



HARRAGA – THOSE WHO BURN THEIR LIVES

by Benjamin Rost



SYNOPSIS

Imad, Nourdine, Walid and Hamza live in a stone cave under a lighthouse in Melilla. Every night, the Moroccan teenagers break into the nearby port. There, they try to climb unnoticed onto ships bound for the Spanish mainland. They and dozens of other children have formed their own community under the protection of the rocks. Director Benjamin Rost documents the impressive lives of the young people over a period of five years. The film's title describes the widespread practice of illegal North African immigrants burning their papers, and thus their identities, when apprehended by police. A poignant documentary that offers a glimpse into an unknown world. [19ZFF]

FESTIVALS

2023

19 ZFF – Zurich Film Festival

57 Hof IFF

2024

14 Human Rights Film Days Luzern

Composer Alexander Vicar nominated for GERMAN

DOCUMENTARY FILM MUSIC AWARD – 39 DOK.fest Munich

20 Achtung Berlin FF

8 SWR Doku Festival

Casablanca Arab FF

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Benjamin Rost · **PRODUCER** Mark Szilagyi (MSZ Filmproduction and Consulting) · **SCREENPLAY** Benjamin Rost, Hicham Bourais · **SCORE** Alexander Vicar · **EDITOR** Erec Brehmer · **DOP** Jonas Schneider

Germany 2023

86 min

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Biographie/Portrait, Coming of Age, Children / Youth, Conflicts, Human Rights, Migration, Social issues

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

Arabic, Spanish

PREMIERE

Switzerland (2023)

LINKS / REFERENCE

PRODUCTION

MSZ // Production & Consulting

<https://mark-szilagyi.com>

<https://harraga.persona.co>

<https://www.benjaminrost.or...>

<https://schneider.works/har...>