

Soraida, Woman of Palestine

A film by Tahani Rached



Video, 2004, Canada/Palestine
52 min, Color, Subtitled

CREDITS

Director: Tahani Rached
Producer: Yves Bisailon



SYNOPSIS

Soraida is a Palestinian woman living in Ramallah, in the occupied territories. In this city under siege and a strict curfew, she fights her own battle: despite the military occupation, violence and oppression, she is determined not to lose her humanity. In chronicling daily injustices and routine indignities—will there be enough water for the plants? Will school be open today?—this powerful documentary paints a subtly devastating portrait of life under occupation. Soraida wonders how to reconcile the multiple facets of her identity—as a woman, a mother and a committed Palestinian. As a patriot, she is tempted to join the struggle, while as a mother, she is responsible for her two children and must keep her distance.

With remarkable honesty and charisma, Soraida shares small rebellions and victories—like having an indoor picnic with the children during a curfew or shaking out the mat with a sniper just outside—and in every gesture seeks to resist the occupation. No matter how insignificant, each action becomes a source of dignity for the embattled civilians. The questions that haunt Soraida, her family and her neighbors take us to the heart of human experience: How to preserve one's humanity in the midst of oppression? How to resist being consummated by hate and anger, caught up in the cycle of victim and victimizer?

FESTIVALS

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- Chicago Palestine Film Festival
- Buenos Aires International Independent Film Festival
- Montreal Festival of New Cinema
- Sunny Side of the Doc
- Vermont International Film Festival
- Biennale des Cinemas Arabes