

AUDIENCE EMANCIPATED: THE STRUGGLE FOR THE EMEK MOVIE THEATER

A film by Emek Bizim İstanbul Bizim
Documentary – 48min, 2016

Şimdi etme
gürsem bile
Biraz sonra
çıkabilirim
Madem ki bu
esvaplarla
ayakkaplar
benim
Ve madem ki
sokaklar
kimsenin
değil.



**AVM TİPİ
KENT
İSTEMİYORUZ!**

**TÜM
AVM'LERİ
BOYKOT
EDİYORUZ!**

**EMEK BİZİM!
İSTANBUL BİZİM!**



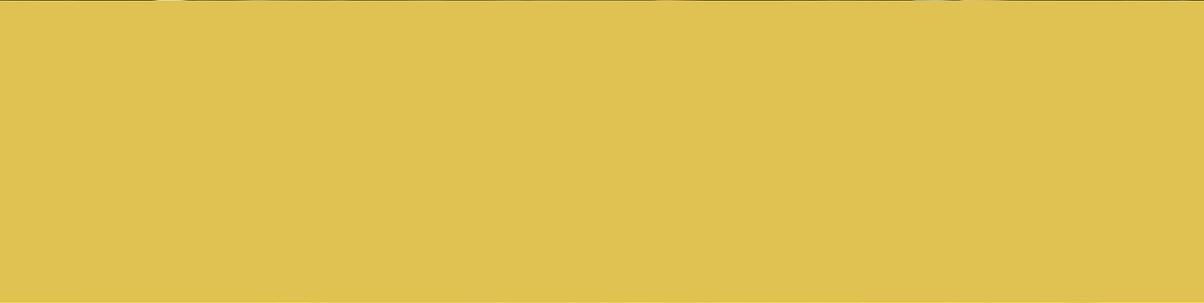
LOGLINE

A chronicle of the resistance against the demolition of the last standing independent cinema theater in the heart of Istanbul, which stood up as one of the most significant symbols for urban movements. All captured by the cameras of the activists and the spectators.



SYNOPSIS

Audience Emancipated: The Struggle for the Emek Movie Theater chronicles one of the most prominent struggles that took place in the heart of Istanbul and paved the way to the Gezi Resistance. It tells the struggle around Emek Movie Theater, which is demolished against people's consent and common good, and turned into a shopping mall, through the eyes of the activists and spectators. The film consists of the footage people who joined the struggle collected, and in this sense, aims to reflect the common imagination of the people who defended their right to the city. It carries the idea of a new publicness that gained visibility with the Gezi Resistance to the cinema screen through a political mobilization for cinema itself.



COLLECTIVE'S NOTE

Should we search for the story of the Emek Movie Theater in encyclopedias, or in what its curtains and screen witnessed over the years? Or, in its layered history that overlaps with historical turning points in Turkey? We didn't do any of these; instead, we searched for Emek's story in the streets. For, we saw that the filmmakers who made those films appear on that screen, as well as the people who watched them, were all in the streets to claim the Emek Theater. Numerous actions were organized to prevent the theater from being demolished, on its own street and on the Istiklal Street. Films that couldn't be watched inside were carried outside, screens were set on Yeşilçam Street, forums were organized in tents. Profiteroles from Inci Pastry were shared and stages were set in the streets. The social diversity that made the Emek struggle possible was visible in these actions. We did not turn our cameras to these gatherings since the cameras were already there. Emek Theater audience was spilled outside the theater to record what was happening. The political imagination, soon to reappear during the Gezi Resistance, could already be seen in these images. The dream and practice of different classes to come together against the urban plunder was sparked in these streets. The banner read: "Do not touch my house, my city, my history, my neighborhood!". "My cinema" was added in the list. What we did was to plunge in the records and to bring together words and images that mark a political will that can never be suppressed by any demolition.

FILM INFORMATION

Original title: Özgürleşen Seyirci: Emek Sineması Mücadelesi
English title: Audience Emancipated: The Struggle for the Emek Movie Theater

Running time: 48 minutes

Film genre: Documentary

Language: Turkish, English

Format: DCP, Stereo

Image: 1.85:1, Color

Production: Emek Bizim İstanbul Bizim initiative

Cinematography and Sound: Collective

Editing: Fırat Yücel, Zeyno Pekünlü
(on behalf of Emek Bizim İstanbul Bizim initiative)

Post-production: Atlas Post Production

Supported by: Yeni Film Fonu

Festival distribution: ARTvoltage / info@artvoltage.com

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Emek Bizim İstanbul Bizim (Emek is Ours, İstanbul is Ours) is an initiative that was formed in 2010 to organize demonstrations and events against the demolition of Emek Movie Theater in Beyoğlu, İstanbul. Since 2013, the initiative collected video and sound recordings of the demonstrations, made by activists, spectators and various filmmakers, which then turned into the documentary *Audience Emancipated: The Struggle for the Emek Movie Theater*.

DİKKAT!

**İNŞAAT SAHASINA GİRMEK
KENDİ GÜVENLİĞİNİZ İÇİN
TEHLİKELİ ve YASAKTIR**

