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PIETER
VAN HUYSTEE
FILM & TV



A FILM BY
ORHAN ESKİKÖY & ÖZGÜR DOĞAN

ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL



PERI-SAN FILM & PIETER VAN HUYSTEE FILM PRESENT

PRODUCED BY ORHAN ESKİKÖY & ÖZGÜR DOĞAN | CO-PRODUCER PIETER VAN HUYSTEE | SCRIPT & CINEMATOGRAPHY ORHAN ESKİKÖY
SOUND ÖZGÜR DOĞAN & ZEYNEL DOĞAN | EDITING ORHAN ESKİKÖY & THOMAS BALKENHOL | ASSISTANT OF DIRECTOR ASLI SOYUMERT
ASSISTANT OF PRODUCER ROSAN BOERSMA | COLLABORATING DAAN SPRUIJT | SOUND DESIGN ERIK GRIEKSPoor | POSTPRODUCTION FACILITIES EDITPOINT - LEON PAQUAY

www.perisanfilm.com/school



A fly-on-the-wall documentary shot mainly in the classroom. When Emre arrives to teach in an impoverished Kurdish village, the total lack of running water is the least of his problems. The children do not speak Turkish and he cannot speak Kurdish. Despite bouts of frustration, anger and loneliness - as well as feeling like a foreigner in his own country - Emre is determined to accomplish his task, and proceeds to grab his cell phone and call home, where his mother lovingly gives him a little help.

SYNOPSIS

The young Turkish teacher Emre Aydin has been appointed by the government to go teach at a school in a remote and impoverished Kurdish village. He arrives in the village at the beginning of the school year to a few unpleasant surprises. There's no running water in the village and the students don't show up for class. **ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL** follows Aydin during the entire academic year. The camera observes him and his students in a fly-on-the-wall kind of way, and we can see how tough an assignment it is for Aydin to teach here. Many families only speak Kurdish at home, so learning Turkish isn't only hard for the kids, but it's also a sensitive matter as far as the strained relations between Kurds and the Turkish state are concerned. Aydin feels like a foreigner in his own country, but he's determined to accomplish the task at hand. For the most part, he's a friendly and patient instructor, but when students write Kurdish words in their notebooks, he loses his cool and kicks them all out of class. He proceeds to grab his cell phone and call home, where his mother lovingly gives him her ear.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

Turkey-born Orhan Eskiköy (b.1980) and Özgür Dogan (b.1977) both graduated from the Faculty of Communication at Ankara University. In 2001, they co-directed their first documentary EACH DREAM IS A SHATTERED MIRROR, which was officially selected at the IDFA "First Appearance" and the Cinema du Reel Documentary Film Festival. Eskiköy and Dogan went on co-directing two more short documentaries - SUFFERING (2003) and TOGETHER (2006). ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL, funded by both the Sundance Institute Documentary Fund and Jan Vrijman Fund, is their first feature documentary which was selected in Joris Ivens competition at IDFA 2008. Eskiköy is currently living in North Cyprus, and Dogan is working as a Research Assistant at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara.

DIRECTORS' FILMOGRAPHY

Orhan Eskiköy and Özgür Dogan

2006 - TOGETHER

2003 - SUFFERING

2001 - EACH DREAM IS A SHATTERED MIRROR

Orhan Eskiköy

2006 - MOTHERS & CHILDREN

2004 - EXILE

2003 - TO BE OUTSIDE

PRODUCTION COMPANY

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TECHNICAL INFO

Turkey, 2008

52 & 81 minutes

Colour

Screen Ratio: 16:9

Sound System: Stereo (HDCAM tape with 4 channels
audio 1&2: Theatre-mix, audio 3&4 : TV-mix)

Language: Turkish / Kurdish

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CREDITS

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