



# CAPERNAUM

21st  
Year!

Autumn  
Season  
2019

**Release:** 2018

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

**Country:** Lebanon

**Language:** In Arabic with English subtitles

**Runtime:** 2 hour 6 mins

**Director:** Nadine Labaki

**Writer:** Nadine Labaki, Jihad Hojeily

**Cinematographer:** Christopher Aoun

**Cast:** Zain Al Rafeea, Yordanos Shiferaw, Boluwatife, Treasure Bankole



We open this year with an amazing film that we couldn't get last season; nominated for Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA awards for best Foreign Language Film and for the Palme d'Or at Cannes, we felt we had to give you a chance to see it.

The film follows a twelve-year-old boy, Zain, who is forced to wander the streets of Beirut trying to make a living where he can; he is one of the many

thousands of unregistered children in Lebanon who have no access to schooling, medical care or travel documents. But this is no sad story or even a tear-jerker: Zain is fighting back. *'As the film opens, [he] is in court, suing his neglectful parents for having given birth to him. The piercing child's-eye view of his chaotic Beirut life, to which we flash back, suggests he has a case'* - Kate Stables, Sight & Sound.

Filmed by award-winning Nadine Labaki using the real-life experiences of her non-professional cast, we feel a real anger at the plight of these kids (Using my first ever quote from the Bible, *'And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be thrown down to Hades!'*).

The acting is superb - *'Zain Al Rafeea (who was working as a delivery boy when cast) is simply excellent in the lead role. In a spiky, foul-mouthed performance, he gives Zain the wary, weary adult toughness of a youngster whose childhood has been stolen from him'* - Kate Stables again.

