



Critical Acclaim For 'RETURN TO HOMS'

By Talal Derki

"The films paint a picture of the conflict that is more raw and revealing than anything you'll see on television news."

—**Bob Simon, CBS News "60 Minutes"**

"Like its heroes, we are pulled into the conflict with frenzied immediacy as we experience one city, the dreaded rites of passage of two friends, and ultimately an entire nation torn apart by the fog of war."

—**Rick Gladstone, *The New York Times***

"Takes an unflinching look at the unraveling of society in Syria."

—**Lucy Westcott, *Newsweek***

"Scenes . . . tap veins of adrenalin which Hollywood blockbusters can only dream of finding . . . a sober, sobering bulletin of unambiguous intention and undeniable power."

—**Neil Young, *The Hollywood Reporter***

"An essential, ground-level look at the Syrian civil war, embedded among 'the men of Zeer street' and their charismatic champ, Abdul Basset Saroot."

—**Peter Debruge, *Variety***

"For the sake of the people trapped in Homs, it may be time for the world to take a look at Derki's film."

—**Eline Gordts, *The Huffington Post***

". . . puts human face on the ongoing violence in Syria."

—**Julie Taboh, *Voice of America***

"A timely reminder of a conflict that's slipped out of the headlines . . ."

—**Leslie Felperin, *The Guardian***

"Extraordinary."

—**Joe Scarborough, MSNBC "Morning Joe"**

"[The film] portrays the struggle from the inside, from about as far from the filter of mainstream media as one can get, capturing tense shootouts and the extremes of revolutionary spirit in unnerving detail."

—**Eric Kohn, *Indiewire***

"This Sundance Award-winning film captures Saroot's transition from protest figure to leader of an armed resistance as Assad's attacks on Homs spread death and destruction. You're not likely to see a more vivid chronicle of the nation's unraveling."

—***The Week***

“*Return to Homs* is a shocking, visceral documentary made among young Syrian fighters under siege from President Assad’s snipers in the devastated city of Homs.”

—**Kate Muir, *The Times*, UK**

“Viewers get a chance to go deeper than the headlines about Syria with *Return to Homs*.”

—**Christian Science Monitor**

“We often refer to athletes as ‘heroes,’ but few demonstrate the audacity or bravery of Abdul Baset al-Saroot, the subject of *Return to Homs*.”

—**Kevin McDonough, United Feature Syndicate**

“Haunting.”

—**Mike Hughes, Gannett**

“Derki’s refusal to feel powerless as his country falls apart proves heartening.”

—**Michael Nordine, *LA Weekly***

“A ferocious, devastating doc and a must-see for anyone seeking an insider’s view of the Syrian uprising.”

—**David Parkinson, *Empire***

“You begin to understand that what you’re seeing is not only men in transition, but also, the ways that Homs, the city once known as the ‘capital of the revolution,’ is changing, drastically and chillingly.”

—**Cynthia Fuchs, PopMatters.com**

“*Return to Homs* is a testament to the power of video to document resistance to corrupt and abusive regimes—in this case, that of Syria’s Bashar al-Assad. It’s also a witness to the limits of that power.”

—**Elise Nakhnikian, *Slant Magazine***

“The film makes you an eyewitness to the chaos of war. . . . Gripping.”

—**Cath Clarke, *TimeOut London***

“The images have an immediate, visceral impact; at the same time, Derki’s plaintive narration is often beautifully elegiac, its perspective philosophical and even cosmic.”

—**Ben Sachs, *The Chicago Reader***

“A ferocious, devastating doc and a must-see for anyone seeking an insider’s view of the Syrian uprising.”

—**David Parkinson, *Empire Magazine***

“There are shades of Kubrick to the long, uninterrupted shots that take us through bombed out buildings, a labyrinth of ruins that still have poignant ties to our heroes.”

—**Dan Fienberg, *HitFix***

“The movie is a forceful journey through the ongoing Syrian Civil War, bringing viewers from the early nonviolent demonstrations into the most brutal stages of the current military confrontation.”

—**Evan Gottesman, *World Policy***

“Derki’s filming. . . offers viewers an immersive, visceral, and fragmented entry into urban combat and basic survival. This is harrowing, and often difficult cinema, a sobering and angering exhortation for

international awareness and action. . . .”
—Basil Tsiokos, **What (Not) to Doc**

