



HALF MOON

FEATURING
KINAN AZMEH



A FILM BY
FRANK SCHEFFER

A PRODUCTION OF SELFMADE FILMS AND MUJI FILM IN COPRODUCTION WITH NTR

CINEMATOGRAPHY BENITO STRANGIO TALAL KHOURY MELLE VAN ESSEN ROEL VAN 'T HOFF FRANK SCHEFFER SOUND FOKKE VAN SAANE CHRIS EVERTS RIK MEIJER
RAYAN AL OBEIDYNE SCREENPLAY FRANK SCHEFFER LIES JANSSEN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ALLEGRI SCHEFFER EDITING RUBEN VAN DER HAMMEN FRANK SCHEFFER
EDITING ADVISOR DAVID VERBEEK RAZAN HASSAN ON-LINE EDITING RUUD DE BRUYN COLORIST XANDRA TER HORST MASTERING RUUD DE BRUYN SOUND DESIGN HUIBERT BOON
COMMISSIONING EDITOR NTR DIANA TROMP PRODUCERS NIEK KOPPEN JAN DE RUITER JIA ZHAO DISTRIBUTION FOR THE NETHERLANDS RIEKS HADDERS MOKUM FILMDISTRIBUTIE

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The eruption of war in Syria made it impossible for Syrian composer/clarinetist Kinan Azmeh to return, sparking his introspective journey into the power of art during times of conflict. He delves into his roots, personal stories, reshaping the narrative of contemporary Syria through music.

Synopsis

The eruption of war in Syria prevented Syrian clarinetist Kinan Azmeh from returning, sparking an introspective journey into the power of art during times of conflict. His artistic exploration is intertwined with personal milestones, such as becoming a father. The art documentary featuring Kinan and his fellow artists forms an emotional and artistic tribute, offering a captivating portrayal of artists dedicated to telling their own stories. It reshapes the narrative of contemporary Syria, serving as an ode to cherished memories and enduring love, despite the profound losses and wounds inflicted by war and conflict.



Director's Note

This film constitutes the third installment in my Silk Road series consisting of four feature length documentary films, exploring the disappearance of cultural traditions. The central inquiry into the future without these essential elements remains paramount in my exploration. Since my initial encounter with Kinan Azmeh in 2010, my desire to collaborate with him has only deepened. Based in New York, Kinan grapples with the war that severs his ties to Syria, intensifying his inner quest to understand his roots and weave them into his musical creations. Beyond a personal journey, this film serves as my exploration into the origins of our civilization. In an era of divisive wars and political agendas, where diaspora fosters discrimination and extremism instills deep societal fears, I firmly believe that only reciprocal cultural understanding and respect can reunite us. This film aspires not only to pay homage to our shared cultures and heritages but, above all, to humbly become an emotional and artistic tribute to cherished memories and enduring love. Kinan's desire to reshape the narratives of Syria through music remains a crucial thread in this poignant exploration, despite the profound weight of loss and wounds inflicted by wars and conflicts.





Frank Scheffer directed over 40 music documentaries and experimental films. He has received many awards and was honored with a retrospective at the MoMA New York. He works with the prominent post-war composers like Luciano Berio, Pierre Boulez, John Cage, Elliott Carter, Karlheinz Stockhausen and Frank Zappa. In his films, image and sound orchestrate to offer the audience a unique visual and audial experience. *The One All Alone* (2009) premiered in Venice 2010. The first film of his 'Silk Road' series *Gozaran, time passing* (filmed in Iran) premiered at IDFA 2011. His film about the Dutch painter Robert Zandvliet *the Perception* (premiere at IFFR2016) won the KNF award. Frank's last and the second of his "Silk Road" series. *The Inner Landscape* (2019) portraits the Chinese composer Guo Wenjing and the fate of traditional art in modern China. The film had its world-premiere at IFFR2019 as its closing film.

Selected filmography

Zoetrope People (1982)
Time Is Music (1987)
Helicopter String Quartet (1996) IFFR1996, Chicago IFF1996
Conducting Mahler (1996) IFFR1996
Sonic Acts (1998) IFFR1998
Frank Zappa: The Present Day Composer Refuses to Die (2000)
In the Ocean (2001)
A Labyrinth of Time (2004) Tribeca Film Festival 2004, IDFA 2004, IFFR2005
The One All Alone (2009) Venice International Film Festival - Orizzonti
Gozaran – Time Passing (2011) IDFA2011
De Waarneming (2016): IFFR2016
Inner Landscape (2019): IFFR2019
Gustav Mahler - Singer for the Earth (2022)
Intensely Soulful (2023) Docu-Concert IDFA On Stage

Main Credits

Director:	Frank Scheffer
Screenplay:	Frank Scheffer, Lies Janssen
Producers:	Niek Koppen, Jan de Ruiter (Selfmade Films) Jia Zhao (Muyi Film)
Director assistant:	Allegrì Scheffer
Cinematography:	Benito Strangio, Talal Khoury, Melle van Essen, Roel van 't Hoff, Frank Scheffer
Sound:	Fokke van Saane, Chris Everts, Rik Meijer, Menno Euwe, Rayan Al Obeidyine, Mark Maloof
Sound Design:	Huibert Boon
Editing:	Ruben van der Hammen, Frank Scheffer
Editing Advice:	David Verbeek, Razan Hassan
Line Production:	Lies Janssen, Arjen Oosterbaan
Line Production Beirut:	Orjouane Productions, Sabine Sidawi, Jinane Dagher
Research fixer Damascus:	Yu-Ming Ma
Translation:	Ibrahim S Ali
On-line editing:	Ruud de Bruyn
Colorist:	Xandra ter Horst
Mastering:	Ruud de Bruyn

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