

BIRTH RIGHT

a film by Inbar Horesh

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cinéfondation
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Technical Information

Working Title: Birth Right

Director: Inbar Horesh

Screenplay: Inbar Horesh

Nationality: Israel

Genre: Drama / Comedy

Shooting location: Israel

Duration: 90 min

Production: Green Productions

Inbar Horesh

Permanent Address: Tel Aviv, Israel

E-mail: inbares@gmail.com

Tel: +33 7 51 51 46 43
+972 5 48 19 11 63

Director's Information

Inbar Horesh (Jerusalem, 1988) studied cinema at Minshar School of Arts in Tel Aviv, where she currently teaches film directing. Her graduation film, **The Visit**, premiered at the 67th Cannes Film Festival – Cinéfondation Selection, won multiple international awards and was nominated for Best Short Film at the Ofir Israeli Academy Awards. Her documentary film, **Crossing**, premiered at the 2015 DocAviv Film Festival, and her recent short film, **Birth Right**, won the Oscar qualifying award for Best Short Film at the 2020 Palm Springs ShortFest, among other awards and selections. Inbar is currently developing her first feature film, **Birth Right**, which received a development grant from the Rabinovich film fund and won the Moulin d'Andé Award at the 2020 Cinemed Film Festival.

Festival de Cannes

5, rue Charlot, F-75003 Paris
Tel. 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 20
Fax 33 (0) 1 53 59 61 24
E-mail:
residence@festival-cannes.fr
www.festival-cannes.org

Since 2000, the Festival Residence has provided each year accommodation and support to twelve selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. A jury presided by a film director sits twice a year, selecting these young filmmakers on the basis of their short films, or

even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project. During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Cannes Film Festival, to bring their project to co-production status.



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Synopsis

Every year the Israeli state sponsors educational tours for thousands of young diaspora Jews to connect them to Jewish identity, encourage immigration to Israel and prevent intermarriage in their home countries.

After learning at her father's funeral that she is Jewish, Natasha, 18, joins a tour with a group of young adults from former USSR countries. Escaping her grief and a difficult relationship with her mother, she hopes to find a new home in Israel.

Knowing nothing about Judaism, Natasha is an outcast from the very first night. The only one noticing her distress is Shlomi, 38, the group's security guard and she falls in love with him on the spot.

As sexual experiences clash with Jewish nationalism and Israeli war heritage, Natasha discovers the real Israel, so very different from the one in her dreams.

Statement of Intent

According to the Law of Return, Israeli citizenship is granted to persons defined as Jews under Nazi racial policy. In a fragmented society of immigrants, the fiction of being the world's most united nation is manufactured relying not only on shared religion, but on the idea of shared trauma.

Deceived by this notion of unity, I always felt foreign in Israel, thinking there was a togetherness I would never reach. For years, I hoped to gain my missing sense of belonging through the men I dated, but that only deepened my sense of foreignness and denied my identity as a woman. On a journey through landscapes and skin, Natasha feels alienated not only from the country, but from her own body. This group of strangers on a bus unites around a new instant identity, and turns into a mirror of society, where the universal need for a sense of belonging is manipulated for political purposes. Playing with notes of humor and irony the film invites an inner critical look at the Israeli nationalist doctrine.

Synopsis

Chaque année, l'État israélien finance des voyages éducatifs pour des milliers de jeunes Juifs de la diaspora dans le but de renforcer leur identité juive, d'encourager l'immigration et de tenter de prévenir les mariages mixtes dans leur pays d'origine.

Natasha, 18 ans, apprend qu'elle est juive lors de l'enterrement de son père. Elle s'inscrit alors pour un voyage de groupe avec d'autres jeunes originaires d'ex-URSS. Fuyant le deuil et une relation difficile avec sa mère, elle espère trouver un nouveau foyer en Israël.

Ne connaissant rien au judaïsme, Natasha est rejetée par le groupe dès la première nuit. Le seul à remarquer sa détresse est Shlomi, 38 ans, le responsable de la sécurité. Elle en tombe instantanément amoureuse. Les expériences sexuelles ne rimant pas vraiment avec nationalisme juif et héritage de la guerre, Natasha découvre le véritable Israël, si différent de celui de ses rêves.

Note d'intention

La Loi du retour qui régit la citoyenneté israélienne, est basée sur la politique raciale nazie. Notre société fragmentée, essentiellement composée d'immigrants, prétend être la nation la plus unie du monde non seulement par notre religion, mais par nos traumatismes.

Aveuglée par cette notion d'unité, je me suis toujours sentie étrangère en Israël, persuadée que je ne pourrais jamais complètement intégrer ce concept. Pendant des années, j'ai cherché ce sentiment d'appartenance à travers les hommes que je fréquentais, mais cela n'a fait qu'accentuer mon sentiment étranger et mon identité de femme.

Au cours de son voyage, Natasha, trop blanche de peau, se sent étrangère non seulement au pays, mais aussi à son propre corps. Ce groupe d'inconnus dans un bus qui s'unit instantanément autour d'une nouvelle identité, devient le miroir d'une société où le besoin universel d'appartenance est manipulé à des fins politiques. Jouant avec des notes d'humour et d'ironie, le film invite à une revisite critique de la doctrine nationaliste israélienne.

