



BALLAD FOR SYRIA

Starring Maisa Alhafez Filmed by Eda Elif Tibet



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Directors: Eda Elif Tibet & Maisa Alhafez

Starring: Maisa Alhafez

Duration and Production: 47 mins, Turkey, 2017

Format: Apple Pro Res 422, 1080 p 16:09, HD

Languages: English, Arabic and Turkish

SubTitles: English and Turkish

Producer: Karma Motion www.karmamotion.com

Web Site: <https://www.balladforsyria.com/>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/221788818>

Synopsis:

A ballad, narrates poetic stories in short stanzas, hence this self-reflective musical documentary mirrors the life of Maisa Alhafez a musician and a Syrian refugee living in Istanbul. The film is about her longing to her loved ones as she tries to make a place for her self in the world of the displaced. Her family still in Syria, Maisa's true love (fiance) is in the Netherlands. As of the current EU-Turkey border regime, to unite is very challenging. Not giving up, Maisa works hard for her vision to transform the borders; by building a multicultural community "The oriental Istanbul Mosaic Choir". A diverse family that sings together, in which she believes through music and love one can heal the wounds of her people and children.

Awards:

- Finalist at TRT Documentary Film Awards (11.000 Euro) to be announced on May 2018
- Award of Recognition, International Hollywood Documentary Film Festival, California, USA May 2017
- Award of Free Speech, International Calcuta Cult film festival, India, May 2017
- Best Documentary Award, Feel the Reel International Film Festival, UK 2017
- Best Documentary Film, Largo Film Festival, Switzerland 2017
- Best Documentary Film, IMPACTDOC, Rome Italy 2017
- Emerging Filmmakers, Global Migration Film Festival, Geneva Switzerland 2017
- Mention Award, Intimate lens Ethnographic Film Festival, Caserta Italy 2017
- Audience Award for Best documentary film, Women's Voices Now film festival, Los Angeles, California USA 2018

Festivals and Screenings:

- Official Selection Society for Visual Anthropology Film and Media Film Festival, USA.
- Official Selection BELFAST Human Rights Film Festival, 9th of August, Ireland.
- Screening at Tolpuddle radical film festival, UK
- Official Selection and Finalist at TRT Documentary Awards, May 2018.
- Official Selection at FILMMOR Women Film Festival, Istanbul Turkey
- at Womens Voices Now, online film festival
- at San Mauro Torinese International Film Festival, Italy
- DOCUMENTARIST , Istanbul-Turkey, June 2017
- DOCfeed, Eindhoven ,The Netherlands February 2017

- Official Selection at Impact DOCS Awards May 2017, Italy
- official selection Roma Cinema Doc, Italy, June 2017
- official selection, Largo Film Festival Switzerland 2017
- XXVI International Festival of Ethnological Film, Belgrade, Serbia. October 10-14 th, 2017.
- Official Selection at Istanbul architecture and urban films festival, October 2017
- Screening at Tropen Museum, Amsterdam Nov 12 , 2017
- TAK, Erase & Rewind exhibition, Yeldegirmeni Istanbul October 2017
- Tutun Deposu, INDEPENDENT Panel Dec 2017
- Which Human Rights Film Festival / Hangi İnsan Haklari Film Festivali, Dec 2017
- ETHNOKINO, Ethnographic films in Reitschule cinema, Bern, Switzerland
- Official selection, Global Migration Film Festival Dec 2017, Geneva Switzerland, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Check Republic, Peru
- Official Selection at World Women Film Fair Middle East, Dubai / March 2017

Bio Director: Eda Elif Tibet is an independent documentary filmmaker and anthropologist from Istanbul. In the midst of her PhD research on the unaccompanied asylum seeking youth in Turkey (University of Bern / Switzerland), Elif follows inspirational life stories with her camera. Approaching film making as an existential life journey, she films and produces her own films under her label KarmaMotion. Her award winning films circulated throughout the world film festivals and broadcast on Tvs : "28 Days on the Moon" (2012) , "AMCHI"(2013/ most inspiring filmmaker), Hey Goat(2014 /best environmental film Slovenia), "Refugee Here I am" (2016 /Gold Human Rights Award, Fipresci Young talent nominee), "Ballad for Syria" (2017 / Award for free speech, India).

Filmography:

Refugee Here I am (2015 directed with Enzo Ikah)

- Human Rights Award and Star of Peace Award from Jakarta film festival 2015
- Fipresci emerging young talent award 2015

Hey Geci (2014)

- Best Environmental Film, Slovenia EKOTOP Film Festival

AMCHI (2013)

- Award of Excellence, Best storytelling, Best soundtrack, Best cinematography and Most inspirational filmmaker of the year awards from Jakarta film festival 2013
- Best Ethnographic film award from Intimate lens film festival Italy 2013

28 Days on the Moon (2012)

- *Astra Sibiu Romania Best Ethnographic Student film nominee 2013*

Maisa Alhafez is a Syrian musician based in Istanbul. She is the conductor of the multicultural *Istanbul Mosaic Oriental Choir*, Their repartuar involves the classics of Turkish, Arabic, Armenian, Kurdish, Syrian, Aramaic ... Together with the choir they fundraise for events and raise awareness for peace building and rehabilitation. Maisa also gives psycho-social support to the Syrian children in her neighborhood under her own NGO registered in the Netherlands "*Tomorrow is Better*". Together with her choir Maisa has performed in various occasions, venues and TV channels: Hrant Dink Human Rights Award night / Lütfi Kırdar Concert Hall, British, Deutch, French consulate events, Goethe Istanbul events, St. Antuan Church, Small projects Istanbul fundraising event, Which Human Rights Film festival and DOCUMENTARIST

News on Media:



Global Migration Film Festival, Geneva Switzerland.

<https://www.globalenvironments.org/eda-creates-powerful-ballad-for-syria-film/>



Award of Recognition from Independent Hollywood Documentary Film Festival

<https://www.balladforsyria.com/single-post/2018/03/30/Award-of-Recognition-from-Hollywood-Independent-Documentary-Film-Festival>

Ballad for Syria: A story about music, Maisa and love

LEYLA YVONNE
ERGIL

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ISTANBUL

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Published
23 hours ago



'Ballad for Syria' is a musical documentary that reflects the life of Maisa Alhafez, a musician from Syria who founded the Istanbul Mosaic Oriental Choir, and this captivating feature-length documentary filmed in Turkey has been making its way around the global festival circuit and will be screened in Istanbul on Nov. 22 at Impact Hub

As a ballad narrates poetic stories in short stanzas, "Ballad for Syria" is a self-reflective documentary filmed by Maisa Alhafez and Eda Elif Tibet, that tells the story of Maisa, a refugee from Syria and the many characters that she shares her journey with in the Istanbul Mosaic Oriental Choir, which she is both the founder and conductor of. The Istanbul Mosaic Oriental Choir is a multicultural choir that sings for peace in a wide variety of languages and for fundraisers and events to raise awareness for peace building and rehabilitation. Maisa is also the founder of the project "Tomorrow is Better," a registered NGO that she

<https://www.dailysabah.com/expat-corner/2017/11/15/ballad-for-syria-a-story-about-music-maisa-and-love>

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Event page: <https://www.gesp.ch/Events/United-Beyond-Borders>

video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQHNrfpKYY4>

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building peace
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Artistic performances with

Maisa Al Hafez, Founder-Conductor,
Istanbul Mosaic International Choir

Safi Al Hafez, Founder-Conductor,
International Choir, Stuttgart Spielhaus

Accompanied by artists from
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and emerging leaders of
Theatre of Transformation Academy
from Zimbabwe, Kenya, Sri Lanka, and Egypt.

In collaboration with **Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)**, **Theatre of Transformation Academy**, and **Enacting Global Transformation at the Centre for International Studies, University of Oxford**.

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