



SEASON 60 Programme 8
16th January 2024

Cairo Conspiracy (aka Boy from Heaven)
Egypt, 2022, 121 mins.

Director: Tarik Saleh
Writing: Tarik Saleh
Editor: Theis Schmidt
Cinematography: Pierre Aim
Music: Krister Linder
Running Time: 121 mins, colour
Language: Arabic

HAPPY NEW YEAR - WELCOME BACK TO PART TWO of SEASON 60

LEADING PLAYERS

Tawfeek Barhom	...	Adam
Fares Fares	...	Colonel Ibrahim
Mohammad Bakri	...	General Al Sakran
Makram Khoury	...	Blind Sheikh Negm
Mehdi Dehbi	...	Zizo
Moe Ayoub	...	Suhby

A brief resume of the film. Adam, son of a fisherman from a poor rural community, makes his parents swell with pride to have been offered a place at Egypt's most prestigious Sunni Muslim university in Cairo. The election of a Grand Imam is the backdrop for a tale of the innocent plunged into a world of subterfuge, murder and manipulation. Yet his innocence is his strength in the age-old battle between politics and religion.

The director Tarik Saleh, mother Swedish, father Egyptian (and one of Sweden's most prolific graffiti artists!) cannot have been surprised that there was an uproar in Egypt (it is banned there) when it was released. It was actually shot in Istanbul in the Sulaymaniyah Mosque.

In order to market the film abroad its distributors sold it as a spy thriller, hence the title change from *The Boy from Heaven* to tone down its religious themes and boost its commercial appeal. This appears to have worked in that currently it ranks as France's biggest (non-English) foreign language film since *Parasite*. Almost as a postscript but relevant in today's political climate Tarfeek Barhom's (Adam) identity as a Palestinian born in Israel shapes much of the narrative around his career.

A thought-provoking film.

Annie Cartland

OUR NEXT FILM 30th January 2024, 8pm

ZANA

Kosovo 97 mins

Directed By: Antoneta Kastrati
