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Australian documentary sheds light on psychological repercussions experienced by refugees

On 18 September Down Under Berlin will host the European premiere of Farshid Akhlaghipour's documentary "The Drowned Dreams" (2015) which offers an important perspective on the current debate about asylum seekers as it focuses on the psychological consequences that many refugees endure. The screening will be followed by a discussion with Dr. phil. Babette Gekeler from the Institute of Medical Psychology, Charité Berlin. The event is part of the official festival program of the 6th Down Under Berlin - Australian & New Zealand Film Festival which runs from 14-18 September at Movimiento Kino in Berlin-Kreuzberg.

Director Akhlaghipour explains his motivation to shoot "The Drowned Dreams" as follows: „ Since I immigrated to Australia, I have read and seen lots of sad news about asylum seekers who traveled by wooden fishing boats from Indonesia to Australia. Many of them had lost their lives or were injured seriously in horrible boat tragedies. So as a filmmaker I started my research and decided to make a documentary so I could tell the story of people who experienced these horrible boat tragedies." Farshid Akhlaghipour has lived and worked in Australia since 2012. The filmmaker who was born in Teheran, Iran in 1981 has had considerable success with several of his short and documentary films at International festivals.

**Sunday, 18 September at 15:45h | Movimiento Kino (Kottbusser Damm 22):
European Premiere of "The Drowned Dreams" + Discussion**

By Farshid Akhlaghipour | AUS | 2015 | 53:30 min | Farsi with Engl. subtitles

The film will be followed by a discussion with Dr. phil. Babette Gekeler, Institute of Medical Psychology, Charité Berlin

In 2013, 6,400 Iranian asylum-seekers arrived in Australia on Indonesian fishing boats. One of these was carrying a father and his son, who was struck by lightning and severely burned. After their release from a detention centre, father and son struggle to begin their new life in Australia, dealing with physical and psychological ailments that resulted from their trauma.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/142828095>

Please get in touch with us if you would like to obtain an online screener for this documentary.

Tickets: 8 Euro (5-Ticket-Pass for 35 Euro)

Ticket reservation: online auf moviemento.de or by phone: +49 (0)30 6924 785

Venue: Moviemento Kino, Kottbusser Damm 22, 10967 Berlin

Festival website: downunderberlin.de

Press area: downunderberlin.de/press

Festival program: bit.ly/2aNeWyD

Film Stills: bit.ly/2aPyS1l

Accreditation: bit.ly/2aXsYOR