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THE H@LLOW MAN
A film by Kamel Laaridhi

41st INTERNATIONAL FILM CRITICS' WEEK · 83rd VENICE FILM FESTIVAL · 2 — 12 SEPTEMBER 2026

INSIDE PRODUCTION PRESENTS

MOHAMED GRAYAA · NESRINE BANI · RIADH HAMDI · YOSRA BEN ALI · KAMEL DRIDI · SADOK AIDANI

WRITTEN BY KAMEL LAARIDHI · CINEMATOGRAPHY AMINE MESSADI · EDITING SEIFALLAH BEN OTHMAN, KAMEL LAARIDHI

MUSIC ZOUHEIR GOUJA · SOUND YAZID CHABBI · ART DIRECTION LASSAAD BEN SGHAIER

COSTUMES FATMA CHAMMAM · MAKE-UP & FX NADIA RAKIA AYED · TITLE CALLIGRAPHY SHOOF

CO-PRODUCED BY CHAWKI KNIS · YAZID CHABBI · MOHAMED ACHREF LEMMOUCHI · SAHBI KREIM

PRODUCED BY MONCEF TALEB · INSIDE PRODUCTION · TUNISIA · 2026



LaPresse

PRESS KIT · INSIDE PRODUCTION · 2026

TAGLINE

Tunisia, 2059. A biochip regulates memory and suppresses emotion. Hypnosis is banned.

SYNOPSIS

Taha is a “blacksmith of pathos.” Through poetry he shapes for others the emotions they can no longer feel. In secret he sees a hypnotherapist. Under hypnosis, a forest leads him to a house without electricity, watched over by a silent neighbour.

What he finds there draws him back to a past he was never meant to reach, and to a truth about his own birth. The final movement leaves sharp images behind for the unstable, degraded texture of 1970s video art. The film closes on Taha reciting Eliot, one word out of place: “not with a bang but a whisper.”



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“The old world is dying, the new is slow to appear, and in this chiaroscuro the monsters emerge.”

ANTONIO GRAMSCI

I set the film in 2059, but it is not a film about the future. It mirrors our present, where memory becomes forbidden and feeling is handed over to machines. Taha, my blacksmith of pathos, shapes other people's emotions through poetry, while a speech disorder holds him at a distance from his own.

This fracture is the film's real subject: the distance between what we can express and what we can feel.

The final movement leaves sharp images behind for the unstable, degraded video art of the 1970s. The film closes on Taha reciting Eliot, one word out of place. Eliot wrote whimper; Taha says whisper. A whimper carries pain; a whisper is almost erased — the sound of an emotion one can no longer feel. Poetry is the last frontier of resistance, the only crime the biochip cannot regulate.

Kamel Laaridhi



TECHNICAL DETAILS



ORIGINAL TITLE	The H@llow Man ·
DIRECTED BY	Kamel Laaridhi
COUNTRY	Tunisia
YEAR	2026
GENRE	Science Fiction
RUNTIME	79 minutes
FORMAT	DCP 2K · Colour
SOUND	5.1
LANGUAGES	Arabic · French · English
SUBTITLES	English · French
TRAILER	https://vimeo.com/reviews/a8573891-f4a3-486b-9b29-643647d9532a/videos/1206740730
PRODUCTION	Inside Production



THE DIRECTOR

Kamel Laaridhi

Born in La Marsa, 1970



Kamel Laaridhi studied at the Faculty of Sciences in Tunis before joining the Maghreb Institute of Cinema, in the cinematography department. After working on the lighting of buildings and archaeological sites, he began his film career in the camera department on Tunisian and international productions.

A co-founder of Inside Production in 2011, in 2012 he took part in the young-producers programme Access to Markets in the Digital Era. With Inside Production he co-produced *The Last of Us* by Ala Eddine Slim, winner of the Lion of the Future at the 2016 Venice Film Festival, then *Tlameess* by the same director, selected for the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes in 2019.

FILMOGRAPHY

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2026 | <i>The H@llow Man</i> · feature film, 79 min |
| 2016 | <i>Angoisse d'un réalisateur</i> · short film, 16 min |
| 2015 | <i>Sniper</i> · short film, 15 min · Official Selection, JCC 2015 |
| 2013 | <i>Femme et Demi</i> · short film, 15 min |
| 2010 | <i>Rossini Palace</i> · documentary, 40 min |
| 2008 | <i>Gharsallah, la semence de Dieu</i> · documentary, 53 min |
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CAST

Mohamed Grayaa · Nesrine Bani · Riadh Hamdi · Yosra Ben Ali · Kamel Dridi · Sadok Aidani

CREW

DIRECTOR	Kamel Laaridhi
SCREENPLAY	Kamel Laaridhi
PRODUCER	Moncef Taleb
CINEMATOGRAPHY	Amine Messadi
EDITING	Seifallah Ben Othman · Kamel Laaridhi
MUSIC	Zouheir Gouja
SOUND	Yazid Chabbi
ART DIRECTION	Lassaad Ben Sghaier
COSTUMES	Fatma Chamman
MAKE-UP & FX	Nadia Rakia Ayed
TITLE CALLIGRAPHY	Shoof
CO-PRODUCTION	Chawki Knis · Yazid Chabbi · Mohamed Achref Lemmouchi Sahbi Kreim

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