



## THEEB

Autumn  
Season  
2015

Release: 2014

Cert (UK): 15

Language: Arabic

Runtime: 100 mins

Director: Naji Abu Nowar

Writers: Naji Abu Nowar, Bassel Ghandour

Cinematographer: Wolfgang Thaler

Cast: Jacir Eid Al-Hwietat, Hussein Salameh Al-Sweilhiyeen, Jack Fox



Theeb is a young Bedouin boy who ends up helping his elder brother guide an Englishman across the desert in the Arab revolt against the Ottoman empire. The film is shown from Theeb's viewpoint and, in doing this, shows us the Arab view, not the 'Lawrence of Arabia' view.

On their journey, Theeb encounters dangers from all sides, both human

and environmental, which director Naji Abu Nowar uses to show the changing world of the Bedouins who are forced to adapt, even as they continue in their attempt to carry on as they have for centuries.

The result is a mix of a straight adventure story and a history lesson of the period, which tries to show the importance of fighting to keep the cultural differences round the world. It is the first film from Naji Abu Nowar – a UK-born but Jordan-based director – which has garnered him good reviews all round and even some awards at festivals, including Best Director at Venice.

He is very ably assisted here by the cinematography of the old hand Wolfgang Thaler, best known for his documentary work (eg 'Cathedrals of Culture'). Here he brings his skills to show the beauty of the landscape but also to let small details he picks out give us clues to the story.

