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OFFICIAL SELECTION 2014

LIFE IS MOST BEAUTIFUL AT SUNSET

THE FAREWELL PARTY

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SHARON MAYMON & TAL GRANIT

ZE'EV REVACH LEVANA FINKELSSTEIN ALIZA ROSEN ILAN DAR RAFI TABOR

A TAL GRANIT AND SHARON MAYMON FILM
BETA CINEMA PRESENTS A PFC FILMS AND PFC TEAM PRODUCTION IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH PALLAS FILM, TWENTY TWENTY VISION, TWITTED KING FILMS WITH ZE'EV REVACH, LEVANA FINKELSSTEIN, ALIZA ROSEN, ILAN DAR, RAFI TABOR
DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY: TUDORAS HUCKSSTEIN EDITOR: LEMAR GELASER, ZAVITAN PRODUCTION DESIGNER: PAVEL SHVARTZ MUSIC: AVI BELLELLI SOUND RECORDING: SHEPPARD VON HESSE COSTUME DESIGNER: ANITA ALLEGRA CASTING: MICHAEL KOSLICH MAKEUP: GABRIEL PROLON EN COSTUME DESIGNER: LAURIA SHARON
FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: ANAN SHARON LINE PRODUCER: ZEPHANIA SHERAEL PRODUCED BY: HANAN MELICKI, ESTEE YACOV MEXKLEBERG, TALIA KLEINHEIMLER, TUSHAY HANDELSMAN, KEVIN PROBERG, THANASSIS KARAYIANNIS, KAROL BRAUNSCARTNER, ANUSHE ELEGY, LEEON ELEGY WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SHARON MAYMON, TAL GRANIT
PRODUCED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ISRAELI FILM FUND, THE JERUSALEM FILM AND TELEVISION FUND, RESNET, YES SATELLITE TELEVISION, MCM, MITTELDEUTSCHE MEDIENGRUPPUNG
PALLAS FILM

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

Supported by
The Israel Film Fund, The Jerusalem Film and Television Fund, Reshet, Yes Satellite Television, MDM Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2014

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Pictures and film clips available on ftp.betafilm.com, username: ftpress01, password: 8uV7xG3tB

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
Written and directed by	Sharon Maymon, Tal Granit

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Year of Production:	2014
Format:	DCP, 24 fps, 5.1 surround
Length:	90 minutes
Language:	Hebrew

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LOGLINE

THE FAREWELL PARTY is a compassionate dark comedy about friendship and knowing when to say goodbye. A group of friends at a Jerusalem retirement home build a machine for self-euthanasia in order to help their terminally ill friend. When rumors of the machine begin to spread, more and more people ask for their help, and the friends are faced with an emotional dilemma.

The script was selected for the Talent Project Market at the Berlinale in 2010 and won the Highlight Pitch Award.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Yehezkel, age 75, living in a Jerusalem retirement home, decides to fulfill his terminally ill best friend Max's wish to die in peace. Despite the objections of his wife Levana, Yehezkel and Max's wife Yana enlist the help of Dr. Daniel, a veterinarian, and retired police officer Raffi Segal to help them with their mission. At the moment of truth the group realize that none of them is willing to "pull the trigger". A retired engineer and inventor, Yehezkel builds a machine for self-euthanasia, purely to help his friend.

But after Max is gone, rumors about the machine begin to spread, and the group receives more pleas for help. Meanwhile Yehezkel refuses to face the reality of his wife's deteriorating dementia. As Yehezkel navigates between new requests for the machine, and Levana's growing dependency, boundaries begin to blur, and the moral dilemmas the group face become impossible to bear.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Yehezkel, 72, lives in a retirement home in Jerusalem with his wife Levana. Yehezkel is the resident inventor, always coming up with new and original ways of making everyone's life a little easier. When his best friend Max, who is suffering from a terminal illness, asks Yehezkel to help him end his life, he feels compelled to help his friend die in peace. Together with a retired veterinarian, who brings the tranquilizers, and a former police detective to clean up the evidence, he tries to figure out the best way to put Max to rest. The thing is no one in the group can bring themselves to actually kill Max, so Yehezkel invents a "Euthanasia Machine" which will allow Max to press the button himself, and fulfill his own wish to die with dignity.

Levana, Yehezkel's wife, does everything she can to stop them, but Yehezkel goes behind her back, and together the group of friends help Max end his suffering. When Levana, who suffers from early stage Alzheimer's, realizes what they've done she calls them all murderers, and wants nothing to do with them.

Meanwhile word of the machine begins to leak out, and old people from all over Jerusalem come to the retirement home looking for a way to end suffering of their loved ones. They beg Yehezkel and his friends to help them. The group resists at first, but finally they find themselves in the Euthanasia "business", granting people their last wish to die in peace.

Yehezkel is so distracted by all this that he refuses to realize that Levana's condition is deteriorating, despite her increasingly erratic behaviour. But Levana realizes she's one step away from not knowing her own granddaughter and as she begins to consider her own situation she starts to understand that she may have misjudged her husband and her friends.

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DIRECTOR'S 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.

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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

For further Information:

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)	

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Filmography Tal Granit

2014	THE FAREWELL PARTY	Venice Days Official Selection (Competition) 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
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)	

PIE FILMS

Pie Films produces feature films and documentaries set up as international co-productions with some of Israel's leading writers/directors. The company successfully combines years of experience in production, acquisitions and distribution in Israel and the international market.

Filmography (selection)

2014	THE FAREWELL PARTY Directed by Tal Granit & Sharon Maymon	Venice Days Official Selection (Competition) 2014 Toronto IFF official selection 2014
2014	THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER Directed by Nadav Lapid	Critics' Week Special Presentation Cannes Film Festival 2014 Jerusalem Film Festival – Official Selection 2014 Warsaw IFF 2014 official selection Viennale IFF 2014 official selection
2013	BETHLEHEM Directed by Yuval Adler	Winner 6 Israeli academy awards incl. best Film 2013 Winner Best Film, Best Actor Haifa IFF 2013 Winner Fedeora award Venice film Festival 2013 Toronto IFF 2013 Rio de Janeiro IFF 2013

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2013	PONEVEZ TIME Directed by Yehonathan Indursky	Haifa IFF - Official Selection 2012 Best Debut Film Award from the Israeli Documentary Filmmakers Forum 2013 The Israeli Film Academy Nominee for the Best Documentary Award for 2013 Leipzig International Film Festival 2013
2012	THE WORLD IS FUNNY Directed by Shemi Zarhin	Chicago IFF 2012 - Official Selection Palm Springs IFF 2013 - Official Selection
2010	HUMAN RESSOURCES Directed by Eran Riklis	Winner Audience Award Locarno IFF 2010
2009	AJAMI Directed by Yaron Shani & Scandar Copti	Winner Special Mention – Camera D'or 2009 Winner 5 Israeli Academy award incl. Best Picture Oscar Nomination for Best Foreign Language Film Winner Sutherland Trophy London IFF Winner Best Film Montpellier IFF Winner best film Thessaloniki IFF Winner Best Film Jerusalem IFF
2009	ZION AND HIS BROTHER Directed by Eran Merav	Official Selection Sundance IFF 2009
2008	RESTLESS Directed by Amos Kollek	Competition Berlinale 2008
2008	BRIDGES OF ALLAH Directed by Natalie Assouline	Official Selection Berlinale 2008 Winner Fipresci award Berlinale 2008 – Forum

2-TEAM PRODUCTIONS LTD

Led by international award winning producers Haim Mecklberg (THE 92 MINUTES OF MR. BAUM which was remade into THE ANGRYEST MAN IN BROOKLYN starring Mila Kunis, Peter Dinklage, Robin Williams and James Earl Jones) and ACE producer Estee Yacov-Mecklberg, 2-Team Productions is one of the leading Israeli film production companies.

Filmography (selection)

2014	THE FAREWELL PARTY Directed by Tal Granit & Sharon Maymon	Venice Days Official Selection (Competition) 2014 Toronto IFF official selection 2014
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2014	NEXT TO HER Directed by Asaf Korman	2013 Thessaloniki IFF Agora Work-in-Progress Award 2014 Cannes IFF (Director's Fortnight)
2013	A TALE OF A WOLF Directed by Moshe Alpert	
2013	HOUSE OF FUN Directed by Vitali Krivich	
2012	WELCOME... AND OUR CONDOLENCES Directed by Leon Prudovsky	Winner of 19 awards at 23 Festivals
2010	THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Directed by Eran Riklis	2010 Locarno IFF - Public Award 2010 Toronto IFF - Official Selection 2010 Israeli Academy Awards – Best Film, Best Director and Best Script
2010	LAND OF GENESIS Directed by Moshe Alpert	
2009	FIVE HOURS FROM PARIS Directed by Leon Prudovsky	2009 Toronto IFF - Official Selection 2009 Haifa IFF - Best Film Award 2011 Napoli IFF - Best Film Award

WORLD SALES - BETA CINEMA

Beta Cinema has established itself as a "boutique-operation" for independent feature films with strong theatrical potential. Beta Cinema's philosophy is to keep its selective acquisition policy of 10 to 12 titles per year in order to fully develop the theatrical potential of each title according to its individual character.

Beta Cinema's portfolio includes outstanding productions like the international box office hit THE PHYSICIAN, Berlin 2014 Silver Bear–winning STATIONS OF THE CROSS, Berlin 2013 Golden Bear–winning CHILD'S POSE, Academy Award 2011-nominated IN DARKNESS, Cannes 2008 Jury Prize-winning and Academy Award-nominated IL DIVO, Academy Award 2007-winning THE COUNTERFEITERS, Academy Award 2007 nominated MONGOL, Academy Award 2006-winning THE LIVES OF OTHERS and the Academy Award 2004-nominated DOWNFALL.

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