



## **LEBANON A WAR CINEMA**

*di Ali Baidoun*



It's well known that every cinema reflects the daily life of the country that comes from, wither that country had urban conflicts like the cosmopolitan cities Paris, Rome, New York, etc... Or it was a war country.

Lebanon, the small Mediterranean piece that we can found it in the Middle East, it's obvious that it's a beautiful land where there's political conflicts all the time... The history of the Lebanese cinema was in progress the last hundred years respecting the political situation, where the cinematographers tried to explain themselves while they used to be in the middle of these conflicts, so that a War Cinema has been created by itself, this kind of cinema used to be unique and amazing to the west world from the beginning of the cycle to these times.

The geographic nature of Lebanon, "The Gate Of The Orient", has give to the Lebanese an immigration interest since the Phoenicians from 7 thousands years ago to our times, this fact has been showed in the Lebanese cinema of the forties especially in the films of the cinematographer Georges Nasser...

The fact that the political situation was calm in Lebanon after the Second War 2 to the end of the 1975 (the beginning of the Great Lebanese Civil War), it has borne a good cinema where it seemed the beautiful Lebanese life, tourist and vital, Lebanon here got a golden age and knew a rich period universally, where he was called "The Swiss Of The Orient", this "good" cinema was came international with Rahbani Brothers films, and other strange films that has been shouted in this Mediterranean earth.

Unfortunately this reality was not stayed for a long time. 13 April 1975, the beginning of the civil war, Beirut is completely destroyed, completely dropped on earth, a war between external countries in the Lebanese territories. We can say that the War Cinema is turned back, the Lebanese needs of making us see the real suffers of the Lebanese people was in progress. It's true that the end of the war was in the 1990, but already Lebanon is in a bad situation, the cancer of the war has





leaved nothing of good. A tired reconstruction of a country has cried a lot.

The cinematographers could not interpret other things, it was clear that the war has given this image of the Lebanese cinema. Maybe it was a strange cinema which doesn't exist in the European states, but unfortunately the real cinema is

not just the cinema of the war, the Lebanese cinematographers should discover another cinema on the artistic side. Now there's an experimental cinema which made by the Institute of Fine Arts students in Beirut, or other private universities, but this kind of films is not diffused, stays shy and experimental. The famous Lebanese cinematographers like Ziad Doweyri, Jean Chamoon are not leaving the fact of the war that is gone with the wind.

A country have a lot to speaks, a country where we can found the contrasts of living, the meet of the religions, a country who have a joyful people who searches the gladness even the bad periods that they had spent, searches the happy days with a big nostalgia. The cinema reflects the reality, now there is some external tries to make a new war in this land that already has been tired a lot... Can we please ask the other wild countries to stop, just to make us see the other ambient of this cultural and historical earth...



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