



PRODIGE AU SUD
FESTIVAL DES CONTINENTS
notes

DOLMADES (דולמאדס)

Israel

Studio Darom 2018

MAIN DATA

Category : Drama
Length : 90'
Language : Hebrew
Shooting format : HD
Shooting location : Israel and Vietnam
Shooting dates : October-December 2019
Expected dates of completion : 2020
Stage of production : development stage

PRODUCTION

Budget : 545 836 €
Financing in place : 5835 € (Israeli Film Fund)
Production company : Late Bloomers Prod.
Workshops and platforms attended : ---
Current situation : Development stage, seeking for partners

LIOR ORON - PRODUCER

Lior Oron was born and raised in Kibbutz Magen. Lior graduated Magana Cum Laude from the Entrepreneurial Producers Program in the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School in Jerusalem. During his studies, he created many short award-winning films. He worked as production manager and post-production coordinator at Norma Productions and Dori Media Group on several TV shows, among them: *Arik Einstein – A Musical Biography*; *The Albums Vol. 2*; *Selfies*, and more. Lior produced the 2015 Cinema South International Film Festival held in Sderot and surrounding towns. Today, Lior serves as the Executive Producer at the School of Audio & Visual Arts in Sapir College while also working to establish his own production company, Late Bloomers Production.



TALILA FRANK - DIRECTOR

Filmmaker and Drama Therapist, born in Kibbutz Re'im. Talila has a B.A degree from the Department of Film and Television in Tel Aviv University. In 2018, she will complete her M.A degree in Filmmaking and Theory in Sapir College. During her studies, she created short feature films that participated in several international film festivals and contests. In 2009, Talila directed *Surrounding Kibbutz*, a short documentary (45 min.) about the changing face of the kibbutz through the thoughts and memories of people walking around the kibbutz grounds. In 2016, her documentary film *Twice orphaned: Holocaust survivors' last battle* (57 min.) was screened at The International Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival and on Channel 10, Israel. The film follows the long legal fight of a group of Holocaust survivors over compensation from the state. Talila accompanied the survivors and worked on the materials for the film for ten years.



SYNOPSIS

Manchi, one of the founders of kibbutz Halutza in the Negev Desert, has died, leaving his Vietnamese caregiver Dolma (31) with no livelihood or the means to secure the continued education of her daughter. When everything seems lost, Dolma rises to the occasion and convinces the skeptical kibbutz members to go along with an extraordinary plan: growing rice in the dry lands of the desert. Dolma's evolving relationship with Peleg (22), a young kibbutz member, forces her to re-examine the choices she's made in her life.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

« I was born and raised in kibbutz Re'im in the Negev. Like all kibbutz children back then, I spent most nights in the Children's House, in accordance with the kibbutz's communal sleeping arrangements. Like many kibbutz kids, I remember spending my days running unchecked and barefoot between the valley, the hills and the fields surrounding the kibbutz. When the first rains of winter came, we would ride on a big wagon and drive around the kibbutz, yelling happily: "The rain has come! The rain has come!". As I grew older, I came to realize that this warm, protective communal environment was essentially a bubble in a more complicated and sometimes cruel world.

Dolmades is set in our time, and attempts to convey the love, pain and criticism on the changing face of the modern kibbutz. Dolma is a foreigner who sees things from a double perspective: as an outsider looking in, and as a sensitive person who can sympathize with people whose values and mentality are vastly different from hers. When Dolma tries to convince the kibbutz members to grow rice in their fields, she paraphrases Ben Gurion's famous saying, telling them that "In Israel, in order to be a Zionist, you must believe in miracles".

I strive to create a world that is both real and enchanted, a fairytale world where miracles could happen. The male accordionist and female dancer, who appear throughout the film in different scenes, add magic and emotional power to the different storylines. The score blends old Palmach songs with music from East Asia, a mixture that highlights the points of contact between these very different cultures. The characters in *Dolmades* are kibbutz members, both young and veteran, as well as migrant workers who were hired to take care of the kibbutz older generation. There is no hierarchy between them, and it's unclear who the host is and who's the guest, who's powerful and who's disempowered. Socialism and communism are just words to be repeated, not ideologies to live by, and the lost way is now the new way. Into this void, Dolma injects hope. Her fantastic, outlandish rice project conquers the imaginations and hearts of the kibbutz members. They find hope in it – not the hope of getting rich or saving a dying way of life, but hope for a newfound solidarity. A simpler, purer camaraderie. » (...)

CONTACTS

Producer
Lior Oron
koforon@gmail.com

Director
Talila Frank
talila71@gmail.com