## **British Council x Documentaries Series**





19 July 2018

Queens of Syria (2014)

(60 minutes)

Yasmin Fedda directs this inspiring and entertaining documentary about Syrian refugee women mounting a stage production of Euripides' "The Trojan Women."

Queens of Syria is a unique, heart-warming film about a remarkable group of Syrian refugee women working towards staging their own version of one of the oldest plays ever written, Euripides' The Trojan Women.



It tells the story of sixty women from all sides of Syria's conflict, in exile in Jordan, who came together in Autumn 2013 to create and perform their own version of the timeless Greek tragedy about the plight of women in war. It's not just an important film; it's also a very entertaining watch

The film won the Best Director from the Arab World award at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival in October 2014 and has since screened at the Glasgow Film Festival, Dublin Film Festival and more.

9 Nov 2018

The Secret World of Lego (2015)

(47 minutes)

Last year Lego became the most profitable toy makers in the world. Now this notoriously secretive, privately-owned superbrand has opened its doors. We discover what makes it tick, meet some of its key people and reveal more about the company DNA than ever



In The Secret World of Lego, we follow Justin, a



23 year old design student, as he travels to LEGO headquarters in Denmark in pursuit of one of the most hotly contested jobs in the world – a LEGO set designer. We meet Liverpudlian Matthew, who undertook the same process and has now risen to become a Vice President of Design. We follow Mark and Tom, two adult fans of LEGO, as they try two different money-making schemes they hope will transform their love of the brick

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into hard cash. And there's Roar, the LEGO "reputation manager", who guides us through this secret world - until we get a little too close for comfort.

30 Nov 2018

Children of the Gaza War (2016)

(59 minutes)

This heart-breaking film follows the lives of children on both sides of a conflict in the midst of a summer war which killed more than 500 children. Filming long after the news crews left, the documentary explores five children's trauma, resilience and growing resentment. The children were living through their third war in six years, each time growing further apart from their close neighbours.



Children in Gaza and across the border in Israel have lived through three major conflicts in six years. Last summer, more than 500 children were killed in a 51-day war, all but one of them Palestinian. On the Israel side of the border, children lived in constant fear of rocket attacks and gunmen raiding from underground tunnels.

Lyse Doucet follows the lives of children on both sides of the conflict in the midst of the war and through the months that followed, revealing how children born so close are growing further apart with each war.

14 Dec 2018

**Amy (2015)** (128 minutes)

A once-in-a-generation talent, Amy Winehouse was a musician that captured the world's attention. A pure jazz artist in the most authentic sense - she wrote and sung from the heart using her musical gifts to analyse her own problems.

The combination of her raw honesty and supreme talent resulted in some of the most unique and adored songs of the modern era.



From BAFTA award-winning director Asif Kapadia (Senna), AMY tells the incredible story of six-time Grammy-winner Amy Winehouse – in her own words. Featuring extensive unseen archive footage and previously unheard tracks, this strikingly modern, moving and vital film shines a light on the world we live in, in a way that very few can.

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30 Dec 2018

#### Chopin Saved My Life (2012)

(48 minutes)

Chopin's Ballade Number One is an extraordinary piece of piano music. This moving film tells the story of how the Ballade has transformed the lives of two young pianists.

This hour-long documentary, directed by BAFTA and Emmy award winning director James Kent, meets Japanese teenager Momoka and Scottish music student Paul



Murray to explore how Chopin's extraordinary Ballade Number 1 transforms the lives of ordinary people and illustrates how classical music still penetrates contemporary life in unexpected and powerful ways. The film includes interviews with some of the world's greatest pianists including Stephen Hough, Lang Lang and Vladimir Ashkenaz

11 Jan 2019

# We Walk Together (2015)

(17 minutes)

Thousands of refugees were sleeping rough at Budapest's Keleti station, waiting for trains to take them to western Europe. Then, they just got up and walked. Guardian journalist and filmmaker John Domokos went with them, every step of the way. This is the story of one Syrian family, and those who came out to help.

Huge amounts of coverage of the refugee crisis was generated in 2015, some of it



elicited great sympathy from the public. But no other video or story that closed the gap in the way that this film did, and went beyond objectifying them as 'refugees'. The footage and message of the film was used by the Guardian as the inspiration behind 'We Stand Together' - the campaign for our refugee appeal, which went on to raise a record £2.5 million

# BRITISHCOUNCIL

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21 Feb 2019

Lucian Freud – Painted Life (2012)

(90 minutes)

Painted Life explores the life and work of Lucian Freud, undoubtedly one of Britain's greatest artists.

Freud gave his full backing to the documentary shortly before his death. This documentary is both a definitive biography and a revelatory exploration of the creative process.

