



SCREEN  
SOCIETY

Duke  
Middle East  
STUDIES CENTER

Present

# TASTE OF CEMENT



**Ziad Kalthoum, 2017, 85 mins, Germany, in Arabic with English subtitles**

A portrait of workers in exile, *Taste of Cement* is an empathetic encounter with people who have lost their past and their future, locked in the recurring present.

With his second feature, Ziad Kalthoum creates a poetic essay documentary about Syrian construction workers building new skyscrapers in Beirut. As they help rebuild ruined neighbourhoods in the aftermath of the Lebanese civil war, their own houses at home are being shelled. The Lebanese government has imposed curfews on refugees and so the workers are locked in the building site over-night. Every night in their pit below the skyscraper the news from their homeland and the memories of the war haunt them. Mute and imprisoned in the cement underground, they must endure until the new day arrives where the hammering and welding drowns out their nightmares.

With exquisite framing, unorthodox editing, and dreamlike narrative detours *Taste of Cement* is a daring, imaginative and visually challenging cinematic work.

**MONDAY**  
**OCT 15<sup>TH</sup>**  
**7 PM**

**RICHARD WHITE  
AUDITORIUM**

*Free Screening!*