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Nicolas Cilins

GINEVA

Adi and Florin, two men from Romania, are dancing in front of a blue screen. Once they stop to address the camera, they begin thanking everyone who helped them survive in Geneva throughout the past weeks. Having moved there a while ago due to the extreme poverty in their native Romania, they go on to ask their imaginary audience for some help and assistance. The two re-enact some scenes from their past and present lives in a number of short role-plays; sometimes cartoonish, sometimes visibly heartfelt and emotionally charged. They recall their farewell from their family homes in Romania, simulate some of their experiences as rent boys in Geneva, look up their favorite songs online with the two cameras on the set, and share their financial issues and other worries.

"In 2014, I heard of a bar in Geneva where men go to pick up young male Romanian prostitutes. When I walked in there for the first time I was immediately taken aback by the peculiar and strange atmosphere inside. The place was almost empty but for two older men drinking at the bar, facing a group of younger Romanian guys. From the outside, the bar served as a suitably normal façade for what really went on inside. At first I could not quite figure out how the transactions between potential customers and the Roma guys occurred. This is where I met Adi and Florin. I offered them to be part of a film I was currently working on. We then vaguely discussed that perhaps there could be some money in it for them, and in the end they agreed to come along. Filming was to take place on an improvised and rudimentary film set that was installed at Geneva's art school."

(Nicolas Cilins)

2014, colour, QuickTime ProRes, 43 min., Romanian. **Director** Nicolas Cilins. **Cast** Adi, Florin. **Director of photography** Nicolas Cilins, Felipe Monroy. **Editor** Dominique Auvray. **Sound mixing** Philippe Ciompi. **Translation** Irina Ionita. **Supported by** FCAC, Fonds d'art contemporain SCC, DIP, Etat de Genève, HEAD, Geneva University of Art and Design.

Nicolas Cilins, born in 1985 in France, is an artist, filmmaker, and translator currently living and working in Geneva, Switzerland.

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© Roy Dib

Roy Dib

A SPECTACLE OF PRIVACY

We cyclically mourn the disappearance/demolition of our cities as if it's something new. We strive to maintain our cities. We fight for them. We revolt. We draw borders. We break them. Our entire lives become shadows of fights that are both legendary and futile: our intentions noble, and our struggles mundane.

We strive to save our cities, assuming they once were shelters for our wilting dreams. We want to freeze their geographies in time, assuming smiles in picture frames will follow. We are selfish. We want to maintain our privacies by sustaining the world outside. We want to fuck in private, in a public discourse that allows for us to fuck in private.

Outside shells inside, instead of inside constructing out. We strive to maintain our cities. We shout, shoot, and die for them. We die for the outside so others can quietly fuck inside. As we cyclically mourn the disappearance/demolition of our cities, did we miss the possibility of the exercise of our most private moments becoming the bricks and mortar of the appearance/construction of our cities to come? Who shuts who up? What censors what? This is a story of the city mourning the disappearance/demolition of its people and the compass of their fights.

(Roy Dib)

2014, black/white, 9 min., Arabic, 3-channel video installation, sound.

Roy Dib, born in 1983 in Lebanon, is an artist that works and lives in Beirut. He has presented works at venues and events such as Video Works, Beirut (2011), Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2012), Home Workspace Program -2012, Ashkal Alwan, Beirut, and the 18th edition of Videobrasil, São Paulo (2013). His film *Mondial 2012* (2014) was part of the Forum Expanded 2014 and won the Teddy Award for Best Short Film.

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