



## **6º Cine CommUnity “The Sultan And The Saint” 04.02.2012 | 19:30 hrs**

In the context of the Cine CommUnity campaign, ARCO FORUM organises a series of activities that take the form of get-together, watching movies and creating dialogues, aimed at exploring the various ways in which young people can be active citizens in their neighborhoods and actually build communities. The events focus on the main topic of introducing different religions, races and social phenomenons in a subtle way through movies.

During the month of February, in the framework of the World Interfaith Harmony Week and also commemorating the International Day of Human Fraternity, our institution, in collaboration with Casa Turca de Barcelona, organised one session of Cine CommUnity online.

### **About the CommUnity project**

The CommUnity project, co-funded by the European Commission, involves 11 public and private institutions from 7 EU countries. The CommUnity project aims to address drivers of radicalisation, such as marginalisation, inequality, discrimination and denial of rights. It seeks to create new opportunities to promote peace and shared values through artistic and cultural expression. By giving a voice to young people who feel marginalised or unfairly treated, we can build powerful communities with a greater sense of belonging, well-being and self-esteem.

### **About the Cine CommUnity Campaign**

Cine CommUnity proposes movie sessions followed by debates in collaboration with different High-schools, Universities and youth centers from 7 different EU countries. The movie sessions are proposed as extracurricular activities for pupils and students as well as cinema nights within youth centers. Every movie session is followed by a one-hour debate/discussion. The debates are led by a youth worker and/or a teacher. Cine CommUnity aims to improve critical thinking skills among pupils and students and build communities of young people that share their passion for cinematography. To that matter, we have selected a list of movies that address urgent topics in the European context nowadays and raise different aspects of the issue of violence, ideology and extremism (far-right or religious related extremism) as well as movies encouraging intercultural and inter-faith discussions, human rights and democratic values.



### **About “The Sultan and The Saint”**

Unity Productions Foundation (UPF) responsible for producing this documentary, describes the film as the narration of *“one of the great, lost stories from history. Set in a past period of East-West conflict, it speaks with urgency to our present. Two men of faith, one an itinerant Christian preacher, the other the ruler of a Muslim Empire, bucked a century of war, distrust, and insidious propaganda in a search for mutual respect and common ground.*

*It is the story of Francis of Assisi and the Sultan of Egypt, and their meeting on a bloody battlefield during the period of Christian-Muslim conflict known as the Crusades.*

*On one hand there is Francis, captured as a prisoner of war and imprisoned for a year, then released as an abused victim of violence, whose one solution to witnessing so much hatred was a radical reorganisation of his life and values. And there is a forgotten Muslim prince, the young nephew of the brilliant Saladin, who was raised in the Sultan’s palace and groomed for the throne by his mother steeped in Islamic learning. Two more unlikely protagonists are hard to imagine. And yet the meeting between these two men, at a crossroads moment, changed history.”*

### **About this 6th Cine CommUnity Session**

This sixth session took place on the 4th of February 2021 at 19:30 hrs and it was organised coinciding with the International Day of Human Fraternity and within the frame of the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW). For this session we selected the documentary “The Sultan and The Saint”. At the beginning, participants were welcomed and a short description about the documentary, the CommUnity project, the WIHW and the International Day of Human Fraternity was provided. Afterwards, the documentary film was projected in English with Spanish subtitles (As there was no any Spanish subtitle available before - we also contacted the producer to be assured - our institution had to prepare one for this special occasion. Now we are planning to project the documentary in different parts of Spain starting with Barcelona in the month of March). When the documentary ended, Javier Astilleros, moderator of the discussion, gave some information about the production, the message and the characters. After that, the participants were invited to start a discussion about the documentary which took place via MentiMeter and Zoom.

### **About obstacles due to the Covid-19 pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic is still affecting Spain on a high level and meetings of more



than 6 people are not recommended. Therefore, Arco Forum has decided to organise their events online using the platform Zoom and different social media channels such as Twitter and Youtube. To make these online sessions more interesting and dynamic, Arco Forum has chosen to use new methods to integrate their participants such as the platform MentiMeter. Through this platform the participants can share their impressions of the event with us.

### **About ARCO FORUM's Scriptural Reasoning activities in the media**

ARCO FORUM is announcing each one of its activities on the social media platforms of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and newsletter. The same is done for the outcome of each activity so that the followers and the audience are permanently informed about the ongoing and future activities. These posts are always linked with the corresponding hashtags of the CommUnity project (#CommunityProyectEurope and #CineCommunityEurope) and the World Interfaith Harmony Week (#WIHW and #WIHW2021) as well as the corresponding pages tagged.