

Souls In Transit
Directed by: Aida Schlaepfer Al Hassani.



2021 | Iraq/Switzerland | Arabic + Aramaic | 77 Min
subtitles: ar | en | de | fr | es | sv | it | el

LOGLINE

The story of a past massacre whose tragic legacy continues to this day.



Die grossen Flüchtlingsströme von Mosul im Jahr 2014.

SYNOPSIS

The documentary film "Souls In Transit" tells the story of a largely unknown genocide. In 1915, approximately 3 million Christian women and men were killed by the Ottoman Empire. The film recounts this massacre through the testimony of survivors and witnesses and draws a connection to the present day. The genocide of 1915 tragically continues in current conflicts.

Souls in Transit (Documentary Film, 2021) - 95th Oscar Qualification 2023

- The award-winning film was nominated for the Remi Award at the 56th Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival in 2022.
- It was screened at multiple international film festivals and shown in cinemas worldwide.

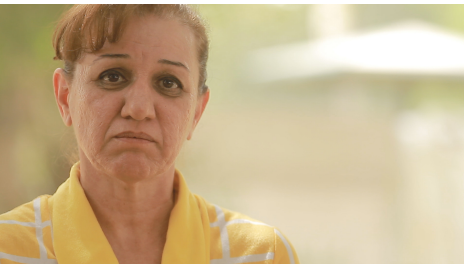
Cast / Contributors:



Aida Shimon left Iraq with her family heading toward Jordan and has since been waiting there for her asylum papers.



Ziyo Rhawi (1907-2003)
Witness and survivor of the Sayfo genocide.



Rawaa Benham
Professor at the Academy of Arts in Baghdad.
She continues to live with her family in Iraq to this day.



Yahkub b'qasho Malke (1908-2004)
Witness and survivor of the Sayfo genocide.



Feda Botrous

Housewife from northern Iraq.

Feda Botrous stayed in Iraq with her family, moving from one place to another. They are waiting for the opportunity to leave Iraq.



Gorgis Shabo Afram (1911-2004)

Witness and survivor of the Sayfo genocide.



Sade Be Galle Sayde (1899-1995)

Witness and survivor of the Sayfo genocide.



Maryam

Studied English Studies at the University of Erbil.

Maryam is not her real name; it was changed in the film to ensure her safety.

She and her family continue to face threats.

Maryam is married and has a son.



Maryam's Father

Farmer in Iraq.

He is Maryam's father.

His name was also changed in the film to protect his life due to ongoing threats.

Director's Comment:



The director knows from personal experience what it means to be on the run. She and her family lived through the devastating civil war in Lebanon. No one ever learned the fate of her murdered family members. The same is true for the fate of hundreds of thousands of people forced to leave their homes.

Filmography:

- Souls In Transit (2021) - Documentary, 95th Academy Award Oscar Qualification 2023
- NouN (2015) - Documentary
- To Be We Also Want to Be (2013) - Documentary
- My Name Is Egyptian Citizens HD Egypt Doc (2011) - Documentary
- Homeland (2010) - Documentary
- Gangs of Baghdad (2007) - Documentary
- Educational film created in 2006 for the German School
- Marionette (2005) - 35mm, Fiction
- East and West Dancing (2003) - Video art
- Silent Screaming Inside a Woman (2002) - Video art
- Shadow Black and White (2001) - Video art

Company Profile of the Production Company: Da-production

- **Company Name and Location:** Founded in 2003 in Zurich, Da-production is a highly respected organization dedicated to promoting human rights through the powerful medium of film. Crossing geographic and thematic boundaries, Da-production addresses a broad range of human rights issues with integrity and passion. In its 22-year history, the company has received international recognition for its impactful documentaries that have moved audiences worldwide.
- **Core Focus:** Under the leadership of producer Aida Schläpfer and a dedicated team of experienced professionals from various disciplines, Da-production specializes in internationally oriented films with a strong focus on human rights and social justice. Supported by an extensive network of freelancers and specialists, the company ensures top quality and innovative storytelling.
- **Experience and Achievements:** Da-production's portfolio includes renowned films such as "Marionette," screened at prestigious international film festivals including Houston (2006, Bronze Medal), Berlin (2007), and Tunisia (2007). "Gangs of Baghdad" featured prominently at the Hollywood Film Festival (2007), Gulf Film Festival in Dubai (2008), and Golden Minbar in Kazan (2008). The award-winning documentary "NouN" received the Best Arab Film award and other accolades at festivals in Muscat and Tangier ("Golden Cave" 2016) and was broadcast internationally on channels like RSI Switzerland and RTL Hungary. Most recently, "Souls In Transit" (2021) qualified for the 95th Academy Awards, earned nominations including the Remi Award at WorldFest Houston (2022), and was shown at multiple international festivals and cinemas.
- **Team and Expertise:** Our experienced production team guarantees a personal, professional, and smooth collaboration. We deliver films that meet international standards while maintaining a heartfelt focus on human rights topics to ensure authenticity and emotional impact.
- **Vision and Values:** Da-production is committed to raising awareness and fostering meaningful dialogue on human rights through captivating, socially relevant storytelling. Our vision is to inspire empathy and positive change worldwide by amplifying voices that need to be heard.
- **Partner Network:** Da-production maintains strong collaborations with cinemas and broadcasters in Germany, Switzerland, the USA, Belgium, and beyond. Notable partnerships include TV broadcasts on RSI Switzerland and RTL Hungary, production management for the film "Unter Weißen Segeln" directed by Walter Bannert in Egypt, and development production with Red Bus in Baghdad under director Ali Saeed. Additionally, we work closely with Concave Media and film production companies in Egypt.

Contact

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Rotten Tomatoes: https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/souls_in_transit

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/aida-schlaepfer-02865530](https://www.linkedin.com/in/aida-schlaepfer-02865530)

IMDb: https://pro.imdb.com/?ref=nm_nv_hm_i