

Digital Press Kit - *My Brother, My Brother*

Synopsis

My Brother, My Brother is an autofiction animation film that explores the complexities of a past shared by two identical twins: Omar and Wesam. A split narrative retells the two sides of their memories – from the instant they were fused together in their mother's womb to the moment they are parted by the tragic death of one of them. Tied together by the twins' confusion about their existence, a fragmented world of memories and dreams emerges, blurring the lines between reality and fiction, present and past, Omar and Wesam.

Directors Statement

My Brother, My Brother is an autofiction animation film that explores the complexities of a past shared by two identical twins: Omar and Wesam. A split narrative retells the two sides of their memories – from the instant they were fused together in the womb to the moment they are parted by the tragic death of one of them. Tied together by the twins' confusion about their existence, a fragmented world of memories and dreams emerges, blurring the lines between reality and fiction, present and past, Omar and Wesam.

The film starts with Omar retelling his own birth in an anxious stream of consciousness, the monologue is interrupted shortly after, when Wesam pops into existence. As he recounts his side of the story, The dialogical narrative highlights the subjectivity of memory.

The visual style we are aiming for combines rotoscoped 2D animation with real backgrounds as well as family photographs. Using live-action cinematography is a way for us to incorporate documentary elements into the film and compensate for the lack of archival footage.

I started writing this film together with my own twin brother Saad. Having grown up in a household where religious belief and scientific practice coexisted, we were always puzzled by contradictory ontologies and left longing for answers. As twins, we experienced the world in a different way than others. From the first instance, we perceived life as something shared by two. We didn't only share the resources in our mother's womb, but we also shared one face and therefore the accountability for each other's actions. Being a twin you always have an instinctive fear of being one; of being without the other.

We initially started writing this film after the loss of our mother, and our urge to process what led to that moment. Now the story continues to be about loss. This time a different kind of loss, the loss of my twin brother Saad, my other half, and co-creator of this film, at the young age of 29. This makes this film very important for me, if not the most important project I worked on. It is Saad's remaining legacy. Determined to continue this journey for both of us, I want to preserve his memory and the intimate moments I shared with him in this film.

Abdelrahman Dnewar

Abdelrahman Dnewar is a filmmaker from Egypt, who is based in Berlin, Germany. He started his film career in 2012 when his first animated short film "The Super Twins" was selected by the Ghetto Film School in Los Angeles to be shown at their section in Sundance Film Festival.

Abdelrahman is currently a student at the DFFB Film Academy in Berlin. He always tries to employ his knowledge of visual arts to find the right cinematic language and medium to tell his stories and has experience working across different mediums of visual arts and film.

Filmography:

“Moses Sole”, Abdelrahman Dnewar, Saad Dnewar, 2022, 5', short film, unreleased
Director

“Rewind”, 2021, 4', music video, Cairo Video Festival
Director

Saad Dnewar

Saad Dnewar was a filmmaker from Egypt based in Berlin, Germany. He was a multidisciplinary artist working across different mediums varying from animation to live-action. He received his first international recognition with his short film in development 'My Brother, My Brother'. He was selected to study directing at the dffb with his brother in 2022 but he passed away one month before the study commenced at the young age of 29.

Filmography:

“Moses Sole”, Abdelrahman Dnewar, Saad Dnewar, 2022, 5', short film, unreleased
Director