

HIGHER 15



LOGLINE

Filmmaker Ameha Molla unravels a long-held family secret about his uncle, a former Ethiopian revolutionary who escaped from prison and fled to the United States. His uncle's story sparks a deeper quest for answers to the legacy of war and violence, and the meaning of family.

SYNOPSIS

HIGHER 15 is a deeply personal story about the secrets one family was forced to keep as a result of their experiences during a period of government sponsored genocide in Ethiopia in the 1970's. The filmmaker's investigation into his family's past is ignited by his uncle Kiflu, a former revolutionary fighting against this brutal regime. While many in his family are fleeing the country to find safety abroad, Kiflu is imprisoned at the notoriously dangerous Higher 15 prison. He ultimately escapes, is smuggled into the United States - and 33 years after his arrival in Denver, comes face to face with the vicious prison guard who had tortured him, and others, decades earlier. Kiflu's story was never discussed in the family, and as Ameha looks further into this secret, he is faced with deeper truths about his family, as well as his place within it. Ameha's journey into secrecy, trauma and his own belonging is coupled with his hunt to access the prison guard, who has become the living manifestation of his family's trauma - now in prison himself outside of Denver.

CONTACT

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