LOCKED OUT

A FILM BY YOUNES JEBBARI



PAPERCUT PICTURES | Janaprod

SYNOPSIS

From dry social comedy to intimate psychological tragedy.

Hamid, an undocumented Moroccan immigrant in Oslo, accidentally ends up in Halden, Norway's famously humane prison. Expecting brutality, he instead discovers a hotel-like cell, friendly guards and a workshop where his talent is valued. Released, he sets out to get himself locked back in, until a woman bent on her own destruction draws him into a bond that threatens to undo them both.

THE WILL TO MATTER

A few years ago, while interviewing young Moroccan engineers at École Polytechnique Paris, I met a student who told me about his older brother. He had emigrated to Scandinavia and was living in hardship while maintaining an image of success for his family back home. Discovering the truth had shaken the younger brother so deeply that he nearly abandoned his own plans to study in France, despite the opportunity to attend one of the world's most prestigious engineering schools. The story of the older brother stayed with me. I recognised that impulse: as a student in France, I too sometimes embellished my life when speaking to people back home. And that story eventually became **LOCKED OUT**.

I know Hamid's pride, his exaggerations, his conviction that everything would work out if people wou only listen to him. I also know the tenderness hidden behind that performance. I want the audience to enjoy his company, to become attached to his stubbornness, and then find themselves troubled by behaviour they had been laughing at.

Hamid wants to feel that he matters. The tragedy begins when an institution, be it carceral, or another person, be she suicidal, becomes responsible for keeping that feeling alive.

YOUNES JEBBARI / WRITER-DIRECTOR



ONE STORY, TWO COUNTRIES

What drew me to Locked Out was the unsettling simplicity of its central paradox: a man who experiences dignity in prison and exclusion in freedom. It invites the audience to laugh at a contradiction before feeling the human cost beneath it.

Hamid's journey begins in Morocco and unfolds in Norway, yet its emotional question travels far beyond either country. What happens to a person when society no longer has a place for him?

We see the film as a genuine creative collaboration between Morocco and Norway. Our ambition is to protect its unusual movement from dry comedy into intimate tragedy, while giving Younes the conditions to develop a precise and distinctive first feature.

RACHIDA SAADI / JANAPROD



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PROFESSIONAL INQUIRIES / CO-PRODUCTION / DEVELOPMENT

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