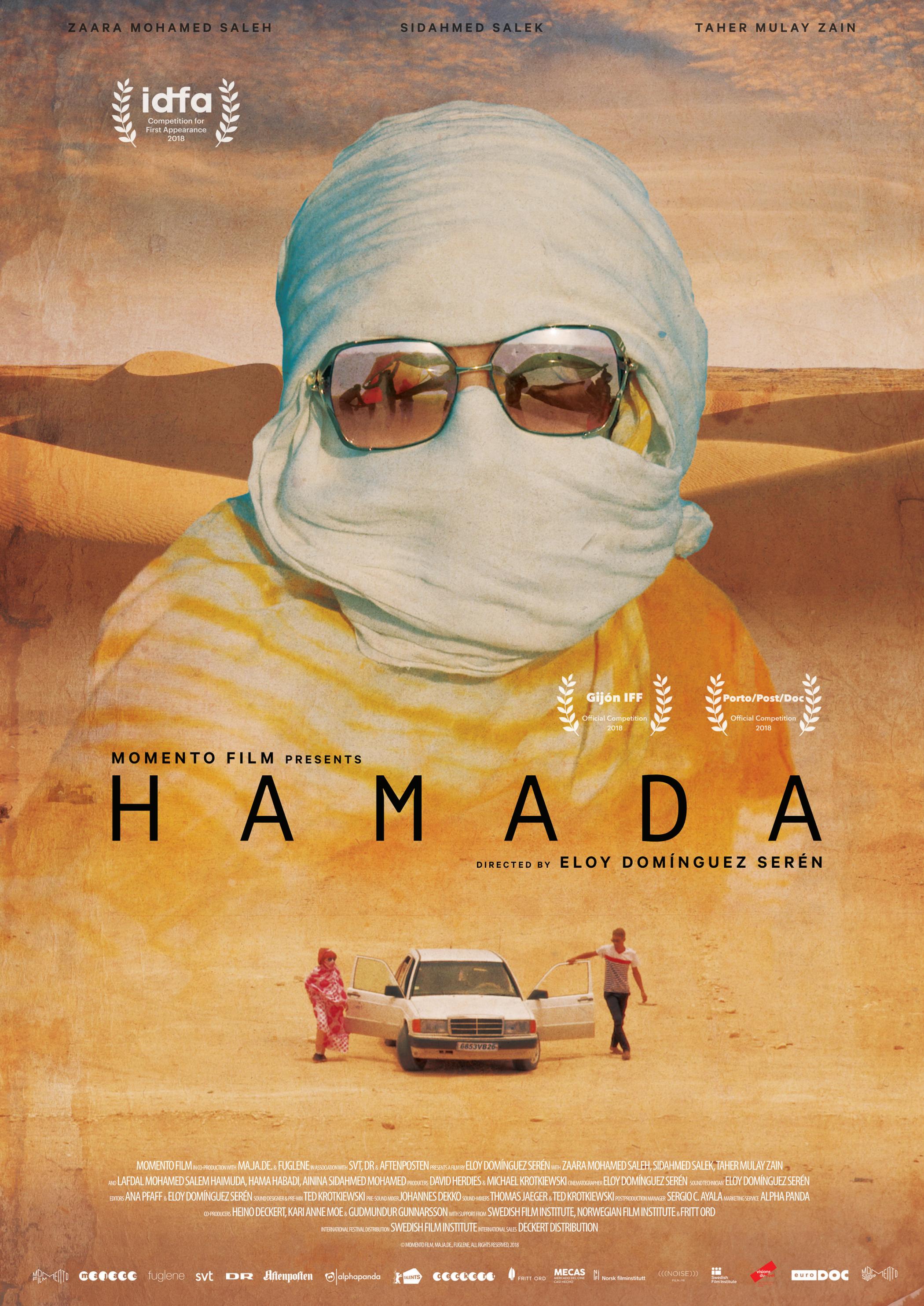


ZAARA MOHAMED SALEH

SIDAHMED SALEK

TAHER MULAY ZAIN



MOMENTO FILM PRESENTS

HAMA ADA

DIRECTED BY ELOY DOMÍNGUEZ SERÉN



MOMENTO FILM IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH MAJA.DE. & FUGLENE IN ASSOCIATION WITH SVT, DR & AFTENPOSTEN PRESENTS A FILM BY ELOY DOMÍNGUEZ SERÉN WITH ZAARA MOHAMED SALEH, SIDAHMED SALEK, TAHER MULAY ZAIN AND LAFDAL MOHAMED SALEM HAIMUDA, HAMA HABADI, AININA SIDAHMED MOHAMED PRODUCERS DAVID HERDIES & MICHAEL KROTKIEWSKI CINEMATOGRAPHER ELOY DOMÍNGUEZ SERÉN SOUNDTECHNICIAN ELOY DOMÍNGUEZ SERÉN EDITORS ANA PFAFF & ELOY DOMÍNGUEZ SERÉN SOUND DESIGNER & PRE-MIX TED KROTKIEWSKI PRE-SOUND MIXER JOHANNES DEKKO SOUND MIXERS THOMAS JAEGER & TED KROTKIEWSKI POSTPRODUCTION MANAGER SERGIO C. AYALA MARKETING SERVICE ALPHA PANDA CO-PRODUCERS HEINO DECKERT, KARI ANNE MOE & GUDMUNDUR GUNNARSSON WITH SUPPORT FROM SWEDISH FILM INSTITUTE, NORWEGIAN FILM INSTITUTE & FRITT ORD

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Logline

With vitality and humor **Hamada** paints an unusual portrait of a group of young friends living in a refugee camp in the middle of the stony Saharan desert. Together they use the power of creativity and play to denounce the reality around them and expand beyond the borders of the camp.

Synopsis

A minefield and the second largest military wall in the world separate Sidahmed, Zaara and Taher from their homeland that they only know from their parents' stories. They belong to the Sahrawis, one of the world's most forgotten people, abandoned in a refugee camp in the middle of the desert ever since Morocco drove them out of Western Sahara forty years ago.

With vitality and humor, **Hamada** is the unusual portrait of a group of young friends living in a refugee camp in the stony Saharan desert. They spend their days fixing cars, even though they can't really take them anywhere, fighting for political change and dreaming of a future that most likely will never happen. With all the expectations, strengths and illusions of being young they all find different ways to expand beyond the physical borders that surround them.

Hamada. (*hə'mɑ:də*) *n.* (geology) a desert terrain that consists of a flat and rocky area mainly devoid of sand.

For Sahrawi people it also refers to «emptiness» or «lifelessness».

Western Sahara & the Sahrawis

Western Sahara, also known as Africa's last colony, is a territory bordered by Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco. It is the site of a territorial conflict between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario (the Sahrawi liberation movement), dating back to 1975, when Spanish colonial rule ended and Morocco claimed the territory. After Morocco entered Western Sahara, a war erupted and large groups of the Sahrawi people fled to Algeria, where they were offered space to get temporary shelter. Now, after 15 years of war and over 40 years of exile, their refuge has, against their will, become a seemingly permanent home.

Around 150.000 refugees from the war and their descendants now live in the refugee camps. The second largest wall in the world and a huge minefield separate them from Western Sahara. They depend on international aid, food and water from the outside. Often the camps are devastated by sand storms, heat storms and severe flooding which destroy facilities and shelters, displacing thousands of people.

Despite the harsh conditions, the EU and the UN have been notably silent about the issue. There is no secret that several nations in the EU have economic interests in the region and thus want the Western Sahara to continue being in the hands of Morocco. International attention paid to this region is slight and sporadic and media access is limited and strictly controlled.

“The main reason to explain the silence around this conflict is the passing of time, a staunch ally of oblivion. Forty-three years have passed by and those people are still trapped in a deadlock”

Eloy Domínguez Serén



About the director

Eloy Domínguez Serén was born in 1985 in Simes (Galicia, Spain). Before debuting as a filmmaker he worked as a film critic for both radio and press, becoming a member of the Youth Jury at 67th Biennale di Venezia in 2010. In 2012 he moved to Sweden, where he made his first short film **Pettring**. In 2014 he released two new projects, the short film **In The New Sky** and the mid-length film **Jet Lag** (premiered at FID Marseille). His film **No Cow on the Ice** premiered in 2015 at Visions du Réel and won several awards, while his two most recent works, the short films **Yellow Brick Road** and **Rust**, have premiered at Jihlava IDFF and FID Marseille, respectively. He was also selected to participate at Berlinale Talents 2017. Along with that project, he is currently working on **The Darker it Gets**, a Swedish production shot in the Arctic Circle.

Filmography

2019 – **The Darker it Gets**, in pre-production

2018 – **Hamada**, 88 min

2016 – **Rust**, 14 min

2015 – **Yellow Brick Road**, 14 min

2015 – **No Cow on the Ice**, 63 min

2014 – **Jet Lag**, 52 min

2014 – **In the New Sky**, 6 min

2013 – **Pettring**, 20 min

Director's statement

“Since 2014, I spent a total of 8 months in the Tindouf Sahrawi refugee camps, where I cohabited and built an intimate and deep relationship with the community. Here I met the extraordinary people that became the protagonists of our film that we developed in close cooperation with all of them. It became a platform for those in the camps to openly express themselves.

Hamada is about youth, resistance and rebellion, portrayed through fragments from local young people's life. The people in this film are in their 20s and feel stuck in this vast, barren desert, but they keep all the vitality, strength and desire of the youth. Trapped in a perpetual state of waiting, they rebel against immobility by keep moving forward. I kept wondering: How do you invent or re-invent yourself everyday in a place where nothing seems to happen, where nothing seems to move?”



“Well aware that there are plenty of films from refugee camps, Eloy surprises the viewer and offers something we have not seen before. With his immaculate camerawork and an open approach to directing, he has made an unpredictable film that stimulates reflection and makes you laugh at the same time. He creates scenes that are spontaneous but at the same make you wonder if they are staged or not, leading to a comic mystique that has rarely been shown before.”

Producers David Herdies and Michael Krotkiewski





David Herdies – Producer (SE)

David Herdies is a Swedish producer and the founder of Momento Film. Herdies has produced 20 feature documentaries and short films that has been screened and awarded at festivals around the world. Among his prior films are **Madre** by Simón Mesa Soto (Official Short Film Competition, Cannes 2016), **Fragility** by Ahang Bashi (Gothenburg Best Feature, Guldbagge for Best Newcomer, 2017), **Ouaga Girls** (IDFA 2017 & 60+ festivals) and **Horizon** (Berlinale 2018 - Panorama). Herdies is a member of the EAVE, EURODOC & ACE networks and was Sweden's Producer on the Move at Cannes Film Festival 2018.

Michael Krotkiewski – Producer (SE)

Michael Krotkiewski is a Swedish producer and director born in 1980 in Sweden. In 2015 he became partner with David Herdies at Momento Film where he also works as a producer. With an education from Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts he has directed and produced several films of which **I Dreamed About Pol Pot** and **9 Scenes of Violence** both competed at IDFA. He recently produced the two short films **Yellow Brick Road** (premiered at Jihlava 2015) and **Rust** (winner Gold Mikeldi award at Zinebi). In 2018 he coproduced **My Heart Belongs to Daddy** that won the Amanda for best documentary at the Amanda Awards in Norway.

Heino Deckert – Co-Producer (DE)

Upon graduating from the German Film and TV Academy Berlin (DFFB) in 1991 Heino Deckert founded the production company Ma.ja.de. Filmproduktion and meanwhile produced more than 100 award-winning documentaries, including **Donbass** (Directing Prize of Un Certain Regard in Cannes 2018), Ai Weiwei's film **Human Flow** (Competition at Venice FF 2017) and **Rabbit à la Berlin** (nominated for the Academy Awards 2010). In 2003 Heino founded Deckert Distribution and in 2005 Ma.ja.de. Fiction. Since 2016 Heino Deckert is the head of studies at Eurodoc. He was the chairman of the European Documentary Network (EDN) from 2006-2008, is a co-owner of Pluto Films, a sales company for fiction films, and has shares in Blinker Film in Cologne.

Kari Anne Moe / Gudmundur Gunnarsson – Co-Producers (NO)

Kari Anne Moe is a Norwegian director and producer who owns and runs the production-company Fuglene together with Gudmundur Gunnarsson in Oslo. She's the director of **Rebels** (DocU competition IDFA 2015, won the feature prize at the Norwegian Documentary Filmfestival 2016), and **Bravehearts** (First Appearance competition IDFA 2012, winner of the Documentary Film Prize at Nordic Film Days Lübeck 2013). Gudmundur Gunnarsson has background in post-production and has been involved in hundreds of documentaries, feature films and commercials. He produced **Rebels** and co-produced **Diving into the Unknown**. Kari Anne and Gudmundur are the producers of **The Men's Room** getting released this fall.

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