

ABDO

COMING OF AGE IN A REVOLUTION



WRITER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER **JAKOB GROSS** CINEMATOGRAPHER **JAKOB GROSS, ABDELRHMAN ZIN ELDIN**

CO-PRODUCER, EDITOR **ANNIKA MAYER** ASSISTANT DIRECTOR **AHMED ABDALLA**

ASSISTANT PRODUCER **GABRIELA GARRIDO.**

FinkFilms

WWW.ABDO-FILM.DE

ARRI®

PRESS KIT CONTENT

Format	3
Crew	3
Logline	4
Synopsis	4
Director's Statement	5
Team	6
Contact	6

FORMAT

COUNTRY / YEAR OF PRODUCTION	Germany 2015
LANGUAGE	Arabic, English
SUBTITLE	English
RUNNING TIME	74 Minutes
RECORDING FORMAT	16:9 HD
SCREENING FORMAT	DCP
FILMING LOCATION	Cairo
PREMIERE	Max-Ophüls-Preis Film Festival Saarbrücken 2015 Section ‚Competition documentary‘

CREW

WRITTEN, DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY	Jakob Gross
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	Jakob Gross, Abdelrhman Zin Eldin
EDITOR, CO-PRODUCER	Annika Mayer
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Ahmed Abdalla, Abdelrhman Zin Eldin
ASSISTANT PRODUCER	Gabriela Garrido
TRANSLATION	Mahmoud Akl
MUSIC	Therese Strasser, Angela Aux, Helmut, Aloa Input, L'egojazz
GUITAR	Felix Duczek
SOUND DESIGN, RE-RECORDING MIX	Benedikt Uebe (BVFT)
COLOURIST	Bianca Rudolph (ARRI)
TITLE-DESIGN	Christoph Jäger
DESIGN	Christoph Jäger, Markus Zecher

FESTIVALS

Filmfestival Max Ophüls Preis 2015 – Competition
Dok.fest München 2015



LOGLINE ABDO

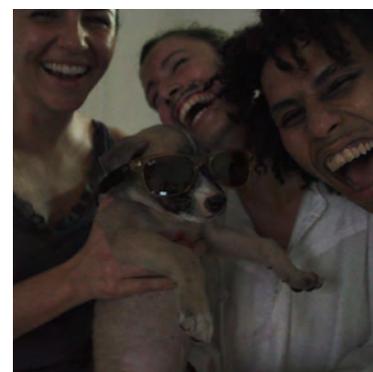
Football, girls, weed and revolution. The life of nineteen-year-old Abdo is shaken by the Egyptian revolts and the football massacre of Port Said. The camera is his only certainty in a world that is upside down. Revolution through the eyes of a youngster.

SYNOPSIS ABDO

ABDO is a coming of age documentary that portrays two years in the life of a young activist in Egypt. Abdo is a man of extremes: Ultra football-fan, atheist and anarchist with a religious Salafist family background. Like his peers around the world, he is a young man searching for his identity. Yet his coming of age is happening during a time of bloody agitations: the Egyptian revolution. Abdo finds meaning in life both in the streets and in the football stadium. In Tahrir Square he is a steadfast revolutionary, in the stadium he is part of the worldwide youth culture of Ultra football-fans. But what happens, when the revolution is over and football is banned?

As an addicted videographer Abdo films everything: bloody fights in the streets, visits to stadiums, discussions about protests, parties with friends and conversations about university and girls. Through his eyes the viewer gains an intimate insight into his life and his quest for meaning during the revolution's commotion. The tragic events escalate when he loses three friends during riots in a football stadium in which over 70 people are killed. Becoming more radical Abdo decides to go to Gaza – a place for 'real revolutionaries'. His pals want to stop him but the girls are impressed – teenagers in the midst of a revolution. On his way through illegal smuggler tunnels heavy rainfall causes the tunnel to collapse minutes after Abdo has left, burying some other travelers inside. What are the consequences of being exposed to violence in such a pivotal age for a young person's life? What happens to feelings like love and hate in times of personal and social change?

Against the background of the Egyptian revolution the film focuses on an individual story and shows the personal side of an uprising. The film captures the spirit of the time and addresses conflicts that young people are facing throughout the world.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT ABDO

I still remember the moment, when I arrived at Tahrir square for the first time. I was totally astonished. Astonished as everything was so different from what I had imagined by watching TV or reading newspapers. Astonished as all of a sudden one experiences so much more with one's own eyes, than a camera can capture or a report can tell. A revolution is always a manufactory of performances, an orchestration of images: media and protesters – jointly or in conflict– they all together fabricate the great narrative 'revolution', which will later be found in history books. But how to picture ,revolution' aside of the main narratives? Maybe by taking the view of an individual. A teenager, who discovers the film camera for himself while he is coming of age. Who addictively films almost everything he encounters and sometimes even forgets that the camera is switched on.

Abdo is such a person and this film is about him. Through his eyes we can witness revolution in a different way - offside its main narrative. Abdo's struggle for identity stands for a whole country. And his engagement represents a global youth's desire for change which we see rising around the world in increasingly frequent intervals.



TEAM

Jakob Gross (Director, Director of Photography, Production)

Jakob Gross studied Visual Anthropology in Munich (Germany) and Chennai (India) and is a Lecturer at the School for Media and Communication. Since 2008 he has been producing documentary films and has been working as a cameraman. Besides, he is an associate member of the Cluster of Excellence of Heidelberg University in the field of Visual Anthropology. 2013 Jakob founded the production company FinkFilms for which he works as a producer, author and cameraman. ABDO is Jakob Gross' first feature documentary film.



Annika Mayer (Editing, Co-Production)

Annika Mayer studied cultural anthropology and visual anthropology in Munich and Paris. She taught several years at LMU Munich. Currently she does her PhD at the cluster of excellence of Heidelberg University. Since 2013 she works as producer and editor for FinkFilms.



CONTACT

FinkFilms

Jakob Gross
Lothringerstraße 9
81667 München

MOBILE 0049 (0)178 133 9722
WEB www.fink-films.de
E-MAIL jakob@finkfilms.de