



THE PERFECT CANDIDATE

22nd
Year!

Autumn
Season
2020

Release: 2019

Cert (UK): PG, Triple F-Rated

Country: Saudi Arabia

Language: In Arabic with English subtitles

Runtime: 1 hour 44 mins

Director: Haifaa Al-Mansour

Writer: Haifaa Al-Mansour, Brad Niemann

Cinematographer: Patrick Orth

Cast: Mila Al Zahrani, Dae Al Hilali, Nora Al Awad



We last saw director Haifaa Al-Mansour with the first Saudi film ever directed by a woman – 'Wadjda' – where she brought us a small girl determined to own a bike (not allowed in Saudi). Six years later, she is back in Saudi with Maryam, a female doctor trying her hardest to be accepted as a doctor (her first patient refuses to let a

woman touch him).

Her clinic has the only emergency room for miles and is down a dirt road which becomes a quagmire when it rains. Failing to get the local councillor to do anything about it, she decides to stand for office herself. *'Maryam doesn't see herself as any kind of feminist pioneer. Her motivations are practical, not symbolic. But the people around her are bull-headed. To them, nothing exists beyond her gender. When she makes an appearance on local TV, the presenter assumes her policies deal only in women's issues "like gardens, for instance"'* – Clarisse Loughrey, Independent.

