

# Blessed Benefit

## إِنشَاءً لِنَسَائِدِ

A film by  
Mahmoud Al Massad



BLESSED BENEFIT A FILM BY MAHMOUD AL MASSAD

BETA CINEMA PRESENTS A TWENTY TWENTY VISION - JIO IMAGE PRODUCTION IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH HABBEKRBATS - ISEE FILMS AND ZDF / ARTE WITH AHMAD THAYER MAHER KHAMMASH ODA HLAZI MAHMOUD AL MASSAD NADEEM RIMAWY DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GEORGES MIHELIS COSTUME DESIGNER ZEINA SOUFAN MUSIC ANDRE MATTHIAS  
EDITING JOHANNES DOBERENZ SOUND DESIGN MARTIN FRÜHMORGEN WRITING GREGOR BONKE EDITOR MAHMOUD AL MASSAD WOUTER VAN LULIJN SIMON EL HARBIE PETAR MARKOVIC EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS OMAR AL MASSAD HOLGER STERN LINE PRODUCER MATHAIDS VOUGARIS PRODUCED BY THANASSIS YARATHANOS DIMA HAMDALLAH JULIUS PONTEN MAHMOUD AL MASSAD DIRECTOR MAHMOUD AL MASSAD

Director Mahmoud al Massad  
DoP George Mihelis  
Cast Ahmad Thaher  
Maher Khammash  
Odai Hijazi  
Mahmoud al Massad  
Genre Dark Comedy  
Language Arabic  
Length 83 min  
Produced by Twenty Twenty Vision, Jo Image,  
Habbekrats and Isee Film



## BLESSED BENEFIT

### SYNOPSIS

Ahmad, a construction worker, is arrested for using a client's down payment to help his cousin, Abu, in a deal involving 10 brand-new laptops and the hopes to make a small profit from it.

Due to customs procedures, the imported laptops are not released in time. Unable to do the job or pay the money back, Ahmad is sentenced to four months in prison for fraud.

Far from all the obligations of the outside world, where food and drink are not a worry, where new friendships are struck, and where no cell phones are ringing, Ahmad gradually feels something that he's never felt before – liberty. Halfway through his sentence his biggest worry becomes losing this liberty after his release and, above all, having to deal with a bigger debt...

### THE DIRECTOR

Mahmoud al Massad, a Jordanian filmmaker, has received international critical acclaim for his documentaries SHATTER HASSAN, RECYCLE and THIS IS MY PICTURE WHEN I WAS DEAD, reaching large audiences in both the West, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Both feature films RECYCLE and THIS IS MY PICTURE were internationally financed and received support from the Sundance Documentary Institute.

RECYCLE was awarded with the World Cinema Cinematography award at Sundance 2008 and screened at over 70 international film festivals. It was theatrically released in several European countries and sold to ITVS Independent Lens (USA). THIS IS MY PICTURE WHEN I WAS DEAD (co-produced with ITVS and VPRO, supported by a Dubai Film Connection Grant) premiered at IDFA 2010 within its International Competition, and won the Best Documentary Award at Dubai International Film Festival.

Al Massad was invited to the 2007 Sundance Director's Lab, attended EAVE as writer with project, and has served as a jury member on various film festivals. His current project BLESSED BENEFIT received the Abu Dhabi Film Commission Shasha Grant among more than 160 projects, won ARTE award and has been selected for the Cannes Film Festival's program L'ATELIER 2012.

