



ANTHROPOLOGY OF A CONTEMPORARY DESERT

THE
CHALLENGE

التَّحَدَّى

A FILM BY YURI ANCARANI



69° FESTIVAL DEL FILM LOCARNO
CINEASTI DEL PRESENTE
SPECIAL JURY PRIZE





In **THE CHALLENGE**, director Yuri Ancarani crosses the Persian Gulf to accompany a falconer to an important competition. In the glaring light of an empty landscape, among SUVs, Lamborghini, private jets and Mad Max-like dune bashing contests, the film tells the story of an intense weekend in the desert.

SYNOPSIS

Falconry has a history that stretches back over forty centuries. In the West it was a prevailing passion of the medieval aristocracy, but its prestige continues undiminished in contemporary Arab culture. Three years of observing this form of hunting in the field have made it possible to capture the spirit of a tradition that allows its practitioners to keep a close rapport with the desert, in spite of their predominantly urban lifestyle. Our guide is a falconer taking his birds to compete in a tournament in Qatar.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

THE CHALLENGE is a complex film, even if its viewing is fluid and accessible. Getting to that desert is simple, you take a flight, a guide, you go for a two or three hours tour, you ride a camel and then you go back to the city. Stopping and looking carefully is almost impossible.

I realised that the life in these new metropolis like Dubai or Doha is for everyone, but not for Bedouins, who keep loving their desert and need to live it fully and intensely. It is a matter of tradition.







CREDITS

Year | 2016

Production Countries | France, Italy

Running time | 69'

Original Language | Arabic

Subtitles | English, French, Italian

Image | Yuri Ancarani, Luca Nervegna, Jonathan Ricquebourg

Sound | Mirco Mencacci

Sound Editor | Piergiorgio De Luca

Editor | Yuri Ancarani

Soundtrack | Lorenzo Senni, Francesco Fantini

Soundtrack Executive Producer | Antonella Boccanelli
Rodriguez

Assistant to the Director | Caterina Viganò

Producers | Christophe Gougeon (Atopic),

Fabrizio Polpettini & Pierre Malachin (La Bête),

Tommaso Bertani (Ring Film)

In Association With Sébastien Andrès & Olivier Burlet

(Michigan Films), Marco Alessi (Dugong Production),

Abir & Mo Hashem (Solo Films).

Coproduction | Centre d'Art Contemporain de Genève,

BIM 2016, with the support of Fonds d'Art contemporain

de la Ville et du Canton de Genève, FAENA Art

and In Between Art Film

In association with | Arte France, La Lucarne

Martine Saada, Fabrice Puchault, Alex Szalat

Commissioning Editor | Luciano Rigolini

With the participation of | Cnc- Centre National de la
Cinématographie et de l'image animée, Ministero dei Beni e
delle Attività Culturali e del Turismo – Direzione Generale per
il Cinema, Région Ile-De- France.

And the support of | Procirep-Angoa, Beursschowburg Bruxelles,
Biorem Engineering, Galleria Isabella Bortolozzi, Galleria Zero...

Graphic Concept | Apart Collective

YURI ANCARANI

Born in Ravenna in 1972, Yuri Ancarani is an Italian visual artist. His work has been acknowledged both in the realms of cinema and of contemporary art. His last five films have been shown and awarded in more than a hundred international festivals - including Locarno, Venice and Toronto - and in the most important museums of the world, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Venice Biennale, the Guggenheim Museum in New York and he recently had a solo show at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles.



EXHIBITIONS (selection)

55th International Art Exhibition, The Encyclopedic Palace, Venice Biennial (Venice, Italy), Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo (Turin, Italy), Hammer Museum (Los Angeles, California), R. Solomon Guggenheim Museum (New York, USA), Palais de Tokyo (Paris, France), Isabella Bortolozzi Galerie (Berlin, Germany), MAXXI, Museo Nazionale delle Arti del XXI secolo (Rome, Italy), Museo Marino Marini (Florence, Italy), ZERO...gallery (Milan, Italy), Triennale Milano (Milan, Italy), PAC_ Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea di Milano (Milan, Italy).

FESTIVALS (selection)

Venice Film Festival, Locarno Film Festival, IFFR Rotterdam, IDFA, New Directors/ New Films MOMA, Hot Docs, Cinéma du Réel, SXSW- South by Southwest, Full Frame Documentary Festival, Ann Arbor Film Festival, True/False Film Festival, TIFF Toronto.

AWARDS (selection)

Talent Prize 2012, two nominations for "Nonfiction feature filmmaking", Cinema Eye Honors New York; "Best International Short Film", RIDM Montreal; "Grand Prix in Lab Competition", Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival; "Honorable Mention", Dokufest Kosovo; "Best documentary", New Horizon I.F.F. ; "Short Film Grand Prize", IndieLisboa.

FILMOGRAPHY (selection)

Séance | 2014, Documentary, Italy, 30', Cinema du Réel

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San Siro | 2014, Documentary, Italy, 26', Locarno Film Festival

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Da Vinci | 2012, Documentary, Italy, 25', Festa del Cinema di Roma

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Piattaforma Luna | 2011, Documentaty, Italy, 25', Mostra del Cinema di Venezia

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Il Capo | 2010, Documentary, Italy, 15', Mostra del Cinema di Venezia

INTERNATIONAL SALES

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