

Ali, a Syrian filmmaker shaped by the intricate interplay of displacement and multivalent identity, carries the weight of being perpetually "othered" no matter where he goes. In Lebanon, he is labeled the Syrian; in Syria, the Lebanese. In Douma, he is regarded as the Damascene, while in Damascus, he is the Doumani. Among Shiites, he is perceived as Sunni, and among Sunnis, he is seen as Shiite—yet both factions, at times, brand him an atheist. After years of grappling with fear and uncertainty, Ali eventually left Damascus in search of a fresh start, only to find himself compelled to return shortly afterward. He often wonders what magnetic force draws him back to a city that has never officially been "his." How does he reconcile his evolving sense of identity in a country undergoing profound transformation? Opportunities once deemed unimaginable now seem startlingly within reach.