



66 Internationale  
Filmfestspiele  
Berlin  
Generation

# MY REVOLUTION

## (Ma révolution)

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A FILM BY RAMZI BEN SLIMAN  
2016 / France / French, Arabic / Coming-of-Age, Comedy  
80 min / 2K / 2.35:1 / Dolby 5.1

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## LOGLINE

While trying to impress his crush, a French-Tunisian teenager accidentally becomes the face of the Arab Spring in Paris.

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

With the Arab Spring blossoming in the heart of Paris, people take to the streets to show their support. Everyone except 14-year old Marwann, that is. Despite his Tunisian roots, Marwann is too preoccupied with adolescence -- getting his parents off his back, becoming popular at school, and impressing his crush, Sygrid. When Marwann stumbles into a street rally one night and has his picture taken by a journalist, he lands on the cover of the biggest newspaper in France and accidentally becomes the face of the Arab Spring. Marwann is instantly branded as a revolutionary hero and the "cool kid" at his school. To win over Sygritte, Marwann embraces his newfound identity, only to find himself on a journey of self-discovery, first love, and maybe even an actual connection with his roots.

## TECH SPECS

Run Time:	80 min
Aspect Ratio:	2.35:1
Shooting Format:	2K
Sound:	Dolby 5.1
Country:	France
Language:	French, Arabic
Subtitles:	English



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

What initially ignited my desire to do this movie was the historic upheaval that was the Arab Spring. Mohamed Bouazizi, a simple street vendor, answered the violence of power by reviving the Buddhist code of honor: he burned himself alive. It's this sacrifice, this individual and isolated act, that will activate the fall of the tyrant. Romantically heroic, this young Tunisian wasn't aware that his deed would open history's gates. This is radically opposite to what leads Marwann's character to his imposture. The teenager takes advantage of a worldwide historic event only to attract Sygrid's attention, whom he's infatuated with.

The other reason is more personal, as this revolution raised some issues about who I am: a Frenchman, son of Tunisian immigrants. With much fervor, I promptly took part in the demonstrations celebrating Ben Ali's fall in the streets of Paris, spurred by a deep, equivocal feeling of belonging to a country that I don't know that well. Those events set in motion a reawakening of my origins. I had to look for another way to find a balance in my own identity: Tunisian, French, both, neither one nor the other. Little by little, while writing the script, I finally admitted the complexity of that sense of belonging. I linked it to Marwann's path: France is his country. This is where he's known, expected back and loved. His mother tongue is French, a language he uses to invent his life. But etymologically speaking, his mother tongue is also the language his mother speaks: Tunisian Arabic.

To me, where you belong is where you're loved, and the languages we speak make us who we are. It's precisely at this crossroad that Marwann and his family move about. Thus, the trip Marwann takes to Tunisia is neither an uprooting nor a return. It's only what nomads do, going through different languages and multi-centered feelings. It is about the grandfather, the parents, Marwann, as well as myself, trying to solve the questions which tortured Ulysses and Enée: when are we at home? When do we finally reach its island?

A few months after Ben Ali's fall, I went to Tunisia, like Marwann and his parents. I naturally felt I was involved in the whole movement. A nation state was coming into being from the victory of the people over tyranny. By then, I saw Tunisia as a land of freedom seekers, an exporter of ideals, rather than a problematic genealogical attachment.

Marwann is hurled into that historic turmoil. He has to tame his feelings, understand, experience. Thanks to his lies, Marwann finds love; he gets interested in politics and in his origins for the first time; he stands up to his parents; he acknowledges his mistakes. He's growing up.

-Ramzi Ben Sliman



**RAMZI BEN SLIMAN**  
*Co-Writer, Director*

Ramzi Ben Sliman was born in Paris between the second oil crisis and François Mitterrand's entry into power. He studied econometrics at ENS Paris. Before directing *My Revolution*, he made his living by teaching mathematics at the university level. He adapted and directed Alberts Camus' *Foreigner* at Studio Theater 14 in Paris and has also directed two short films. His passion for the cinema started with his father, a traveling projectionist, and the screening room was his school. *My Revolution* is his first feature film.

## CAST



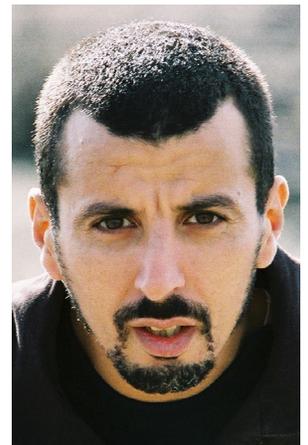
**SAMUEL VINCENT**



**ANAMARIA VARTOLOMEI**  
*My Little Princess*



**LUBNA AZABAL**  
*Incendies*



**SAMIR GUESMI**  
*Camille Rewinds*  
*The Returned*

# CREDITS

## MAIN CAST

Samuel Vincent  
Anamaria Vartolomei  
Lubna Azabal  
Samir Guesmi  
Lucien Le Guern  
Lucia Van Der Elst  
Jules Lelievre  
Ahmed Benaïssa  
Nassim Haddouche

## MAIN CREW

Director	Ramzi Ben Sliman
Writers	Ramzi Ben Sliman Thomas Cailley Nathalie Saugeon
Producers	Jérôme Dopffer Sébastien Haguenaer
Director of Photography	Dominique Colin
Editor	Damien Maestraggi
Sound	Dimitri Haulet Loïc Prian Damien Boitel Benjamin Viau
Music	Julien Lourau
Casting	François Guignard

## In Co-Production with

France 2 Cinéma

## With the Support of

Canal+  
Ciné+  
France Télévisions

In Association With

Cofinova 11  
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## With the Support of

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## A Co-Production

Les Productions Balthazar, 10:15! Productions, France 2 Cinéma