

**71<sup>st</sup>** Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
**Encounters**



# كما أريد

## AS I WANT

PROPHECY FILMS PRESENTS A SAMAHER ALQADI FILM PRODUCED BY KARIM EL HAKIM CO-PRODUCED BY NEFISE ÖZKAL LORENTZEN & JORGEN LORENTZEN  
CO-PRODUCED BY SERGE GORDEY CO-PRODUCED BY MOHANAD YACUBI CO-PRODUCED BY THOMAS KASKE LINE PRODUCER SAMI SAID MAKE UP ARTIST OMAYA SALMAN  
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY SAMAHER ALQADI, KARIM EL HAKIM EDITED BY GLADYS JOUJOU WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SAMAHER ALQADI

WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF:

hotdocs BLUE ICE  
NOT DOCS-BLUE ICE DOCS FUND

IMS

ldfa  
Berlin  
fund

SOZ  
FOND

DOHA  
FILM  
INSTITUTE

موسسة الدوحة للفيلم  
DOHA FILM INSTITUTE

Docs Up Fund

WITH

ESPACE IMAGE

NORMANDY  
FOR PEACE

NORMANDIE

avek

PRODUCED BY PROPHECY

CO-PRODUCED BY

Feels ran

integral film

Dioms  
film

KASKE  
FILM

# كما أريد

## AS I WANT

Written & Directed by Samaher Alqadi  
Egypt, Norway, France, Palestine, Germany | 2021 | 88'



**International premiere**  
CPH:DOX 2021  
F:ACT Award



**World premiere**  
Berlinale 2021  
Encounters Competition

**Press contact:**  
NOISE Film PR  
Mirjam Wiekenkamp & Dagny Kleber  
[office@noisefilmpr.com](mailto:office@noisefilmpr.com)

# PRESS QUOTES

**“gripping, important and impressively powerful”**

Mark Adams  
Business Doc Europe

**“pulsating with raw emotion”**

**“the most unsettling viewing this writer had at the Berlinale”**

Joseph Fahim  
Middle East Eye

**“a strong cinematic bid against women’s oppression in the Arab world”**

Davide Abbatescianni  
Cineuropa

**“A documentary that feels like a protest song”**

James Mottram  
The National

**“a tribute to the courageous women of Egypt”**

Jo-Ann Titmarsh  
Hey u Guys

**“As I Want complements [stories of emancipation and struggles against patriarchy in global cinema] with courage, determination and quality, being in itself an act of resistance, both local and universal.”**

Jorge Pereira  
C7nema

**“Alqadi denounces, emphasises, cries out, and transmits the desire for freedom of thousands of women who remain, despite their intense activism, under the yoke of the government and the creeds.”**

Monica Delgado  
Desistfilm

**“a powerful labour of love”**

James Mottram  
South China Morning Post

## LOGLINE

Through words left unsaid to her dead mother, Samaher Alqadi explores the chains of her childhood and shows the power of woman in a revolutionary struggle against the odds.

## SYNOPSIS

Cairo, January 25, 2013: An explosion of sexual assaults takes place in Tahrir Square on the second anniversary of the revolution. In response, a massive outpouring of enraged women fill the streets. Director Samaher Alqadi picks up her camera as a form of protection and begins documenting the growing women's rebellion, not knowing where the story will lead her.

When Samaher becomes pregnant during filming, she starts to re-examine the constructs of her own childhood in Palestine and what it means to be a woman and a mother in the Middle East. She begins an imaginary conversation with her mother, who died before Samaher could see her one last time. She begins to form the words left unsaid and shares her deepest secrets in an intimate inner voice that guides us through the story. She goes on a traumatic visit back to her parent's house in Ramallah, where she is confronted with the dark memories of a childhood she managed to escape.

Meanwhile, the struggle in Egypt continues and, even after the birth of her son, Samaher still finds herself on the frontline.





## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The recent rise in women's voices against sexual harassment and gang rape within Egyptian society mark a maturing moment in the country's feminist movement, similar to #metoo in the US. This is certainly not a new phenomenon, nor is it coming out of the blue. It is a direct result of the women's solidarity and revolutionary movements of 2013, as depicted in *As I Want*, and laid the groundwork for the current social crisis and "outing" of sexual predators long immune from guilt. But Egypt is not alone in the women's push-back against an out of control patriarchy. In Palestine we have witnessed mass outrage over the torture and killing of Israa Ghareeb, because she "dishonored the family" – a story I can relate to as I was almost murdered by my own brother when I was 16 for similar reasons. Across the world, thousands of women are raising their voices against gender inequality and violence against women. I hope that with this film I can contribute to breaking the silence and opening a wider debate to encourage women to show their collective power, demand their rights, and change their lives for the better.

-Samaher Alqadi, Director

## PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

*As I Want* is an urgent and courageous feature documentary film that dares to explore the roots of gender inequality in Middle Eastern society. Through a unique and deeply personal narrative, director Samaher Alqadi delves into her personal history to recount painful memories of her childhood where she illustrates the traditional barriers to individual freedom that many girls in Arab society face as they grow up. It is the story of one woman's awakening as she experiences the women's rights movement in Egypt and is inspired by the strong women she follows with her camera. Eventually she realizes her own destiny lies in confronting her own past. I am excited about this film because it is a timely story about women fighting back for their basic human rights in a world that is increasingly hostile to their plight. I hope this story will inspire people all over the world.

-Karim El Hakim, Producer



# CREDITS

Written & Directed by **Samaher Alqadi**

Produced by **Karim El Hakim**

Edited by **Gladys Joujou**

Cinematography by **Samaher Alqadi & Karim El Hakim**

Original Score Composed by **Naissam Jalal**

Produced by **Prophecy Films** (Egypt)

Co-Produced by:

**Nefise Özkal Lorentzen & Jørgen Lorentzen** (Integral Film, Norway)

**Serge Gordey** (Temps Noir, France)

**Mohanad Yaqubi** (Idioms Film, Palestine)

**Thomas Kaske** (Kaske Film, Germany)

WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF:



مؤسسة الدوحة للأفلام  
DOHA FILM INSTITUTE



WITH

ESPACEIMAGE



CO-PRODUCED BY:

integral film

temps noir

Idioms film

KASKE FILM

PRODUCED BY:

**PROPHECY**

