



© Mahmoud Lotfy

Seif Tagreeby

Experimental Summer

صيف تجريبي

Mahmoud Lotfy

2016, color & black/white, 69 min., Arabic. **Producer** Mahmoud Lotfy. **Production company** Otaku Digital Film (Cairo, Egypt). **Written and directed by** Mahmoud Lotfy. **Director of photography** Mahmoud Lotfy. **Production design** Mahmoud Lotfy. **Sound** Sama Abdul Hadi. **Music** Shadi El Hosseiny. **Sound design** Sama Abdul Hadi. **Editor** Essam Esmail. **Production manager** Adham Yehia. **With** Zainab Magdy, Essam Esmail, Ahmed Magdy, Mahmoud Eissa, Amr Wishahy, Maryam Saleh, Amina Yasser.

Mahmoud Lotfy was born in 1990 in Cairo, Egypt, where he is based as an independent director. He is one of the founders of Otaku Digital Film Productions and participated in the making of several independent films. *Seif Tagreeby* is his first feature fiction film, which took over three years to shoot.

Films

2008: *Starting Dream in Street* (5 min.). 2009: *Silly Fiction Film* (12 min.). 2012: *Nescafe and Cigarettes* (8 min.). 2016: *Seif Tagreeby / Experimental Summer*.

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Seif Tagreeby follows Mahmoud and Zeinab in their search for the original version of the first Egyptian independent film of the same name produced in the 1980s. All copies of the film were either destroyed or confiscated by the Government Film Agency, an institute that governed the production and distribution of film at the time. In response, Egyptian filmmakers created their own versions of the film, all under the name *Seif Tagreeby*.

The importance of *Seif Tagreeby* comes not only from being the first independently produced film, but also because of its alternative and guerilla distribution. To fight the Government Film Agency the filmmakers screened the film in cafés, shop windows, and video clubs without state permits. In their search the two friends find that 23 different versions existed, all of them shot in winter and following a girl listening to answering machine messages. Despite their journey they cannot confirm that the original version was shot in winter, but it can be assured it was produced before the invention of the answering machine.

In continuation of the legacy Mahmoud and Zeinab are making their version of *Seif Tagreeby*.