

Film title

Behind the Mountains

Tagline

Short synopsis

After spending four years in jail for vandalising his place of work, Rafik has only one plan - to take his son to the mountains and show him his amazing discovery.

Long synopsis

Rafik is a desperate man. Released from a Tunisian prison, where he served four years for smashing up the office where he used to work, he is now convinced he can fly and is determined, in the face of his family's scepticism, to prove to his young son Yassine that his vision is real. Taking the boy out of school and heading to the mountains, where he finds temporary refuge by invading a bourgeois family's country house, Rafik is clearly mentally unwell. Whether he can fly or not remains an open question, however, cleverly teased by the director Mohamed Ben Attia and by Majd Mastoura, who is both persuasive and dignified as Rafik. By renewing the conventions of a road movie and with the Dardenne brothers co-producing, an unexpected journey of father and son evolves into an exquisite example of magical social realism and, simultaneously, an homage to the strength of one's will. An automatic writing-inspired film that seems to have sprung from the depths of the most luminous subconscious, urging us to expand our definition of the metaphysical. Or in the words of Hamlet: "Though this be madness, yet there is method in it."

Technical information and credits

Original title: Oura el Jbel
English title: Behind the Mountains
Year: 2023
Country: Tunisko, Belgium, France, Italy, Saudská
Arábie, Qatar
Language: AR
Subtitles: CZ
Running time: 98 min
Dostupnost: 15+

DVD / Blu-ray: DCP, mp4
Genre: Drama
Directed by: Mohamed Ben Attia
Written by: Mohamed Ben Attia
Edited by: Lenka Fillnerova
Cinematography: Frédéric Noirhomme
Sound by: Ludovic Escallier



Awards

Venice IFF - Main Competition - 2023

Actors

Majd Mastoura, Walid Bouchhioua, Samer Bisharat,
Selma Zghidi, Helmi Dridi, Wissem Belgharak

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