





SYNOPSIS

"NAMRUD" tells the story of JOWAN SAFADI (43) born as Palestinian in the State of Israel, a famous musician and a true free spirit. With his band Fish Samak he delivers songs ranging from the political and social to the emotional and philosophical and gathered a huge fan-community in the Arabic world. Jowan is unafraid to speak his mind or tackle taboo subjects, and his lyrics, at once penetrating and witty, have also courted controversy on several occasions: Previously investigated by Israeli police for "inciting terrorism", his last tour to Jordan ended with his arrest and an overnight stay in a Jordanian prison cell.

However, his 15-year-old son DON moved to his home shortly. Now, Jowan has to face a whole new challenge: on the one hand, he continues to fight for his ideals and his music, but at the same time he hast to take paternal responsibility and offer his son a suitable environment. But this cant 't prevent him from again making some trouble in the region.

"Namrud" is a film about the struggle of a spirited individual, standing between the two frontlines of a political conflict and his attempt to fight for a place to live, where he, his son and his people feel not only safe, but are also able to thrive. It 's a film about internal and external limits and the question if a single individual can initiate a change in the society he lives in.

Will Jowan succeed or has the time come to leave?





ARTISTIC ASPECTS This movie 's aim is to see through Jowan Safadi 's eyes his life as a single-father, as a well-known artist and as a Palestinian citizen of the State of Israel. Instead of trying to show "the whole picture", we follow an individual with both a public and a private persona that is trying to make a move forward. We delve into his environment, we get to know his son Don, his friends, the art scene(s), Haifa and of course the social and political situation of a Palestinian in Israel. Soon we understand that a certain resignation has been spread throught the intellectual Arab communities but only a bit later we also understand that Jowan is someone who doesn it accept the Status Quo and needs to be active. Both the camera work and editing are calm and unobtrusive, relieving the complex and emotionally highly charged situation while also pointing out the unique standpoint of the protagonist amidst the fuss. Once the climax is reached with the publication of the music video and then the concert for the Israeli audience, the visual style starts to match the scenery, Jowan is all of a sudden being in the crossfire of both Israelis and Palestinians, fans and friends, the outcome still unclear. There is no narrator and the director will not appear in the film, the audience only observes the situations Jowan goes through and is invited to make up his own mind. The result is a character driven film telling the story of one special individual. Soleil Film



DIRECTOR Fernando Romero Forsthuber



Short Bio

Fernando Romero-Forsthuber was born in Seville in 1983 to a Spanish father and Austrian mother. At 17, he came to Vienna and immediately began to work in the film industry. 2 years later, he made his first trip to Israel. There he started to work with Palestinian musicians as a director/producer for their music videos. In Austria he established a good reputation in the field of music videos, image films and commercials. In the last years Fernando also worked on reports for the TV-stations ORF (especially in Syria) and ATV. He has been to Palestine/Israel for many times and is strongly integrated into the scene.

Director's previous films
Los Normalistas de Tri, feature-documentary, in development
On the ruins of Aleppo, short-documentary, 2013
The Syrian Nightmare, short-documentary, 2012





