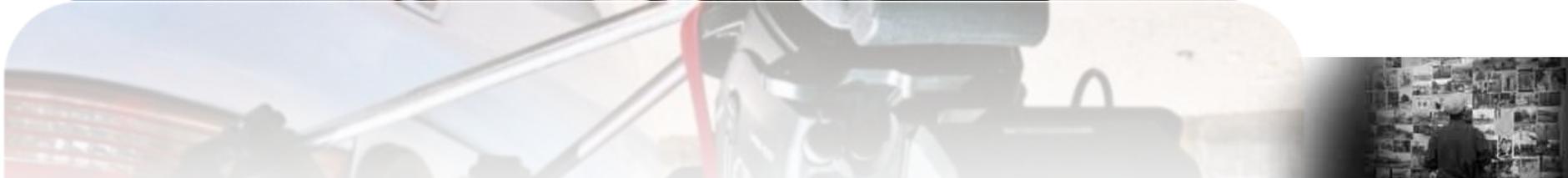


Taxi Sana'a / Press Kit



Taxi Sana'a

a Hady Zaccak documentary

Original title: Taxi Sana'a

Year of production: 2012

Original language: Arabic with English subtitles

Cinematographer: Ahmad Dakroub

Sound: Ghassan Sadek

Assistant camera & lighting: Jihad Salloum

Editing: Hady Zaccak- Mohammed Hanoun

Sound design: Emile Aouad

Assistant Director: Mohamad Hamdar

Executive Producer: Issam Dakroub (NewsTime Productions)

Production: Al Jazeera Documentary Channel

Written and Directed by: Hady Zaccak

Running time: 52 minutes



Synopsis

Ali and Abdallah are both governmental employees and taxi drivers. Ali tries to catch the rare tourists while Abdallah receives in his car different specimens of the society.

Both are driving and "flying" in Sana'a, the old and the new city, on the eve of an unannounced revolution.

علي موظف حكومي وسائق تاكسي يبحث عن السيّاح.
عبدالله موظف حكومي وسائق تاكسي تستقلّ سيّارته وجوه مختلفة من المجتمع.
يجوب علي وعبدالله صنعاء، مدينة الماضي في الحاضر عشية ثورة لم يتم الإعلان عنها بعد.



Screenings

7&8-10-2012	Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome, Italy	Asiatica Film Mediale (13 th edition) Rome, Italy
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Press Reviews

Film: in "Taxi Sanaa" Zaccak tells of an unchanging Yemen

09 October, 16:40

(ANSAmед) - ROME, OCTOBER 9 - "What time does not teach you, Yemen will," is the proverb at the beginning of Taxi Sanaa, which screened at Rome's Asiatica Film Mediale festival. The film by Lebanese documentary-maker Hady Zaccak takes us through daily life in Yemen's capital Sanaa from the perspective of two taxi drivers, Ali and Abdallah, and their clients.

"Yemen is a country that lives constantly in the past and in the present, and since the present never changes, in the future as well," the filmmaker explained.

The taxi is the main character of the film, because it represents the second or third job for many Yemenites. As one character explains, many people have a public sector job, but they don't pay enough, and there is nothing really to do.

According to the filmmaker, not much has changed in spite of the February 2012 revolution, which resulted in former president Ali Abdallah Saleh handing over power to his former deputy, Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi. Poverty, terrorism, and cultural conservatism still remain. "Yemen is under the influence of neighboring Saudi Arabia, but its people love music, dancing, and welcoming foreign guests," Zaccak said.

On the Syrian civil war, whose sectarian aspects are destabilizing his native Lebanon, Zaccak opined that "I don't believe the West wants to stop the war, because everyone wants a weak Syria. It will be that much easier to carve up." (ANSAmед).

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