



WHEN GOD SLEEPS - A LOVE STORY IN THE AGE OF TERROR

by Till Schauder



SYNOPSIS

When Iranian singer Shahin Najafi releases a satirical rap song about a revered imam, outraged hardline clerics issue a fatwa calling for his death. Though temporarily sheltered by the same German journalist who once gave refuge to Salman Rushdie, Shahin refuses to spend a decade in hiding,

"I'm a musician," he says. "I have to perform."

As the exiled voice of Iran's youth, he gets caught in an impossible romance with Leili Bazargan, granddaughter of the first Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran appointed by Ayatollah Khomeini. With such family backgrounds, Shahin and Leili become a modern day Romeo & Juliet, caught in the storm of international terrorism, Europe's refugee crisis and global anxiety about the increasingly violent clash between art and religion.

"My songs didn't make me famous. The fatwa did." When God Sleeps unfolds against the backdrop of the 2015 Paris terrorist attacks in the Bataclan concert venue and European right-wing backlash...

FESTIVALS

awards:

Golden Heynel – Best Music Documentary, Krakau Film Festival
Jury Award – Sound Unseen Minneapolis Film & Music Festival
Most Valuable Documentary 2017, Cinema For Peace

shortlisted for German Academy Award DOCUMENTARY, Lola
festivals a.o.:

2017

Tribeca Film Festival (Worldpremiere) • Krakau Film Festival (Europe Premiere) • Filmfest Munich, • UNHCR International Human Rights Film Festival Japan (Asia Premiere) • IDFA • Calgary International Film Festival • Film Festival Cologne • In-Edit Barcelona • Two Riversides Film Festival Poland • Denver Film Festival • Braunschweig International Film Festival • Filmfestival Kitzbuhel • Southern Circuit Film Festival Tour • Grits Gala International Film Festival Ireland • Sound Unseen

2017

87 min

ORIGINAL TITLE

WENN GOTT SCHLÄFT - Eine Liebesgeschichte in Zeiten der Angst

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Biographie/Portrait, Conflicts, Human Rights, Migration, Music

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