



For more information: **CONTACT**

Orly Yadin
Executive Director, VTIFF
P 802.660.2600
E orly@vtiff.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vermont International Film Festival - February Monthly Screening

Burlington, VT: (February 14, 2019): VTIFF is pleased to announce the February film in its Monthly Screenings series.

Thursday, February at 7pm, Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center - Film House:
CAPERNAUM

VTIFF Presents: Capernaum (Chez nous)

Host sponsor – Main Street Landing

Written & Directed by Nadine Labaki

Lebanon | 2018 | Fiction | 123 mins | Arabic and Amharic w/English subtitles

Awards/Major Festivals: Grand Jury Prize – Cannes Film Festival, Nominated for Best Foreign Language film – 2019 Academy Awards

Set in a fictitious Middle Eastern village (much like *Where Do We Go Now?*), *Capernaum* takes Labaki's unique cinematic microscope to the region's countless neglected children "excluded from society" — the youths who fall through the cracks in the system and are left to fend for themselves. At its heart is a 12-year old (Zain Al Rafeea) who decides enough is enough and sues his parents the "crime" of giving him life.

Capernaum was made with a cast of non-professionals playing characters whose lives closely parallel their own. Following her script, Labaki placed her performers in scenes and asked them to react spontaneously with their own words and gestures. When the non-actors' instincts diverged from the written script, Labaki adapted the screenplay to follow them.

"A fairy tale and an opera, a potboiler and a news bulletin, a howl of protest and an anthem of resistance... The sources of (the film's) remarkable energy are Ms. Labaki's curiosity and the charisma of her young star, Zain al Rafeea... You might see a trace of Huck Finn in Zain... Like a Dickens Hero... His charm and magnetism amount to a kind of moral authority."

– A.O. Scott, The New York Times

Links to High res stills: vtiff.org/press