

74
MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
La Biennale di Venezia 2017
Orizzonti
Competition

NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

THE TESTAMENT

A FILM BY AMICHAÏ GREENBERG

ORI PFEFFER RIVKA GUR HAGIT DASBERG SHAMUL SHMULIK ATZMON LIA KOENIG ORI YANIV DANIEL ADARI IZHAK HESKIA ORNA ROTHBERG MIRIAM GABRIELY
CINEMATOGRAPHY MOSHE MISHALI EDITING GILAD INBAR CASTING ESTHER KLING CASTING AUSTRIA LISA OLAH ORIGINAL SCORE MARINO VEENENBOS WALTER W. CIKAN SCRIPT EDITOR SARI TURGEMAN
PRODUCTION DESIGN TAMAR GADISH SOUND RECORDING KLAUS KELLERMAN ALFRED TESLER SOUND DESIGN ANVI ALDEMA COSTUME DESIGN SARIT SHARARA MAKE UP HILA MINES LINE PRODUCER MATAN GAIDA
1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR SHABTAI ITZHAK-EDAN CO PRODUCERS OLIVER NEUMANN SABINE MOSER AMICHAÏ GREENBERG PRODUCERS YOAV ROEH AURIT ZAMIR WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY AMICHAÏ GREENBERG

intra
movies

מכון
הקולנוע
הישראלי

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KESKET

film
INSTITUT
FUNDING WITH SUCCESS

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הישראלי

freibauter
film

GUMFILMS
דודו דא

Yoav Roeh, Aurit Zamir, Sabine Moser and Oliver Neumann
present

HA'EDUT (THE TESTAMENT)

a film by
Amichai Greenberg

a production
GUM FILMS

a Co-production
FREIBEUTERFILM

with the support of
ISRAEL FILM FUND
JERUSALEM FILM FUND
AUSTRIAN FILM INSTITUTE
KESHET TV
YES TV

Cast

Yoel	Ori Pfeffer
Fania	Rivka Gur
Rina	Hagit Dasberg Shamul
Micky	Ori Yaniv
Miriam	Orna Rothberg
Yonatan	Daniel Adari
Yehoshua	Shmulik Atzmon
Sylvie	Iréna Flury

Rabbi	Izhak Heskia
Lea	Lia Koenig
Shoshana	Miriam Gabrieli
Austrian politician	Michaela Rosen
Austrian mayor	Michael Fuith
Mali	Irit Barak
Bodyguard	Helmuth Häusler
Archivist	Emanuel Cohen

Crew

Director	Amichai Greenberg
Screenplay	Amichai Greenberg
Casting	Esther Kling, Lisa Oláh (Austria)
Photography	Moshe Mishali
Editing	Gilad Inbar
Original Music	Marnix Veenenbos, Walter W. Cikan
Soundtrack	Klaus Kellermann, Alfred Tesler
Sound design	Aviv Aldema
Production Design	Tamar Gadish
Line producer	Matan Gaida
First AD	Shabtai Itzhak-Eden
Costume design	Sarit Sharara
Make-up	Hila Mines
VFX	Gabriel Wagon
A production	GUM FILMS
A Co-production	FREIBEUTERFILM
Produced by	Yoav Roeh, Aurit Zamir
Co-produced by	Sabine Moser, Oliver Neumann

With the support of	ISRAEL FILM FUND JERUSALEM FILM FUND AUSTRIAN FILM INSTITUTE KESHET TV YES TV
Genre	Drama
Length	94'
Year	2017
Countries of production	Israel, Austria
Languages	Hebrew, German, English, Yiddish
World Sales	Intramovies
International Press	Alibi Communications

HA'EDUT

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.

Brief Synopsis

Yoel, an international expert in Holocaust research, has spent over fifteen years diligently studying the Nazi's methods of annihilating Jews in Austria and Hungary. In the course of his research he discovers, almost by chance, classified documents which hint to the fact that his mother is living under an assumed identity. The further he plunges into his research the more he doubts his mother's Jewish identity. A mystery about a man who is willing to risk everything to discover the truth.

Synopsis

Yoel, an international expert in Holocaust research, has spent over fifteen years diligently studying the Nazi's methods of annihilating Jews in Austria and Hungary. Yoel is in the midst of a high profile legal battle between the institute of Holocaust he works for, and

entities in Austria that want to bury an unpleasant incident from their past - the brutal murder of 200 Jews during a debauched party in the fields of the small town of Lendsdorf. Yoel has difficulty finding undeniable evidence of the location of the mass grave, the people of Lendsdorf deny it ever happened, the last witnesses are dead, and most of the evidence was destroyed by the Nazis. Since a family of well-known, wealthy German industrialists on whose land the massacre took place is working on a major real estate project in the town, Yoel begins to suspect that the reason for it is to "bury" the scandal for good. Yoel, confident that he's right, insists on bringing the truth to light and proving that the project is a clear case of Holocaust denial. He sees revealing the horrific historical truth as his mission in life.

Yoel is a religious man. To him, Judaism is an established fact which defines his identity. He's an intellectual, with an analytic mind who delves into the finest details of his research and refuses to let his emotions interfere with his study of the Holocaust. He insists that the fact that his mother and father are Holocaust survivors has no bearing on his professional conduct. In the course of his research he discovers, almost by chance, classified documents which hint to the fact that his mother is living under an assumed identity. Yoel is certain that this is a mistake, but the further he plunges into his research the more he doubts his mother's Jewish identity.

As a religious man this information tears his world apart since according to Jewish law, if his mother is a gentile, so is he. Yoel goes straight to the rabbinic authority to find out what to do. The rabbi looks over the information and rules that it's a case of doubt. He instructs him not to tell anyone, to stop digging into his mother's past and to go back to his normal life.

Yoel, who's conducting a double investigation - personal and scientific - is trapped between walls of silence. On one hand are the massive fields of Lendsdorf which conceal the bones of the murder victims and the villagers who are covering up the massacre, and on the other hand are his elderly mother's silence regarding her past.

Since he's used to standing on solid factual ground, this situation tears a black hole in his identity. His uncertainty disconcerts him, but as a person utterly dedicated to the truth he decides to carry on his mission to reveal the truth. The pressure on Yoel increases as he fails to find the evidence needed for his legal battle. At the same time, his greatest fear becomes fact. Yoel is faced with the greatest crisis of his life which threatens to break his spirit. Stripped of his sense of identity, Yoel turns out to have the strength, intellectual and emotional, to fight on all fronts simultaneously. It's a struggle for survival at the end of which he rediscovers himself in the most real and intimate way. The discovery that changes both his spiritual and scientific approach is that the essential truth of his identity as a person comes not from external, objective laws and facts but from his personal choices and the values to which he devotes his life.

Director's note

I was brought up with the understanding that being an observant Jew, and the son and grandson of Holocaust survivors, are the roots of my existence, the true essence of my

identity, that is greater than me and life itself. As a child, I was enthralled by my grandparents' Holocaust stories. I grew up in the midst of heroic, "larger than life" stories, where only a narrow margin separates life and death. For me, they were the best adventure stories ever.

But my daily life was at contrast to this drama.

As a son of Holocaust survivors I grew up in a household devoid of emotion, where for me, something was always missing. Something elusive, which remained unnamed.

This giant chasm has left me mute. This script is my struggle to penetrate through the transparent walls of silence.

Amichai Greenberg

The Director

Amichai is a graduate of the Maale Film School in Jerusalem. His graduate film was screened and awarded at festivals worldwide. He has been writing, directing and producing for TV, film and new-media since graduation. His projects include local as well as international educational and commercial institutions such as TV channels 1, 2 & 10, video journal, ZDF, Mandel institute, Yad-Vashem and the Spielberg visual history foundation. The Testament is his first feature film.

The Production

Gum Films is a Tel Aviv based boutique production house. The company produced films and TV series, both fiction and documentary, that have presented successfully, and critically acclaimed, in Israel and worldwide. Gum Films founders, Yoav Roeh and Aurit Zamir, studied film at the Sam Spiegel Film school, and are in the art and business of making movies since for over past 10 years.

Among their films - "The Testament" by Amichai Greenberg (Venice FF official selection) / "Manpower" by Noam Kaplan (Cinemart, Cannes Atelier, Palm Springs FF) / "Off White Lies" by Maya Kenig (Berlinale, Busan FF, Palm Springs) "The Lab" by Yotam Feldman (Visions Du Reel, HotDocs, IDFA Forum, Dok Leipzig, DocAviv-best debut) / "The Cursed" by Hagai Levi ("In Treatment", "The Affair") and many more.

FreibeuterFilm was founded in 2007 by producer & editor Oliver Neumann, directors Sudabeh Mortezaei and Sebastian Meise, and producer and production manager Sabine Moser. FreibeuterFilm offers a platform for innovative, director-driven projects in the areas of creative documentaries and fiction film, focused on cinematic release. FreibeuterFilm values a creative atmosphere for production, one in which the filmmaker and his or her stories take center stage, and their work is encouraged by a flexible environment. Since its foundation FreibeuterFilm has produced 15 feature length fiction and documentary films which have succeeded internationally, e.g. in Berlin and Cannes, and won numerous prizes at renowned festivals.