

# The Long Night

Al Layl Al-Tawil

Siria/2009/35 mm/colour/91'/Sirian

**Direction:** Hatem Ali

**Producer:** Haitham Hakki

**Screenplay:** Haitham Hakki

**Editing:** Mohamed Mgrawi

**Sound:** Taha Al Zua'bi

**Cast:** Khaled Taja, Amal Arafa, Basel Khayat, Aniseh Dawood, Hatem Ali, Salim Sabri, Rafiq Sbeii, Najah Safkoni, Zohear Abed Alkareem, Duha Aldibis.

## **Festivals/awards**

Best film award, Osian's Cinefan Film Festival of Asian and Arab Cinema, 2009, Rotterdam Film Festival 2009, Tawrina Film Festival Italy 2009, Private Arbitration Prize Notre Dame 2009

Theatre flourished in Syria before the crackdown in the 90s. The once-upon-a-time actor, a dissident, is now in jail, incarcerated with three others in an ugly, dingy, leaky, damp room. The four try to keep their spirits up, but the eldest, Karim has given up. It's been twenty years in this hole, and not even the rumour that he might be freed makes him sit up in his bed. He lies apathetically with his face to the wall, unmoved by the news of his imminent release while his mates wash, groom and dress, and prepare for their return home.