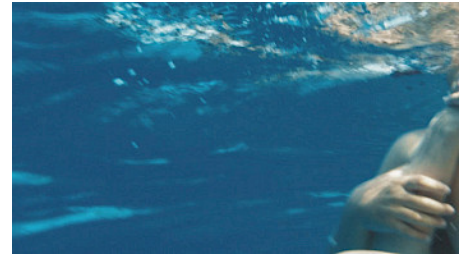# SEAHORSE

by Nele Dehnenkamp

SYNOPSIS

Five years ago, Hanan would never have dreamed that she would now be a swimming teacher. Fleeing IS from northern Iraq, in 2015 she crossed the Mediterranean with her family in a rubber dinghy. The boat filled with water, and Hanan couldn't swim.

She has an instant understanding with children who are afraid of water. Images of the vast blue sea and the fear of drowning are etched into her memory. Now living in Wolfsburg, Germany, she's determined to have her younger brother learn to swim before his painful memories of the water rise to the surface, she says in an on-camera interview, as we follow her timid brother in the pool.

The seahorse in the title refers not only to the creature that remains upright in the water, but also to the area of our brain, the hippocampus, where our memories are stored. This balanced documentary shows how water can take on a new meaning over time, and how swimming has become Hanan's way of coping with trauma.

"The magnificent cinematographic...

FESTIVALS

2020
DOK Leipzig Kids DOK
IDFA Kids & Docs
Visions du Réel Media Library, Nyon
2021
42 FF Max Ophuels Preis FF
Young C. Award – CIVIS Media Prize
15. Fünf Seen Filmfestival
Festival Court-Métrage Clermont-Ferrand
BIG SKY Documentary Film Festival
Thessaloniki Documentary Festival
Cleveland International Film Festival
Best Documentary Short – Atlanta Film Festival

Germany 2020
16 min

FORMAL CATEGORIES
Children / Youth, Human Rights, Migration, Social issues, Sports

CONTENT CATEGORIES
Children film, Short film

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES
German

PREMIERE
Leipzig, Germany (2020)

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