

# THE PERFECT CANDIDATE

**Saudi Arabia (2019)** 105 minutes

**Director:** Haifaa al-Mansour

**Cast:** Mila Al Zahrani,  
Hamad Almutaani,  
Mohammed Othman



**Screening 30th November 2022 at Swindon Arts Centre**

## Synopsis

A young Saudi doctor stands for office in the local elections. This causes consternation in her family and community as they struggle to accept their town's first female candidate.

## Reviews



*The Perfect Candidate* is a simple story, told without frills or even much in the way of nuance...

The Saudi Arabia it shows us is a place where modernity rubs up against entrenched conservatism, and where even the most decadent Barbie Princess-inspired wedding still features a singer who croons, 'There is no God but Allah' ...

*The Perfect Candidate* suggests that all it might take is for one bright, bold individual to put their shoulder to the wheel for the direction of travel to be altered, if only by a degree.

*Xan Brooks, The Guardian*

... *The Perfect Candidate* is a testament to change as well as portraying that change in progress. Nothing in the film is as radical as its lightness of touch, its warm good humour and its sense of optimism ...

*John Bleasdale, Sight and Sound*

## Film Facts

- Haifaa Al-Mandour made her directing debut *Wadja* using walkie-talkie equipment hidden in a van so that men would not be seen taking direction from a woman.
- *The Perfect Candidate* was the Saudi Arabian entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 92nd Academy Awards.

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