

A sea in between

Dir: Juan Luis de No
55' - emf/Odisea - 2006



Most European countries had to deal with uneven results with the so called "integration" of the second generation of migrant citizens. In Spain right now we could take good note of the experiences of close countries like Belgium, France or Germany, where situations of tension and even violence have been experienced throughout the years. There is a proliferation of Ghetto-like communities and as of today, nobody dares to anticipate what future is there for these legal and the facto European citizens, that feel they don't belong anywhere. We will start in Brussels, where for the last 30 years they have dealt with this matter to the point of suffering, in the 90's the results of the poor integration of these newcomers most of them originary from the Rif in Northern Morocco, like those arriving now to Spain. Taking Belgium's experience as a starting point, we will focus on Spain to reveal the situation of the ever growing descendants of those Moroccan workers. Anisa is 26 years old. She was born and raised in Spain and had to confront a full range of problems with her family: this is the norm amongst Moroccan families. Whom to marry to without generating a family drama, or what kind of job is available to you, if you are not planning on taking care of babies or cleaning houses. Ibraim, is a very special young man. He has to disguise himself as a Brazilian in order to get access to the disco: he likes to dance till dawn without ever drinking any alcohol. He works now as a bartender at a bar in Villalba, near Madrid, but what he would most like to do is dedicate himself to theater, music, or dance. He also wishes he could share it with his family, but that is out of the question... Moha just turned sixteen and he has lived in Spain for the last 10 years in a neighbourhood where only inmigrants live. There is only one public school where 80% of the children of inmigrant descent. But he does not study or work anymore, and he has been booked already by the police. Nothing serious, but there is no work, and whatever is available, is sort of precarious for a smart kid like him. There is an easier way to get things done: "Why am I going to kill myself working like my father to get nothing in the end." Will anybody provide the tools for Moha to break the vicious circle he is in?



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