



THE FAREWELL PARTY



Written and Directed by
Sharon Maymon and Tal Granit

Starring
Ze'ev Revah, Levana Finkelshtein, Aliza Rozen, Ilan Dar, Rafael Tabor

Produced by
Pie Films and 2Team in co-production with Pallas Film, Twenty Twenty Vision and United King Films

Not Rated
Running Time: 90 minutes
In Hebrew with sub-titles

Winner of 4 Ophir Awards including the Israeli Academy Awards®, including in the Best Actor category for acclaimed Israeli actor Ze'ev Revach, and received a total of 14 nominations, including for Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay, and Best Actress

Winner of the Venice Days' People's Choice Award

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

THE FAREWELL PARTY is a unique, compassionate and unlikely funny story of a group of friends at a Jerusalem retirement home who decide to help their terminally ill friend. When rumors of their assistance begin to spread, more and more people ask for their help, and the friends are faced with a life and death dilemma.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Well into their '70s, Yehezkel and his wife Levana are living a comfortable life inside a Jerusalem retirement home. But their contented lives are soon dealt a deep shock when their dear friend Max falls prey to an irreversible illness. Looking for a way out, Max asks Yehezkel for help to end his suffering. Yehezkel, a longtime amateur inventor, rises to the challenge by constructing a machine that will allow Max to self-administer a dose of tranquilizers. Levana, however, believes that such a device is immoral, and expresses her passionate disapproval. But when Levana herself begins to face a serious health issue, Yehezkel finds that his feelings about his new contraption become increasingly complicated. In THE FAREWELL PARTY, co-directors Sharon Maymon and Tal Granit have tackled an extremely sensitive issue in a vibrant and unique way. You will cry while watching this movie, but whether from laughter or compassion will be difficult to separate.

DIRECTORS' NOTES

"For against your will you are formed, against your will you are born, against your will you live", (Ethics of the Fathers chapter 4). Can you at least determine when to die?

THE FAREWELL PARTY deals with separation. Separation from someone you love, separation from yourself - when the mind begins to fail, and the separation from life and the right to choose how it all ends.

The main characters are senior citizens, in a retirement community in Jerusalem, people who have retired from their life's work – these type of people are not usually heroes of movies. But out of that very place of retirement and inactivity, they decide to gain control over their fate. As in any tragedy where the protagonist tries to change his destiny and of those surrounding him, there is an unbearable price to pay.

THE FAREWELL PARTY is also a film about love and friendship. Our five main characters find comfort, strength and hope in each other in the difficult and funniest moments of life.

The plot is not autobiographical, but is based on personal experiences accumulated while caring for a 'Helga'; someone close to us, towards the end of their life. In our process of saying good bye to a loved one, we discovered that when the body fails and the mind remains lucid, self-irony and humor remain the best way to cope with the prospect of death.

In our films we try to deal with contemporary social issues, which are often controversial. We try to break the emotional drama with absurd and comic elements. We do so also by casting comedians, and in the case of this film some of the icons of Israeli comedy, in dramatic roles. We feel this makes this difficult and important issue more accessible to our audience, and hopefully, as in life, they will laugh as they wipe away their tears.

Sharon Maymon and Tal Granit

THE CAST

Ze'ev Revach- YEHEZKEL

Revach was born in Morocco in 1940 and immigrated to Israel when he was eight. He is one of Israel's biggest film stars; an iconic actor who has made a name for himself acting, writing and directing in many of Israel's most popular comedies over the past 30 years. Many of the characters he played have become cult figures, and phrases from his films have become catchphrases in Israel as generations of people watch his films. Although his fame initially came from the many film comedies he has made as actor and director, Ze'ev is a versatile performer. He has acted for more than four decades in some of Israel's biggest theatres, with lead roles in many of the classics including "Medea", "Henry V", "Blood Wedding" and "The Birthday Party". In addition Ze'ev is a regular on Israeli television.

In 2002 he won the Israeli Film Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in BEITAR PROVENCE and in 2010 he was the recipient of their Lifetime Achievement Award.

Levana Finkelstein – LEVANA

Levana Finkelstein, was born in Bulgaria and lives in Israel and the U.S. She is an award-winning actress and sculptress. Finkelstein studied acting at the Beit Tzvi School of Drama in Israel as well as at the H.B. Studio in New York City, with the legendary acting teacher Uta Hagen. In Israel, Finkelstein is a major star in film, television and the theatre. She has won many highly coveted awards, most recently the Israel Film Academy Best Supporting Actress for her role in A MATTER OF SIZE and the Best Actress Award at the International Jerusalem Film Festival for her starring role as the Mother in the film MOTHER V, which has screened to great acclaim at numerous prestigious film festivals around the world including the Venice Film Festival. Finkelstein has also written, produced and directed the documentary FRIENDSHIP. Finkelstein started her theatre career in 1967 and she has appeared on stage extensively in Israel and the USA and internationally with the Village Rivka Gesher Theater and Shira Henrietta Kameri Theater. She is the recipient of The Tamar Rubins Award for Lifetime Achievement of an Actress in the Theater.

Levana's interest in sculpture grew out of a role she was offered. Her work has been exhibited in Israel, New York and Bulgaria, where several of her works are on permanent display.

Ilan Dar – DR. DANIEL

Ilan Dar was born in Tel Aviv in 1937. He started his career in film and has been performing in film and television for over five decades. He has been acting in Israeli theaters since 1958, playing more than 100 roles. Notable roles include his one man show "Like a Bullet in the Head" which he performed in English at the Edinburgh Festival and a starring role in the Israeli cult TV series "Krovim Krovim" in the 80's.

He received a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to Israeli culture in 2012.

Rafael Tabor – RAFFI SEGAL

Rafael Tabor was born 1948 in Romania. He studied theatre at the renowned Theater Academy-Beit –Zwi in Israel. He has performed over 200 roles on stage in Israel and his film and television career includes over 70 productions.

Aliza Rosen - YANA

Aliza Rosen was born in 1939 in Jerusalem. She started singing and acting at the age of 18, and is one of Israel's iconic singers and actresses. She has played numerous roles on stage and was part of the legendary Israeli music and comedy group "Hatarnegolim". She has appeared in many television programs, including Israel's ground breaking satire show "Head Cleaning" in the 70's and she continues to perform on television and in film.

Her film career includes Abraham Hefner's WHERE IS DANIEL WAX and Joseph Cedar's Oscar nominated film FOOTNOTE. A documentary about her, ALIZA, by Tomer Heymann premiered in this year's Jerusalem Film Festival

THE CREW

SHARON MAYMON AND TAL GRANIT (Writers and Directors)

Tal Granit, born in Tel Aviv in 1969, graduated from the Sam Spiegel school with honors. Sharon Maymon, born in Ramle in 1973, is a Camera Obscura film school graduate. Tal Granit & Sharon Maymon co-wrote and directed three films together prior to THE FAREWELL PARTY. SUMMER VACATION (2012, 22 min) premiered at the Sundance Film Festival short competition 2013 and won the first prize at Flickerfest Australia. It will be nominated for the long list of the 2015 Oscars. TO KILL A BUMBLEBEE (2009, 7 min) premiered at the Locarno Film Festival and won the Best Short Film Award at Valladolid Film Festival and other prizes around the world. MORTGAGE (52 min, 2006) won the Best Drama Award at the Jerusalem International Film Festival.

Sharon also co-wrote and co-directed (with Erez Tadmor) the feature film A MATTER OF SIZE, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival discovery section 2009. A MATTER OF SIZE won numerous awards including the Audience Award at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival. The film was nominated in thirteen categories in the Israeli Academy Awards and won three of them, and it was the top grossing film in Israel in 2009. Paramount pictures are currently remaking the film for the USA.

Filmography Sharon Maymon

2014	THE FAREWELL PARTY	Venice Days Official Selection 2014
2012	SUMMER VACATION	Sundance Film Festival Official Selection 2013
2009	TO KILL A BUMBLEBEE	Locarno Film Festival –Leopard of Tomorrow Valladolid Film Festival – Best Short Film Aguilar de Campoo Film Festival – Best Asian Short Film Interfilm Berlin – Special Mention Haifa Film Festival – Best Short Film
2009	A MATTER OF SIZE	Tribeca Film Festival 2009 Jerusalem International Film Festival – Opening Film 2009 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2009 Traverciry Film Festival – Best Comedy Award 2009 Sarat International Film Festival – Best Feature Film Alpe d’huez International Comedy Film Festival – Gran Prix
2006	MORTGAGE	Jerusalem Film Festival – Best Drama 2006 Berlinale Talent Campus Participant 2005
2005	SKETCH SHOW (comedy series)	
2000	HOLES (short)	
1998	DO YOU LOVE ME? (Short)	

Filmography Tal Granit

2014	THE FAREWELL PARTY	Venice Days Official Selection (Competition) 2014
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2012	SUMMER VACATION	Sundance Film Festival Official Selection 2013
2009	TO KILL A BUMBLEBEE	Locarno Film Festival –Leopard of Tomorrow Valladolid Film Festival – Best Short Film Aguilar de Campoo Film Festival – Best Asian Short Film Interfilm Berlin – Special Mention Haifa Film Festival – Best Short Film
2006	MORTGAGE	Jerusalem Film Festival – Best Drama 2006 Berlinale Talent Campus Participant 2005
2001	ILANA'S COMING!	International Haifa Film Festival 2003 Festival du Cinéma Méditerranéen du Montpellier 2004 Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels Biarritz
2001	NIGHT PICTURE (short)	
2000	SHELY'S OCEAN (short)	

CAST

Yehezkel	Ze'ev Revah
Levana	Levana Finkelshtein
Yana	Aliza Rozen
Dr. Daniel	Ilan Dar
Raffi Segal	Rafael Tabor

CREW

Production design	Arad Sawat
Music	Avi Belleli
Sound recording	Stephan von Hase
Sound design	Aviv Aldema
Casting	Michal Koren
Make-up	Orly Ronen
Wardrobe	Laura Sheim
First Assistant director	Aviv Satat
Line producer	Zehava Shekel
DOP	Tobias Hochstein
Editing	Einat Glaser Zarhin
Producers	Haim Mecklberg, Estee Yacov-Mecklberg, Talia Kleinhendler, Osnat Handelsman-Keren, Thanassis Karathanos, Karl Baumgartner, Mosche Edery, Leon Edery

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