

A man with dark curly hair wearing a blue button-down shirt and a woman with dark hair wearing a red top are shown from the chest up, shouting with their mouths wide open. They are standing in a vast, flat, sandy desert under a clear sky. The man is on the left, looking towards the right, and the woman is on the right, looking towards the left. The background is a uniform expanse of sand meeting a pale blue sky at the horizon.

WHERE THE WIND COMES FROM

A film by Amel Guellaty





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2025 - Tunisia/France/Qatar - Drama - 99 min

Picture: Color // Sound: 5.1

In Arabic with English subtitles

INTERNATIONAL SALES

FILMS BOUTIQUE

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Starring: Eya Bellagha, Slim Baccar

Producers : Asma Chiboub & Karim Aitouna

Co-producer: Chadi Abo

Director/Writer: Amel Guellaty

Cinematography: Frida Marzouk

Editing: Amel Guellaty

Sound: Aymen Labidi

With the support of

Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image - Tunisie

Le Ministère des affaires culturelles tunisien

Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée - France

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Doha Film Institute

AFAC - Arab Fund for Arts and Culture

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Visions Sud Est



SYNOPSIS:

Fearless spirit Alyssa and sensitive artist Mehdi, best friends since childhood, feel cramped in their life in the outskirts of Tunis. When Alyssa discovers an artist contest in Djerba that might be their ticket out, she pulls Mehdi into a fantastical journey across Tunisia which will put their friendship to the test.



AMEL GUELLATY DIRECTOR

Amel Guellaty is a Tunisian director. After directing two award-winning short films, *BLACK MAMBA* and *CHITANA*, she makes her feature debut *WHERE THE WIND COMES FROM* in 2025, which has its World Première in Sundance. She is also a photographer, published in different magazines such as “Elle” France.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

WHERE THE WIND COMES FROM was born out of the need to raise the issues of Tunisian youth.

I wanted to talk about a youth plagued by the lack of jobs, infrastructure and culture, a generation that sees emigration as the only solution for a brighter future. Alyssa and Mehdi, 19 and 23 respectively, have no money and are suffocated by a heavy family and professional daily life. WHERE THE WIND COMES FROM depicts the harsh reality of these two best friends.

However, I had no desire to write a social drama both dark and hard to grasp. It was very crucial for me to write a dramatic comedy, a sunny road trip, where the often-serious topics are treated poetically and with humor. This is the challenge of the film: to find lightness in times of disarray.

Above all, this movie is a friendship story. I wanted to talk about a deeply connected friendship between a man and a woman without ever involving a romantic or sexual dimension to it. All over the world, but especially in the Arab world, we separate genders. Here, I make a point of mixing roles, inventing a courageous female character and a sensitive male character, without these being their only traits. Alyssa and Mehdi personalities and dialogues set the tone and bring lightness to the film. They are connected by a strong bond and an overflowing imagination.

Indeed to escape his harsh routine, Mehdi spends his days drawing surrealistic images related to stories he tells his friend. Alyssa is inspired by those drawings and stories to recreate her reality and escape uncomfortable situations. Without specific editing or calibration changes, Alyssa's imagination takes place in the narrative.



All these elements bring to the film a surreal and poetic side that contrasts with the topics. "If we can't even dream, what's left for us" asks Alyssa. This might as well be a saying that summarizes the film. It also sums me up. Much like the characters, I escape my problems by immersing myself in my imagination. And that what I wanted to transmit via this film. This outlet, this emergency exit that every human being has, whatever their social background, whatever their level of education, allows us to stand the reality of our lives when it seems too dark.

WHERE THE WIND COMES FROM is Alyssa and Mehdi's story, their road trip, their odyssey through Tunisia. This Tunisia will show them the best and the worst of what it contains.

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