Now: End of Season

Ayman Nahle

2015, DCP, color, 20 min., Arabic. **Producer** Ayman Nahle, Maya Shurbaji. **Production companies** Bidayyat (Beirut, Lebanon). **Written and directed by** Ayman Nahle. **Director of photography** Ayman Nahle. **Sound** Victor Bresse. **Music** Ziad Moukarzel. **Sound design** Victor Bresse. **Editor** Carine Doumit.

Ayman Nahle was born in 1984 in Beirut, Lebanon, where he also lives and works. Initially he studied theater acting and directing at the Institute of Fine Arts, Lebanese University, Beirut. Since 2007 he has been working as director of photography and editor. He shot two films by Anton Vidokle, *2084: A Science Fiction Show/ Episode 2: The Fall of Artists' Republic* and *The Communist Revolution Was Caused By The Sun* (Forum Expanded 2016). *Now: End of Season* is his first short film as director.

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While US President Ronald Reagan is out horse riding, the Syrian President Hafiz al-Assad tries in vain to reach him by phone. Ayman Nahle's short film turns us into witnesses of the phone call with White House staff as we watch Syrian refugees waiting in Turkey.

"It's quiet here, except for the echoes of the noise, the tone of the moment and the sigh of waiting. 'Time has not passed yet, there's still some time'. Entire families, elderly, women, children, youngsters, war injured, in addition to the smugglers – all are present here as if they own the location. At Izmir Garage, thousands of illegalized migrants are getting ready daily for the journey to the unknown. Some have chosen a café in the area to be the waiting spot, some talk and laugh, while the rest have settled in silence, contemplating the kids. The state: waiting. Everyone here is waiting for the mediator to arrive with the tickets. Will he come today? Or will the trip be postponed to another day? Izmir Garage represents the mid-point in the long journey of the Syrian migration. After the hassle of arriving in Turkey, another trip on the sea still waits for them before they reach Europe."

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