



## IN BETWEEN (Bar Bahar)

Spring  
Season  
2018

**Release:** 2016

**Cert (UK):** 15, F

**Country:** Israel

**Language:** Hebrew and Arabic with English Subtitles

**Runtime:** 1 hour 43 mins

**Director:** Maysaloun Hamoud

**Writer:** Maysaloun Hamoud

**Cinematographer:** Itay Gross

**Cast:** Mouna Hawa, Sana Jammeliéh, Shaden Kanboura

Arab women are brought up to do what they are told by men: *"Men don't like women who raise their voices," a matriarch says as she waxes a crying, younger woman's legs in the opening scene* – Bilge Ebiri, Village Voice. But they cannot get away with being totally wild either; *'As the title suggests, the characters of Hamoud's film live somewhere between these extremes – between tradition and independence, obligation and abandon'*.



The three main characters here are 'in between' geographically too, living and working in Tel Aviv. This is a story, not about the politics of the area or even feminism as such; it is a story about their everyday lives together; *'These are ordinary women living their ordinary lives, trying to carve out a place for themselves while navigating the expectations of*

*different worlds. Their solidarity is not national, or cultural, but intimate'* – Ebiri again.

Apart from a short, this is the first film Maysaloun Hamoud has directed and written. It has won her several awards and critical acclaim including Mark Kermode's film of the week, but also a lot of criticism for taking Israeli state funding which has even lead to death threats. The actors she used are a mix of professionals and first-timers - Sana Jammeliéh, who plays DJ Salma in the film is a DJ in her real life too.

