



## A footnote in Ballet History ? Un Point de Détail dans l’Histoire du Ballet ?

France – United States – Egypt – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

**Duration / Durée:** 118 mins – 1h58m

History – Biography – Dance

<http://afootnoteinballethistory.com>

### Synopsis / Résumé:

The establishment of the art of classical ballet in Egypt under the auspices of the state during the Cold War is at the heart of an extraordinary saga, narrated here by its first pioneers. Prima ballerina Magda Saleh and fellow dancers recall the founding of the first national ballet school, staffed with Soviet teachers - the early triumphs, collapse and renewed hopes over five decades.

La création d'un corps de ballet classique en Egypte sous les auspices de l'Etat durant la Guerre Froide est au coeur d'une extraordinaire saga racontée ici par ses principaux pionniers. La danseuse étoile Magda Saleh et sa troupe de l'époque se remémorent un demi-siècle d'histoire, depuis la fondation de la première école nationale de ballet avec des professeurs russes à ses premiers triomphes, son déclin et enfin son renouveau actuel.

### Country of Productions / Pays de production:

France – United States – Egypt – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

### Duration / Durée:

118 mins – 1h58m

**Language / Langue:**  
English – Arabic - Russian

**Film Format / Format:**

Digital Cinema Package (DCP) / 2K and 4K with English and French subtitle  
Dolby 5.1 - 24 fps

**Producers / Producteurs:**

So Freakantastik – France  
(Hisham Abdel Khalek and Olivier Delesse)  
H and O Productions – United States  
Saad Bin Mohammed - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Wanny Yazan – Egypt

**Production Company & World Wide Sales / Société de production et de ventes internationales:**

So Freakantastik – France  
Olivier Delesse  
30 Avenue de Suffren  
75105 Paris – France  
Tel: +33 6 45 90 87 38 - +1 (973) 978-1183  
Email: [olivier@sofreakantastik.com](mailto:olivier@sofreakantastik.com)  
Website: [www.sofreakantastik.com](http://www.sofreakantastik.com)

**Director / Réalisateur:**

Hisham Abdel Khalek – Egypt

**Scriptwriter / Scénariste:**

Hisham Abdel Khalek – Egypt

**Cast: (Interviewees) / Intervenants (entretiens):**

Magda Saleh  
Diane Hakak  
Aleya Abdel Razek  
Wadoud Faizy  
Nadia Habib  
Reda Sheta  
Yehia Abdeltawwab  
Safwat Gerges  
Nelly Karim

## **Crew / Équipe:**

### **Second Unit Director in Cairo:**

Wanny Yazan

### **Idea by:**

Sahar Sherbini

### **Director of photography and Cameraman:**

Elliot Storey

### **Director of photography New York:**

Steven Tong

### **Director of photography Cairo:**

Ismail El Abrass

### **Editor:**

Ramy Tadrous

### **Music:**

Remon Sakr

### **Singer:**

Amira Selim

### **Narrator:**

Ashraf Sewailam

### **Executive Producer:**

Tamer Ezzat

### **Special Effects - Parallax Photography:**

Claudiu Manea

### **Colorist:**

David Hadaad

### **Audio mixing:**

Clément Chauvelle

## **Festivals:**

- 38th Cairo International Film Festival (15 - 24 November 2016) - Panorama section
- 2nd New York International Film Festival® (9 - 11 December 2016)
- 9th FreeNetWorld (15 - 18 December 2016)
- 15th Dhaka International Film Festival (12 - 20 January 2017) - Cinema of the World Section
- 2nd Sunlight International Film Festival (7 - 8 July 2017)
- 14th Archaeology Channel International Film Festival in Eugene, Oregon - Official competition (May 2017)

## **Directors Bio – Hisham Abdel Khalek:**

<http://hishamabdelkhalek.com>

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2165198/>

Hisham Abdel Khalek is an Egyptian film producer, director and scriptwriter who lives in Paris, France. He produced and directed films, opera and theater plays. In 2002, he was involved in the production of opera “Aida” in Doha, Qatar and “Aida” under the pyramids of Giza (Egypt) as the artistic director. He produced a series of operas and classic music concerts in Egypt, Syria, Dubai, France, Netherlands and other countries. His operatic repertoire includes 20 operas ranging from Aida, Tosca, Carmen, Rigoletto, La Traviata, La Boheme to Turandot. In 2008, he co-founded with Olivier Delesse their French production and distribution company “So Freakantastik”. Hisham Abdel Khalek was the European distributor and PR responsible for Al Arabia Cinema the biggest cinema group in Egypt. In 2014, he co-founded with Olivier Delesse their New York production company “H & O Productions”. Proud Member of SDC.

## **Filmography:**

2016 – Behind the I...! – by Hisham Abdel Khalek and Saad Bin Mohammed

2016 - A footnote in Ballet History ? – by Hisham Abdel Khalek

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2015 - Egyptian Permanent Mission to the UN Gala Event on October 13 at The Metropolitan Museum of Art

2015 - Dark Future music video from Akhenaten The Musical featuring Seph Stanek (6')

2015 - O My Son music video from Akhenaten The Musical featuring N'Kenge (5')

2013 – Akhenaten The Musical – Hisham Abdel Khalek (The New Broadway Bound musical In development - New York)

2011 – El Masryeen Band Concert at Sakia El Sawy Cultural Center

2010 – Portrait of Esaad Younis (15')

2009 – Arab Cultural Festival in Paris opening and closing gala at UNESCO and Mairie du 15e arrondissement

2009 – Salam Ya Joe (7')

- 3ème Salon du cinéma à Paris

2008 – Fatoush (10')

- Short Film Corner 2009 – Cannes Film Festival
- 3ème Salon du cinéma à Paris
- 24ème Marché du film court - Festival International du Court Métrage - Clermont-Ferrand
- 10ème Marché du film court - Festival Tous Courts
- Marché du film - 23e édition du Festival Européen du Film Court de Brest

2008 – Destinée (15')

- Short Film Corner 2008 – Cannes Film Festival
- 15th International Short Film Market Cinema Jove
- 19º Festival Internacional de Curtas de São Paulo - Brazil

2006 – Ramses the last pharaoh of Al Rahamesa (52')

2005 – Love is hard, a video clip of Gasser (2')

2004 – Images of war, short documentary (6')

2002 – Making of Aida Qatar (25')

2002 – Making of Aida Pyramids (25')

2000 – Portrait for Alexandria Film Festival about Mohammed Abdel Wahab, Faten Hama and Naguib Mahfouz (3')

## **Photos and Promotional material / Photos et matériel promotionnel:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ewrmo8jh2e1ysxu/AADTz31bXcxJi6eGAVbIDSMXa?dl=0>