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Algiers-Beirut LONDON FF 1999

Mon 8 Nov 16.00 and 20.30 NFT2

Algeria-France

The acclaimed Algerian director returns with this poignant observation on the psychological problems and fears faced by his countrymen and women by the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. The story centres on Rachid, an Algerian journalist who has found refuge amidst the bullet-riddled ruins of Beirut. He spends his long evenings downing glasses of whisky and chain smoking alone in a busy downtown bar. He is tormented by his past where the betrayal of a journalist colleague led to his murder by a gang of fundamentalists in Algiers. A chance meeting with a French woman of Lebanese extraction who had returned to Beirut begins a brief love affair which lasts a few days. With her contacts at the French Embassy she arranges a visa for him to come back with her to Paris. However Rachid knows that the visa to Paris will not provide him with the freedom which he is yearning for. *Keith Shiri*

**Dir, Scr Merzak Allouche / with Fabienne Babe, Georges Corraface,
Hocine Choutri / Algeria-France 1998 / 90 mins**