

Release: 2021

Cert: 15

Country: Lebanon and Canada

Language: In French, Arabic and English

Runtime: 1 hour 42 mins

Directed by: Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige

Written by: Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige Gaëlle Macé

Cinematography : Josée Deshaies

Cast : Rim Turki, Paloma Vauthier and Manal Issa



Montreal, Canada, present day. A postman arrives at the house of Lebanese Maia and her daughter Alex with a large box from France. *'It contains the pictures and notebooks she sent to her best friend Liza circa 1983 after the girl moved to Paris, minutely recounting her daily life during the civil war. Now Liza is dead and the "memory box" has been returned to sender'* -Deborah Young, Hollywood Reporter. Alex is intrigued but Maia doesn't want her to look. Inevitably, Alex cannot resist and the film follows her discovery of her mother's past. Why was Maia so insistent on not looking back..?

Directors Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige have worked together since they met at collage, firstly on shorts but then on feature films (*'A Perfect Day'*, *'I want to see'*), always about the state of modern Lebanon. Their films have always been popular n the Festival circuit and have won several awards over the years.

'Memory Box' is not a film about the fighting or the bombing in the civil war, so much as a film about the everyday lives of people during the war: Alex *'learns how the teenage Maia clashed with her parents, got obsessed with guys and her own looks, partied and experienced joy in a time when not only were there no mobile phones or WhatsApp, but there was a war going on with constant bombings and militia-run checkpoints where people were frequently killed'* – Leslie Felperin, Guardian.

