



RETURN TO HOMS

by Talal Derki



SYNOPSIS

Filmed between August 2011 and August 2013, this is a remarkably intimate portrait of a group of young revolutionaries in the city of Homs in western Syria. They dream of their country being free from President Bashar al-Assad and fight for justice through peaceful demonstrations. As the army acts ever more brutally and their city is transformed into a ghost town, the young men become armed insurgents. The protagonists are two friends: Basset, the charismatic 19-year-old goalkeeper of the national soccer team whose revolutionary songs make him the voice of the protest movement, and the 24-year-old media activist and cameraman Ossama. The close-up camerawork takes the viewer right into the group. Scenes of lively protest parties make way for panicking civilians on the run, followed by grim battles in a deserted city, and rising numbers of fallen loved ones. Basset's a cappella protest songs are the only soundtrack, apart from the "silence, interrupted only by birds and bullets."...

FESTIVALS

2014

Sundance Grand Jury Award for World Documentary, IDFA
Opening Night Film, George Polk Award for Documentary,
Golden Horn at the Krakow Film Festival... among many others.

2022

35 IDFA - Top 10

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Talal Derki · **PRODUCER** Hans-Robert Eisenhauer,
Orwa Nyrabia · **EDITOR** Anne Fabini · **DOP** Orwa Nyrabia, Kahtan
Hassoun, Ossama Al Homsi, Talal Derki · **ASSISTANT EDITOR**
Martin Reimers

Syria, Germany, Sweden 2013
91 min

ORIGINAL TITLE
HOMS – EIN ZERSTÖRTER
TRAUM

FORMAL CATEGORIES
Current Affairs, Conflicts,
War/Peace, Human Rights, POV

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES
Arabic

PREMIERE
Germany (2013)

PRODUCTION COMPANY
[VENTANA FILM GMBH](#)
Meinekestr. 24
10719 Berlin
Germany
hre@ventana-film.com
<http://www.ventana-film.de>

COPRODUCTION COMPANY
[NO NATION FILMS GmbH](#)
Friesickestr. 17
13086 Berlin
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info@no-nation.de
<https://no-nation.de>

FILM LOCATION
Syria

LINKS / REFERENCE
WORLD SALES
Journeyman Pictures
<https://www.journeyman.tv>
<http://www.ventana-film.de>