

PBS Distribution

presents

a Frontline Features, BBC Storyville and Keo Films Production

ONE IN A MILLION



A film by Itab Azzam & Jack MacInnes

OFFICIAL SELECTION

SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2026

Winner - Directing Award - World Cinema Documentary | Winner - Audience Award - World Cinema Documentary

CPH:DOX 2026

Thessaloniki International Film Festival 2026

First Look MoMI 2026

San Francisco International Film Festival 2026

Istanbul Film Festival 2026 - Sarasota Film Festival 2026 - RiverRun Int'l Film Festival 2026

Minneapolis St. Paul Int'l Film Festival 2026 - DOK.Fest Munich 2026

RUN TIME: 104 minutes

LANGUAGES: Arabic, German, English with English subtitles

PUBLICITY		DISTRIBUTION (US/Canada)
New York Cinetic Charlie Olsky charlie@cineticmedia.com 917.545.7260	San Francisco Larsen Associated Timothy Buckwalter tim@larsenassociated.com 510.551.3141	PBS Distribution Sara Giustini theatrical@pbs.org 832.212.4128

LOG LINE

Filmed over 10 years, one girl's epic journey from Syria to Germany and back again. She and her family navigate war, exile, and heartbreak in a foreign land, illuminating the complexities of the refugee experience.

SYNOPSIS

Filmed over ten years, ONE IN A MILLION follows Israa from childhood to adulthood on an extraordinary journey from Syria to Germany – and back again. We first meet her at age 11 as she and her family are preparing to cross the Aegean Sea, risking everything in search of safety and a better life in Europe. What unfolds is a deeply personal chronicle of war, exile and heartbreak, as Israa grows up navigating adolescence, identity and belonging far from the home she was forced to leave. As Israa settles into life in Germany, new freedoms collide with the stabilizing pull of Syrian traditions, testing bonds and reshaping her sense of self.

Co-directed by Itab Azzam and Jack MacInnes, the film bears witness to the remarkable trust between filmmakers and family, following Israa and her loved ones across borders, cultures and shifting circumstances. An intimate and nuanced coming-of-age story, ONE IN A MILLION illuminates the complexities of the refugee experience while asking a universal question: what does it truly mean to call a place home?

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

ONE IN A MILLION has been a deeply personal film for us to make. It's a film about growing up and a film about belonging. It is a film by a family about a family.

When the war started in Syria in 2011 we were a new couple living in Damascus, Syria, the country of Itab's birth. We left for London in August of that year planning to return a few months later, but that day never came.

Four years later in 2015, we met Israa selling cigarettes on a street corner in Turkey, as she and her family had just arrived from the devastation of Aleppo. Defiant and brimming with joy, despite the horror around her, we instantly fell in love with her – and felt that her story demanded telling.

We documented her harrowing journey across eight countries to safety in Germany. Israa was one of a million refugees to enter Germany that year.

And as we stood on the train platform witnessing thousands of exhausted and bewildered refugees arrive in this strange country, we were overcome with the feeling that what we were witnessing was a moment of historic importance, not on a political level but on the intimate level of countless human lives. The image that struck us powerfully at that moment was of German children, long after everyone on that platform had gone, telling the story of how their grandparents escaped Syria – countless lives that would be lived thanks to Germany's decision to allow these people to settle in their country.

The media was, and remains, full of speculation as to the probable success of large scale immigration in the long term, with public opinion divided predictably on political lines. But we felt we were witnessing the truth first hand and that the answers would only start to reveal themselves after a considerable period of time. We were Israa's only constant presence beyond her family from her time in Turkey and we knew we wanted to stay in her life. That was when the idea for ONE IN A MILLION was born.

Our families have grown together over the years; in the beginning we played with Israa and her younger siblings and now our children and Israa's children play together. The film is an expression of that love. The journey has been joyous and illuminating, but often emotionally close to the bone. In our own way, we too have been going through the pain of exile from Syria over the past decade, and events in Syria continue to devastate our family. This film has become our statement to the world about the pain, the confusion, and the dislocation of that experience – and the need for unflinching honesty and empathy in the face of the divisions that scar our world.

– Itab Azzam and Jack MacInnes, Directors

FILMMAKER BIOS



Itab Azzam | Director

Itab Azzam is an award-winning filmmaker, producer, and humanitarian. She works with Syrian refugee women in Lebanon and London on empowerment, education, and through therapeutic arts projects including, Film for Freedom, an initiative that trains refugee women in filmmaking. Born in Syria, she currently resides in London.



Jack MacInnes | Director

Born and raised in London, filmmaker Jack MacInness moved to Damascus where he met and ultimately married co-director Itab. His work has appeared on Netflix, BBC and PBS and received the Emmy, BAFTA, Peabody, Grierson, and Prix Italia Awards.



Will Anderson | Producer

Will Anderson has been making films with Keo Films all over the world for more than 25 years. He has won multiple awards including 5 BAFTAs and an Emmy, as a Series Director, Series Producer and now an Executive Producer. He is also the Creative Director of Keo, and champions bold ideas and nurtures distinctive voices across all of Keo's output.



James Bluemel | Producer

James Bluemel is an award-winning documentary filmmaker. He specializes in making observational and character driven films, giving the characters space and agency to tell their own stories, in their own words. His films have explored homelessness, mental illness, drug abuse, poverty, migration and war, and have been recognized with duPont Columbia and Peabody Awards, as well as “Best Documentary” prizes at BAFTA and the International Emmys.



Andrew Palmer | Producer

Andrew began his career as a documentary cameraman/director. In 2000 he set up Keo Films and subsequently worked as a director, producer, and executive producer on hundreds of hours of programming for broadcasters on both sides of the Atlantic. Keo’s output has had huge critical success winning BAFTAs, EMMYs, and an Oscar nomination, but it’s known for its important storytelling with real-world impact.



Raney Aronson-Rath | Producer

Raney Aronson-Rath is an Oscar®-winning producer and the editor-in-chief and executive producer of FRONTLINE, PBS’ flagship investigative journalism documentary series produced at GBH in Boston. Under her leadership, FRONTLINE has won every major award in broadcast journalism – including an Academy Award®, News & Documentary Emmy Awards and Peabody Awards. Recipient of the John Chancellor Excellence in Journalism Award, Aronson-Rath is thought leader in documentary filmmaking and investigative journalism.

FILM CREDITS

Produced, Filmed & Directed by

Itab Azzam
Jack MacInnes

Producers

Will Anderson
James Bluemel
Andrew Palmer
Raney Aronson-Rath

Editors

Iain Pettifer-Moth
Alec Rossiter

Executive Producers

Lucie Kon for BBC
Jutta Krug for WDR

Executive Producers

Joseph Schull
Harriet Gugenheim
David Fialkow
Nina Fialkow

Executive Producers

Adam & Melony Lewis
Patty Quillin
Jenny Raskin

Co-Executive Producers

Marni E. J. Grossman
Ryan Fortwendel

Contributing Producers

Elizabeth King
Jayne Lipman & Bob Goodman
Monika Parekh
Dwight & Kirsten Poler

Managing Editor

Andrew Metz

Consulting Editor

Michelle Mizner

Field Producer

Vanessa Bowles

Composer

Simon Russell

Line Producers

Jade Miller-Robinson
Trevor Lopez De Vergara

Production Manager

Ulrike Pflanz

Production Coordinator

Maddie Ireland

FOR FRONTLINE

Editorial Management

Dan Edge
Lauren Ezell Kinlaw
Katherine Griwert
Coral Salómon Bartolomei

Legal, Business & Marketing

Brian Eule
Dale Cohen

Anne Husted Blatt

Mary Sullivan

Jay Fialkov

Gianna DeGiulio

Sue Tufts

Jim Bracciale

Marjon Javadi

FOR BBC STORYVILLE

Angelique Brook

Henna Khan-Hussain

Richard Kofi-Burton

FOR IMPACT PARTNERS

Amy Augustino

Kelsey Koenig

Chris Boeckmann

Skye Ward

ABOUT FRONTLINE FEATURES

An effort from the award-winning PBS series FRONTLINE, FRONTLINE FEATURES produces cinematic feature-length and short documentaries for global, multiplatform distribution. Building on FRONTLINE's legacy as U.S. television's longest running investigative documentary series, FRONTLINE FEATURES brings impactful and deeply reported storytelling to global audiences and the big screen.

FRONTLINE has won an Academy Award® as well as every major journalism and broadcasting award, including 110 Emmy Awards and 34 Peabody Awards. Visit pbs.org/frontline and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) to learn more. FRONTLINE is produced at GBH in Boston and is broadcast nationwide on PBS. Funding for FRONTLINE is provided through the support of PBS viewers and by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, with major support from Ford Foundation. Additional support for FRONTLINE is provided by the Abrams Foundation, Park Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Heising-Simons Foundation, and the FRONTLINE Trust, with major support from Jon and Jo Ann Hagler on behalf of the Jon L. Hagler Foundation, and additional support from Koo and Patricia Yuen.

ABOUT BBC STORYVILLE

Storyville is the BBC's award-winning strand showcasing the very best in international documentaries. For more information about BBC Storyville, [visit their website](#).

ABOUT KEO FILMS

KEO Films is widely regarded as one of the UK's top independent production companies, with a 30-year history of making intelligent, award-winning films. It is best known for telling ambitious, human-centred stories with sensitivity, editorial rigour and unparalleled access.

KEO's films are broadcast globally in partnership with the BBC, Channel 4, Netflix, PBS and many others, and have earned the documentary world's highest accolades including multiple BAFTAs, Emmys, Griersons, RTS Awards, the Prix Italia, the Golden Rose, a Peabody and an Academy Award nomination.

ABOUT IMPACT PARTNERS

Impact Partners is a Brooklyn-based film fund dedicated to supporting independent documentary storytelling that entertains audiences, engages with pressing social issues, and propels the art of cinema forward. In 2007, Impact Partners pioneered a unique model of funding that brings together a community of investors with filmmakers to tell powerful stories about critical issues facing our world. Over the span of 18 years, Impact Partners has been involved in the financing of over 150 films including: Academy

Award® winners and nominees like ICARUS, SUGARCANE, OF FATHERS AND SONS, HOW TO SURVIVE A PLAGUE, and HELL AND BACK AGAIN; Peabody Award winners AFTERSHOCK, IMMIGRATION NATION, AUDRIE & DAISY and THE NEWBURGH STING; Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner and IDA Best Documentary Feature winner DINA, and Independent Spirit Award winner WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR? Recent releases include APOCALYPSE IN THE TROPICS, FOLKTALES, MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE, MISTRESS DISPELLER and SONGS FROM THE HOLE.

PLACEHOLDER FILMS

Placeholder Films is a UK-based film fund, founded in 2024 by Joseph Schull and Harriet Gugenheim, which finances independent documentary films that are socially engaged, creative and cinematic. Placeholder Films believes storytelling is a force for good and has backed films that have served as catalysts for change, including NO OTHER LAND, HOLLYWOODGATE and IN WAVES AND WAR.

NEW LANE MEDIA

New Land Media is a production company founded by Oscar, BAFTA, and Emmy Award-winning filmmakers Nina and David Fialkow. The Fialkows offer their passion, expertise, and extensive network to documentary filmmakers around the world as they bring stories to life. What We Do: Magnify stories of social (in)justice, celebrate unlikely heroes, and bring truth to power. For more information, visit newlanemedia.org.

