

THE ISRAEL FILM FUND SAFEGUARDING THE FREE SPIRIT OF ISRAELI CINEMA

The Israel film fund was established in 1979 answering the need to create a public fund that will support Israeli filmmakers in realizing their vision and talent. Throughout the years the "Fund" has positioned itself as the main organization in the Israeli film industry supporting full length narrative feature films.

With an annual budget of 6 million Dollars, the main goal of the Fund is to facilitate the production of full length Israeli Feature Films produced by Israeli Production Companies, and to support their marketing and distribution in Israel and Worldwide. Since its establishment the Fund is proud to have supported the production of more than 380 films which reflect the fascinating, complex and turbulent Israeli social and cultural fabric.

From the Idea to the Poster: Over the years and especially in the last decade the scope of the Fund's support has expanded and it now incorporates the whole production process - from the "Idea to the Poster" - the Israel film fund assists, consults and funds film projects from the initial starting point of the idea and development of the script to the full film production including marketing and distribution in Israel and Worldwide.

First Feature: In the last 10 years 37% of the Israeli films that were produced with the support of the Israel Film Fund were *debut* films. The decision to support first features is based solely on the cinematic merits of the scripts and the projects. *The Fund's policy of taking risks and giving chances* has proven itself as many of the Israeli films of the last decade which led the breakthrough of Israeli cinema came from first time directors. The *debut* films brought with them a renewed spirit that has revived Israeli filmmaking.

Film Promotion: As part of its activity the Fund acts as a film promotion unit and is present in all the major international festivals promoting Israeli cinema worldwide.

Audience development: Recognizing the need to have a solid audience for Israeli films, the fund has been putting special emphasis into audience development and the development of Israeli Film culture. We believe that audience development

is part of the Fund's responsibility and an important aspect of it's activity. The Israel Film Fund reaches out to audiences throughout the country and keeps on maintaining the audience for Israeli Cinema through marketing and publicity as well as film literacy, film education and film culture. The main objective of these activities is to keep the brand "Israeli Films" alive and visible, connect with the audiences and maintain their loyalty to Israeli cinema.

Genre Films: Reaching out and developing a local audience includes tapping into "niche" audiences and opening up to "genre" films which have mostly a large young audience. To reach this goal the Fund initiated special production support schemes for "Genre films" – such as horror, thrillers, sci-fi, comedies and zombie movie. The Israel Film fund has acknowledged the importance of "Genre films" in keeping the dynamic and creative energy of the local film Industry.

The "Guerilla" scheme: The fund initiated the "The Guerilla super-low-budget films" scheme which enables filmmakers to submit to the fund very low budget films. If the Fund's directors and consultants decide that the script has a good potential and the production is feasible within this specific framework, *i.e. – a total budget of 225,000 Euro of which the fund will invest up to 150,000 Euro* – the project gets a green light to go into production. This section gives young filmmakers an opportunity to make a first feature and build a professional portfolio for themselves. The films submitted in this section have proven themselves to be daring, powerful and innovative and some of them gained local and international success.

The Fund is committed to keep on safeguarding the free spirit and imagination of the local filmmakers, keeping an open eye and mind on policy and action. We will continue to support and encourage the filmmakers to be truthful to themselves and to realize their creativity and vision with total creative freedom.

Executive Director: Katriel Schory
Head of Productions & Finance: David Lipkind

"ABULELE" A CHILDREN'S FILM SUCCESS STORY

Abulele is a big hairy beary monster... the local legend is that he is dangerous but it turns out that Abulele is kind, sensitive, friendly and playful. He becomes Adam's best friend and most kept secret. Someone to lean on and trust in the difficult time following the death of Adam's older brother in a car crash. Together they learn and realize that when you truly love someone, you are never really alone.

"Abulele", directed and written by Jonathan Geva and produced by Eitan Mansuri is Geva's first feature film and the realization of his dream to make a film that pays tribute to the films of his childhood, *E.T.* and *Back to the Future*. It's also the first Israeli feature film to combine live characters and action with 3D animation and special effects. The role of Abulele is played by an actor, Idan Barkai, but to give the monster rich facial expressions the filmmakers worked with 3D animation techniques. Abulele was produced with a relatively low budget which challenged the filmmakers to find creative solutions such as the use of motion control to overcome technical obstacles. The director, managed to create a children's fantasy film which is quiet uncommon in Israeli cinema. Abulele turned out to be a local success story! The film, which was locally distributed throughout 2016 swept local audiences in Israel with over 150,000 tickets sold in the box office. It's a success story because few Israeli children's feature films especially in the last years have enjoyed such a warm applause from the audience even more so, an animated – fantasy film for the whole family, a genre that does not yet have a solid place in Israeli film culture.

Now "Abulele"'s exciting and moving story is in line for a remake as the film's remake rights have been acquired by Epic Pictures (USA). Abulele was the most successful film of the 2016, 56th Zlin International Film Festival for Children and Youth where it received the Audience Award, the Children's Jury Award and the Ecumenical Jury Award.



2017

FILMS FROM ISRAEL

12 YEHUDITH BLVD. TEL AVIV 6701614 ISRAEL / TEL: 972 3 562 8180, FAX: 972 3 562 5992

INFO@FILMFUND.ORG.IL / WWW.FILMFUND.ORG.IL

ISRAEL FILM COUNCIL



Ministry
of Culture
and Sport



FOXTROT

A FILM BY SAMUEL MAOZ



Can we direct our fate, and if so, to what extent? At what price? Foxtrot tells the tragic story of father and son. While the father is in his apartment in Tel Aviv, his son, a soldier, is serving far away in a muddy isolated outpost. In the first part of the film, the parents are notified that their son was killed in action. A few hours later, the military authorities notify them again, this time that they made a terrible mistake and their son is alive. In the other half of the film our point of view changes. We focus on the son, stuck in the muddy outpost and busy with routine and nightmarish military activity. A series of odd events, coupled with group paranoia, reduces the son to acts that lead to his death. Later we learn of the father's sins. The seemingly chaotic randomness becomes a sophisticated, well-arranged plan of fate getting even.

Cast: Lior Ashkenazi, Sarah Adler
Director & Script: Samuel Maoz
Producers: Eitan Mansuri, Michael Weber, Viola Fügen, Cedomir Kolar, Marc Baschet
D.O.P.: Giora Bejach **Editor:** Arik Lahav Leibovitch, Guy Nemesh
Production: Spiro Films LTD
Tel: +972 52 860 5360 **Email:** info@spiro-films.com
World Sales: The Match Factory

NO FUTURE

A FILM BY ROMAN SHUMUNOV



A social drama centering on four young immigrant friends living in a poor neighborhood in the Israeli city of Ashdod. Surviving from day to day, they form a rap group and spend most of their time rehearsing for an upcoming music festival. They want to effect the harsh reality they live in and hope to do so by winning the musical contest which will give them a chance to have their voice heard. But everything falls apart when Andy, the main character has to face a tough crisis at home. The bank threatens foreclosure, and social services threaten to take his sister away. Andy feels helpless, and searches for solutions in the world of organized crime. Andy's bandmates desperately try to help him, risking not only their dream but their lives.

Cast: Vlad Dubinsky, Eduard Hmelnitsky, Zura Kartvelishvili, Renat Hasanov
Director: Roman Shumunov **Producer:** Itai Tamir
Script: Alexander Palevnik & Roman Shumunov
D.O.P.: Ziv Berkovich **Editor:** Haim Tabakman
Production: Laila Films
Tel: +972 54 456 4144 **Email:** itai@laila-films.com

LONGING

A FILM BY SAVI GABIZON



Ariel (55), is a well-off, childless man, he gets a phone call from his college girlfriend. She tells him that when they broke up twenty years ago she was pregnant and went on to have a lovely boy. Two weeks ago her son was in a car accident, he drove her car through the railings of a bridge into the river below and died. Ariel finds himself driving to the town of Acre and standing at the grave of the son he never knew. He decides to stay on, to get to know and understand who this boy was. Gradually, for the first time in his life, he experiences fatherhood. This is a journey that creates laboratory-like conditions to explore the hidden aspects of parenthood beyond giving and responsibility. Most of all, this is a sad comedy.

Cast: Shai Avivi, Asi Levi, Shimon Mimran, Neta Riskin
Director and Script: Savi Gabizon
Producers: Tami Leon, Avraham Pirchi, Chilik Michaeli, Savi Gabizon, Moshe Edery, Leon Edery
Line producer: Meir Tezet
D.O.P.: Assaf Sudry **Editor:** Tali Halter Shenkar
Production: UCM, United King
Tel: +972 3 627 6200
Email: Info@ucm-film.com www.ucm-film.com

THE TESTAMENT

A FILM BY AMICHAH GREENBERG



Yoel, a meticulous historian leading a significant debate against holocaust deniers, discovers that his mother carries a false identity. A mystery about a man who is willing to risk everything to discover the truth.

Cast: Ori Pfeffer, Rivka Gur, Hagit Dasberg, Ori Yaniv, Orna Rothberg, Daniel Adari
Director & Script: Amichai Greenberg
Producers: Yoav Roeh, Avrit Zamir
Co-producers: Sabine Moser, Oliver Neumann
D.O.P.: Moshe Mishali **Editor:** Gilad Inbar
Production: GUM Films
Tel: +972 3 620 5194 **Email:** info@gumfilms.com
www.gumfilms.com

REFUGE (WT)

A FILM BY ERAN RIKLIS



Two women trapped in a safehouse where nothing is safe and no one can be trusted. A thriller set in Germany involving a Lebanese woman and an Israeli Mossad agent sent to protect her. Mona and Naomi - together for two weeks in Hamburg. In a safehouse. A safe house. A refuge. No one knew that this would turn into a nightmare and that refuge would need to be found elsewhere. The intimacy of the relationship that develops between the two women is exposed to the threat of terror that is engulfing the world today. In this game of deception, beliefs are questioned and yet their fates take a surprising turn in this suspense laden, elegant neo-noir. In Post production (Feb. 2017).

Cast: Golshifteh Farahani, Neta Riskin, Doraid Liddawi, Yehuda Almagor, with Mark Waschke, Haluk Bilginer and Lior Ashkenazi **Director:** Eran Riklis **Producers:** Bettina Brokemper, Michael Eckelt, Antoine de Clermont-Tonnerre, Eran Riklis
Ex. Producers: Moshe Edery, Leon Edery, Ira Riklis
Script: Eran Riklis (based on The Link, a story by Shulamit HarEven) **D.O.P.:** Sebastian Eds Schmidt **Editor:** Richard Marizy
Production (Israel): Eran Riklis Productions Ltd
Tel: +972 52 244 2130 **Email:** eranriklis@gmail.com
www.utrfilm.com **World sales:** Beta Cinema www.betacinema.com

SCAFFOLDING

A FILM BY MATAN YAIR



Scaffolding follows 17-Year-Old Asher as he seeks a way out of his harsh reality. He has been a troublemaker through grade school, junior high and high school; while his oppressive father sees him as a natural successor to the family's scaffolding business, Asher finds a different masculine role model in Rami, his new literature teacher. Feeling he can't take the humiliation his father puts him through anymore, Asher looks up for a change, a new life, a new identity. When Rami suddenly commits suicide, Asher's life goes into a dangerous spin. He wages a losing war, trying to fight for Rami's honor, and crosses lines from which there is no turning back.

Cast: Asher Lax, Jacob Cohen, Keren Berger, Ami Smolarchik
Director & Script: Matan Yair
Producers: Gal Greenspan & Roi Kurland (Green Productions), Stanislaw Dziedzic (Film Produkcja)
D.O.P.: Bartosz Bieniek **Editor:** Dov Steuer
Production: Green Productions **Tel:** +972 3 516 6868
Email: maya@greenproductions.co.il, gal@greenproductions.co.il
www.greenproductions.co.il

IN BETWEEN

A FILM BY MAYSALOUN HAMOUD



In Between is a portrait of young women, Palestinian citizens of Israel, living and loving in Tel-Aviv. It captures their unbearable daily duality, caught between hometown tradition and big city abandon, and the price they pay for a lifestyle that seems obvious to many: the freedom to work, party, fuck, and choose. Leila, is a criminal lawyer from a Nazarene bourgeois secular Muslim family. She works during the day and at night she parties. Salma, is a DJ/musician. She is a lesbian from a "liberal" Northern-Galilean Christian family. Into the apartment moves Nour, a religious Muslim girl from a Southern-Galilean town who is engaged to Wissam. Caught between the rock of sexism and the hard place of racism, they live neither here nor there, and go through a bittersweet journey wherein there's no looking back, but the future is far from certain.

Cast: Mouna Hawa, Sana Jammeli, Shaden Kanboura, Mahmoud Shalaby, Henry Andrawes
Director & Script: Maysaloun Hamoud
Producer: Shlomi Elkabetz **Ex. Producers:** Galit Cahlon, Tony Coppi **D.O.P.:** Itay Gross **Editor:** Lev Goltser
Production: Deux Beaux Garçons Films Ltd
Tel: +972 52 800 3385 **Email:** galia13@gmail.com

MAKTUB

A FILM BY ODED RAZ



Steve and Chuma, are a pair of tough "protection" collectors in "Kesslassi" Jerusalem crime organization. Their last collection for the day is at a local restaurant, while they are both in the restrooms a deafening explosion shatters the place. To their surprise they are the only survivors of a terror attack. Steve and Chuma go to the "Kotel" (the Wailing Wall) to say "Ha'gomel" a prayer to thank God for saving their lives. Following their miracle they decide to change their ways and become living flesh and blood angels. From now on instead of acting as ruthless collectors they will fulfill peoples prayers based on the notes they find tucked in the Kotel stones. By this they hope to fulfill their own wishes and amend the wrong decisions they made over the years.

Cast: Hanan Savion, Guy Amir, Itzik Cohen, Igal Naor, Chen Amsalem, Anastasia Fein
Director & Script: Oded Raz **Producer:** Adar Shafran
Script: Hanan Savion, Guy Amir **D.O.P.:** Itay Neeman
Editor: Amit Ginaton
Production: FIRMA FILMS **Tel:** +972 54 523 8687
Email: adar@firma-films.com

OUR FATHER

A FILM BY MENI YAESH



Ovadia is the strongest, most unbeatable doorman of Tel Aviv's night clubs. He fears nothing and has never lost a fight. His biggest dream is to become a father. Ovadia and his wife Rachel have been trying to get pregnant for almost 5 years.

But without any luck
A small time gangster named Shalom, offers Ovadia a job as his debts collector offering him allot of money. Ovadia sees this as a great opportunity to start an expensive private treatment for his wife, with the thought that as soon as Rachel will get pregnant he will quit working for Shalom. But it's not that easy. Shalom wants him for a last important mission for which Ovadia will have to pay a high price.

Cast: Moris Cohen, Rotem Zisman Cohen, Haim Zanati, Alon Dahan, Herzl Tobey **Director & Script:** Meni Yaesh
Producers: Marek Rozenbaum, Jérôme Bleitrach, Michael Rozenbaum, Jonathan Rozenbaum
D.O.P.: Ram Shweky **Editor:** Shira Arad
Production: Transfax Film Productions, Bizibi (France)
Tel: +972 3 687 1202
Email: sales@transfax.co.il www.transfax.co.il

HOLY AIR

A FILM BY SHADY SROUR



Adam has a dream—he wants to be a successful businessman and to have a normal life. However, the harsh economic and political reality of life in Nazareth is strangling his daily life, to the point that he can no longer breathe. The millions of Pilgrims who come from all over the world to visit his birthplace and breathe "Holy Air" give him a brilliant idea: he can sell "Holy Air" bottles to the pilgrims destined to come for the Pope's visit. "Holy Air" is an absurd Comedy that relates to three basic rights: the right to bear children, to make a career and to live and die with honor. The film tells the story of the Christian minority in the holy city of Nazareth.

Cast: Shady Srour, Laetitia Eido, Shmuel Calderon, Tarek Coply, Dalia Okal
Director & Script: Shady Srour
Producers: Ilan Moskovitch, Shady Srour
D.O.P.: Daniel Miller **Editor:** Naamam Bishara
Production: TreeM Productions, Cinema Virgin
Tel: +972 54 238 1933 **Email:** treem@orange.net.il, cinemavirgin@gmail.com

PERSONAL AFFAIRS

A FILM BY MAHA HAJ



Nazareth, today. Salah and Nabeela are a married couple that hardly communicate, they live wearily to the rhythm of daily routine. On the other side of the border, in Ramallah, their daughter is about to give birth, her husband receives an offer for a lead role in a film and their son wishes to remain an eternal bachelor. Their eldest son lives in Sweden and invites Salah and Nabeela to be his guest at his summer cottage, maybe this will help save their marriage. Between check-points and dreams, frivolity and politics, some want to leave, others want to stay but all have personal affairs to resolve.

Cast: Sanaa Shawahdeh, Mahmoud Shawahdeh, Doraid Liddawi, Hanan Hillo, Ziad Bakri, Amer Hlehel, Maisa Abd Elhadi
Director & Script: Maha Haj
Producer: Baher Agbariya
D.O.P.: Ela'ad Debi **Editor:** Veronique Lange
Production: Majdal Films
Tel: + 972 54 300 8004
Email: baheir@gmail.com
World Sales: Films Boutique info@filmsboutique.com

ECHOES

A FILM BY AMIKAM KOVNER & ASSAF SNIR



Avner's wife has a lover. He secretly records their conversations. When she dies in an accident, all he is left with are the tapes. Obsessively listening to them, Avner tries to discover the lover's identity. The search will make him doubt everything he thought was certain.

Cast: Yael Abecassis, Yoram Toledano, Guri Alfi, Tsahi Halevi, Noa Zur, Ilanit Ben Yaakov, Alisa Rozen
Directors: Amikam Kovner, Assaf Snir
Producer: Yoni Paran, Keren Michael
Script: Amikam Kovner, Assaf Snir **D.O.P.:** Daniel Miller
Production: Dorimedia Paran
Tel: +972 54 811007 **Email:** kerenmich@gmail.com

HOME PORT

A FILM BY EREZ TADMOR



Aaron, a veteran seaman, returns to land after 30 years at sea. He accepts an administrative position at the Ashdod Port and soon finds himself in confrontation with Rahamim Azoulai, a working class leader who tries to protect the world he's built for himself and his men.

Home Port is a sun drenched social drama inhabited by strong headed men and determined women. It is a story of a city, a port, a need to build a life even on shaky ground.

Cast: Yoram Hattab, Shmil Ben-Ari, Ana Dubrovitsky, Sharon Alexander, Liron Ben Shlush
Director: Erez Tadmor
Producers: Talia Kleinhendler, Osnat Handelsman Keren, Leon Edery, Moshe Edery
Script: Shlomo Efrati & Erez Tadmor **D.O.P.:** Ziv Berkovich
Editor: Einat Glaser Zarhin
Production: Pie Films, United King Films
Tel: +972 54 596 3015 **Email:** osnat@piefilms.co.il

EVERYTHING IS BROKEN UP AND DANCES

A FILM BY NONY GEFFEN



Nony Geffen, 30, was named after his uncle, Amnon, who was killed in the Yom Kippur War. Amnon, rest his soul, was an unrecognized musician. Nony is a shy university student. His best friend and roommate is a musician trying to make it in Tel Aviv. After being called to the reserves duty, Nony suffers shell shock due to fighting in Gaza. After a long psychiatric treatment, Nony comes out of it, but he is convinced that he is "Amnon" his deceased uncle although he is not a singer and does not even know how to play.

Cast: Dudu Tassa, Nony Geffen, Makram J Khori, Kobi Farag, Yossi Marshak, Gilat Ankori, Dvir Benedek
Director: Nony Geffen
Producer: Itai Tamir
Ex. Producers: Blerta Basholli, Artan Korenica, Nony Geffen, Shlomi Geffen & Gil Reshesf
Script: Nony Geffen & Assi Dayan
D.O.P.: Ziv Berkovich **Editor:** Maor Keshet
Production: Laila Films
Tel: +972 54 456 4144
Email: itai@laila-films.com

ANTENNA

A FILM BY ARIK ROTSTEIN



Yehoshua, 84, discovers a cellular antenna on the roof of his cottage. It turns out that his neighbor has rented out his part of the roof to the cellphone company. Yehoshua believes that all his ailments are caused by the radiation of the antenna, and his feelings escalate into an obsession as he sets out to wage war with his evil neighbor. His wife and three grown up sons are unwillingly swept into this battle, revealing their personal problems and forcing them to confront a dark shadow from their fathers past.

Cast: Alex Peleg, Gila Almagor, Miki Leon, Ishaï Golan, Michael Aloni, Hila Feldman, Mirjam Roth
Director & Script: Arik Rotstein
Producers: Marek Rozenbaum, Michael Rozenbaum, Jonathan Rozenbaum
D.O.P.: Giora Bejach **Editor:** Shira Arad
Production: Transfax Film Productions
Tel: +972 3 687 1202
Email: sales@transfax.co.il www.transfax.co.il

THE 90 MINUTE WAR

A FILM BY EYAL HALFON



Friends, we've found a solution to the Israeli - Palestinian conflict. The solution agreed by both sides, the solution that will bring to an end the dispute and bloodshed. After a hundred years old conflict, just before the outbreak of a new wave of hostilities, the UN together with the two leaders- Israeli Prime Minister and head of the Palestinian Authority -decide that there is only one logical solution: a football match. The winner gets to stay. The loser leaves, forever and no whining.

Cast: Moshe Ivgy, Norman Issa, Alexandro Barta, Rafi Rothstein
Director & Script: Eyal Halfon
Based on a book by: Itay Meirson
Producers: Assaf Amir, Steve Hudson
D.O.P.: Daniel Kedem **Editor:** Arik Lahav-Leibovitch
Production: Norma Productions, Gringo Films
Tel: +972 3 560 9311
Email: info@norma.co.il www.norma.co.il

APPLE OF MY EYE

A FILM BY YARON SHANI



The lives of six middle class individuals stand in the center of an intertwined plot:

a young woman who is gaining international success with her first novel wakes up with a terrible feeling that she has been raped; an adorned police officer finds himself being charged with sexuality harassment, he loses his position and his honor; an uncurbed pole dancer that can't escape her past goes downhill; a shy and gifted teenager that has never kissed a girl is recruited to the army where he gets the courage to fulfill his fantasies; a loyal wife hides a painful truth and dedicates herself to her husband's happiness. Surprising links and connections between the stories reveal a voice of suppressed violence and pain of Israel's bourgeoisie.

Cast: Lea Tonic, Bar Gottfried, Ori Shani, Eran Naim, Stav Almagor, Laili Sivan
Director & Script: Yaron Shani **Producer:** Saar Yogev, Naomi Levari **Ex/co Producers:** Michael Reuter
D.O.P.: Shai Skiff, Nizan Lotem **Editor:** Yaron Shani
Production: Black Sheep Films, The Post Republic
Tel: +972 74 703 9009 **Email:** info@bsheepfilms.com
www.bsheepfilms.com **World Sales:** Films Distribution

DON'T FORGET ME

A FILM BY RAM NEHARI



Nil, 24, is a gifted classical musician suffering from mental illness and undergoing rehabilitation after a number of traumatic years in which he was in and out of a mental hospitals and almost entirely cut off from society. When his childhood friend, Alon, surprises him with an offer to join his band for a tour in Europe, Nil suffers a manic attack. Tom, 20, is hospitalized on a closed eating disorder wing. She runs into Nil and charms him with her winning smile, getting him to help her escape. The two embark on a nocturnal journey that reveals their illnesses, their passions, and their dreams of going back to being the people they were, before their minds betrayed their hearts.

Cast: Nitai Gvirtz, Moon Shavit, Rona Leepaz, Carmel Beto, Eilan Wolman, Tal Berkovich
Director: Ram Nehari **Ex. Producer:** Yifat Prestelnik
Co-Producers: Veronique Zerdoun, Christoph Peitzenhauser
Executive Producers: Tonie Marshall, Yan Schoenfeld
Script: Nitai Gvirtz **D.O.P.:** Shark De Mayo
Editor: Ido Muchrik
Production: Yifat Prestelnik Films Ltd, Tabo Tabo Films, Film Five
Tel: +972 3 566 3882 **Email:** office@yifatfilms.co.il
www.tabotabo.com www.filmfive.net