



# THE KIND WORDS

A Film by  
**Shemi Zarhin**

Starring  
**Rotem Zissman-Cohen, Roy Assaf, Asaf Ben-Shimon, Tsahi Halevi**

Produced by  
**Pie Films (ISR), Amerique Film (CA), United King films (ISR)**

Supported by  
**The Rabinovich Foundation- Cinema Project, the Jerusalem Film and Television Fund, Reshet, Yes satellite television, Sodec**



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Pictures and film clips available on [ftp.betafilm.com](http://ftp.betafilm.com), username: ftpress01, password: 8uV7xG3tB

## CAST

Dorona	Rotem Zisman-Cohen
Natanel	Roy Assaf
Shai	Asaf Ben-Shimon
Ricky	Tsahi Halevi
Michael	Sasson Gabay
Yona	Levana Finkelstein
Aunt Rosa	Florence Bloche
Maurice	Maurice Benichou
Isabelle Moretti	Louise Portal

## CREW

Written and directed by	Shemi Zarhin
Producers	Talia Kleinhendler, Osnat Handelsman- Keren, Martin Paul-Hus, Moshe Edri, Leon Edri
DOP	Ronald Plante
Editing	Einat Glaser Zarhin
Music	Daniel Scott
Casting	Orit Azoulay
Production design	Avi Avivi
Wardrobe	Doron Ashkenazi
Make-up	Maya Gerstel
Sound design	Sylvain Bellamaire
Sound recording	Moti Hefetz
Mixer	Aviv Aldema

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

Year of Production:	2015
Format:	DCP, 24 fps
Length:	118 minutes
Language:	Hebrew, French
Country:	Israel, Canada

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## **LOGLINE**

Three siblings joined by the death of their mother, and a revelation about the identity of their "real" father, who to their shock and chagrin may have been an Algerian Muslim.

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

Three siblings joined by the death of their mother, and a revelation about the identity of their "real" father, who to their shock and chagrin may have been an Algerian Muslim. They set off on a quirky journey from Israel through Paris and Marseille, but ultimately into the past, and their own confusing selves.

## **LONG SYNOPSIS**

At age 35, Dorona's life seems to have hit a dead-end. She can't have children, she's abandoned attempts at adoption, and she seems intent on pushing her loving husband Ricky as far away as possible. On top of all this, her father has left her mother after 30 years of marriage.

Dorona flees to her mother's house, the only place where she can always count on a shoulder to cry on, hoping to find some peace, but it turns out that her mother has been concealing a serious illness, and she soon passes away, leaving Dorona and her two brothers, Natanel and Shai, in a state of shock and grief.

Now, alone in their mother's house, the three siblings make a shocking discovery: their father is not really their father! Their mother had been concealing a life-long affair, with her lost love from Algeria.

The three set out on a journey to Paris and Marseilles determined to find the truth about their past, and also each, like Dorona, running away from their present:

Try as she might, Dorona can't escape her current life as her husband insists on coming along for the trip.

They are well on the trail of their illusive father, with the help of their reclusive Aunt, and an aging French Film star, but when their 'former' father shows up to reclaim his family, things get a little out of control, and the three siblings are forced to face some difficult and often hilarious questions about identity, truth and love.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

I love stories where life is lived "on the edge." I love reality's ability to surprise until life often seems like an unrealistic movie, and reality itself acts like a wonderland. I especially love the protagonists' amazed, stunned expressions every time they are faced with a new, extreme turn of the plot. These expressions reveal the exaggerated, childish confidence they have in their day to day routines, as well as their distress in the face of any change or discovery. It makes me laugh, it makes me sad, and mainly it makes me love them very much.

But it also makes me worry: What will happen when they find out that the truth they are looking for is a pile of lies and prejudice? What will be their fate when they discover there is no consolation in the facts of the past, which only imprison the present and enslave the future? And love, even though it exists and

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is deep, is not always enough? And whether eventually they will realize that their lives and their identities depend solely on their desire?

A strange thing happened to me: the production of "The Kind words" is long over and I find that I am still worried about the characters who have become my immediate family. Maybe it expresses concern that I have for my kids, myself, and for the place where I live. Dorona, Natanel and Shai, three little liars, three young Israelis who do not know how to love and do not realize that it was time to say goodbye to the past in order to reconcile and live in peace with the present and the future. True, they are blind and desperate, but they have courage, humour and a bit of hope. So although I am concerned I trust them. They are three very Kind Words.

## **THE CAST - Recent Films:**

### **Rotem Zisman Cohen (Dorona):**

2014 Matat – Director/Actress  
2014 Zinuk Baalia – directed by Oren Shtern  
2013 Hunting elephants – directed by Reshef Levy  
2013 A place in paradise – directed by Yossi Madmoni.  
2012 The World Is Funny – directed by Shemi Zarhin  
2011 Fifth heaven – directed by Dina Zvi Riklis  
2010 Valley of Strength – directed by Dan Wolman

### **Roy Assaf (Natanel):**

2012 God's Neighbors – directed by Meni Yaesh  
2012 Single Plus – directed by Dover Kosashvili  
2011 Testimony – directed by Shlomi Elkabetz  
2009 Jaffa – directed by Keren Yedaya  
2009 Kirof – directed by Dani Lerner  
2009 Habodedim – directed by Renen Shor

### **Asaf Ben Shimon (Shai):**

2014 The Farewell Party – directed by Tal Granit & Sharon Maymon.  
2010 Hitganvut Yehidim – directed by Dover Koashashvili

### **Tsahi Halevi (Ricky):**

2013 Bethlehem – directed by Yuval Adler

### **Sasson Gabay (Michael):**

2014 Gett: the trail of Vivien Amsallem – directed by Shlomi & Ronit Elkabetz  
2013 Hunting Elephants – directed by Reshef Levy  
2013 Kidon – directed by Emmanuel Naccache  
2011 When Pigs have Wings – directed by Sylvain Estibal  
2011 Restoration – directed by Jossef Madmoni  
2007 The Band's Visit – directed by Eran Kolirin  
2006 Aviva my love – directed by Shemi Zarhin

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**Florence Bloch (Aunt Rosa):**

2014 Tu Veux Ou Tu Veux Pas – directed by Tony Marshal  
2008 Bruria – directed by Hadar Galron  
2006 Rachamim – directed by Yaniv Amoudai  
2004 Avanim – directed by Raphael Nadjari  
2003 James's Journey To Jerusalem – directed by Ra'anan Alexandrovitch  
2002 Sherman in the Winter – directed by Ori Inbar

**Levana Finkelstein (Yona):**

2014 The Farewell Party – directed by Tal Granit & Sharon Maymon.  
2012 The World Is Funny – directed by Shemi Zarhin  
2010 Valley of Strength – directed by Dan Wolman  
2010 A matter of Size – directed by Sharon Maymon & Erez Tadmor  
2007 The Little Traitor – directed by Lynn Roth  
2006 Aviva my love – directed by Shemi Zarhin

With

**Maurice Benichou** (Amelie, Hidden)

**Louise Portal** (The Barbarian Invasions)

**Shemi Zarhin - Filmography**

Film director, screenwriter and a novelist. He has created some of Israel's most successful, awarded and acclaimed films in recent years. Born (1961) and raised in Tiberias (where some of his stories take place), Shemi Zarhin is a graduate of The Film and Television department at Tel-Aviv University. He teaches filmmaking courses at the **Sam Spiegel School in Jerusalem**. In 1996 he was awarded **The Ministry of Arts and Culture's Prize** for Filmmakers. In 2009 he was awarded the prestigious **Landau Prize** for filmmaking. He directed dozens of commercials and TV episodes has been a script editor and consultant for many films (**The Farewell Party**) and written articles and film critiques for Israeli newspapers.

2012 THE WORLD IS FUNNY

Chicago IFF 2012, Palm Springs 2012.  
was the highest grossing Israeli film of 2012, and received  
an unprecedented 15 nominations for the Israeli  
Academy Awards

2006 AVIVA, MY LOVE

Chicago IFF 2006 – Best Script  
Shanghai IFF 2006 – Best Script  
6 Israeli Academy Awards including Best Film

2007 NOODLE, which he co-wrote, has been remade into the French film COOKIE, released in 2012.

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- 2003 BONJOUR MONSIEUR SHLOMI Winner of 21 awards in international festivals worldwide including Valliadolid, Festroia, Giffoni and more
- 1998 DANGEROUS ACTS Winner of 7 Israeli Academy Awards including Best Director
- 1995 PASSOVER FEVER Best Screenplay Montreal IFF 1995

For his first novel SOME DAY, one of the biggest best sellers in Israel ever, he received the Steimatzky Prize (2012) and the Kugel Prize (2013). SOME DAY was published in English in USA, received raving reviews and listed among the Notable Translations of 2013 by World Literature Today.

## 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 Venice Days Official Selection (Competition) 2014  
Directed by Tal Granit & Sharon Maymon Toronto IFF official selection 2014
- 2014 THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER Critics' Week Special Presentation Cannes  
Directed by Nadav Lapid Film Festival 2014  
Jerusalem Film Festival – Official Selection 2014  
Warsaw IFF 2014 official selection  
Viennale IFF 2014 official selection
- 2013 BETHLEHEM Winner 6 Israeli academy awards incl. best Film 2013  
Directed by Yuval Adler Winner Best Film, Best Actor Haifa IFF 2013  
Winner Fedeora award Venice film Festival 2013  
Toronto IFF 2013  
Rio de Janeiro IFF 2013
- 2013 PONEVEZ TIME Haifa IFF - Official Selection 2012  
Directed by Yehonathan Indursky 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 Chicago IFF 2012 - Official Selection  
Directed by Shemi Zarhin Palm Springs IFF 2013 - Official Selection

#### For further information:

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

## AMERIQUE FILM

AMÉRIQUE FILM is a Canadian company based in Montreal focused on the development, financing and production of feature films. Since its creation in 1987, Amérique Film has established a highly regarded reputation for investing in new talent and making distinctive, original and high-quality productions.

### Filmography (selection)

2015	THE KIND WORDS Directed by Shemi Zarhin	Co-Producer, Israel-Canada
2015	BUDDHA'S LITTLE FINGER Directed by Tony Pemberton	Producer, Germany-Canada
2014	THE BROTHER Directed by Ryan Bonder	Executive Producer, UK-Canada
2014	2 TEMPS, 3 MOUVEMENTS Directed by Christophe Cousin	Producer, Canada-France
2013	FRIENDS FROM FRANCE Directed by Philippe Kotlarski & Anne Weil	Co-Producer, France-Germany-Russia-Canda

## WORLD SALES - BETA CINEMA

World sales and co-financing company Beta Cinema has established itself as a "boutique-operation" for quality feature films that combine commercial viability with artistic integrity. Prime examples are Oscar winners and worldwide B.O. hits like THE LIVES OF OTHERS, IL DIVO, MONGOL and DOWNFALL. Current highlights include Oliver Hirschbiegel's widely sold thematic follow-up, 13 MINUTES, and the Emma Watson, Daniel Brühl, Mikael Nyqvist thriller COLONIA.

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