M International.

2007 - THE SATANIC ANGELS, feature film in 35mm produced by BO'B PROD.

2011 - THE RETURN OF THE SON. feature film in 35mm produced by BO'B PROD.

2015 - LA ISLA DE PEREJIL, feature film in ALEXA produced by BO'B PROD.

Official Selections & Awards :

VOYAGE DANS LE PASSÉ

- Second prize CEI in 7th Milan African Film Festival, 1997
- Mention spéciale de jury in 5th National Film Festival, Casablanca, 1998

Official Selections:

- 9th Rencontres Cinématographiques, Tetouan, Morocco, 1998
- 12th Film Festival of Namur, 1997 (non-competitive)
- Cairo International Festival for Children's Films, 1998
- 14th Rencontres Médias Nord-Sud in Geneva, 1998
- 14th Journées du Cinéma Africain, Montreal, 1998
- 17th Cartage Film Festival, 1998

ALI, RABIAA ET LES AUTRES...

- Best Supporting Actor, International Film Festival of Alexandria, 2000
- Best First Film, Moroccan National Film Festival (FNF), Marrakech, 2001
- Journalists' Award, FNF, Marrakech, 2001
- Best Editing, FNF, Marrakech, 2001
- Best Supporting Actor, FNF, Marrakech, 2001
- Jury's prize, Avanca International Film Festival, 2001

Official Selections:

- 24th International Film Festival of Göteborg, 2001 (non-competitive)
- 16th International Film Festival of Dublin, 2001 (non-competitive)
- 22th International Film Festival of Valencia, 2001 (official selection)
- ROME Medfilm Festival, 2002 (official selection)
- The Week of the Film Francophone, Vienna, 2002 (non-competitive)
- The Week of the Mediterranean Film, Heidelberg, 2003
- The Week of the Film Francophone, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, 2003
- The Week of the Film Francophone, Berlin, 2003.

THE SATANIC ANGELS

- Best Music, FNF, Tangier, 2007
- Jury's Prize, Avanca International Film Festival, 2008

Official Selections:

- International Film Festival (Cinémas du Monde), Montreal, 2007
- Africa In The Picture Film Festival, Amsterdam, 2007
- Mediterranean Film Festival Of Tetuan, 2007 (official selection)
- 38 India International Film Festival . GOA 2007. (Competition)
- International Film Festival of Chennai, 2007 (official selection)
- Oriental Film Festival of Geneva, 2008 (official selection)
- Osian's International Film Festival, New Delhi, 2008 (official selection)
- Valencia International Film Festival, 2008 (official selection)
- Ojo Cojo International Film Festival, Madrid, 2008 (official selection)
- 19th Arab Film Festival of Fameck, 2008 (official selection)
- Arab Film Festival of Brussels, 2008 (official selection)
- 22nd Carthage Film Festival, 2008 (official selection)
- Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, 2008 (official selection)
- 40th FESPACO. Ouagadougou, 2009 (official selection)
- Festival de Malaga/Cine de Casa Arabe, Madrid, 2009.
- 18th International Film Festival of Soussa, 2009 (opening)
- Panorama des Cinémas du Maghreb, Paris, 2009 (non-competitive)
- African Film Festival of Tarifa, 2009 (official selection)

THE RETURN OF THE SON

Official Selections & Awards :

- Marrakech International Film Festival (Coup de Coeur)
- Rabat International Film Festival (Opening)
- Kolkata international film Festival India (Competition)
- International Film Festival Cinema & Migratie - Netherlands (Best Director)

Moroccan cast



Abdellah Ferkous
as "Ibrahim"



Bouchra Ahrich
as "Rahma"



Issa N'diaye
as "Mamadou"

Spanish cast



Rosario Prado
as "Anna Placio"



Miguel Hermoso
as "Federico Trillo"



Hans Richter
as "Jose Maria Aznar"





Datasheet

- Title : LA ISLA DE PEREJIL
- Producer : Boulane O'Bryne Production
- Coproducer : Maestranza Films, Spain
Canal Sur TV Andalousia
- Director : Ahmed Boulane
- Director of Photography : Giovanni Brescini
- Production Designer : Dana Schondelmeyer
- Music : Philippe Gomez & Louis Mancaux
- Editing : Laurent Dufreche
- Sound : Dolby Digital
- Projection format : DCP, BETA HD, Blu-Ray, DVD
- Duration : 1 hour 25 minutes
- Post production : La Zanfoña Producciones,
Arte Sonora Estudios S.L.
- Language : French, Arabic & Spanish
- Subtitles : English & French
- International Distribution : Boulane O'Bryne Production,
& Maestranza Films
- Budget : 950.000 Euros
- Filming locations : Casablanca, Mohammedia, Salé,
Ksar Sghir, Cala Iris (Morocco) & Seville (Spain)
- Website : www.laisla.com (in construction),
www.ahmedboulane.com

CONTACT

Ahmed BOULANE
Producer / Director
Boulane O'Byrne Production
Tel: +212 661 298491
Email: ahmedboulane@yahoo.com

Dana SCHONDELMEYER
Executive Producer
Boulane O'Byrne Production
Tel: +212 661 156136
Email: dana786ma@yahoo.com