

## **Ibrahim**

“Ibrahim” documents the attempt of a young Palestinian woman, Lina Al-Abed, to find out the story of her father that left early in her childhood. She films conversations she has with members of her family as well as with friends and colleagues of her father. Ibrahim was part of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, former members of the PLO that split off after the organization was tending to start compromising with the state of Israel. His role at the FRC led him to cut off ties with his family and no one really knew about his whereabouts and the circumstances for his death. Lina engages with people from different countries that provide her with puzzle pieces, helping her to unravel the secret around the killing of her father. The audience also gets insights into Lina’s personal struggle to deal with a father figure, that she never really knew and that gets described as a hero and martyr by some and as a terrorist by others. The further she enters the maze of information, the more questions of homeland and the idea of dying for it become relevant.

The documentary displays an authentic insight into the psychological repercussions the death of a martyr has on his family. The personal aspects get placed into a broader context by testimonies of people that participated in the Palestinian struggle and with historical footage. Furthermore, “Ibrahim” indirectly raises critical questions about the way the struggle was being carried out and the ideologies of a homeland and martyrdom and provides explanations from people that were directly involved.

In her approach to tell her story through interviews, Lina Al-Abed chose not to give the impression that the documentary is an objective representation of Ibrahim’s role in the FRC or the struggle itself. Instead, small hints keep on reminding the audience that it is Lina herself, filming people while having personal discussions with them and that it is her, deciding what she wants to speak about and what not.

By blurring the line between Ibrahim as a father, friend and husband on the one side and an actor in the Palestinian struggle for **independence** on the other side, the viewer Lina pulls the audience into her attempt to contextualize her personal story into a historical context. “Ibrahim” is an interesting and thoughtful documentary, that walks the line between personal insights and broader, political, sometimes philosophical questions.

The documentary leaves the audience with an interest in the background of the story it tells and questions about the idea of homeland and martyrdom.