

# FAR FROM THE NILE

## PRESS PACKET

Documentary Feature Film

Winner Best Non-Fiction Film | 44th Cairo International Film Festival

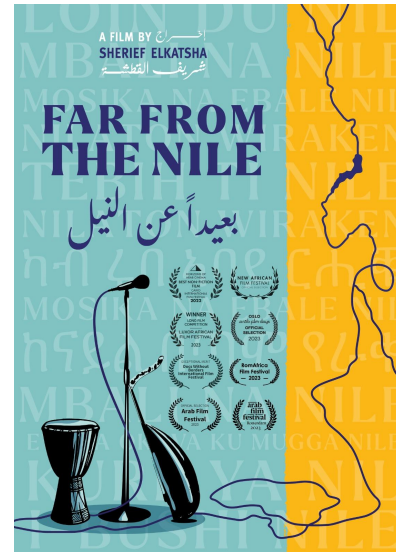
Winner Silver Award Long Film | 12th Luxor African Film Festival

Exceptional Merit | Doctors Without Borders International Film Festival

Director - Sherief Elkatsha

Total Running Time: 98 minutes

[Trailer](#) | [Publicity Images](#) | [Filmmaker Headshot](#)



## PRESS

*“A world-changing documentary”... “A must-watch for any and all, providing a road map for finding the way to bring together our ultra-divided, hyper chaotic world.” -*

**MIME**

*“Sherief Elkatsha has assembled a wholly entertaining, and often uplifting documentary.”... “The project is about finding common ground above all else, and watching the results flow is exhilarating.” -* **Screen Daily**

## FAR FROM THE NILE

Twelve musicians from seven countries along the Nile use music as a model to collaborate across borders. On a tour of the United States, their message of unity is put to the test.

## SYNOPSIS

Filmmaker Sherief Elkatsha follows 12 African musicians from seven countries along the Nile River as they band together in an international coalition to highlight the water conflict along the river they share. As they leave their homes in Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Burundi, and Uganda and embark on a 100-day tour of America’s heartland, the film captures the challenges of collaboration across cultural lines. Despite their vast cultural differences, musical styles, and competing egos, the artists must find ways to create and remain united in their cause.

**Featuring the Nile Project Musicians:** Mohamed Abozekry (Egypt), Michael Bazibu (Uganda), Nader Elshaer (Egypt), Ibrahim Fanous (Eritrea), Saleeb Fawzy (Upper Egypt), Asia Madani (Sudan), Adel Mekha (Nubia), Kasiva Mutua (Kenya), Ahmed Omar (Eritrea, Ethiopia), Dave Otieno (Kenya), Steven Sogo (Burundi), Selamnesh Zemene (Ethiopia).

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

*Far From the Nile* is a verité journey that follows The Nile Project on the group's 100-day tour of the United States. Music is a vehicle for me to explore the universal theme of trying to work together for a common cause despite differences.

My film captures the joys and challenges of collaboration between musicians from seven different countries who speak six different languages, and the cultural nuances and humor of being introduced to each other and the United States for the very first time.

*Far From the Nile* is a microcosm of larger challenges facing the world today and the urgency to work together. Our collective challenges, including the growing water crisis and global warming that is devastating our environment, will only be solved by bringing people together to collaborate and find solutions – the mission statement of The Nile Project.

## **DIRECTOR BIO**

Documentary filmmaker, producer, and editor Sherief Elkatsha's most recent film, *Far From the Nile*, is a feature-length film following 12 musicians from different countries along the Nile River basin, on their U.S. tour. The film premiered in November 2022 at the 44th Cairo International Film Festival, where it won "Best Non-Fiction Film." In February 2023, *Far From the Nile* was also awarded the Silver Prize at the Luxor African Film Festival and received an "Exceptional Merit" Award at Docs Without Borders International Film Festival.

In 2013, Elkatsha premiered his third feature documentary, *Cairo Drive*, awarded "The Best Film from the Arab World"/Documentary Competition, at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival 2013. Other honors include the Grand Jury Prize at DOC NYC 2014 and special mention at Open City Docs in London 2014.

In 2014, Elkatsha was commissioned by the EYE Film Institut Nederland to make a short film combining stock and his own footage, which resulted in *Krokodillen*. He was also the cinematographer for *Cairo Garbage* (2009), by Mikala Krogh, part of *Cities on Speed*.

Elkatsha co-directed *Egypt: We are Watching You* (2007), about pre-revolutionary politics in Egypt, through eyes of the activist group, Shayfeen.com, as part of the Why Democracy series.

His first feature documentary, *Butts Out* (2004), which followed five smokers' struggles to quit cigarettes, received the Best Documentary Award at the 2006 New England Film and Video Festival. The film was also an official selection at The Rhode Island International Film Festival, Rendez Vous with Madness Film Festival, and the Hollywood DV Festival.

## PRODUCER BIO

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