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The Other Side of Hope

Aki Kaurismäki

Finland

Germany

100 min

2017



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Synopsis:

The film consists of two stories that by chance intersect at the forty-minute mark. The first one is about Khaled, a young Syrian refugee who has lost virtually all of his family. Almost by accident, he drifts to Helsinki as a stowaway passenger on a collier to seek asylum without great hopes for his future life.

Wikström, the other protagonist, is a travelling salesman of about fifty (representing mainly men's shirts and ties). In the beginning of the film he leaves his alcoholic wife and his profession and turns momentarily into a poker shark. With the small amount of money he thus gains he then buys an unprofitable restaurant at the far end of an inner court along a back street in Helsinki.

When the authorities decide to return Khaled to the ruins of Aleppo he, just like many others, decides to stay illegally in the country and disappears into the streets of Helsinki. There he meets, besides various types of racism, also pure kindness. Finally Wikström finds our fellow sleeping in the inner yard of his restaurant. Perhaps he sees something of himself in the battered man because he hires Khaled as a cleaner and a dishwasher.

For a moment life shows us its sunnier side, but fate soon intervenes and the film concludes with an open ending leading either to a respectable life or to the cemetery. For a person driven into a corner, both have their merits.

Screenplay: Aki Kaurismäki

Cast: Sakari Kuosmanen, Sherwan Haji, Kati Outinen, Tommi Korpela

Cinematography by: Timo Salminen

Film editing: Samu Heikkilä

Producer: Aki Kaurismäki

Production: Sputnik Oy, Bufo, Pandora Filmproduktion

Distribution: B-Plan Distribution, Diaphana Distribution

Sales agent: The Match Factory

Focus on The Other Side of Hope ^[2]

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Links

[1]

<http://cineuropa.org/vd.aspx?t=videoembed&l=en&rdID=320697&did=321075>&an

[2] <https://luxprize.eu/news/focus-other-side-hope>