



# OMAR

Autumn  
Season  
2014

**Release:** 2013

**Cert (UK):** 15

**Language:** Arabic and Hebrew

**Runtime:** 96 mins

**Director & writer:** Hany Abu-Assad

**Cinematographer:** Ehab Assai

**Cast:** Adam Bakri, Leem Lubany, Iyad Hoorani |



'Omar' is, according to Rotten Tomatoes, a 'tense, gripping thriller about betrayal, suspected and real, in the Occupied Territories. Omar (Adam Bakri) is a Palestinian baker who routinely climbs over the separation wall to meet up with his girl Nadja (Leem Lubany). By night, he's either a freedom fighter or a terrorist- you decide - ready to risk his life to strike at the Israeli military with his childhood friends Tarek (Eyad Hourani) and Amjad (Samer Bisharat).'

This is the ninth film Hany Abu-Assad has directed, including 'Paradise Now' which we had in 2005 and which won him some praise. 'Omar' sees him being nominated for Best Foreign Film at the Oscars and winning the Special Jury Prize at Cannes.

As he did in 'Paradise Now', Abu-Assad concentrates as much on the characters involved as on the politics; Omar is a man deeply in love with his girlfriend and just as keen to resolve his country's problems, and it is this interplay of conflicting loyalties that he uses to underwrite the film.



Steve Rose in the Guardian considers 'there are echoes of 'Battle of Algiers' and 'La Haine' in this credible but cleverly plotted story, flexing tensions between resistance, collaboration, love and loyalty', while Sophie Monks Kaufman in Little White Lies says 'This taut exploration of the divide between personal and political makes for one of the year's finest features. Omar, with its simple title, works to repeatedly pull focus back to the man caught between betraying his cause and betraying his love'.