

## THE ISRAEL FILM FUND SAFEGUARDING THE FREE SPIRIT OF ISRAELI CINEMA

The Israel Film Fund was established in 1979 with the aim of facilitating the production of full-length Israeli feature films. The Filmmakers who initiated the establishment of the Fund voiced their need for a public support system that will assist them in realizing their cinematic visions and enable them to create and make films independent of commercial interests or creative boundaries.

Public funding of the Arts in small countries with limited financial sources is an absolute fundamental necessity. Public support and investment in culture and Art is not a charity but a basic right. It is a basic need and privilege that a government has to provide to its citizens as it provides water, electricity, food and security and without any political bias. Furthermore, creative freedom cannot be partial or conditioned.

The Israel Film Fund and the Israeli filmmakers demonstrate that freedom of expression is still a basic and undisputed value in Israel. With a public financial support system, the Israeli filmmakers manage to keep on developing their talent and skills and a distinct film language which has been generating curiosity, anticipation and interest.

In a bold, unflattering voice and style, the Israeli filmmakers observe, examine and tell stories that offer a straightforward view of the social, political and cultural reality and yet remains personal and honest. Israeli films mirror and reflect the intricate and complex society and region we live in and with all the mixed feelings towards Israel, Israeli feature films and documentaries alike – manage to make the crossover and touch the hearts of viewers around the world.

In the 39 years since its establishment, the Israel Film Fund supported the production of more than 400 feature films. Throughout the years, the Fund has always made it a point to enable filmmakers to remain truthful to their story, their ideas and imagination.

In order to do so, the Fund initiated a variety of support schemes to encourage emerging filmmakers to establish their expressive language. The Israel Film Fund will continue to support Israeli Filmmakers who tell with great courage and integrity the story of Israel's turbulent society and reality. The Fund will keep on fulfilling its role as a Public film support system committed to safeguarding the free spirit of Israeli filmmaking.

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

## FILMS FROM THE BACKYARD

Adolescents coming from rough economic and social backgrounds stand in the center of three of the most engaging films that were produced in Israel in the last year. Juvenile delinquents in "Doubtful", Russian immigrant teens in "No Future" and 17-Year-old Asher who seeks a way out of his predicted existence in "Scaffolding" are the heroes of these powerful films, which bring the periphery to the center. They expose real life heroes from periphery towns that face a social reality that offers them little or no hope for change or a future. The titles of the films are an expressive statement symbolizing the heroes' existential situation.

All three films were directed by first time directors, who wrote the script based on their personal experience and encounters with teens from harsh neighborhoods that face economic and social difficulties. Furthermore, all three films have non-actors playing lead roles. These social realist films come from the heart and give a fist to the stomach.

Matan Yair, the director of "Scaffolding", had been teaching literature mostly to students on probation from working class backgrounds. Yair began to ask himself questions about the outcome of his work. He recounts, "I began to wonder about the meaning of these classes. If someone asked the students what they learned here, what would they answer? What would remain from all the time we spent together? I needed to write something in order to cultivate hope... I began to sketch the outlines of a story in my mind". When he met his student Asher Lax, the lead actor and hero of the film, he was immediately intrigued and inspired.

"No Future" was inspired by Roman Shumunov's encounter with a group of former USSR immigrants in an impoverished community in Israel who are trying to win an International Breakdance Championship. Shumunov documented their hardships and dreams in a documentary titled "Babylon Dreamers" with the hope that the film will raise awareness to the challenges and circumstances faced by young people in Israel from a low economic status. "No Future" is the feature fiction adaptation of the documentary focusing on a group of Rappers struggling to keep their heads above the water.

Eliran Elya directed and wrote "Doubtful" based on a true shocking story that happened to him while working with juvenile teen delinquents.

A broad look at Israeli cinema reveals that few Israeli films are based on literary adaptations; the ideas and stories come from a very personal place and the scriptwriters/directors connection and involvement with the characters. As noted by Katriel Schory, executive director of the Fund: "The population in Israel is so diverse, there are so many layers, minorities, communities, Israeli, Palestinian, secular and religious. We try to reflect that. This country has become known for the stories it throws up", he says.

The Social realist films focusing on teens from the periphery mirror this social diversity and the tight connection between Israeli Filmmaking and Israeli reality and society. They also express a candid viewpoint that for these teens the future is uncertain and an opportunity for change or a way out is not at all evident.



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## DOUBTFUL

A FILM BY **ELIRAN ELYA**



Assi, a screenwriter and poet, is stuck in his personal life. He is full of doubt, disturbing thoughts, and existential restlessness. He is sentenced to community service due to a drunken-driving motorcycle accident in which he was involved. For his community service, he is sent to work with juvenile delinquents in Beersheba – the desert city in southern Israel – who are under house arrest and must attend sessions with Assi in the neighborhood shelter as a condition for their parole. Their extreme personalities, their riotous energy, and their charm awaken in him curiosity and attraction; together, they break through the boundaries of the rehabilitative framework.

**Cast:** Ran Danker, Adar Hazazi Gersch, Hilla Surjon, Bat-El Museri, Liron Ben Shlush  
**Director & Script:** Eliran Elya  
**Producer:** Oren Rogovin  
**Producer in Charge:** Asaf Nawi  
**D.O.P.:** Shai Goldman  
**Editor:** Arik Lahav-Leibovich  
**Production:** Rogovin Brothers LTD. **Tel:** +972 3 723 2354  
**Email:** info@rogovinbros.com

## NO BLOOD

A FILM BY **JOSEF EL-DOR**



Manny (35) is summoned by the police and shown photos of himself being watched by a girl he does not know. He goes out looking for her, they get involved and he disappears. Or, so it may seem.  
An Israeli story about fluid borders and troubled minds.

**Cast:** Danny Isserles, Udi Rothschild, Dana Meinrath, Sasi Samocha, Neta Bar Refael, Danielle Jadelyn  
**Director & Script:** Josef El-Dror  
**Producer:** Liran Atzmor  
**D.O.P.:** Shai Goldman  
**Editor:** Arik Lahav-Leibovich  
**Tel:** +972 52 800 3362  
**Email:** atzmor@gmail.com

## EDEN

A FILM BY **TAL GRANIT & SHARON MAYMON**



Three teenagers from Jerusalem sell their kidneys to pay for cosmetic surgery and prom dresses. As a secret uncovers they realize nothing is as it seems.

**Cast:** Stav Strashko, Netsanet Zenaneh Mekonnen, Noam Lugasy, Micha Selektor, Asi Levi  
**Directors & Script:** Tal Granit, Sharon Maymon  
**Producers:** Osnat Handelsman Keren, Talia Kleinhandler, Moshe Edery, Leon Edery, Thanassis Karathanos, Martin Hampel  
**D.O.P.:** Giora Bejach  
**Editor:** Einat Glaser Zarhin  
**Production:** Pie Films Ltd, Pallas Films, United King Films  
**Pie Films:** Tel:+972 54 596 3015 **Email:** osnat@piefilms.co.il  
**World sales:** Beta Cinema

## APPLE OF MY EYE

A FILM BY **YARON SHANI**



Alice wakes up with the terrible feeling that she has been raped. Her attempts to repress these nightmarish thoughts collapse, as she finds herself petrified and unable to get out of her apartment. Just across the street lives Ziv, a 17-year-old gentle and gifted musician who faces his own loss. Fate will soon join these two characters together and reveal how a crisis can produce both destruction and growth, violence and grace.

**Cast:** Lea Tonic, Bar Gottfried, Ori Shani, Eran Naim, Stav Almagor, Lital Sivan  
**Director & Script:** Yaron Shani  
**Producers:** Saar Yagev, 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  
**World Sales:** Films Distribution

## TEL AVIV ON FIRE

A FILM BY **SAMEH ZOABI**



Salam, a charming 30-year-old Palestinian living in East Jerusalem, works as an intern on a popular soap opera « Tel Aviv on Fire » in which a Palestinian female spy has a love affair with an Israeli General in 1967. Every day, he has to pass by a check-point to reach the studio. At the checkpoint he meets Assi, the checkpoint commander, whose wife is a huge fan of the soap. Assi puts all of pressure on him to try and influence the involving story of the soap. Salam soon understands that Assi's creative vision can get him a promotion as a screenwriter, at least until Assi and the show's producers start disagreeing on how it should all end, leaving Salam uncomfortably caught in the middle...

**Cast:** Kais Nashif, Yaniv Biton, Lubna Azabal, Salim Daw, Nadim Sawalha **Director:** Sameh Zoabi  
**Producers:** Amir Harel, Ayelet Kait, Bernard Michaux, Milena Poylo, Gilles Sacuto, Patrick Quinet **Script:** Sameh Zoabi, Dan Kleinmann **D.O.P.:** Laurent Brunet **Editor:** Catherine Schwartz  
**Production:** Lema Films, Samsa Films, TS Productions, Artemis Productions **Tel:** +972 3 685 0430  
**Email:** amir@lamafilms.com **World sales:** Indie Sales, Nicolas Eschbach **Sales:** neschbach@indiesales.eu

## 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 4811 007 **Email:** kerenmich@gmail.com

## RED COW

A FILM BY **TSIVIA BARKAI**



A coming of age story that takes place in an Arab neighborhood in a settlement in East Jerusalem. Benny (17) orphaned from her mother since birth and the only daughter of Joshua, an ultra right wing settler and the leader of the community, faces a crucial junction in her life. Benny meets Yael (19), a youth counselor and her world goes into a spin. A strong relationship forms between the two women and Benny embarks on a personal journey that will shape her religious, political and sexual consciousness.

**Cast:** Avigayil Koevary, Moran Rosenblat, Gal Toren, Dana Sorin, Uri Hochman  
**Director & Script:** Tsivia Barkai  
**Producer:** Itai Tamir  
**D.O.P.:** Boaz Yehonatan Yacov  
**Editors:** Haim Tabakman, Tsivia Barkai, Shira Arad  
**Production:** Laila Films  
**Tel:** +972 54 456 4144, +972 54 550 2961  
**Email:** laila.films2010@gmail.com

## VIRGINITY

A FILM BY **MAOR ZAGURI**



A bitter sweet coming of age story of a 15 year old youth, "Boy", that grows up in an isolated community in the southern "Arava" desert region. Every day, at 2 pm all the kids from school get on a bus and drive off, all except "Boy" and his unbridled friend Munbaz who urges him in every possible way to grow up as the time has come to lose his virginity. When does a boy turn into a man? When he starts thinking about death and sex. That's the thought that keeps resonating in the heart and mind of "Boy", the hero of the film. And indeed a tragedy strikes his family and the only possible thing "Boy" can do is to turn into a man and save himself.

**Cast:** Maor Levi, Or Adi, Itamar Kigler, Amos Tamam, Chen Amsalem, Liana Ayun  
**Director & Script:** Maor Zaguri  
**Producer:** Ronen Ben-Tal  
**Ex-Producers:** Moshe Edry, Lion Edry  
**D.O.P.:** Boaz Yehonatan Yacov **Editor:** Ron Omer  
**Production:** Plan B Productions Ltd  
**Tel:** +972 54 664 9771 **Email:** ronenbental@gmail.com

## 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 Andrey, the main character has to face a tough crisis at home. The bank threatens foreclosure, and social services threaten to take his sister away. Andrey feels helpless, and searches for solutions in the world of organized crime. Andrey's bandmates desperately try to help him, risking not only their dream but their lives.

**Cast:** Vlad Dubinsky, Eduard Hmelniitsky, Zura Kartvelishvili, Renat Hasanov  
**Director & Script:** 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:** Laila.films2010@gmail.com

## SKY RAIDERS

A FILM BY **LIOR CHEFETZ**



13-year-old Yotam is obsessed with flying, but his overprotective mother won't let him anywhere near planes, especially after he lost his father in a jet crash a few years ago. When Yotam and his classmate Noa find a rare antique plane in the local junkyard, they team up with Morris, an 80-year-old grumpy loner who used to be a pilot. Together they try to bring the plane back to life, just in time for the annual Air Show. "Sky Raiders" is an uplifting adventure feature film for the entire family.

**Cast:** Amir Tessler, Arie Tchermer, Hila Natanzon, Nathan Ravitz, Riki Blich  
**Director & Script:** Lior Chefetz  
**Story by:** Lior Chefetz, Ian Dickinson and Joe Swanson  
**Inspired by a book by:** Oded Marom  
**Producers:** Chilik Michaeli, Avraham Pirchi, Moshe Edry, Leon Edry  
**D.O.P.:** Ofer Inov  
**Editor:** Omer Zaitman  
**Production:** UCM - United Channel Movies  
**Tel:** +972 3 627 6200 **Email:** info@ucm-film.com

## THE COUSIN

A FILM BY **TZAHY GRAD**



One morning, Naftali (45) hires a Palestinian worker named Fahed to renovate the crumbling studio outside his home in a quiet village in central Israel. That same morning, a young woman in the village is attacked and the suspicions fall immediately on Fahed. Initially, Naftali's decent impulses compel him to defend Fahed (and his renovations) but he finds it difficult to deal with the pressure around him. Very soon, cracks begin to show in his liberal facade. Naftali starts to question his own judgement and within twenty-four hours his life begins to spin out of control.

**Cast:** Tzahi Grad, Ala Dakka, Osnat Fishman, Uri Hochman  
**Director & Script:** Tzahi Grad  
**Producers:** Ehud Bleiberg, Tzahi Grad  
**Ex. Producers:** Charles Wachsborg, Nicholas Donnermeyer  
**D.O.P.:** Eitan Hatuka  
**Editors:** Sari Bisharat, Danny Rafic  
**Production:** Bleiberg Entertainment, MHI  
**Email:** foulgesture@012.net.il  
**World sales:** Bleiberg Entertainment, sales@bleibergent.com

## LACES

A FILM BY **JACOB GOLDWASSER**



A complicated relationship between an aging father and his special-needs son, whom he abandoned while he was a young boy. Reuben's (60) kidney's are failing and his son Gadi (35), wants to donate one of his own kidney's to help save his father's life. However, the transplant committee objects to the procedure claiming that Reuben, acting as Gadi's sole legal guardian, does not have the right to authorize such an invasive procedure. Gadi, who recently lost his mother, is afraid of losing his father as well. He feels he finally has the chance to do something meaningful; to become a man and stand on his own. He's furious with the committee's decision and sets out to fight for his right to save his father's life.

**Cast:** Dovale Glickman, Nevo Kimchi, Evelin Hagoel  
**Director:** Jacob Goldwasser  
**Producers:** Marek Rozenbaum, Michael Rozenbaum  
**Script:** Haim Marín  
**D.O.P.:** Boaz Yehonatan Yacov  
**Editor:** Itamar Goldwasser  
**Production:** Transfax Film Productions  
**Tel:** +972 3 687 1202 **Email:** michael@transfax.co.il  
**World Sales:** www.transfax.co.il

## THE TESTAMENT

A FILM BY **AMICHAÏ 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,  
**Director & Script:** Amichai Greenberg  
**Producers:** Yaav Roah, Aurit Zamir  
**Co-producers:** Sabine Moser, Oliver Neumann  
**D.O.P.:** Moshe Mishali **Editor:** Glad Inbar  
**Production:** Gum Films  
**Tel:** +972 3 620 5194 **Email:** info@gumfilms.com  
**www.gumfilms.com**  
**World Sales:** INTRA MOVIES **www.intramovies.com**

## 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, Yonatan Shiray  
**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 Nemesch  
**Production:** Spiro Films LTD **Tel:** +972 52 860 5360  
**Email:** info@spiro-films.com **World Sales:** The Match Factory

## SCAFFOLDING

A FILM BY **MATAN YAIR**



17-year-old ASHER has always been the impulsive troublemaker at school. While his strict father sees him as a natural successor to his scaffolding business, Asher forges a special connection with his literature teacher Rami and begins to see new possibilities for himself. That is, until an unexpected tragedy occurs, and changes everything.

**Cast:** Asher Lax, Yaakov Cohen, Ami Smolarchik, Keren Berger  
**Director & Script:** Matan Yair  
**Producers:** Gal Greenspan, Roi Kurland, 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**  
**World Sales:** New Europe Film Sales

## LONGING

A FILM BY **SAVI GABIZON**



Ariel, a well-off, childless man, gets a phone call from his college girlfriend. She needs to tell him a couple of very surprising things: first, when they broke up twenty years ago, she was pregnant and went on to have a lovely boy. The second thing will change his life forever. 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 very 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**

**Cast:** Hanan Savion, Guy Amir, Itzik Cohen, Igal Naor, Chen Amsalem, Anastasia Fein  
**Director:** 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

## SHELTER

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.

**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 Edschmid **Editor:** Richard Marizy  
**Production (Israel):** Eran Riklis Productions Ltd  
**Tel:** +972 52 244 2130 **Email:** eranriklis@gmail.com  
**www.ulfilm.com** **World sales:** Beta Cinema **www.betacinema.com**

## MAKTUB

A FILM BY **ODED RAZ**



Steve and Chuma, are a pair of tough "protection" collectors in "Kesslassi's" 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'gomeh" 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:** 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