



THE FLIGHT OF THE STORK

A film by Soumaya Hidalgo Djahdou
Berta Vicente Salas

بين ضفتين

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS, THREE GENERATIONS OF WOMEN SEEK TO FIND UNDERSTANDING IN EACH OTHER, EXPLORING IDENTITY, HERITAGE, AND THE QUEST FOR ONE'S OWN PLACE IN THE WORLD.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

At 29, Spanish-Algerian filmmaker Soumaya Hidalgo Djahdou feels a compelling need to reconnect with her Algerian roots and understand the world her mother, Malika, left behind. With her childhood friend Berta Vicente Salas behind the camera, Soumaya confronts her fragmented identity and the complex legacy of the women in her family. Through family archives, intimate conversations with her grandmother in Algeria, and calls with her mother during Ramadan, what begins as a personal quest evolves into a profound exploration of intergenerational bonds shaped by exile, tradition, and the search for a shared future.






LONG SYNOPSIS

Soumaya, a 30-year-old woman born and raised in Barcelona, stands at a crossroads. Growing up between her family's Arab-Muslim heritage and her Western environment, her adolescence was marked by her family's reinforced religious beliefs and strict norms. Summers in Algeria with her grandmother meant navigating expectations to embrace Muslim culture, even as she found secret ways to rebel. At 18, an ultimatum from her mother – accept Islam or leave – led her to choose independence.

Now, after years of maintaining a cautious, conflict-avoidant relationship with her mother, Malika (55), Soumaya decides to confront her past. The film follows her journey to Algeria, camera in hand (held by co-director Berta Vicente Salas), as she seeks to understand the silences and traditions that have shaped the women in her family: herself, her mother Malika who migrated to Catalonia, and her grandmother Saliha (77), the strong matriarch in Relizane.

“The Flight of the Stork” unfolds through intimate observations, revealing home videos, and poignant conversations during Ramadan.

It's a story of cultural duality, generational conflict between autonomy and tradition, and the enduring power of maternal love. As Soumaya delves deeper, she uncovers how inherited stories and memory shape identity, linking past to present, in a universal narrative about finding a shared territory despite distances and differing beliefs.

A woman wearing a red and black patterned hijab is shown in profile, looking upwards and to the right. Her hand is near her face, and she appears to be in a contemplative or emotional state. The background is a solid, muted brown color.

“For highlighting the generational conflicts within the migrant Muslim community through an effective and authentic narrative that illuminates the challenges of belonging and reconciliation faced by Muslim women and their daughters, thus becoming a revealing piece for intercultural and intergenerational understanding and dialogue.”

**Millán Vázquez
(Agencia Freak / DocumentaMadrid)**



DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

SOUMAYA HIDALGO DJAHDOU

“This project was born from a deeply personal crisis of identity I experienced at 29. As a multicultural artist, my work often seeks to bridge cultures, inspired by my grandmother’s disappearing Bereber dialect. ‘The Flight of the Stork’ is an evolution of this investigation – a journey to reconnect with my Algerian roots, to confront the fragmented parts of myself, and to understand the legacy of my mother and grandmother. It’s about finding my place between two worlds and unraveling the silences that have marked the history of the women in my family.”



BERTA VICENTE SALAS

“My approach to cinematography is often evocative and melancholic, aiming to blend reality with imagination and capture deep emotions. For ‘The Flight of the Stork,’ being Soumaya’s childhood friend allowed for a unique level of intimacy. My role was to create a visual language that could sensitively portray her introspective journey, the nuances of her family relationships, and the textures of both her worlds – Barcelona and Algeria. It’s about capturing that delicate space where memory, present-day reality, and the search for connection converge.”

“Migranta Films is dedicated to projects that explore the intersection of identity, migration, and new forms of co-production, often seeking more equitable structures across different latitudes. ‘The Flight of the Stork’ is a perfect embodiment of this mission. It’s a powerful, director-led creative documentary that offers an intimate, female perspective on universal themes of belonging, intergenerational dialogue, and cultural heritage in a globalized world. The co-production with Al Jazeera, and the significant development and industry recognition the film has received, underscore its quality and international potential. We believe Soumaya and Berta have crafted a film that will resonate deeply with audiences worldwide.”

Matheus Mello, Migranta Films

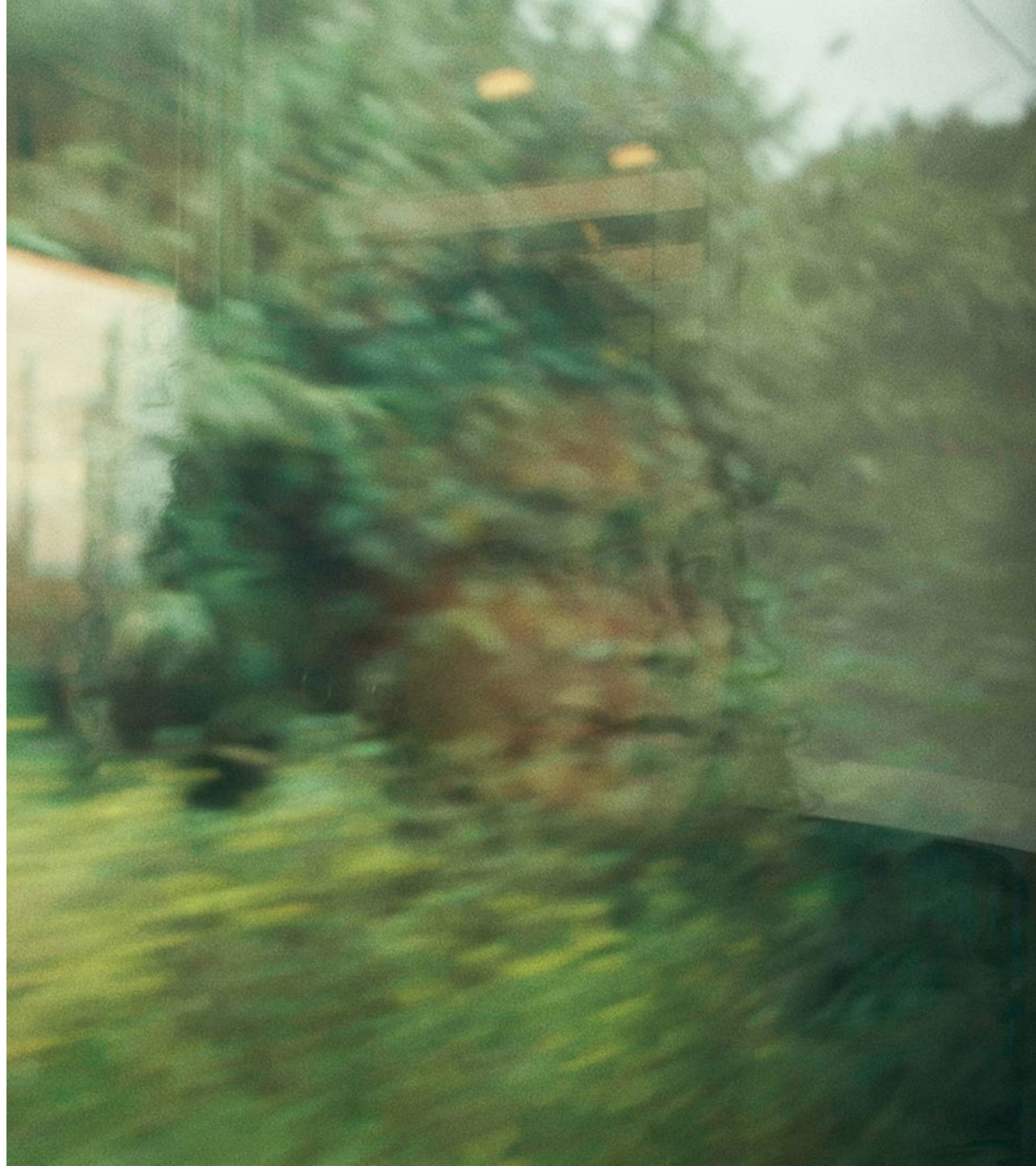


KEY THEMES

- **Identity and Cultural Duality**
- **Intergenerational Conflict & Connection**
- **Migration and Diaspora**
- **Mother-Daughter Relationships / Matrilineal Legacy**
- **Memory, Heritage, and Tradition**
- **Feminism and Female Autonomy within Cultural Contexts**

TARGET AUDIENCE

- **Viewers interested in author-driven documentary, personal narratives, and films by women.**
- **Audiences engaged with social and cultural themes: identity, migration, multiculturalism, intergenerational family relationships, and the diaspora.**
- **Followers of Mediterranean cultures, specifically Spain and Algeria/Maghreb.**
- **“Independent Film Selectives”: Adults (30-40, primarily women) with higher education, urban, interested in intellectual professions. This group represents 22% of European cinema viewers and 25% in Spain.**
- **Young adults of Muslim descent in the European diaspora (20-30 years old, majority women), European-born, higher education level, urban, tech-savvy.**
- **Viewers of VOD platforms like Filmin, MUBI, and public broadcasters with a focus on social/cultural documentaries.**



TECHNICAL DETAILS

ORIGINAL TITLE: El Vol de la Cigonya بين ضفّتين
INTERNATIONAL TITLE: The Flight of the Stork
GENRE: Creative Documentary, Personal, Intimate, Observational
DURATION: 70 min. (Theatrical) / 60 min. (Broadcast)
COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION: Spain, in co-production with Qatar
LANGUAGES: Arabic, Catalan, Spanish
SHOOTING FORMAT: Digital 2K
EXHIBITION FORMAT: DCP, ProRes 4444
PRODUCTION COMPANY: Migranta Films (Spain)
CO-PRODUCER: Al Jazeera Documentary (Qatar)
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: Union Content (UK)
FILMING LOCATIONS: Barcelona/Spain, Relizane/Algeria

MAIN CREDITS

DIRECTORS: Soumaya Hidalgo Djahdou, Berta Vicente Salas
WRITERS: Soumaya Hidalgo Djahdou, Berta Vicente Salas
PRODUCER: Matheus Mello (Migranta Films)
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Matheus Mello, Natasha Murphy
CO-PRODUCER: Mehdi Bekkar (Al Jazeera)
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: Natasha Murphy (Union Content)
CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND RECORDING: Berta Vicente Salas
EDITING: Ángel Giovanni Hoyos, Meritxell Colell Aparicio
ADDITIONAL EDITING: Luis Alejandro Yero
SOUND DESIGN & MUSIC SCORE: Marisol Cao Milán
COLOR CORRECTION: Lita Bosch
GRAPHICS: Paula Illescas





“For its profound exploration of identity, cultural heritage, and mother-daughter reconciliation, delivered through a moving narrative that gives voice to some of the challenges faced by Muslim and migrant women.”

Cineteca Madrid



SOUMAYA HIDALGO DJAHDOU
(CO-DIRECTOR)

(1994) A multicultural artist whose work bridges cultures, inspired by her disappearing Bereber ancestral dialect. “El Vol de la Cigonya” is her debut documentary, born from her personal exploration of identity. Holds a degree in Translation and Interpreting from Universitat Pompeu Fabra.



BERTA VICENTE SALAS
(CO-DIRECTOR, CINEMATOGRAPHY, SOUND)

(1994) An EICTV, Cuba (MA Documentary Film) and Pulitzer Center alumna, known for her evocative, melancholic photography that blends reality and imagination. Her intimate portraits capture deep emotions. Awarded by FotoTalentos (Santander Foundation, 2013) and Sony World Photography Awards (Youth Portrait, 2013). Her first short was “Todos los días Elisa.”



MATHEUS MELLO
(PRODUCER)

(1986) Film producer focused on identity, migration, and fair co-production models. Collaborated with filmmakers like Lucrecia Martel and Werner Herzog on training initiatives. His filmography includes award-winning works screened at IDFA, Rotterdam, Sitges, Tallinn Black Nights, and more. Alumni of Sundance Institute, Ji.hlava Emerging Producers, EAVE, among others. Holds degrees in International Relations (UNIVALI), Production (EICTV), and a postgraduate in Audiovisual Financing (ESCAC).

IMDb



MERITXELL COLELL APARICIO
(EDITOR)

Renowned Spanish director and editor. Directed “Con el Viento” (Berlinale 2018) and “Dúo” (Best Director, Malaga 2022). Her work has featured at Cannes, San Sebastián, and IDFA.

IMDb



ÁNGEL GIOVANNI HOYOS
(EDITOR)

Trained in Argentina and holds an MA in Documentary Creation (Universitat Pompeu Fabra). His debut feature “Marea Verde” premiered at Warsaw Film Festival.

IMDb



MARISOL CAO MILÁN
(SOUND DESIGN & ORIGINAL MUSIC)

Orchestra conductor, sound designer, and composer. Studied at ENA, ISA (Cuba), and Sound Direction at EICTV. Participated in international residencies and works on fiction, documentary, and new media projects featured at major festivals.

IMDb

- **WINNER - DOCS IN PROGRESS AWARD**
Cannes Docs, Marché du Film (Spanish Showcase) 2025
 - **WINNER - FINAL CUT AWARD - Documenta Madrid 2024**
 - **Ji.HLAVA NEW VISIONS FORUM: EUROPE 2024**
 - **L'ALTERNATIVA CINEMA PENDENT 2024**
 - **D'A FILM LAB PANORAMA CATALUNYA 2024**
 - **7TH ROUGH CUT WORKSHOP FOR ARAB WOMEN FILMMAKERS**
The Between Women Filmmaker's Caravan
 - **PITCHING ACCIÓ VIVER**
Dones Visuals 2023
 - **LABORATORI FEMINISTA DE CREACIÓ DOCUMENTAL**
La Bonne 2022
- SUPPORTED BY: ICEC - Institut Català de les Empreses Culturals (Generalitat de Catalunya), Ajuntament de Barcelona, Ajuntament de Terrassa**

KEY PRESS CLIPPINGS

- Variety's cannes docs winners - May 20, 2025
- 'The Flight of the Stork', premiada en el Docs-in-Progress de Cannes - May 21, 2025
- Cineuropa - The Ji.hlava New Visions Forum showcases emerging documentary talents and global issues - Oct 10, 2024
- Cinemateca Madrid - Premio Corte Final - Jun 2, 2024

TRAILER

PROMO - TRAILER:
<https://vimeo.com/890089352>

***For the film cut, ask by e-mail to hola@migranta.film**



World Premiere
Official Selection at the Luminous Section.
Nominated for the IDFA Award for Best First
Feature and FIPRESCI Award.



Estonian Premiere
Official Selection at the Best of the Fest.



Spanish Premiere
Official Selection at Beautiful Docs.



“The film follows Soumaya, a 29-year-old woman who decides to travel to Algeria to reconnect with the world her mother, Malika, left behind when she emigrated to Barcelona.

Throughout the documentary, accompanied by her childhood friend behind the camera, Soumaya explores her family history through archives, conversations with her grandmother, and calls to her mother during Ramadan. This intimate and personal journey becomes a reflection on the weight of tradition and the bond between three generations of women marked by exile.”

Rubik Audiovisual



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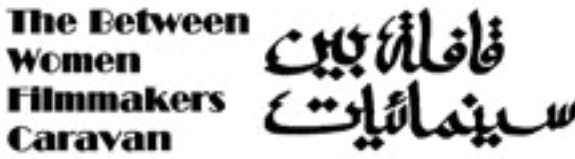
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