



Kurdish Cinema (In Search of Identity)

Country : Iraq

Kick Off

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2009 / Colour / 81 minutes / Central Kurdish



Director : Shawkat Amin Korki

Producer : Shawkat Amin Korki

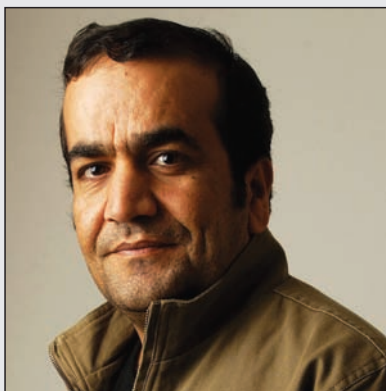
Cinematographer : Salem Salavati

Editor : Mastaneh Mohajer

Music : Mohamad Reza Darvishi

Cast : Shwan Atuf, Govar Anwar, Rojan Hamajaza, Mohamadd Hamed, Nasir Hassan Soheila Hasan

Synopsis : Inside a derelict stadium in in Kirkuk, Iraq, three hundred families of refugees have taken shelter. Asu lives here with his brother Diyar, who loses a leg while playing in a landmine-filled field. Asu sees that soccer is a source of happiness amid the squalor and bombing fears and plans to organize a friendly football tournament among different ethnicities – Kurds, Arabs, Turks and Assyrians. The film by Shawkat Amin Korki has been hailed as “full of imagination and strength.”



Director's Biography : Born in Kurdistan region in 1973, Shawkat Amin Korki and his family fled Iraq fearing repression from the then Iraqi regime, and stayed in Iran until 1999. He gained international recognition in 2006 with his debut feature *Crossing the Dust*, which premiered at the Rotterdam International Film Festival. *Kick Off* won awards at several film festivals around the world, including Busan, while *'Memories in Stone'* (2014) was Iraq's official Academy Awards submission.