



**DSCHOINT VENTSCHR
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[FACING MECCA]

PRESS KIT

Short Film, 25 Min, 2K, written and directed by: Jan-Eric Mack



Pensioner Roli comes to Fareed's assistance when the Syrian refugee is faced with the burial of his Muslim wife. Together they stumble into a bewildering forest of Swiss bureaucracy to which Roli finds a beautifully simple answer...

z hdk
Zürcher Hochschule der Künste
Zurich University of the Arts

SRF Swiss Radio
and Television

**OUAT
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[SYNOPSIS]



The hospital calls Fareed; his wife's cancer has reached its terminal stage. Swiss pensioner Roli comes to his help and takes him to the hospital but the wife passes away shortly after, leaving the Syrian refugee alone with two daughters. Fareed wants to see his wife buried in accordance with Muslim rites but problems quickly arise: the graves in the local cemetery have not been aligned to face Mecca; the council is unable or unwilling to carry out the burial within 24 hours after death. Unimpressed by the council's tactical heel-dragging, together they stumble into a bewildering forest of Swiss bureaucracy to which Roli finds a beautifully simple answer...



[DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT]

JAN-ERICK MACK



We are faced daily by the media's ongoing engagement with the current refugee crisis. This crisis, however, is no longer only existing remotely on the TV-screens but has arrived at our own doorstep. The public authorities are overwhelmed by the refugee crisis and its immediate consequences. A successful integration of these people requires flexibility, patience, and understanding on both sides. The cultural differences that ensue in this process, force us to reflect on new questions: what does it exactly mean, to help? To what extent is help connected with responsibility and power? How far is one willing to go in order to defend his innermost values?



[CAST & CREW]

Cast

Roli	Peter Freiburghaus	CH
Fareed	Jay Abdo	Syria/US
Doris	Ruth Schwegler	CH
Thomas Künzli	Nicolas Rosat	CH
Yara	Merav Ibrahim	Syria/CH
Israa	Saya Ibrahim	Syria/CH

Crew

Director	Jan-Eric Mack	CH
Screenwriter	Anna Schinz/Jan-Eric Mack	CH
Producer	Joël Jent	CH
DOP	Jan Mettler	CH
Casting Switzerland	Nora Leibundgut, Glaus Casting/A.Schinz	CH
Line Producer	Franziska Sonder	CH
Line Producer ZhdK	Filippo Bonacci	CH
Line Prioducer SRF	Esther Rutschmann	CH
Production Manager	Gilles Germann	CH
1st AD	Martin Joss	CH
1st AC	Beni Fernando	CH
Gaffer	Roy Imer	CH
Key Grip/Steadicam	Martin Schächli	CH
Direct Sound	Luisa Ricar	CH
Production Design	Fabian Lüscher, Noemi Stoll	CH
Costume Design	Irene Schweizer	CH
Editor	Simon Gutknecht	CH
Music Composer	Dimitri Käch	CH
Sounddesign	Christian Schächli	CH



JAN-ERIC MACK

AUTHOR / DIRECTOR

Jan-Eric Mack was born in 1983 in Trüllikon ZH, Switzerland. In 2001 he began an apprenticeship as a graphic designer at Atelier 22 in Winterthur. For his final thesis he won a Junior Award of the Swiss Graphic Designers association. From 2005 on he worked as a graphic designer with various ateliers. In 2009 he began studying film at the Zurich University of Arts (ZhdK).

Since then he has made several awarded short films, which have been shown at festivals all over the world. With the short film RONALDO (Co-directed by Jan Mettler) he won an award for the Best Short Film at the Journeys de Soleure in 2010. His diploma film ALFONSO premiered at the 66th Festival del Film Locarno and won the Cinema e Gioventù Award in the Pardi di domani competition. The Zurich University of Arts awarded him with an advancement award in film.

In 2014 he founded the society FilmAtelier Zurich with Maria Sigrist and Lorenz Suter, a network for young auteur filmmakers.

Jan-Eric Mack lives in Zurich and works as a freelance director and independent graphic designer. In 2017 he received his Master's degree in feature film directing at the Zurich University of Arts.

Filmography (selection)

- 2017 **Facing Mecca**, short film, 25 min.
- 2016 **Peripherie - Episode Sonam**, fiction, 83 min.
- 2015 **King**, short film, 24 min.
- 2014 **Wandelzeit**, short film, 20 min.
- 2013 **Alfonso**, short film, 19 min.
- 2012 **Island**, short film, 20 min.
- 2011 **Magnetfelder**, short film, 11 min.
Schub auf Maximu, short film, 5 min.
- 2010 **Ronaldo**, short film, 6 min.

Awards (selection)

Wandelzeit

Short Film Award of the city of Winterthur, Cadrage - Zurich Film Award, 2014

Best Cinematography Kurzfilmtage Winterthur 2014

Alfonso

Best Short Film, Shortynale Short Film Festival AT, 2015

Premio Cinema e Gioventù, Festival del Film Locarno, 2013

Magnetfelder

Prix Taurus à l'innovation, Fantastic Film Festival Neuchâtel, 2012

Island

Jury Award, Schweizer Jugendfilmtage, 2013

Ronaldo

Best Swiss Short Film, Solothurn Film Festival, 2011

Best Short Film, VGIK Moscow, 2010



[STILL IMAGES]









