

AGAV FILMS – LAILA FILMS – AR Content – INTEREUROP

Present



83. Mostra
Internazionale
d'Arte
Cinematografica

THE ROAD TO JERICHO

A FILM BY
AMOS GITAI



SYNOPSIS



THE ROAD TO JERICHO is a musical and visual journey, a poem in images - a hybrid of documentary and fiction that weaves archival images from earlier films, with the voices of Samuel Fuller, Jeanne Moreau, Arthur Miller, and Yitzhak Rabin, among others, into the contemporary reality of the Bedouins of Khan El . Ahmar, now threatened with eviction by settlers on this road to Jericho

A poignant, sensitive meditation on human destinies on this desert land, steeped in history.

A MUSICAL AND VISUAL JOURNEY

Memory, landscape and present experience on the road to Jericho.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We start our journey from Jerusalem and go toward Jericho, keeping in mind that the first Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement dealt with Gaza and Jericho . As we move along this road, through these spectacular desert landscapes, we also carry with us the text of Josephus Flavius on the wars with Rome.

Along the way stands Khan El Ahmar, a small hamlet of Bedouin tents, part of the Oslo Agreement, built out of earth and tires - a school and a community of 300. We meet the children. They are quiet and joyful within this simple, minimalist architecture and its simple beauty. But recently there have been threats to destroy it, to evacuate this community - not something Rabin would want to hear.

In my conversations with him in 1994, he spoke of Gaza and of Jericho, of disputes and doubts, of resentments accumulated over decades, and still, a will to move forward and give peace a chance.

We decide to look at this small Bedouin community as a microcosm, a metaphor that resonates with Rabin's memory as we did before with House, Wadi, Ananas, and remembering the voices of great artists and writers such as Arthur Miller, Jeanne Moreau and others. For us, the filmmaker, the wanderer in these places, reality is always this juxtaposition of past memory and present experience.



MEMORY / ROAD / LANDSCAPE

JERUSALEM -> KHAN EL AHMAR -> JERICHO

The road is both a physical trajectory and a historical line. The film brings together present-day encounters with archival voices, allowing different periods to occupy the same cinematic space.

Khan El Ahmar becomes a microcosm: a small Bedouin community through which questions of territory, displacement, memory and the unfinished legacy of the Oslo process become tangible.

The archive is not used as background. Samuel Fuller, Jeanne Moreau, Arthur Miller and Yitzhak Rabin return as voices that speak into the present, while the desert landscape carries older layers of history, including the writings of Josephus Flavius on the wars with Rome.





AMOS GITAI

Amos Gitai is an Israeli filmmaker, architect by training, whose work spans fiction features, documentary, theater, opera, and installation art. Since his early films in the 1980s, he has built a body of work exploring memory, exile, war, and territory in the Middle East, moving fluidly between genres - from documentaries and feature films to stage productions and museum installations.

His films have been presented in competition at Cannes, Venice, and other major festivals, earning wide international distribution and numerous awards. Across this varied practice, Gitai returns to certain places, texts, and figures - including Yitzhak Rabin - treating history not as backdrop but as living material to be questioned, restaged, and reimagined.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

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|---|---|
| 1980: <i>Bait (House)</i> | 2001: <i>Wadi Grand Canyon</i> |
| 1981: <i>Wadi</i> | 2002: <i>Kedma</i> |
| 1982: <i>Field Diary, (Yoman Sade)</i> | 2003: <i>Alila</i> |
| 1984: <i>Pineapple</i> | 2004: <i>Promised Land</i> |
| 1984: <i>Bangkok Bahrain</i> | 2005: <i>Free Zone</i> |
| 1985: <i>Esther</i> | 2005: <i>News from Home / News from House</i> |
| 1989: <i>Berlin-Jérusalem</i> | 2007: <i>Disengagement</i> |
| 1991: <i>Birth of a Golem</i> | 2008: <i>One Day You Will Understand</i> |
| 1991: <i>Wadi, Ten Years Later</i> | 2009: <i>Carmel</i> |
| 1992: <i>Gibellina, Metamorphosis of A Melody</i> | 2010: <i>The War of the Sons of Light Against</i> |
| 1992: <i>Golem, The Spirit of Exile</i> | <i>The Sons of Darkness</i> |
| 1993: <i>Golem, Petrified Garden</i> | 2011: <i>Roses à crédit</i> |
| 1993: <i>Kippour, War Memories</i> | 2011: <i>Lullaby to my Father</i> |
| 1993: <i>In the Valley of the Wupper</i> | 2013: <i>Ana Arabia</i> |
| 1993: <i>In the Name of the Duce</i> | 2014: <i>Tsili</i> |
| 1994: <i>Give Peace a Chance</i> | 2015: <i>Rabin The Last Day</i> |
| 1995: <i>Devarim</i> | 2017: <i>West of the Jordan River</i> |
| 1996: <i>The Arena of Murder</i> | 2019: <i>Letter to A Friend in Gaza</i> |
| 1998: <i>A Jouse in Jerusalem</i> | 2019: <i>A tramway in Jerusalem</i> |
| 1998: <i>Yom Yom</i> | 2020: <i>Laila in Haifa</i> |
| 1999: <i>Kadosh</i> | 2024: <i>Why War</i> |
| 2000: <i>Kippur</i> | 2025: <i>Golem in Pompei</i> |





CREDITS



SCREENWRITERS

Amos Gitai

CINEMATOGRAPHER

Dan Bronfeld

EDITOR

Yuval Orr

SOUND

Ronen Nagel

MUSIC

Alexey Kochetkov

MAIN CAST

Irene Jacob
Jeanne Moreau
Arthur Miller
Samuel Fuller
Muhammad Abu Jihad
Mohamad Said Alarj
Sara Arneberg
Bahira Ablassi
Sarah Adler
Agnes Garval Lavi
Helena Yaralova
Alexey Kochetkov
Danny Huston
Andreï Kashkar

PRODUCTION

Agav Films (Amos Gitai, Laurent Truchot) Laila Films (Itai Tamir)
AR Content (Alexander Rodnyansky)
Ruth & Stephen Hendel
Mary & Luc Hardy
Vladimir Zemtsov
Intereurop (Laurent Truchot)
Shuki Friedman

PRESS

Gloria Zerbinati

INSPIRED BY

Virginia Woolf, Thoughts on Peace in an Air Raid
Josephus Flavius, The Antiquities & The Jewish War
Oscar Wilde, Each Man Kills the Thing He Loves
Aharon Appelfeld, Tsili
Arthur Miller, Plain Girl

Additional musician

Kioomars Musayyebi

Additional music

Gustav Mahler, Symphony No1 in D-major
Ha Yehudim, Tom Petrover & Orit Shahaf, Bells of War (Pa'Amon Milchama)

**Additional
Cinematography**

Renato Berta, Eric Gautier, Laurent Truchot, Stefano Falivane, Amos Gitai,
Oded Kirma, Giora Bejach

Colorist

Ido Karilla

**Additional
Writing**

Marie- José Sanselme

Research

Rivka Markovitsky Gitai
Mira Bauer

Subtitles

CapNsub Oren Yardeni, Ran Cohen

Thank you

Minas Qarawany, Romain Catherin

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FRANCE / UNITED KINGDOM 206

MIN 75 | COLOR | DCP

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH / HEBREW / ARABIC / FRENCH / YIDDISH

OFFICIAL SELECTION OPEN Venezia 83 - N

ON FICTION

CONTACT PRESS: +393381200517 email: gloria.zerbinati@gmail.com

CONTACT PRO DUCION :amosgitaissit@gmail.com



