



BRIDGE OVER THE WADI

by Tomer Heymann and Barak Heymann



**Heymann
Brothers
Films**



SYNOPSIS

LONG VERSION

In October 2000, 13 Israeli-Palestinians (Palestinians who are part of the Palestinian minority inside the state of Israel) were killed in clashes with the Israeli police while demonstrating in solidarity with the Palestinian Al-Aksa Intifada going on in the occupied territories. These clashes started in the Wadi Ara region, where they were the most violent. Wadi Ara is a region inhabited by Jews and Palestinians who live in close geographical proximity but in separate communities. Since the events of October 2000, the distance and segregation between the two communities has grown even more.

In March 2004, a group of Israeli-Palestinian and Jewish parents from the Wadi Ara area met for the first time with the vision of establishing a joint bi-lingual and bi-national Arab-Jewish school in the region. When we were invited to film the first meeting, we had very little faith in the project: The idea of opening a mixed school in a Palestinian town, in a region still heavily traumatized by the events of October 2000, seemed very improbable. To our great surprise, we were proven wrong. Despite the controversy, the mutual suspicion and the racist sentiments, despite the legal battles with the Ministry of Education and many other traps and obstacles, the school has opened its doors and so far it appears to be an amazing success.

However, the difficulties that made us doubt the whole idea never disappeared and continue challenging the existence of the school. Many parents fear that their children are losing their cultural identity in a multicultural school. As a reaction to that fear some parents took their children out of the school, while others try to strengthen their children's identity, making the encounter of the two cultures even more difficult.

Contrary to many films on the subject of the Israeli Palestinian conflict, which leave a persistent aftertaste of despair and pessimism, "Bridge Over The Wadi" offers a very realistic alternative: a hundred children, Arab and Jewish, growing up side by side. A hundred children, whose number and influence in the Israeli society are bound to grow, proving that it is not impossible to live together.

As opposed to the parents, who do not always bare their souls and are careful not to sound racist or naïve, the children reflect the reality exactly as it is: challenging and difficult, but the same time so simple and beautiful.

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SHORT VERSION

The first time in Israel, a group of Arab and Jewish parents decide to establish a conjoint bi-lingual school inside an Arab village. The film follows the school's first year and portrays through the personal stories of its characters, how vironment of co-existence against the backdrop of the complicated reality around.

MAIN CREDITS

Written, Directed& Produced by **Tomer Heymann & Barak Heymann**

Research **Rafaat Hattab**

Cinematographers **Daniel Miran, Uri Levi, Itai Raziel**

Editors **Arik Leibovitch, Amit Azaz, Erez Laufer, Lavi Ben-Gal, Ron Goldman**

Original Score **Eli Soorani**

Script Editor **Lavi Ben-Gal**

TRAILER



http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=jBeOFAVWOzc#/

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FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

AWARDS

Audience Award at *Watch Docs Human Rights in Film*, Warsaw, Poland 2007

Audience Award at *Verzio Human Rights International Film Festival*, Hungary 2007

Asian Documentary Golden Award at *Shanghai TV Festival*, China 2007

Best Documentary at *Contact Kyiv International Documentary Festival*, Ukraine 2007

Audience Award at *One World Film Festival Prague*, Czech Republic 2007

SCREENINGS

Cinema on Border Film Festival, Poland, May 2013

Visages Film Festival, Switzerland, February 2013

Diyarbakir Arts Center, Turkey, September 2012

Education Film Festival Rotterdam, The Netherlands, September 2012

Colours Film Festival of Cultural Diversity, Hungary 2012

Which Human Rights? Film Festival, Istanbul, Turkey 2011

Israel Film Festival, Montreal, Canada 2011

Israeli Documentary Film Festival, Budapest, Hungary 2011

San Francisco Jewish film festival, USA 2008

Zagreb Dox, Croatia 2007

Edinburgh International Film Festival, UK 2007

Filmmakers Forum Competition, Israel 2007

Freiburger Film Forum, Germany 2007

South Caucasus Doc. Film Festival of Peace & Human Rights, Caucasus 2008

One World Film Festival Prague, Czech Republic 2007

Sao Paulo International Film Festival, Brazil 2007

Krakow International Film Festival, Poland 2007

Human Rights Film Festival Seoul, Korea 2008

Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, Greece 2007

One World Human Rights Film Festival, Slovakia 2007

Voices Forward Film Festival Toronto, Canada 2007

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Zagreb Jewish Film Festival, Croatia 2008
Contact Kyiv Int'l Documentary Festival, Ukraine 2007
UK Jewish Film Festival 2007
Sydney International Film Festival, Australia 2007
EcoFilm Festival Rodos, Greece 2008
Shanghai TV Festival, China 2007
Israel Festival Rome, Italy 2007
IDFA Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival, The Netherlands 2006
Silverdocs Documentary Film Festival, USA 2007
Cleaveland Jewish Film Festival, USA 2008
Verzio Human Rights International Film Festival, Hungary 2007
Flagstaff Mountain Film Festival, USA 2008
Docs Barcelona, Spain 2007
Parnu International Film Festival, Estonia 2007
Watch Docs Human Rights in Film Warsaw, Poland 2007
Human Rights' Documentary Days, Ukraine 2008

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