

CROCEVIA DI SGUARDI XIV edition
In collaboration with *Goethe Institut, Turin*
Working in exile
Thursday, 25th October 2018, 9:00 PM , Cineteatro Baretto



TASTE OF CEMENT

Directed by Ziad Kalthoum, German, Lebanon, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Qatar 2017, 85'

In Beirut, Syrian workers are locked in the building site of a skyscraper. The only contact with the outside world is a passage under the ground. Cut off from their homeland, where the war is not over, they round up at night around a small TV to get the news from their land, hoping for a different and better life. A documentary of exceptional visual force, dedicated to all migrant workers in the globalized world, who confront with the daily injustices and difficulties caused by the distance from their families.

Will discuss with the director:

Francesco Mazzucotelli (University of Pavia)

Ziad Kalthoum is a Syrian filmmaker currently living in Berlin. He was born in Homs in 1981 and holds a degree in film studies. In first documentary *Oh My Heart* (2009) he portrayed a group of Kurdish women, who have chosen to live in a society without men. The film was banned from screening in Syria due to political reasons. In 2012, during the outbreak of the Syrian revolution, he began working on his first feature film *The Immortal Seargant* while serving a compulsory military service. The film had its premiere at the Locarno Film Festival in 2014. In 2015, he won the BBC Arabic Festival in the 'Best Feature Documentary' category. Refusing to fight his own people, he deserted from the Syrian Army in 2013 and fled to Beirut where he started to work on *Taste Of Cement*. The film has been traveling to festivals around the world and has won various awards, among them the Golden Sesterce for Best Feature Documentary at Visions du Réel in 2017.

Francesco Mazzucotelli: he teaches History of Turkey and the Middle East at Università di Pavia, and History of Islam at the post-graduate Master in Middle Eastern Studies of ASERI (University Cattolica, Milan). His research fields include the formation of confessionalism in post-Ottoman space, the politicization of ethnic and religious identities, the production of identities and boundaries in urban spaces. Latest publications: *Rebordering the Lebanese Shi'i Public Sphere* (in *Lebanon Facing the Arab Uprisings: Constraints and Adaptation*, Palgrave 2017); *From Ottoman Lebanon to the French Mandate: The End of the "Long Peace"?* (in *War and Collapse: World War I and the Ottoman State*, The University of Utah Press 2016); *Les « printemps arabes » au miroir du Hizb Allāh* (in *Oriente Moderno* 94:2, 2015).

Edited by Pietro Cingolani and Francesco Gai Via

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