

a film by
**LILY EKIMIAN RAGHEB
& AHMED T. RAGHEB**

**THE
SAILOR**

البحار

2021 / 11 minutes / Drama / USA, Egypt / Arabic, English Sub. / Studio Ragheb
Contact: ragheb@studioragheb.com



Synopsis

An Egyptian living and working in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, reflects on his new surroundings through a series of images and observations. The resulting montage is a poignant cinematic postcard that explores the contradictory nature of the immigrant experience: at once lonely, frightening, and exhilarating.

“The Sailor” is an international production and an example of how to safely create a film during a pandemic. The writing and filming took place in Pittsburgh, the music composed and performed in Chicago, and both the translation and voice-over acting done in Cairo, Egypt.

Specifications

TITLE:	The Sailor	COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION:	USA, Egypt
RUNNING TIME:	10:32	YEAR:	2021
SHOOTING FORMAT:	Digital HD	LANGUAGE:	Arabic
ASPECT RATIO:	1.85:1	SUBTITLES:	English
SOUND:	Stereo	COPYRIGHT:	© Lily Ekimian Ragheb & Ahmed T. Ragheb, 2021
COLOR:	Color		





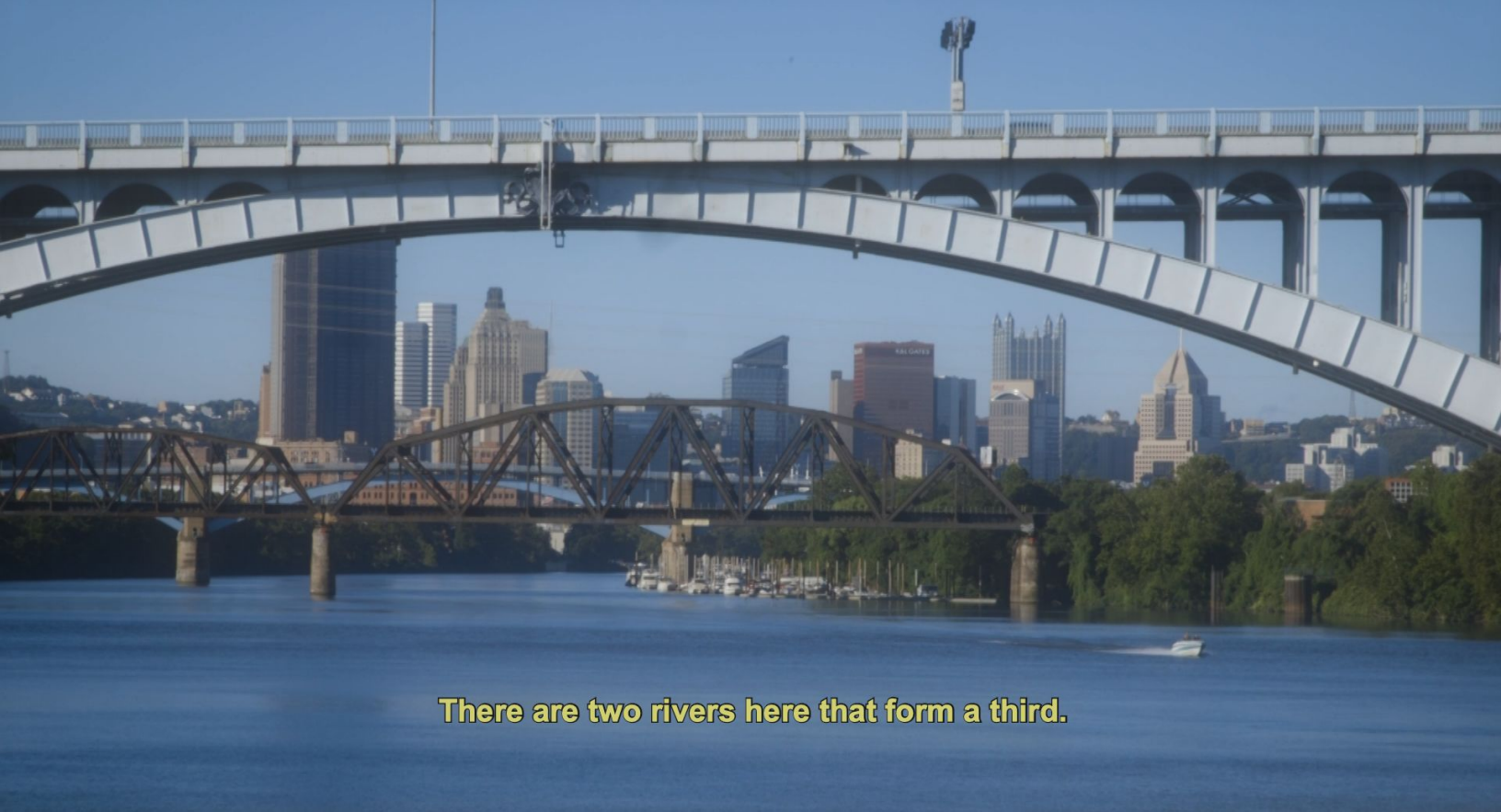
Directors' Statement

The archetypal sailor is one of the most classic and enduring of characters. He travels far from home, encountering and traversing strange lands. His duties and responsibilities entangle him in misadventure and tragedy. He longs to return home yet harbors a secret desire to elongate his journey. He pines faithfully over the love awaiting him back home yet allows his heart to drift freely during his travels. This is true of Homer's Odysseus, *1001 Nights*' Sinbad and it is true of the unseen narrator of "The Sailor."

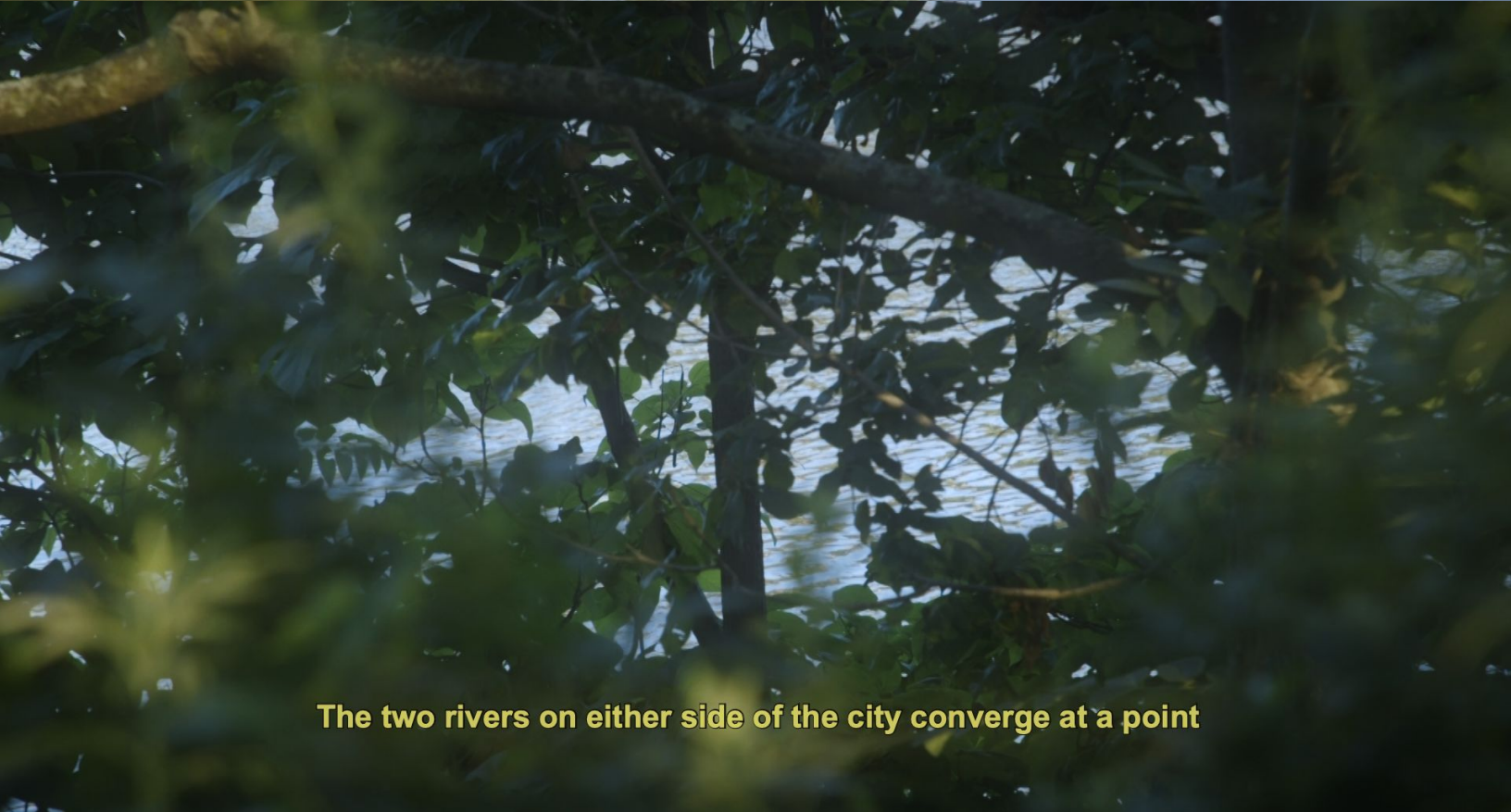
The ever-wandering and contradictory nature of the sailor is very much on display in the film as we listen to our hero narrate the lonely images of a foreign city. He phrases, rephrases, then rewrites his observations and statements until finally comfortable with the structure and presentation of his sentence. With each rephrasing he reveals something new, some truth about his situation and his feelings towards himself and, not only his new home, but the one he left behind. The film is essentially made up of six of these sentences. Each, in its "completed" form, is deceptively simple; a sentence that might appear casually on a postcard or in an email to a family member. However, as we watch and listen to him punctiliously address each and every component, the words he settles on become saturated in meaning and implication.

The goal of the film is not to document the experience of immigrants at large or even one specific person's story. It is rather to materialize, using our own surroundings, the emotions and meditations that often accompany cultural dislocation. "The Sailor" was conceived, written, and shot entirely during the COVID-19 pandemic with all cast and crew collaborating remotely, from Cairo to Pittsburgh to Chicago; it is that sense of isolation, both physical and spiritual, that is woven through each and every moment of the film.

– AHMED & LILY



There are two rivers here that form a third.



The two rivers on either side of the city converge at a point



Cast and Crew

LILY EKIMIAN & AHMED T. RAGHEB | Writers, Directors, Cinematographers, Editors, Producers



Lily Ekimian & Ahmed T. Ragheb are independent filmmakers based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ekimian – part American, part Russian – grew up between Washington, D.C., and Cairo, Egypt. Ragheb – Egyptian, Dutch, and American – is originally from Cairo, Egypt; they met while both attending school in Cairo. Together they co-founded and run *The Pittsburgher*, an online arts and culture magazine, and a film production platform, Dog Door Films. Ekimian & Ragheb have recently completed their feature debut, *Portrait*, an experimental documentary. They have produced and directed music videos for Daniel Knox and The Handsome Family, as well as a series of short films. Their work deals heavily with the concepts of identity and place, with a special emphasis on feminism, cultural dislocation, and domestic relationships.



The Arab food and shisha here are surprisingly good



The Arabs here own lots of businesses -



Cast and Crew (cont.)

LARA RAGHEB | Producer



Lara Ragheb is based in Cairo, Egypt. As head event coordinator for SYRA Arts, an art gallery based in Washington, D.C., she organized exhibitions around the United States showcasing Middle Eastern artists. She previously worked for a PR company in New York City specializing in the entertainment industry. Ragheb attained her MA in Liberal Studies from Georgetown University.

NOUR EL DIN SHERIF | Actor



Nour El Din Sherif was raised by the sea and fell in love with the desert at an early age, venturing on adventures in the mountains near his home in Sharm El Sheikh.

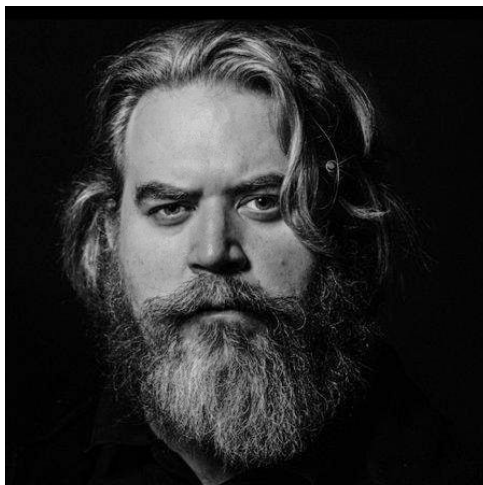
He took this everlasting love for adventures and nature with him when he moved back to the city to get a college education, taking a semester off to solo cycle 6,000 km around Egypt and work as an adventure trip leader. A similar kind of love of film saw Nour change his field of study to pursue filmmaking.

His work has been featured in the *LA Times*, *BBC* and *Lonely Planet*. Nour is also Red Sea Mountain Trail's Storyteller.



Cast and Crew (cont.)

DANIEL KNOX | Composer



Daniel Knox is a musician living and working in Chicago, Illinois. His work has inspired a diverse cast of admirers and collaborators that lie inside and outside his realm of alternative Americana, such as Jarvis Cocker, Nina Nastasia, David Lynch, and The Handsome Family, with recent performances including the likes of Rufus Wainwright, Andrew Bird, Rasputina, and Swans.

On the heels of his mini-album of original material, *I Had A Wonderful Time*, and its predecessor – his critically acclaimed grand holistic album *Chasescene*, which confirmed his position as both a “rare talent” (*Loud And Quiet*) and as a master storyteller (*The Observer*) – Daniel Knox has a brand new release, *Won't You Take Me With You*.

NICK JONES | Composer



Nick Jones is a Chicago multi-disciplinary artist and live electronic music performer/composer in various projects including film, theatre, and contemporary dance scores under the name “Nick_Jones”, solo electronica work as *_the boundless_*, *Coinhammer*, as well as one third of audio-visual electronic music group *Digital Gnosis*. The debut show of his project *_the boundless_* in 2017 saw the formation of *Thinkbreak Records* (thinkbreakrecords.com). In addition to music, Nick is also a produced playwright and has co-written and self-published a graphic novel.



Cast and Crew (cont.)

NAWARA NEGM | Translator



Nawara Negm is an Egyptian editor, translator and writer. She has worked for several newspapers as a columnist. She studied screenplay writing at the Academy of Cinema Arts and Technology. She has also worked as a translator for several Egyptian, Arab and international newspapers, centers, and publishing houses.

GHADA SHAHBENDER | Translation Reviser



Ghada Shahbender is an Egyptian film screenwriter, translator and human rights defender.





The houses here look different than in Cairo.



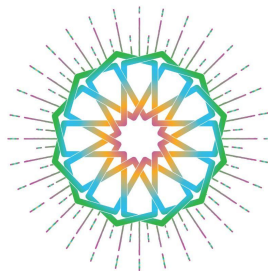


Press



City Paper PITTSBURGH

**“The Sailor brings an immigrant perspective to
Pittsburgh’s film landscape,”**
The Pittsburgh City Paper



AFMI
ARAB FILM & MEDIA INSTITUTE

“20 Arab Directors On Why They Made Their Films,”
The Arab Film & Media Institute

a film by
LILY EKIMIAN
A.T. RAGHEB

starring
NOUR EL DIN SHERIF
produced by
LARA RAGHEB

music by
DANIEL KNOX
NICK JONES

translated by
NAWARA NEGM

THE
SAILOR

نور الدين شريف

البحار

الترجمة من الإنجليزية
نوارة نجم

DOOR DOOR
FILMS

موسيقى
دانيال نوكس
نيك جونز

إنتاج
لارا راغب

كتابة وإخراج
ليلي إكيميان
أحمد راغب

Al Ragheb - Ekimian

© Design by Lily Ekimian & Ahmed T. Ragheb

The poster features a detail of a painting by Ragheb's grandfather, Egyptian poster artist, painter and photographer Mohamed Ragheb.

Credits

DIRECTORS | WRITERS | EDITORS

Lily Ekimian & Ahmed T. Ragheb

PRODUCERS

Lily Ekimian & Ahmed T. Ragheb, Lara Ragheb

STARRING

Nour El Din Sherif

ORIGINAL SCORE

Daniel Knox & Nick Jones

TRANSLATION

Nawara Negm

TRANSLATION REVISION

Ghada Shahbender

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Instagram and Facebook: [@studioragheb](https://www.instagram.com/studioragheb)

