



# When Pigs Have Wings

'Le Cochon de Gaza'

Spring  
Season  
2013

**Release:** 2011

**Cert (UK):** 15

**Runtime:** 98 mins

**Director:** Sylvain Estibal

**Cast:** Sasson Gabai, Baya Belal and Myriam Tekaïa



Set in the occupied territories, When Pigs Have Wings is about a struggling Palestinian fisherman, Jafaar (Sasson Gabay). His fish stocks are ever-decreasing; He has close to zero overland mobility due to all the roadblocks; his house has been half-destroyed and Israeli guards are everywhere - even in his living room watching soap operas, to his wife's perplexity. Then one day after a storm, he somehow fishes a big black Vietnamese pig out of the water, which is of course a halal

catastrophe.

Thinking himself to be even more cursed than previously and having no idea what to do with his grunting cargo, he discovers that a woman in a nearby Israeli farmers' colony breeds pigs. Soon, he is a fully fledged insemination facilitator, albeit wringing his hands in anxiety, caught between mounting debts and the disaster awaiting him if his multiple social and religious transgressions are to surface.

Not the easiest way to bring home the bacon.

It's all carried along superbly by Sasson Gabay's wonderful performance as a man who finds himself pulling off increasingly heroic and farcical feats out of sheer expediency. He conveys the touching astonishment of someone whose ingenuity is just millimetres ahead of catastrophe at any moment, but who just keeps going somehow. Behind the comedy, the injustices and tragedies of the Gaza occupation are ever-present, but without resorting to preaching or demonising. This combination gives it a bite which is carried along through the modesty of its characters and the whimsies of its plot.