

2023

STUDIO DAROM · PAS WORKSHOP

ABAYENESH

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	120 min
Language	Hebrew, Amharic
Shooting format	4K
Shooting location	Israel, Ethiopia
Shooting dates	November 2024
Expected date of completion	June 2026
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	1.602.000 €
Financing in place	NA
Production company	Abayenesh Productions
Workshop & platform attended	PAS Studio Darom 2023

SYNOPSIS

A new sister arrives at the Andrege family, a family of Ethiopian descent, and declares that she is the daughter of the father of the family who was killed in Ethiopia. The mother of the family, Mekdes, is sure that she is an impostor and refuses to accept her. The brothers Tamrat and Nega do not know who to believe. Abayenesh's arrival plunges the family into a whirlwind that threatens to disintegrate it and raise tragedies from the past. What is Abayenesh true identity?

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I came to Israel from Ethiopia at the age of 4. Inside me I have contradictions and plural identities, being a woman, a Jew, an Ethiopian, and an Israeli. My film opens in an Ethiopian prison. A young woman, having been tortured, confesses to treason. The opening is taken partly from my father's life story. He was a young, enthusiastic participant in Ethiopia's communist revolution, which quickly descended into tyranny. He found himself pursued as a member of a rebel group, and charged with teaching illiterate villages to read Karl Marx's writings. For months he was tortured in prison, and on the day he managed to be released, I was born.

Each evening in my childhood years, he would tell me about his escape from Ethiopia. The story gripped me for two reasons: First, his ability to leave everything behind, including me, and run away. And second, the way that throughout the journey of escape he changed identities and names in order to survive.

CONTACT

Producer - Elad Wexler - eladwex@gmail.com

Director - Esti Almo-Wexler - estiab1@gmail.com



PRODUCER ELAD WEXLER



An Israeli filmmaker. He produced Lady Titi (2018)- a feature film and the first film dealing with Ethiopian-Israelis that was screened commercially in cinemas all over Israel. In 2022 he produced Bunchi- a short drama that was screened at the BronzeLens film festival. In 2012 Wexler established together with Esti Almo Wexler Abayenesh Productions- which produced several television programs dealing with Israelis from Ethiopian decent. He is one of the founders of The Association for the Advancement of Ethiopian Art- which aims to increase the visibility of Ethiopian Israelis in Israeli television and film. Wexler studied Film and television at Tel Aviv University, and completed his M.A. in history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He wrote and directed his thesis film, My Dharmasala (2007), in which the hero sails down memory lane, searching for an old love. Wexler received his PhD in history from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

DIRECTOR ESTI ALMO-WEXLER



Director and script writer of Lady Titi (2018)- the first feature film dealing with Ethiopian-Israelis that was screened commercially in cinemas all over Israel. In 2022 she written and directed Bunchi- a short drama that was screened at the BronzeLens Film Festival in Atlanta. Born in Ethiopia, Esti immigrated to Israel at the age of four. After her military service, she opted to study Photography and Screen Based Arts at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem. She held numerous photography exhibitions and won many awards. Esti went on to study for her Master's Degree in film and television at Tel Aviv University. Her first film was the short drama Summer of '89 (2013), which she wrote and directed. Esti is the creative content director and owner of Abayenesh Productions- a company she established together with Elad Wexler, her spouse.



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קורס וסמינר אודיו ויזואלי ויזואלי



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פסטיבל סנימט'ה דרום
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مهرجان سينما الجنوب

DEVEK

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	100 min
Language	Hebrew
Shooting format	Digital
Shooting location	Israel
Shooting dates	NA
Expected date of completion	2026
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	650.000 €
Financing in place	8.000 €
Production company	Daizy Films
Workshop & platform attended	Haifa Internation Pitching Forum, Haifa FF 2022, PAS Studio Darom 2023

SYNOPSIS

"Devek" ("Glue" in Hebrew) is the nickname Eliyah earned as a child from his mother Neomi, for being closely attached to her. Throughout his adolescence, as he develops an unusual identity in the Jewish religious society in which his mother raised him, and when Naomi is facing a serious illness, the "glue" between the two is being tested for the first time.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This script was inspired by the special bond I have with my mother. What fascinates me to explore in this film is the relationship between Eliyah and Neomi. This is of course a coming-of-age film, and in a way it's also a story about coming out of the closet – the secular closet, as well as the closet of sexual identity. But the core of the film, and what drives the plot, is the story of Eliyah and Neomi and their special bond.

I want to describe the mechanism behind a relationship that begins with great closeness, and is undermined as soon as Eliyah's identity "goes out of line". Can the love of someone close be not only protective, but also suffocating? Do we sometimes – in order to truly win ourselves – have to give up the old habits we have with those who love us unconditionally, and try to face the big world without their addictive and sometimes dangerous love?

CONTACT

Producer - Tal Moskovich - office@daizyfilms.com

Director - Uriya Hertz - uriya1hertz@gmail.com



PRODUCER TAL MOSKOVICH



Born in 1993 in Israel, graduated from the Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem in 2021.

In 2021 founded with Matan Glazovsky the production company Daizy Films. The company has produced many short films and is currently developing many other projects such as DEVEK, a

feature film by Uriya Hertz, GRAND LIFE, an animated TV series by Mor Galperin and The Bakery, a documentary feature film.

DIRECTOR URIYA HERTZ



Director, Screenwriter & Editor. Born in 1990, in Jerusalem. Graduated with honors from the Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem. "The Rabbi", his first feature film, participated in the Sam Spiegel International Film Lab and received a production grant from the Rabinovich Film Foundation.

These days he's developing another feature film, "Devek" (received a development grant from the Israeli Film Fund) and a TV series. His short films won prizes and participated in many film festivals worldwide, including Shanghai, Sarajevo, Raindance & Camerimage.



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בית הספר לאמנויות האודיו ויזואליות



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مهرجان سينما الجنوب

NEVERLAND, FOREVER

MAIN DATA

Category	Romantic Comedy, Drama
Length	97 min
Language	Hebrew, English
Shooting format	NA
Shooting location	Israel
Shooting dates	NA
Expected date of completion	NA
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	828.009 €
Financing in place	NA
Production company	Firma Films
Workshop & platform attended	The New Fund for Cinema and Television, Rabinovich Film Foundation development grant, PAS Studio Darom 2023

SYNOPSIS

Michal (39) is an eternal Peter Pan who embraces a life without growing up. However, an unexpected pregnancy connects her with Eldar (45), who shares her reluctance to face adulthood. Together, they must confront their fears, make tough decisions, and discover if they're ready to leave Neverland behind. This comedic journey push them to embrace maturity and forge a new path in life, even if it means bidding farewell to their playful fantasies.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Probing questions emerge about the decline (or hopeful decline) of societal norms: the conventional family structure, the kibbutz, and the pervasive 'every woman should be a mother' mentality in Israeli society. As we observe the single apartments in the Complex building and the aging individuals living alone, we witness the cracks in these outdated models.

It's no secret, nor coincidence, that Michal's life mirrors mine in many ways (even the curls). My deep familiarity with these life elements allows me to weave a story composed of my reality's essence while staying true to itself and embracing its fantasies.

This is a love story, not necessarily a conventional romance, but one that encompasses affection for those around us, for a place, and for ourselves. It's a romantic comedy where romance itself is uncertain, and the comedy gently springs from the everyday absurdity of life. A poignant comedy that raises the question: if it's so funny, why do I feel the urge to cry?

CONTACT

Producer - Adar Shafran - adarshafran@gmail.com
Producer - Tammy Cohen - tamar162@gmail.com
Director - Hadas Neuman - hadasneuman@gmail.com



PRODUCER ADAR SHAFRAN



Adar Shafran, a producer and co-founder of Firma Films, has made a significant impact in the industry since 2008. His diverse filmography includes successful projects like "MAKTUB" (2017), the most successful film in Israel in the last 32 years, "The Wedding Plan" (2016) and lately "Running

On Sand" (2023), as a director. Adar's work extends to TV series like "You'll never walk alone (2023)", "Fire Dance" (2022) and "Magen David Darom" (2018). With a commitment to developing unique and diverse films, Adar draws inspiration from young and diverse voices, creating a space for fresh perspectives within the industry.

PRODUCER TAMMY COHEN



After graduating with a BA in International Relations from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 2004, Tammy Cohen joined Norma Productions—an independent production company. Over the years, she worked her way up to the position of head producer, overseeing all of Norma's productions. In 2018, she embarked on a new path as an independent producer and collaborating with Firma Films. Notable projects she has worked on include "The Fire Dance" (2022), "Legend of Destruction" (2021), "Arik Einstein" (2017), "The Wedding Plan" (2016), "Turning Thirteen" (2013), "The Albums" (2013), and "Fill the Void" (2012)

DIRECTOR HADAS NEUMAN



Hadas Neuman is a scriptwriter, director, and performer. She holds a BA with Honors scholarship from Sapir College and an M.A with honors from the Netherlands Film Academy. Currently, she serves as the programmer of Sderot Cinematheque.

Her notable works include: Two People Will Come with Balloons 2021 – Next! Award Docaviv, Special Mention Award Epos FF, The European Grandma Project 2018 – Winner "This Human World", 100 Men (performance) 2022 – Amsterdam & Hague Storytelling Festival, "The Couch" (2023 In Post), "100 Men" (2023 In Development) – Supported by New Cinema Fund.

In her master's research, titled 'The Production of the Unpredictable', she explores innovative ways of utilizing unpredictability as a narrative tool to infuse everyday life's spectacle into her work, blending autobiographical elements with fictional storytelling.

2023

STUDIO DAROM · PAS WORKSHOP

THE GOOD FENCE

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	75 min
Language	Hebrew
Shooting format	NA
Shooting location	Israel
Shooting dates	NA
Expected date of completion	NA
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	435.542 €
Financing in place	NA
Production company	Lev Orlov Films
Workshop & platform attended	PAS Studio Darom 2023

SYNOPSIS

Avner (59), a respected member of a right-wing religious settlement, managed to get his daughter Abigail's name on the community's memorial list despite her having committed suicide, a violation of a tenet of Judaism that forced her to be buried outside the settlement cemetery. Hanan (29, Ex-religious), Avner's son, is accused of causing a soldier's fatal injury as part of his extreme leftist organization. Avner releases Hanan on bail, hiding his presence until reporters expose the secret, sparking protests from the congregation members. Ronit, Avner's wife, leaves with their children. Avner and Hanan face isolation and accusation by the community that demands Hanan's departure or Abigail will be removed from the list of "the respected fallen". Avner takes a stand and expands the cemetery fence with a hoe. Hanan joins him but he gets arrested for activating his electronic handcuff. Avner insists on going with him, finding solace in their unity as they sit in the car, while the extended fence of the cemetery is behind them.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"The Good Fence" combines a socio-political drama with a personal family story, a story that revolves around society's blindness and even a family's blindness to the "other."

This is my story and my father's story and, in my opinion, the story of everyone who has chosen a path different from their parents'. As a no-longer-practicing Jew raised in a religious home, I experience firsthand the constant tension between my own worldview and the one on which I was raised.

I lost my father about a year and a half ago. Our relationship was complicated because I opposed so many of the values he held. My father's passing was utterly unexpected, and we did not have the opportunity to say 'goodbye,' or to part amicably. This script is my attempt to give voice to the loss that I experienced and the loss that many who, like me, leave their religious affiliation still experience. It as an opportunity to address and portray the tension between traditional and modern worldviews, and, most of all, it is my call to do the hard work of what the Jewish tradition calls Sh'lom Bayit, making peace with one's home.

CONTACT

Producer - Lev Orlov - orlov.lev95@gmail.com
Director - Hillel Rate - hillelrate@gmail.com



PRODUCER LEV ORLOV



Lev Orlov is an independent film producer based in Tel Aviv, head of Lev Orlov Films. Graduated from the Innovative Producing Studies at Sam Spiegel Film School. As part of his studies, he produced short films (fiction and documentaries) which participated and won awards at

festivals in Israel and abroad. The short documentary he directed and produced as part of his studies, «Island», was shortlisted for the BAFTA students awards. Currently focusing on producing short films - fiction, documentary and animation - with the most promising young filmmakers of the Israeli and Palestine cinema. In addition to his producing activity, Lev is developing an original content; the pilot for the animation series he created was produced by The Hive Studio and shown at the Kidscreen Summit 2023 and will participate in Annecy Film Festival 2023.

Before turning to producing Lev was involved in film festivals, served in a variety of positions at the Haifa International Film Festival, including producer of the Israeli cinema programs, festival coordinator and assistant to the festival director.

DIRECTOR HILLEL RATE



Hillel Rate, an independent Israeli filmmaker graduated with honors from the Maaleh School of Cinema and Television and holds a master's degree (MFA) in documentary cinema from Tel Aviv University. In addition to his work as an independent filmmaker, Hillel works with festivals around

the world as a jury and selection committee member. Hillel's films deal with personal and intimate stories and focus on marginalized figures in Israeli society. He believes that through personal stories and intimate experiences, it is possible to create narratives that have a broad social impact. His point of view and the visual tone of his films are subtle and stylish, full of compassion and respect for his characters. His short films have been screened at festivals in Israel and around the world, including but not limited to: the Jerusalem IFF, Doc Aviv IFF, Hot Docs Canadian FF and Astra FF.



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