SUBHUMAN

"الحيوان"

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1. Logline



A self-loathing young man tracks the “perfect man” who stole his girlfriend, leading him into a cult that feeds on male desire for power and love.

2. Synopsis

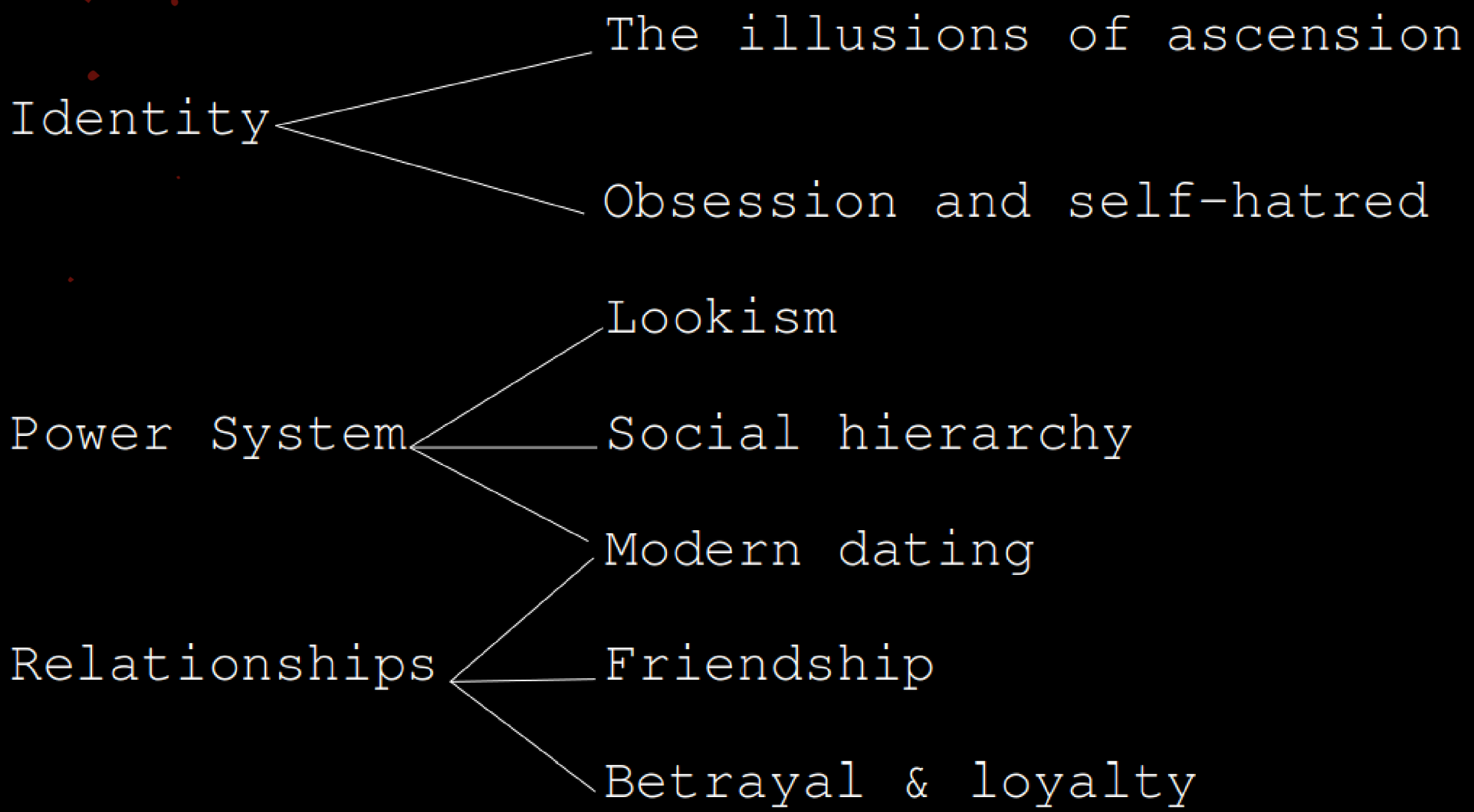
Elyes, a physically capable but deeply self-hating man, becomes obsessed with hunting down the mysterious white-haired man who stole his lover. His search leads him to “the Club”, a secret fraternity cult that exploits male insecurity through a brutal hierarchy of power and domination.

After searching for clues at a university, he meets Rayen, a more composed but equally insecure young man. Elyes leaves him dishonored and humiliated.
When an assassination attempt nearly kills him, Elyes is forced into an uneasy alliance with Rayen. Together, they navigate the Club’s violent structure. All the while, Rayen’s girlfriend, Yakine, searches for him and gets pulled directly into grave danger.

The closer he gets to his target, the more Elyes adopts the very logic he has every reason to hate. Rayen witnesses this contradiction and questions the system Elyes is embracing.

At the heart of the Club, Elyes finally confronts one of its depraved leaders, Hamma. He is offered the chance to take his rival’s place in exchange for eliminating Rayen. He refuses, exposing the fragility behind the ideal he pursued.
In the aftermath, Rayen saves Yakine from the cult and restores his honor, but Elyes is left without purpose. As the others choose connection, he faces a void that leads him to the edge of ending it all.

3. Main Themes



4. Screenriter’s Statement

This film is not about violence. It is about the systematic humiliation that produces it.

SUBHUMAN (الحيوان) comes from an interest in how young men construct their identity through comparison and the need for validation. The story follows Elyes and Rayen not as exceptional individuals, but products of a system that defined their worth through hierarchy. The antagonistic structure of the movie, the Club, pushes this logic to its extreme.

This story feels urgent because these dynamics are increasingly visible today, especially among younger generations exposed to social media pressure around status and attractiveness.

The film avoids stylization in favor of controlled environments and a focus on physical presence and tension.

Performance direction must be restrained. Characters do not explain themselves. Their beliefs are revealed through their behavior (like Elyes unconsciously touching his face when going through Hamma’s Instagram photos).

The main character, Elyes, for instance, is framed as both predator and victim in the same system. His final choice is not redemption, it is collapse: The only logical endpoint of his doomed worldview.

5. Character Overview:

- **Elyes:** A young man hell bent on chasing his goal. His journey is not of revenge but rather a twisted attempt to be better.
- **Rayen:** The thematic mirror to Elyes. The man Elyes was supposed to be if not for the brutal heartbreak.
- **Yakine:** Rayen’s girlfriend and his emotional stakes.
- **Limoshi:** Elyes’s primary target, the guy he both hates and wants to exceed.
- **Hamma:** Limoshi’s partner. He represents the lie behind the cult’s system.

6. Narrative Inspirations

Oldboy (2003)	The blind pursuit of an enemy you don't fully understand.
Blue Eye Samurai (2023)	A protagonist riddled with self-hatred and deep insecurities.
Kids (1995) [comparable in budget & range]	The raw portrayal of youth behavior and social dynamics without moral framing or idealization.
Nightcrawler (2014)	Cold, clinical framing of the characters' pathologies.

7. Visual Tone

The Batman (2022)	Grounded realism with controlled lighting. High contrast chiaroscuro.

- **Locations:** Urban decay, gym, mansion, hotel, abandoned buildings, beach. => Low-budget and effective.

- **Cinematics:** Room for interesting transitions, integrated flashbacks for parallel storytelling.

8. Technical sheet

Title: الحيوان

International title: SUBHUMAN.

Genre: Psychological thriller / Dark drama

Expected runtime: 90-100 min.

Format: Feature film.

Language: Tunisian Darija.

Locations: Amphitheatre, street, abandoned building, small apartment, gym, mansion, hotel.

Project status: Script revisions.

9. Core team

Director: To be determined.

Writer: Badis Zammouri.

Producer: To be determined.