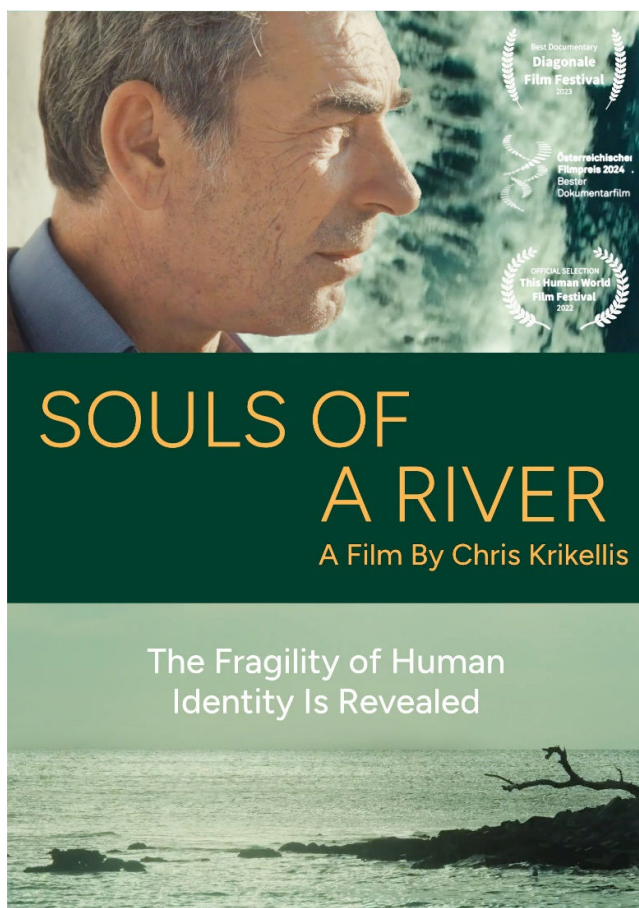


# SOULS OF A RIVER



A FILM BY  
CHRIS KRIKELLIS

87 mins / 2022 / German, Greek, English Subtitles / Greece, Austria, Germany



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# **FILM FESTIVALS AND AWARDS**

**BEST DOCUMENTARY – AUSTRIAN FILM AWARDS  
BEST DOCUMENTARY – DIAGONALE FILM FESTIVAL**

**INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF NEW HOMELAND FILMS,  
THIS HUMAN WORLD FILM FESTIVAL**

## **SYNOPSIS**

The Iraq War, justified by the United States on the false premise that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, led to the deaths of over six hundred thousand people and devastated the country. Brazilian diplomat José Bustani, the first Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), played a pivotal role in attempting to bring Iraq into compliance with chemical weapons regulations. Under his impartial leadership, countries traditionally distrusted by multilateral organizations were brought into the fold. As he neared success, the U.S. government, intent on regime change and securing oil interests, exerted relentless pressure on Bustani to abandon his efforts. When he refused to yield, the U.S. orchestrated his removal from office through misleading accusations of mismanagement. Nearly twenty years later, Bustani, now retired in Rio de Janeiro, reflects on this American abuse of power and the missed opportunity to prevent a catastrophic war.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

**Souls of a River** uses narrative patterns and associations. The film is a cinematic poem, an essay about a region of the world that has recently become the focus of international reports: Evros in Greece.

Greece is facing permanent conflicts with Turkey and often feels left alone by Europe.

**Souls of a River** is about my home country in this beautiful area in the north-east of Greece, the Evros. The river is the south-eastern external border of the EU. The topic of the film is of transnational importance and urgency. For me it is only logical to look poetically at references and contexts, at tensions and moments; and possibly the salutary, tranquility and beauty of the world.

Chris Krikellis

## **DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY**

Born 1965 in Athens, Chris Krikellis is Greek and German citizen. Graduated in 1999 his studies in film direction at the Filmakademie Wien / Film Academy Vienna with summa cum laude.

Contributions, prizes: 2019 FBW (Wiesbaden) predicate "valuable" for CLOUD 2018 His photography PEACE, taken in Lefkosia / Cyprus, is one of the winners of the international competition "Space Net Awards" in Munich 2000 he receives the annual award of the Federal Chancellery BKA, Austrian film award for film art, for DIE WEICHE and GERMANIA 1999 Austrian candidate for the Student Oscar – Student Academy Award in LA 1999 Appreciation award from Austrian Ministry of Science Member of Drehbuchforum Vienna, ADA, BVR, VDFS and Literat Mechana

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

Protagonists

Pavlos Pavlidis & Chris Krikellis

Written & Directed

Chris Krikellis

Cinematography

Judith Benedikt, aac

Editing

Lisa Zoe Geretschläger, aea

Music

Nikos Platyrachos

Sound

Dimitra Xeroutsikou, Lenka Mikulova, Nic Nagl

Sound Design

Veronika Hlawatsch

Producer

Peter Janecek