

letter from... **BAHRAIN**

Pressrelease



Danes abroad: worldcitizens without a home?

"Letter from Bahrain" is about the everyday-life of 12-year old Kristine in the small Arab state of Bahrain. Kristine moved here from Scandinavian country Denmark when she was only one year old. Her father was going to work in Bahrain as an engineer.

Bahrain is one of the (relative) moderate and liberal Arab Gulf states. It is a country with a strong economy willing to invest in tourism and to work with foreign companies. Now and then a crack in the surface appears when the ruling sunni-muslims clashes with the shiite majority supported by Iran. The sheik family is trying hard to avoid revolts from the often poor and fundamentalistic shiite.

When the film was recorded i 1994, around 100 Danes were living and working on the Bahraini islands. All over the world Danes quickly adopts ways of having a good time and enjoying life. There is a lot of hard work when you are stationed abroad, but there is also an intense use of the sparetime. At first glance it may look like a life in luxury with desert picnic, sports, fishing trips and swimming pools. But here is also great sacrifices from constantly being on the run and far from the mothercountry. The family is very dependent on the work flow and the situation can change drastically over short time.

It may be hardest for the children having to leave home and friends behind again and again. Kristine has never been living in Denmark. Her everydaylife in Bahrain is very different from the life in Denmark, but it is the only way she knows. She knows that she has to leave Bahrain some day and it is not something she is looking forward to.

Kristine's classmates are a mix of "Arabs and Americans", but what is she herself? It can be hard to be Danish or any other nationality when you are moving around every fifth year. But "being Danish" is something people are aware about when you are living abroad. You celebrate Danish Christmas and sing the Danish songs at every given occation. Maybe the Danes abroad feel even more Danish than the ones staying in themother country.

The Danes "out there" are sticking together. They are not isolating themselves from other people, but nevertheless they probably feel most comfortable when they are together. That is very understandable and maybe we can recognize something from the foreigners living and working in Denmark.

The film is also about another way of being a Dane. It can be introduction to a discussion about good and bad things about living abroad, about patriotism, integration and identity. The primary target group of the film is children of the age of Kristine, but also families preparing to live abroad can have good use of it.

Visit the homepage for the film "Letter from Bahrain" for more information about the video and the country Bahrain. On Internet you will also find photos and videoclip:
www.image.dk/~crawfurd/jcjfilm/brevfra.htm

You can also reach Jacob Crawfurd on e-mail: Crawfurd@image.dk

Please note, the film is in Danish language.



www.image.dk/~crawfurd



Kristine is 12 years old and she has been living most of her life I the small gulf country Bahrain. In the film she is telling about her life far from Denmark.

*Produced and directed by
Jacob Crawfurd*

© 1996 JCJ FILM

