

FOUR WOMEN

TRAVELOGUES

a film by Kanwal Sethi

What happens when homeland turns to rage? I went on a journey to meet those who had grown up in a neverending conflict: four mothers who lost their children, four women who do not know each other than with fear. I went on four journies in hope for peace.

Documentary / 75 min / 2017

Israel / Palestine / Germany



Producer **Holm Taddiken Kanwal Sethi** Associate producer **Oliver Bradley**

Cinematographer **Erik Schimschar** Production Sound **Katrin Roschig**

Sound design **Christoph Walter** Film Editor **Daniel Schwarz** Dramaturgy **Ulrich Miller**

Composer **Peggy Herzog** Script/directed by **Kanwal Sethi**

>>I Neufilm

 **SLM**
Sächsische Landesanstalt
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FOUR WOMEN SYNOPSIS

Aziza is the daughter of a family that has been living since generations in the same region. She thinks of herself as a simple family-oriented person. Esther was born during the Second World War, when her parents were refugees. The fear of losing her homeland constantly haunts her. Fatima, a self confident and proud woman, has been fighting her whole life for the cause of her homeland. Daniella seems, at first glance, frail and reserved, but since her adolescence, she has been working for peace – beyond the borders of the conflict.

Aziza's daughter blew herself up in a suicide bombing in Israel. Esther's daughter Shiri was the victim of a Palestinian suicide bombing. Fatima's son was shot by Israeli soldiers for no apparent reason. Daniella's son was a soldier and lost his life in a military operation.

FOUR WOMEN DIRECTORS STATEMENT

More than 70 years have passed since the Holocaust. But the fires of anti-Semitism are still burning in the countless hearts of Europe. Even in Germany, it has not been extinguished yet. And what about the Jews in Israel? Far too many have still not forgiven the Germans and many are still living in fear of being driven out of their homes, of persecution and of death – in spite of having their own state, in spite of their mighty army.

I think, the collective experiences of generations, which is not effectively being dealt, is the decisive factor influencing the fate of Israel today. The memories of being persecuted cause anger and rage – which,

built up over time, makes it seem that only through violence can one express oneself. On the other hand, to accept suicide bombings as a tool for their struggle speaks of a deep crisis in the Islamic culture of Palestine.

Like in any other war and conflict, also in Israel/Palestine it is the women who are punished and suffer the most. They are the ones who lose their husbands and their children; they are the ones who have to lead the life of survivors – with all the questions, which it gives rise to. Aziza, Esther, Daniella and Fatima. Who are these women? Is it possible to live with so much pain? What influence do they have over the life and death of their children? How much sorrow, anger and rage is there still out there, and how much courage do they have left to change things?

FOUR WOMEN is an attempt to have a second look at societies, which are in a deep crisis. Most of all, to tell story of each side, in order to lose the fear from each other and maybe to escape the nightmares of the history.

FOUR WOMEN CONTACT

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