



24th HAIFA INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

פסטיבל הסרטים הבינלאומי ה-24 חיפה

HAIFA, OCTOBER 19, 2008
ONE DAY CONFERENCE ✈



OUR STORY 5TH
INTERNATIONAL PITCHING CONFERENCE
DRAMA DEVELOPMENT AND CO-PRODUCTION FOR FILM AND TELEVISION



FRIDAY, OCTOBER
17TH 2008

Mirrors Hall, Beit Hecht 10:00-15:00



THE WORKSHOP

10:00 Private and Group Meetings
Alan Fountain, Head of Studies EAVE
Danny Krausz, Producer, DOR FILMS

13:00 Falafel Networking

14:00 Pitch Seminar

Projects Pitched:

3rd Generation
Back to Paradise
The Declaration
Hunting Season
Is It Love
Let It Be Morning
The Man Who Shot His Legend
Mikve
The Slut
Sweet Heart

Development Assistance Grant
Makor Foundation
Israel Film Fund

The conference is conducted in English. The programme is subject to change. Limited seats available. Please register: 04-8353514/5

SUNDAY, OCTOBER
19TH 2008

Mirrors Hall, Beit Hecht 09:00-19:00



THE CONFERENCE

09:00 Coffee and Registration - Beit Hecht Garden

09:30 Greetings and introductions
Mayor of Haifa, Adv. Yona Yahav

10:00 Personal Passion and Agenda:
Jerome Clement, President of ARTE, France; Claudia Tronnier, ZDF, Germany;
Roberto Olla, EURIMAGES, Italy; Alan Fountain, EAVE, UK; Eva Hubert,
HAMBURG FILM FUND, Germany; Manfred Schmidt, MDM Berlin, Germany;
Albert Weiderspiel, HAMBURG FILMFEST, Germany; Danny Krausz, DOR
FILMS, Austria; Linda Beath, IDEAL FILMSWORKS, Italy; Jean Luc Van Damme,
BANANA FILMS, Belgium; Gabriele Brunnenmeyer, MEDIA, Germany.

11:20 Morning Break

11:30 Rules of the Game - Ruth Lev Ari and Amit Breuer
Pitching Session - Presentations

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Greetings: Pnina Blayer, Artistic Director Haifa Film Festival
Pitching Session - Presentations

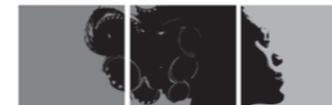
15:40 Afternoon Break

16:00 The Big Picture is in the Details
Co-production Behind the Scenes

17:00 Jury Break

17:30 Summation and Grants

18:00 Roundtable Networking



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OUR STORY 5TH

INTERNATIONAL PITCHING CONFERENCE

DRAMA DEVELOPMENT AND CO-PRODUCTION FOR FILM AND TELEVISION

Our Story is an annual gathering of creative film and television professionals with visiting European film and television creators, broadcasters, producers and film fund directors to co-produce our local stories as international initiatives in the growing multitude of formats and platforms.

Selection Advisors:

Suha Arraf, film director and screenwriter
Aner Preminger, film director
Yaron Seeling, screenwriter and producer

With the support of
Israel Film Council
Israel Lottery Council for the Arts

With the Assistance of
Israel Film Fund
Makor Foundation
British Council and **BI ARTS - British Israel ARTS Training Scheme**
Communate Française de Belgique

In collaboration with
Writers Guild of Israel
Israel Film and Television Producers Association

Produced and conducted by **Ruth Lev Ari** and **Amit Breuer**



Israel Film Council

On this significant occasion of the 5th International Pitching Conference in this complex and wondrous era of international interest in our cinematic vision, we wish all participants success in crossing cultural boundaries and expanding our story to international screens.

Micha Harish
Chairman, Israel Film Council



Israel Lottery Council for the Arts

Israel Lottery Council for the Arts greets the visitors and participants of Our Story - 5th International Pitching Conference and is pleased to be partner to its dramatic endeavor.

Estee Du-Nur
Manager, Israel Lottery Council for the Arts



Writers Guild of Israel

The Writers Guild of Israel congratulate all the participants of the 5th International Pitching Conference. "Our Story" has become an exciting event that we are proud to share and support.

Leora Kammenetzky, Chairwoman
The Writers Guild of Israel



Israel Producers Association

Israel Film and TV Producers congratulate Our Story for its 5th International Pitching Conference with pleasure and anticipation, and welcome the European visitors and the Israeli filmmakers on this special occasion

Chaim Sharir, Chairman
Israel Film and Television Producers Association



BI ARTS - British Israel Arts Training Scheme

"When I was five I was just alive!" Congratulations on your fifth year and keep up the good work. With a UK-Israel co-production treaty around the corner we look forward to even more joint successes in the coming years.

Julia Smith
Deputy Director, British Council



Haifa International Film Festival

On the occasion of its 5th Anniversary, we are pleased to see our Pitching Conference grow and be part of the fascinating expansion of the international co-productions initiatives of Israeli film and television across the world. Welcome to our 24th International Festival and Enjoy!

Pnina Blayer, Artistic Director
Haifa International Film Festival



Dear Friends,

It is an exciting 5th anniversary for the International Pitching Conference. We have become a vital threshold on the road to coproduction for the prominent visitors and a must attend for the Israeli film and television creators. With precious repeated guests and new visitors who come to listen and to share, we stir dramatic moments as we aspire to excel.

It's an exciting year. We are fortunate this year to host Jerome Clement President of ARTE France; Claudia Tronnier of ZDF, Germany; Roberto Olla of EURIMAGES, Italy; Manfred Schmidt of MDM Berlin; Eva Hubert of HAMBURG FILM FUND; Alain Fountain of EAVE, UK; Linda Beath of IDEAL FILMWORKS, Italy; Danny Krausz of DOR FILMS, Austria; Jean Luc Van Damme of BANANA FILMS, Belgium; Albert Wiederspiel of HAMBURG FILMFEST; Gabriele Brunnenmeyer of MEDIA, Germany and more.

It's an exciting year. We are proud to welcome MINI EAVE workshop which we triggered to Haifa to train local producers with the know-how of the European Audio-Visual Entrepreneurs .

We thank all our friends and supporters, our visitors and participants - It's an exciting year - enjoy!

Ruth Lev Ari Amit Breuer

Israel Film Fund

The demanding challenges of turning a script into an international co-production is always an exciting journey, many of these journeys began in "Our Story International Pitching Conference". Now in its 5th Anniversary we are happy to take part in it and we wish all the participants a successful event.

Katriel Schory
Executive Director, Israel Film Fund



Makor Foundation

We are proud to be partners to Our Story 5th Pitching Conference, having been there from the very beginning to experience our filmmakers as they turn the story of our daily drama into international films - Thank you all.

Gideon Ganani, Executive Director
Makor Foundation for Film and Television



OUR STORY 5TH



INTERNATIONAL VISITORS



JEROME CLEMENT, President of ARTE France

Jerome Clement was Chief Executive of CNC, Centre National du Cinéma from 1984-1989. In 1989 he was one of the founders of channel 7 "La Sept", soon to be president in 1991. The name of the channel was changed into ARTE by Francois Mitterand and Helmut Khol. In 2006 Clement was reelected as President of ARTE France for 5 more years. Clement was also an administrator for the prestigious Orchestre de Paris and The Theatre du Chatelet. He received the Légion D'Honneur several times, France's highest decoration.



CLAUDIA TRONNIER, Head of Department at ZDF, Das kleine Fernsehspiel

Claudia Tronnier is Head of the ZDF-department Das kleine Fernsehspiel since 2008. She handles a broad spectrum of productions covering fiction, documentaries, essays, experimental pieces and hybrid forms. Among them "Schultze gets the blues" by Michael Schorr or "Longing" by Valeska Grisebach. Claudia accounts for numerous international coproductions, in collaboration with ZDF/ARTE, such as "4 Months, 3 Weeks And 2 Days" by Cristian Mungiu or "What A Wonderful Place" by Eyal Halfon. In the "quantum" laboratory she initiated the successful documentary-soap "Stellmichein!", which received the Grimme-Award in 2007.



ROBERTO OLLA, Executive Secretary EURIMAGES - EAVE Legal Expert

After a successful career as legal advisor for the European Commission and legal administrator to the MEDIA programme, Roberto Olla is since 2002 legal administrator (permanent agent) for the Council of Europe, EURIMAGES Fund, the financial instrument of the Council of Europe for the support of cinematographic co-productions. Recent co-productions in his portfolio at EURIMAGES include "Désengagement" (Amos Gitai), "Capri 1934" (Benoît Jacquot), "Saturno Contro" (Ferzan Özpe).



ALAN FOUNTAIN, Chief Executive, EAVE Head of Studies

Alan Fountain has worked in the film and television industries and education sector in a variety of capacities since 1979. Independent producer/director 1975-81; Commissioning Editor Channel Four Television, 1981-94; Head of the Northern Media School, Sheffield Hallam University, 1995-97; Professor of Television Studies, Middlesex University, 2001-05. Since 2000 EAVE's Head of Studies. In addition, Alan Fountain is Chair of Hi8us Projects.



LINDA BEATH, IDEAL FILMWORKS (I) - EAVE Finance Expert

Linda Beath has set up the company Ideal Filmworks in Canada 12 years ago to raise development and production financing for international co-productions of high quality feature films and television programmes. It was incorporated in Italy in 2000 adding Business and Strategic Planning to its core business of entertainment industry financing. In addition to this, Linda Beath works on corporate development and film financing at Panorama Films in Rome where she is currently concentrating on six features in development. She teaches Business Planning and Strategic Planning all over Europe.



DANNY KRAUSZ, DOR Film GmbH.(AT) Producer EAVE Group Leader

An active Producer since 1988 and co-founder of DOR Film, Danny Krausz has produced and co-produced over 40 feature films. DOR Film was involved in 2 Oscar awarded productions and 1 foreign language nominee, and 1 nomination for European Film Award amongst many other festival awards over the years. DOR Film has also a tradition for television productions. Danny Krausz's recent productions include: "Ragin" by Kirill Serebrennikov (East of the West award Karlovy Vary 2005), Lapislazuli by Wolfgang Murnberger (released in October 2006), etc. www.dor-film.com



MANFRED SCHMIDT, MDM BERLIN

Manfred Schmidt studied at the institute for literature Leipzig and became chief documentary script doctor at Defa Studios. In 1992 he was deputy program director culture/science at MDR television. Since December 1998 Manfred Schmidt is working as the executive director of the Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung GmbH and is a member in European Panels among which is FFA Verwaltungsrat (dep.), Board of Directors Moonstone International, Kuratorium FilmFestival Cottbus, Festival des osteuropäischen Films, Präsidium Goldener spatz (President) and more.



EVA HUBERT, Executive Director of Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein

Eva Hubert joined the Film Fund Hamburg in 1991 as Deputy Director. In July 1995, the Film Fund Hamburg merged with the Hamburger Filmbüro to form the newly incorporated Filmförderung Hamburg GmbH. In 1997 she became its Executive Director. Since July 2007 she is director of the merged institution Filmförderung Hamburg Schleswig-Holstein. Before joining these funding agencies, Eva Hubert worked for eight years as an editor at the Hans-Bredow-Institute, a media research institute, where she was responsible for the "International Handbook for Radio and Television" as well as the institute's periodical. Eva Hubert is member of E.F.A. (European Film Academy), member of cine-regio/European network of regional film funds and member of the European Commission for EU-film matters.



GABRIELE BRUNNENMEYER, MEDIA Antenne Berlin Brandenburg

Head of the MEDIA Antenne Berlin Brandenburg since 1997. She has been a freelance for print and television, a script and continuity supervisor for film and television productions. Her education at the Albert Ludwig University in Freiburg includes study of German language and literature, political sciences and sociology.



ALBERT WIEDERSPIEL, Director of the Hamburg Film Festival

Born in Warsaw, Poland, Wiederspiel studied Art and Cinema History at the University Paris I Sorbonne and was later employed by 20th Century Fox International in 1985, and 20th Century Fox Germany GmbH in 1986 finally as Head of Publicity and later as Head of Marketing. In 1995 he moved to Hamburg to become Managing Director of CineMarketing (Deyhle-Bär Medienholding), and later Head of Marketing with PolyGram Filmed Entertainment's German branch. After the takeover by Universal, Albert Wiederspiel became Head of Theatrical Distribution. He moved to Berlin in 2000 to oversee the theatrical distribution of Tobis-StudioCanal and became Managing Director of FilmFest Hamburg in 2003. Albert Wiederspiel is a regular lecturer at the German/French MasterClass in Ludwigsburg, and a member of the European Film Academy



JEAN LUC VAN DAMME, BANANA FILMS

Van Damme is working in the audiovisual industry from 1983. He founded Banana Films Brussels (1994), and created Librisfilms in Paris (2004). He's now mostly producing International films in English. His production "Goodbye Bafana" directed by Bille August, a co-production of 12 Million US\$, was screened in competition at the Berlin Film Festival, 2007 and Billie August won the Peace Award. One of his last production Red Ants, a Belgian, France, Luxembourg co-production was presented in September 2007 at the San Sebastian Film Festival. He's currently preparing "WAVE" directed by Maria RIPOLL starring Franka Potente, Daniel Bruhl, Dougray Scott and Marianne Faithfull, "TASTE OF RAIN" by Richard PAKLEPPA starring Kierston Wareing & Eriq Ebouaney and "THE SCHMUCK" with an International cast and director. www.bananafilms.be

3RD GENERATION FEATURE FILM, 90 MINS

“3rd Generation” is the story of four parent-children relationships, which are examined during a three day period of a severe warning for a potential suicide bomber in Tel-Aviv. The Mothers efforts to protect their children from the unknown, lead them to take extreme and absurd measures.

SYNOPSIS

“3rd Generation” is the story of four parent-children relationships, which are examined during a three day period of a severe warning for a potential suicide bomber in Tel-Aviv. Malca, the single mother of nine years old Maor, protects him jealously and forbids him to take the bus to school in spite of the long distance they have to walk every day. Katarina, is a Russian Jewish woman who had sent her son, Serge, to Israel when he was just a little boy and upon her visit in Israel, after many years, is shocked when she finds out that her son works as securing buses. Rina, a successful lawyer, tries to control her barren disturbed daughter Lee, who takes many bus rides, like a Russian roulette, trying to put an end to her life. Moti’s mother had passed away, and Moti grows a beard to honour her memory during the traditional 30 day memorial period. His beard changes the way people in his environment treat him. The course of events brings the characters to a meeting point in the last scene, when they all board the same bus, in a journey towards an unexpected ending.

TRIGGER

While working on one of my films I had to grow a beard. The “new” look changed the way people treated me in the streets of Tel-Aviv. It also led to an embarrassing situation: One sunny day, I sat on a bar drinking coffee and, out of nowhere, the police arrived to search me since one of the customers alerted them suspecting me for a terrorist.

CREATOR

Nitzan Gilady, Writer, Director, Co-Producer
Nitzan is director/producer of the documentaries “Jerusalem Is Proud to Present”, “In Satmar Custody” and “The Last Enemy”. His films have received 13 international awards, participated in over 120 international film festivals and broadcast in prestigious TV channels over the world (among them are: Sundance channel and ZDF-ARTE). His TV work includes: “Singing to Oblivion - The Story of Miri Aloni”, “Do Not Call Me Black 2008” and “Dark southern deal”. “Home Made” his fiction feature film project received a writing grant in France at Le Moulin D’Ande. The short fiction drama “Queens up” directed by Gilady has participated at the international Jerusalem Film Festival. Nitzan Gilady has received a grant for the art of cinema 2004 initiated by the Ministry of education, culture and sport given to outstanding Israeli filmmakers and film professionals.



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BACK TO PARADISE FEATURE FILM, 100 MINS

A highly decorated retired general, in a moment of arrogance in his past, made a fatal error – and sold his place in paradise to an army cook for a plate of shakshuka, a dish he craved.

SYNOPSIS

Religious Background: Surprisingly, the Jewish halacha (religious law) permits the trade between people of two seemingly non-transferrable, abstract concepts: a “birthright” – as Jacob did in Genesis for the price of a bowl of lentils, and another person’s place in paradise.
Film Synopsis: A young officer returns to base after a daring mission. The cook, a religious Holocaust survivor, is envious. He believes a place in paradise is reserved for the officer who endangers his life for the sake of Jewish brethren. The officer, in the spirit of the Zionist ethos, is secular. He’s so hungry, he signs a contract transferring his place in paradise to the cook for a plate of shakshuka. Forty years later, a retired general is on his death bed. His son who, to his horror, has found religion, is in a race against time. If he doesn’t find the cook and nullify the contract, his father will go to hell.

TRIGGER

My uncle had a grocery in Jerusalem. A strange Breslov Hasidic yeshiva student dressed in shabby clothes enters his shop. He’s looking desperately for a man named Rabbi Simcha, an old customer of my uncle. My uncle helps the Breslov yeshiva student. The day after my uncle hears the whole story from Rabi Simcha who 40 years ago was the cook who bought a place in paradise.

CREATOR

Yossi Madmony, Screenwriter, Director
Graduate of the Jerusalem Sam Spiegel Film School 1989-1993, to his credit: “Melanoma, My Love” (2006), Israeli Academy award for best TV drama, The Israeli CINEMA award, Israeli film-makers’ most important personal award. 2003-2004 Chairman of Israel Writers guild, 2002-2003 “The Barbecue People”, Script award - Mar del Plata film festival, Golden; Remi award- best foreign film in Houston international film festival, Best Feature film in Dahlonaga international film festival, Atlanta; Best feature film in Washington Independent film festival. Best feature film in Islantila international film festival, Spain, Hamburg film festival. “Take-Away” TV series for Israeli Channel 3. (1999) The Golden Feather prize for Israeli writing for the mini TV series - “The Adventures of David”, creator and director of TV series “Bat-Yam New York” winner of the Israeli Academy award for TV drama (1998).



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THE DECLARATION

FEATURE FILM, 100 MINS

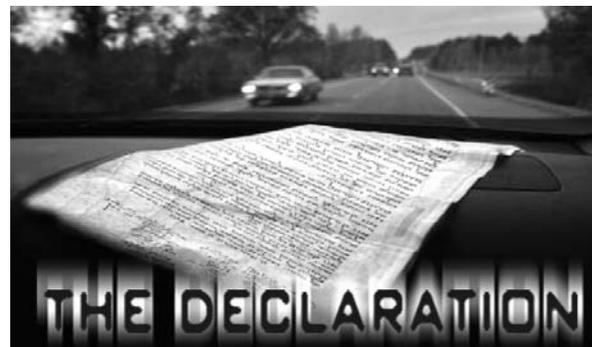
A grotesque, tragic-comic chase, after the stolen "Declaration of Independence" the historic symbol of Israeli identity and independence, taking place today in Israel, absurd and violent but at the same time naïve and humane.

SYNOPSIS It's the eve of Passover, 3 weeks before the celebrations of 60 years of Israeli independence. The original "Declaration of Independence" is stolen from the Museum in Tel Aviv. Amir (45) a police investigator, professional yet embittered, gets the mission to return the "Declaration" to its proper place. He doesn't know that Dudi (35), the somewhat naïve thief, has lost the 'Declaration' which is now passing hands somewhere in the country. Knowing that the situation is now challenging his manhood and professionalism, Amir finds Dudi and the two, while trying to retrace the journey of the document, find themselves, through violence and terror, on a quest for friendship and maturing. As they find "The Declaration" they also regain their personal independence.

TRIGGER "The things we do are the things that somehow make us...until they stamp their mark on our faces" (Yonathan Ratush. An Israeli Poet.) 2000 years of dreaming. 60 years of independence, sweat, violence, dissonance & grating. What has been forgotten in the clutter? Where am I? What am I?

CREATOR Yoav Halevy, Screenwriter, Producer

As a Screenwriter: "White Night"(1997). A Feature Film, Winner Prix De La Jeunesse, Cannes Int. FF, "Absolute Justice" (1999), Feature Film, "God's Sandbox" (2002), Feature Film, Winner Best screenplay & film, Manchester FF. As a Producer: "God's Sandbox" (2002) Feature Film, "Dear Mr. Waldman" (2006), Feature Film, "Third Person" (2008), Documentary Film.



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HUNTING SEASON

FEATURE FILM, 100 MINS

The unfolding of a passionate but impossible love affair while a Jewish spy ring seeks to replace the disintegrating Turkish regime with an enlightened British Government. A dramatic historical perspective of historical manhunt that has clear implications for the present.

SYNOPSIS Palestine, 1917: A Jewish spy ring called Nili seeks to replace the backward, violent, corrupt and disintegrating Turkish regime with an enlightened British Government that favors establishment of a Jewish national home in the Land of Israel. The ring operates contact with the British command in Alexandria via ships and carrier pigeons, sending them important information on Turkish troop movement towards the front. A carrier pigeon that lands accidentally at a dovecote belonging to the local Turkish commander leads to the spy ring's exposure. The cruel Turks surround the village. Yosef and Sarah part. A bounty is placed on Yosef's head. Arabs, Turks, Jews and Bedouins all vie for the reward. A British ship is due to arrive in five days to rescue spy ring members. But will they survive until then? Will they be able to meet at the designated place and time? Will the village be saved from the Turkish threat of destruction?

TRIGGER The story of the Nili spy ring closes a circle for me. I first heard the story when I was six from my father, a professor of international relations and an expert in British foreign policy in the Middle East. While he sat in the library I lay in the grass, eyes closed, imagining Sarah and Yosef, carrier pigeons, torture rooms, Turks and British. It has always been my dream to bring Hunting Season to the silver screen.

CREATORS Danny Verete, Screenwriter, Director

To his credit: Metallic Blues (2004, Jerusalem Film Festival Best Actor Award, Best Screenplay), "Yellow Asphalt" (2000, 5 nominations Israeli Academy Award, Best Film Haifa FF, 2000, Critics' Choice - Mediterranean Festival, Cologne, 2001), "Here Is Not There" (1996), "Black Sport in the Desert" (1992, Film Award Jerusalem Film Festival 1992), "Koko Is 19" (1985),

David Silber, Producer, Metro Communications - Production Company

Metro Communications, founded by David Silber and Miki Rabinowitz, is one of Israel's largest feature film production companies. Working in partnership with Israel's largest distribution firm, United King Films, Metro has become a leading factor in Israeli film production and international co-production. Among its films "Beaufort" (2007), "Lost Islands" (2008) and more.

Andrew Somper, Producer

Joined Warner Bros as Vice President of Business Affairs for Europe, the Middle East and Africa in which capacity he worked on major film productions such as Batman, Superman and Little Shop of Horrors, among others. In 1999, Andrew Somper, together with a partner, established Scotts Atlantic which has invested in a broad range of film and television projects, ranging from low budget "indie" productions to larger budget films funded jointly with major American studios.



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IS IT LOVE

FEATURE FILM, 80 MINS

Does love have boundaries? Is it sane or insane? How much will you sacrifice for it? This is a story about people whose love is tested; they must find their own answers – and fast.

SYNOPSIS In present-day Jerusalem, a city torn by conflict, four young people struggle with the consequences of their love:
Ilan's wife Michal has a psychotic break right after the birth of their daughter. Ilan must decide between his love for Michal and his worries about his daughter's future. Yael, a modern orthodox saleswoman, wonders why she can't fall in love. She comes to therapy only to discover that falling in love brings up more difficult and urgent dilemmas. Nadia, an East Jerusalem graduate student, must hide from her family who is out to kill her for having an out-of-marriage affair. Chen, who ran away from home to become a call girl, is now a successful pharmaceutical agent. She is torn between her lesbian lover who reminds her of her past, and her bourgeois mother who is determined to erase it. In the wake of a bombing that shakes up their lives, all four stories meet in a hospital lobby.

TRIGGER The screenplay is based on a collection of case studies written by Prof. Yoram Yovell. The unexpected lessons that his patients taught him about love became the subject of a bestselling book. Several years later a psychologist-screenwriter read the book and "saw" the movie.

CREATORS **Yoram Yovell**, Psychoanalyst, Psychiatrist, Author
Has written several case studies books, a novel and numerous articles and publications. Two of his books - "Mind storm" and "Is it love" reached the top of the Israel bestseller list. Wrote the book upon which the screenplay is based.

Eran Barak-Medina, Psychologist, Screenwriter
Graduate of the Sam Spiegel film and television school in the screenwriting program.



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LET IT BE MORNING

FEATURE FILM, 100 MINS

Just when hope surfaces between Palestinians and Israelis, Amjad's village gets under closure with no water, no electricity, nothing to connect it to the outside world.

SYNOPSIS After Amjad had quit his job as a journalist for a Hebrew newspaper, he moves back with his wife and daughter to the Arab village he left about 10 years ago. While peace talks go on between Palestinians and Israelis and it seems they will sign a final peace agreement, Amjad's village gets under total closure surrounded by the army. Stocks of water and food decrease.
How will the inhabitants of the village survive together when no electricity, no phones, nothing to connect them to the outside world?

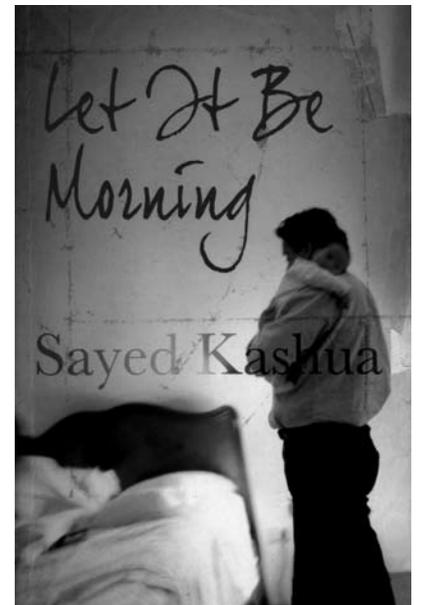
TRIGGER The encounter of filmmaker Tawfik Abu Wael with author and screenwriter Sayed Kashua's book "Vayehi Boker".

CREATORS **Sayed Kashua**, Writer
Born in Tira and graduate of Jerusalem University. His publication of Vayehi Boker translated into 8 languages, and awarded Lessing Academy Prize for Critic 2006 (Germany). His publication of "Aravim Rokdim" (2002) translated into 8 languages. Sayed is the screenwriter for the series "Avoda Aravit" (13 episodes) for Israel's Channel 2, Keshet and the screenwriter with Tawfik Abu Wael for the cinematic adaptation of Vayehi Boker. He writes a weekly column for Haaretz morning paper.

Tawfik Abu Wael, Director
Born in Um El-Fahim and graduated Tel Aviv University. He has made Atash/Thirst (2004, 112') produced by Avi Kleinberg which won the Fipreschi Prize, Critic's Week - Cannes International Film Festival; Wolgin Prize for Best Film at the Jerusalem Film Festival 2004; Maroun Baghdadi Prize (Special Jury Award) at Biennale des Cinemas Arabes in Paris 2004; Best Cinematography Award in Mostrade di Valencia 2004, and Best Cinematography Award at Arte Mare Mediavision, Bastia, France, 2004. In 2005 Tawfik Abu Wael was in residence at Cinefondation (Cannes Festival) and won the Cinefondation Award. He is currently in preproduction of his next feature film, Tanathor, produced by Amir Harel. Among his short films: The fourteenth (2002, 14'); Waiting for Sallah Al-Din / Nazereen Sallah Al-Din (2001, 53'); Diary of a Male Whore / Yawmiat Ahir (2000, 16'). Characters (1998, 4').



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THE MAN WHO SHOT HIS LEGEND

FEATURE FILM, 120 MINS

2000 years ago, the great Ecclesiastes said: "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." This is the story of heroism killing itself.

SYNOPSIS In 1953, exhausted by the War of Independence and the years of defending Israel's borders, my father was appointed 4th Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Force (IDF). With the changes he introduced, the IDF soon became the best army in the world, based on placing the commissioned rank at the front and forming a special unit that performed acts of retaliation deep into the enemy's territory. This is the story of one of the fighters of that unit, which acted like the foreign legion possessing the bravado of roaming enemy land. A man who is a living legend, "the greatest of warriors", as my father called him. A youth and man who built the animal section of the kibbutz in which he was raised by his father, which became the haven he escaped to in order to connect with nature, conquer mountain ridges and howl like a jackal from the top. This man knew one great tragic love - Shoshanna, his sister who lived with their mother on the kibbutz after their parents divorced. Meir Har-Zion was his name, "Har" (mountain) to his friends. He was a recluse, taking charge of the simplest operations as he trusted nobody, and going on solo attacks. When he was 17 he took his 14-year old sister, Shoshana, to explore the Jordan River... the adventure ended in Syrian captivity. They were separated for three months, after which they returned home to a silence of discomfort. Despite the unit's secret missions, Meir Har Zion became famous as the greatest of warriors. But the legend crumbled when his sister was murdered by Bedouins and Meir's basic instincts overcame him, compelling him to slaughter four Bedouins. From then on, he becomes self-destructive, his actions showing very little interest in life or in warfare. He was critically injured. With his hand and voice maimed, he somehow manages to build a cattle-raising farm he names "Shoshana Estate". But his life is devoid of love. He divorces his wife and turns indifferent towards his children. His last photo shows him sitting in his room on top of the mountain, turning his back on the magnificent view, his coffee before him and the room around him empty of Shoshanna.

TRIGGER As far as my generation is concerned, Meir Har Zion was the man who replaced Elvis, turning the Zionist dream into a never-ending journey of youth volunteering to combat units.

CREATORS **Assi Dayan**, Screenwriter
A Director, screenwriter, author, journalist and actor. Assi received a life achievement award at the 1998 Jerusalem Film Festival. Among his films: "Life According to Agfa" (1992), which was elected by the Israeli critics circle the best Israeli film of the decade, "Mr. Baum" (1997) and many more.

Eyal Shiray, Producer
Currently produced "My Father, My Lord" (Tribeca Best Film Narrative Competition 2007), "Time of Favor", "Total Love", "Birds in Neutral".



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MIKVE

FEATURE FILM, 100 MINS

Below the still waters of the "Mikve" flow the secrets and lies in the lives of orthodox women... Three women -three fates - are brought together by one wave of courage and truth...but not all can survive.

SYNOPSIS When Ruth finds out that the bath attendant whose place she filled -committed suicide - she's shocked. The senior attendant will not say a word and advises Ruth to do her job and beware of gossip. It is Tamara - the Rabbi's wife - who enlightens Ruth with the details - inviting her to open her eyes and see that the world she chose is not as perfect as she thought. It may be Tamara's words that force Ruth to hear a young bride's cry for help. Tehila, barely 19, is petrified of physical intimacy with a man she barely knows. Ironically, it is whilst helping Tehila that Ruth stumbles upon Tamara's double-life. The three women's fates are intertwined and it is only when there is no way back that the price truth demands is as clear as the water.

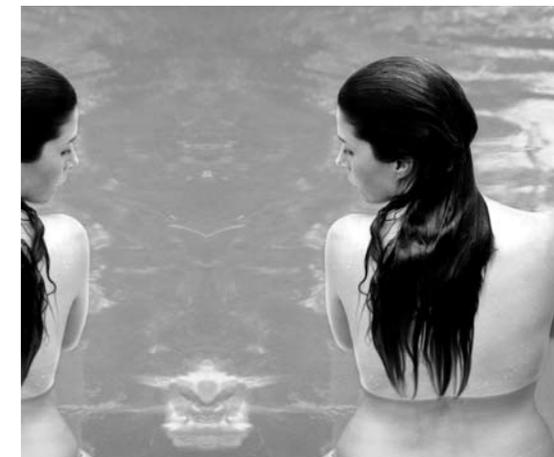
TRIGGER The screen play is based on a play I wrote in 2003 named "Mikve". It has been on stage since August 2004 (still running) and won a number of theatre academy awards including "Best Play - 2005"

CREATORS **Hadar Galron**, playwright, director, script-writer, actress and comedienne. Amongst her plays: Mikve, Pula (one-woman satirical comedy about womens' status in jewish law), Mahane Meshutaf (cabaret) Cinema: Co-writer for the film "The Secrets" (together with director Avi Neshet), co-writer and leading actress for the film "Brurya" (to be released this year). Director for theatre and musical shows

Eitan Evan
Eitan is a winner of the award for Special Contribution to Israeli Cinema at the 2004 Israeli Film Festival in Los Angeles. He is one of Israel's most renowned creative producers whose credit includes: "The Summer of Aviya" (Silver Bear Award- Berlin Film Festival 1989) "Under the Domim Tree" (Wolgin Award 1995 Jerusalem Film Festival, Official Selection 1996 Cannes Film Festival). "Dangerous Acts" 1995 (7 Israeli Academy Awards). "Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi"-2003,(20 awards and distinctions in international festivals). "Aviva My Love" 2006 (6 Israeli Academy awards, many International prizes.) "The Debt" 2007 and "The little Traitor" 2007 starring Alfred Molina, and many more.



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THE SLUT

FEATURE FILM, 100 MINS

Tamar is the village's slut. Her problematic pathology is the core of her daughters' childhood. Then arrives Shai. They fall in love. He can handle her ways. But not necessarily his own...

SYNOPSIS Tamar is 35 years old, pretty and noble, and mother of two little girls. Her pathology is stuck. One blow job after the other, one hand job chasing the next. She has got to please them all, while her daughters absorb her crooked being. And then, on a gloomy wintery day, arrives to the village a sweet sweet man. He might be her knight. He might show her redemption. They fall in love. But handling her sluttish way isn't that simple...
This is a film about Tamar, who wants only what is wanted of her, of two little girls left morally stained, and of a man who reveals his true nature...

TRIGGER Just because they are beautiful, just because they are complicated and just because they are simple. Because they are aware, because they are obtuse. Because one day there is love, and the other is revenge. Because they act out of fear, and because they scare us. Because a beautiful thing that dies is a dramatic element. Because a lost woman sacrifices her daughters. Because sexual abuse is genetic. Because a wounded man may become a beast. Just because.

CREATORS **Hagar Ben Asher**, Screenwriter, Director

Graduated with honors "Minshar for art - school and center". Her script "The Slut" was written at the "residence" of the "cinefondation-festival de Cannes". Her graduation film "Pathways" which she wrote, directed and acted in, was a part of the "cinefondation" competition of 2007, such as in numerous festivals around the world.

Marek Rozenbaum, Producer

Transfax Films was established in 1988 and since then produced over 40 feature films and international co-productions, among them award winning films that have received worldwide recognition. Marek Rozenbaum directed 2 feature films, and he is the Chairman of the Israeli Academy for Cinema and Television.

Itai Tamir, Producer.

Among his credits "Vasermil", "Tehilim", "Live and Become", "Avanim", "Or", "To Take a Wife" and more.



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SWEET HEART

FEATURE FILM, 95 MINS

In the days before the Insulin a young nurse gets an unbearable mission: to keep a young diabetic girl on the verge of malnutrition in order to save her life

SYNOPSIS Eliza - a young and orphan nurse - gets a new challenge: to be a personal nurse to Martha, a Diabetic girl. World war one is getting near the end, and Diabetes is still a disease with no cure. When Eliza arrives to the sanatorium on Mount Carmel, where Martha is hospitalized, she finds out that her mission is to keep Martha on the verge of malnutrition - the only way known at the time to extend the life of the Diabetics.
The inflexible routine of the two young girls is violated when Eliza falls in love with Amin, a charismatic guard of the sanatorium who is under a life threat because of his activities to protect the lands of his village from outsiders who plot to possess them.
When Martha gets an unexpected chance for new life, with the discovery of the insulin in far away Canada, Eliza must decide: a free but very dangerous life with Amin, or the security of her ongoing devotion to Martha in the protected haven of the sanatorium.

TRIGGER The script is based on a short story by Amalia Rosenblum which was published in the Israeli literature quarterly "masmerim"

CREATORS **Amir Ben-David**, Screenwriter.

Ben David is a magazine editor, musician and screenwriter. Among his credits: "Zohar" (1993) and "Volkan Junction" (1994). His first novel will be published in the winter of 2009.

Dina Riklis, Director.

Dina Riklis is an award winning filmmaker and television creator. Her feature films "Three Mothers" (2006), and "A Story that Begins with a Funeral of a Snake" (1994) were especially received worldwide. Her television and short films include "The Witch from Melchet Street" (2002), "The Postwoman" (2004), "Purple Lawns" (1998) and "Look Out" (1994).

Eran Riklis, Producer.

Eran is one of Israel's leading film directors and producers, among his credits "Lemon Tree" (2008), "Until Tomorrow Comes" (2004) (TV), "The Syrian Bride" (2004), "Volkan Junction" (1994), "Zohar" (1993), producing Dina Riklis' "Three Mothers" (2006), "Shiv'a" (1995) and more



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Nightwatching by Peter Greenaway courtesy of United King

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