



Information

Title: Beirut, la vie en rose

Director: Èric Motjer

Producer: Albert F. Arcarons

Executive producer: Oriol Cortacans

Production companies: Batabat — Sabir studio

International distribution: FilmsTransit — Jan Rofekamp

Length: 73'

Format: 2.39:1 — 2048 x 858 — 25p — 5.1 — DCP

Logline

For the last 40 years, Lebanon has been in a permanent state of war or internal tension. 'Beirut, la vie en rose' portrays the relationship between power, religion and conflict of four representative characters of the Christian upper-class.

Synopsis

'Beirut, la vie en rose' enters for the first time into the lives of four of the most important members of the Christian elite in Lebanon. It presents a unique sweet-sour portrait of power, religion and conflict. In one of the most politically unstable regions in the world, the protagonists are the last representatives of the once called Switzerland of the Middle East. The members of the Christian elite have attempted to hold on to the golden age they enjoyed after independence by means of intense sociability, sumptuous parties and extravaganza. They have overcome their fears for the future and live life to the fullest as if nothing had changed. But, in a country that seems doomed to cyclical episodes of conflict, instability and change, there is something they cannot ignore anymore: the inevitable end of an era... their era.

Director's note

An unexpected encounter one night in Beirut some years ago with Viviane triggered our documentary film. Through her we progressively discovered a hidden part of the Lebanese society. Viviane, a chronicler of the elite for the magazine *Mondanité*, introduced us into this exclusive social gatherings and events in Beirut. Our condition of outsiders eased our first meetings with the characters, although our persistence made the difference in the end.

The access we have secured over the last years, placed us in a privileged situation to observe this particular social reality. The film is an immersive character-based documentary, acknowledging the nuances and contradictions of the characters, from the not so common perspective of the elite. However, the film is not a sympathetic portrait of the Lebanese elite. I decided to unfold the narrative from a critical perspective, questioning their life stances in a context of conflict and inequality.

'Beirut, la vie en rose' departs from the fact that the Lebanese society has built a strong resilience to the instability in the country over the years, and shows how the experience of the upper class differs in many respects. The Christian elite, a minority in a power-decline in Lebanon, is 'trapped' within the ongoing polarisation in the Middle East. Their members live in bubbles isolated from the more fragile social order of the country, although they have woven strong and self-contained networks with other national and international elites, as Beirut acts often as a hub between the East and the West. The film introduce the viewer into a multidirectional relationship between conflict, power, decadence, and elitism. The narrative line of the film is based on the situated analysis of the life histories of four main representative characters, with whom we will progressively work on our baseline inquiry. Viviane Eddé summarized this idea in an interview for the film:

— "The problem here is that every time there are less and less Christians, and are the Christians the ones who bring this idea of bubble and happiness to the city." —

'Beirut, la vie en rose' immerses in a reality that is often neglected in media. It is a film of contemporary relevance, as it touches upon issues regarding the consequences of war and class inequality in a unique seeing.

By this, I think the accurate visual treatment and irony of the film contributes to its content by strengthening contrasts portraying an uncomfortable beauty.

Èric Motjer

Director & cinematographer of the film

Credits

Èric Motjer

Director & cinematographer

Producer

Albert F. Arcarons

Executive Producers

Oriol Cortacans

Marc Roma

Associate Producer

Jan Rofekamp

Production Assistant

Anna Bosch

Camera operators

Ferran Calbet

Èric Motjer

Drone operator

Harout Bajikian

Direct sound

Monzer El-Hachem

Sound assistant

Rami Yazbeck

Editor

Marc Capdevila (AMMAC)

Editor assistant

Carles Matamala

Color Grading

Jordi Bransuela

Color correction

Adrià Cillero

Sound design and mastering
Miquel Àngel Riaza (La Fábrica de Carbon)

Original soundtrack
Eloi Casellas

Translation
Kusai Kedri
Salah Jamal

Subtitles
SudTitles

Controller
Toni Balboa

Graphic design
Quim Marin Studio

Writers
Albert F. Arcarons
Ferran Calbet
Èric Motjer

International sales
Jan Rofekamp — Filmstransit International

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