



The Swimmer (השחיין)

Israel

PAS Studio Darom 2016

Category : Fiction film
Length : 90'
Language : Hebrew
Shooting format : HD
Shooting location : Kibbutz, Tel Aviv
Shooting dates : November 2017
Expected date of completion : Summer 2018
Stage of production : Development stage

Budget : 370 000 €
Financing in place : around 4000 €
Workshops and platforms attended : 2015 Darom Film Festival (development fund)
Current situation : Seeking for international sales and coproducer



Naama Pyritz – PRODUCER (Ingenue Productions LTD)

Adam Kalderon – DIRECTOR



Naama has graduated from School Visual Arts NYC class of 1998 with a BFA. For over 20 Years, she has worked as a freelance independent producer, in 2014 she established her own production company « Ingenue production ». She has mostly documentary features in production such as « Army for Lovers in the Holy Land » by Asaf Galay and « In my Room » by Ayelet Albenda, and is experienced in the field successfully since 2003, working on features as well as documentary series.



Born in Kibbutz Beeri in 1981. Lives and works in Tel-Aviv as a director, screenwriter, costume-designer, art director and a video & sound artist. From the age of 9 to 21-years-old he was a professional swimmer in the Israeli Swimming Team. After moving to Berlin, where he recorded his first solo album as a singer – « ADAM », he came back to Tel-Aviv to direct his first feature film, *Marzipan Flowers*. In 2013 he was nominated for two Ophir Awards (Israeli academy awards) for best art director and best costume designer for the film « Six Acts ».

SYNOPSIS

« Erez (18), a rising star on the Israeli swimming team, enters a boarding school for gifted athletes. Erez, quickly impresses Dima Sylantiev (48), the legendary coach who is determined to return to the international swimming elite he left behind when he immigrated from Russia. The tight friendship with Nevo (17), his teammate who has all the physical features one needs to become a world champion causes much dismay to their rival teammates, especially arousing Dima's fury. Erez's world is shaken when it is clear to him that Dima prefers Nevo. Up to this point, he was sure that he would give everything for the gold glory, but now he would rather fight anyone who dares to come between him and Nevo. This revelation makes Erez give up all that swimming has required of him. He packs his bags, leaving Dima and Nevo behind, opening a door to his new life. »

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (extracts)

« In the summer of 1999 I ran away, terrified, from the Israeli swimming championships, with only a bathing suit on my body. I gave up on the competition that I had been preparing for the previous 11 years. I was 18, living and training at the Wingate Institute and was part of the official Israeli team with its eyes set on the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney.

15 years later, during which I didn't step foot in a swimming pool, I am ready to return to that place and peel away the old scars. For many years I couldn't understand that the state I was in was a result of being locked within myself due to my sexual orientation. In the spirit of the words of athlete Bill Tilden, "Athletes are born by the labor of loss", I lost everything I lived for that day, and yet, simultaneously, the path that led me to who I am today was opened. That path brought me to my current status; a young artist, who for the past 9 years has been working on learning and creating within the cinematic realm. *The Swimmer*, which will be my second feature film, tells the story of a boy who feels different, but cannot define how. He thinks that if he will be an Olympian, the burdensome feelings he has will disappear. As a swimmer, he learns the prices of selfenslavement, selfsacrifice and even of success and glory, all determined by a fateful millisecond. But now, when he is closest to the accomplishments he has been dreaming of for so long, he expresses the outburst of love he feels towards another swimmer, and by doing this he gives up, and eventually saves himself. »