



**NEW YORK
INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
FILM FESTIVAL**

Rawan Rahim

BIO

Rawan Rahim (b. 1986) is a Lebanese-Iraqi visual artist and film-maker, currently living between New York and Beirut.

After having graduated with a BA in History of Art from University College London (UCL) in 2009, she studied Fine Art at the School of Visual Arts (SVA) in New York City.

In 2015 she moved to Paris to produce and direct the animated short film *Lilou*, featured in over 90 festivals worldwide, including the Tokyo Anime Awards and NYICFF, where she has served on several different panels since. Recently, she has worked on two children's books, which are currently being published.

How did you become a filmmaker?

I became a filmmaker by accident. I had been writing and illustrating stories for a while and was no longer satisfied with the stillness of my character and her adventures. I felt she needed to break free from the confines of the paper she was bound to. So I went to Paris, put a team together and within a year *Lilou* came alive.

What do you like about animation?

I love animation because you can be as crazy and fantastical as your mind allows you to go. If you can think it, you can draw it. The possibilities are limitless: any style, universe or colour you desire; it's the definition of pure creativity. Also, the handwork in the animation that I practice is a dying art. It is becoming more rare by the year.

What inspired this film?

This film was actually inspired by true events. I came across a man once that was horribly judged and feared in the community, including by myself. One day I discovered his story and everything made sense. He was not a monster, he was just in pain. That changed the way I approach my opinions on people. It made me more empathetic and I thought, there is not enough out there about empathy.

What do you like to do when you are not busy making films?

When I am not working on a film I am either painting, drawing or redesigning an interior. Otherwise I can be found at a Flea market trying to spot some odd object from the past.

Where do you live?

I live between Beirut and New York! It doesn't get boring that way.

What is your favorite food?

Spaghetti any way, shape or form, but done well.