



# THE DAM

by Ali Cherri



## SYNOPSIS

Sudan, near the Merowe Dam.

Maher works in a traditional brickyard fed by the waters of the Nile. Every evening, he secretly wanders off into the desert to build a mysterious construction made of mud. While the Sudanese people rise to claim their freedom, his creation slowly starts to take a life of its own...

'Maher (Maher El Kahir) works as a bricklayer in northern Sudan, not far from the massive hydroelectric Merowe Dam located on the Nile. He spends his off hours laboring over another, more mysterious building project: a towering creature he's making out of mud. In his debut feature, Lebanese visual artist Ali Cherri has constructed his own indefinable work, a riveting film that straddles the line between nonfiction naturalism and supernatural mysticism. Co-written with Bertrand Bonello and Geoffroy Grison, THE DAM metaphorically evokes the destruction caused by the dam's creation, while also situating the lives of Maher and his fellow workers against the political backdrop...

## FESTIVALS

2022

Cannes' Directors' Fortnight  
56 KVIFF - Karlovy Vary IFF  
NYFF60 - New York Film Festival  
2023  
HKIFF47 - Hong Kong IFF

## CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Ali Cherri · PROTAGONIST Maher El Khair

France, Sudan, Germany, Serbia, Qatar 2022

80 min

ORIGINAL TITLE  
LE BARRAGE

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Biographie/Portrait,  
Arts/Culture, Human Rights

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES  
Arabic

PREMIERE  
Cannes, France (2022)

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LINKS / REFERENCE

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