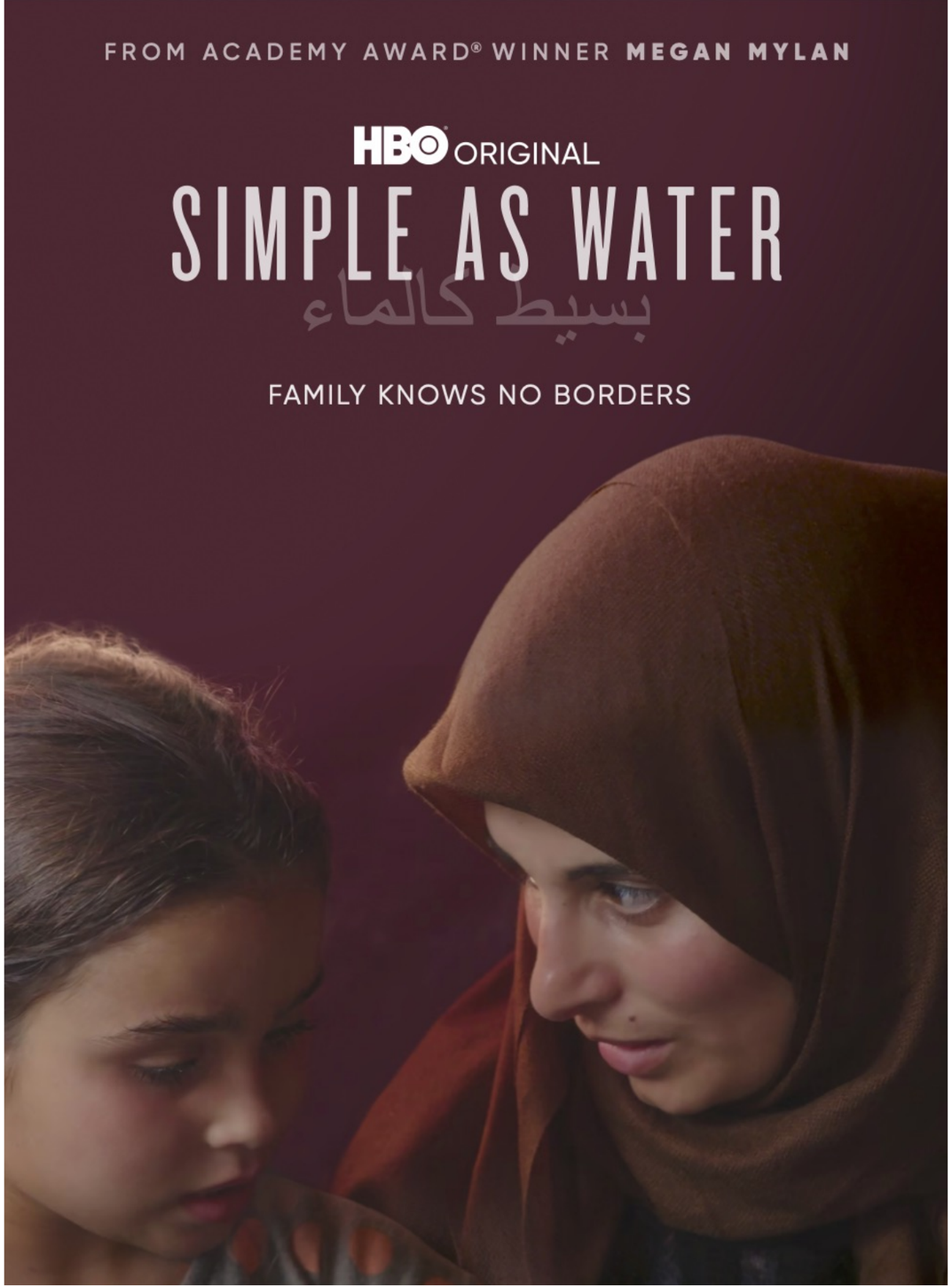
SIMPLE AS WATER is a love story celebrating the bonds of family by Oscar®-winning director Megan Mylan (Lost Boys of Sudan, Smile Pinki). Portraits of Syrian families filmed across five countries reveal the impact of war, separation, and displacement.

2021 // 100 MIN
IN ARABIC AND ENGLISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

WATCH THE TRAILER

hbo.com/movies/simple-as-water

ACADEMY AWARD® SHORTLIST
//
PEABODY, PRODUCER'S GUILD AND EMMY NOMINEE
//
NEW YORK TIMES CRITIC'S PICK



HBO DOCUMENTARY FILMS A **PRINCIPE PRODUCTIONS** FILM IN ASSOCIATION WITH **JUSTFILMS/FORD FOUNDATION** AND **INMAAT PRODUCTIONS** FEATURING **YASMIN AL KADAD, SAMRA ABO GHANOOJ, OMAR SABHA, DIAA AL BAHRY, SAFWAN AL KADAD** PRODUCERS **ROBIN HESSMAN** AND **MEGAN MYLAN,** CO-PRODUCERS **HAZEM OBID, ALAA HASSAN, YARA HASSAN,** EDITORS **PURCELL CARSON** AND **MEGAN MYLAN,** MUSIC BY **HANAN TOWNSHEND,** CINEMATOGRAPHERS **LARS SKREE, MICHAEL CHIN, RAFIA SALAMEH,** CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS **G. BARRIE LANDRY** AND **SUSAN BAY NIMOY** DIRECTOR **MEGAN MYLAN**

If you ever wanted to know what being human is, this film, from its first sequence on, grasps you in the womb, deep in your most profound being, in what defines us all as the human family. A film unlike anything you have ever seen before. Pure, Limpid, it will shatter your vision of life. Your own, in particular.

—RAOUL PECK, filmmaker, I Am Not Your Negro

Anything but simple, manages to surprise and stun ... Filmed with ambitious scope and devastating intimacy.
—NEW YORK TIMES, Critic's Pick

Superb... a level of deep, intimate access and rapport that few filmmakers can hope to achieve... Unfolds more like a riveting neorealist drama.
—INDIEWIRE

The words we have for the horror of fleeing home in the face of violence and war are insufficient: refugee, migrant, asylum seeker. The vast experience of a million impossible decisions are folded into clinical terminology that describe the process, but fail to capture the humanity of those living through it. Enter SIMPLE AS WATER.
—VANITY FAIR

As a Syrian filmmaker and a Syrian, it left a huge impact in my heart and my memory. When people look after 20 years, when they ask and want to think about the Syrian immigrants or the Syrian exodus, we can say, "Go and watch SIMPLE AS WATER."
—TALAL DERKI, filmmaker

It's a great honor to participate in sharing this powerful film. It portrays people in search of freedom and safety with such dignity and care.
—LINA SERGIE ATTAR, Founder Karam Foundation

SIMPLE AS WATER took my breath away with its humanity. One of the most insightful documentaries about refugees ever made.
—MELISSA FLEMING, UN Under Secretary General for Global Communications

THE FILM

Epic in scope but intimate in feel, SIMPLE AS WATER underscores the universal bonds between parent and child. Its nuanced observational style centers the voices of refugees. The film follows Yasmin, a mother of four living in a tent in the port of Athens; Samra, a widow on the Turkey-Syria border grappling with the decision to leave her children in an orphanage in hopes of giving them a better chance in life; 22-year-old Omar, who's taken on the role of parent to his younger brother in Pennsylvania; Diaa, who's remained in Syria while tirelessly searching for her "disappeared" son; and Safwan, who lives in temporary housing in Germany with other fathers and mourns lost milestones with his children.



SIMPLE AS WATER premiered on closing night of the 2021 Tribeca Film Festival, followed by a theatrical release and launch on HBO. The film's focus on the bonds of family has proven a powerfully accessible point of entry for diverse audiences who have come away moved and motivated - to talk, donate, and take action.



GOALS

We are excited to make the film available to networks who see it as an effective instrument to further their work. We can offer screening toolkits for in-person and virtual events, as well as staff support and the participation of film subjects, filmmakers and advisors at select screenings.

SIMPLE AS WATER offers an opportunity to deepen a sense of human connection and to inform attitudes, advocacy, and policies for people seeking refuge.

- Build understanding of why people flee their home countries.
- Draw attention to key challenges of displacement and policy implications, the importance of providing safe passage, keeping families intact.
- Galvanize public support for creating welcoming communities with an understanding of what it takes to enable refugees and immigrants to thrive.

Contact

If you have ideas for how your organization can utilize SIMPLE AS WATER, or to learn more, please email us at:
info@principeproductions.org

Principe

Principe Productions, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not for profit film production company specializing in artfully crafted documentary films. Our films enjoy international theatrical release, television broadcast/streaming and are complemented by extensive social action campaigns that have raised millions of dollars for charitable causes, mobilized thousands of volunteers, and informed public policy.
Learn more at: principeproductions.org