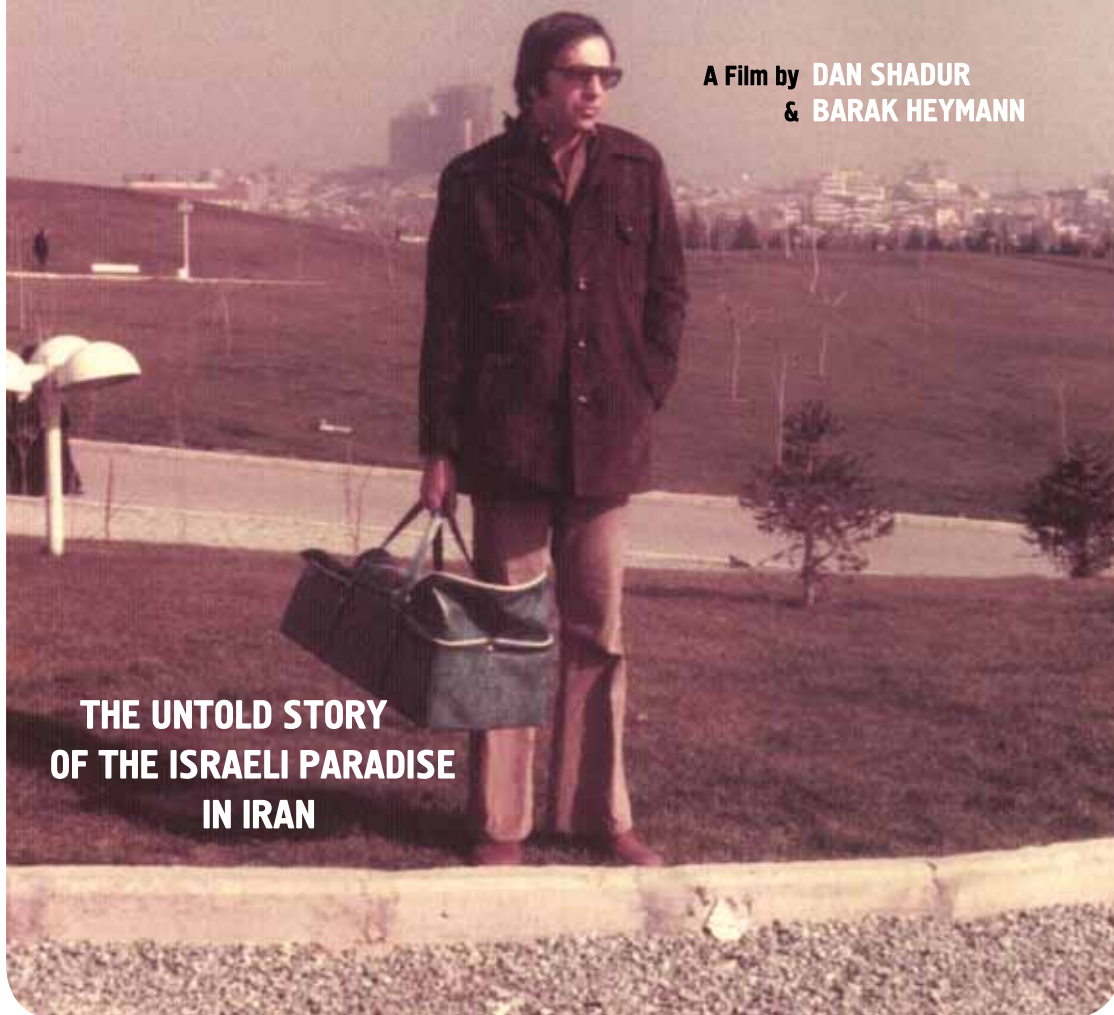


HEYMANN BROTHERS FILMS Presents:

BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

قبل از انقلاب
לפני המהפכה

A Film by **DAN SHADUR**
& **BARAK HEYMANN**



**THE UNTOLD STORY
OF THE ISRAELI PARADISE
IN IRAN**

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BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

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Photo: Ap Archive

SYNOPSIS



Photo: Jehoshua Binistok



Photo: Paul Sharon



Photo: AP Archive

Before The Revolution

The untold story of the Israeli Paradise in Iran

During the 60's and 70's thousands of Israelis are living in Tehran, enjoying a special relationship with the Shah and his dictatorial rule.

Protected by large arms deals and complex financial ties, the Israeli community enjoy a wealthy and luxurious lifestyle; failing to note that the corrupt and despised ruling power to which they are connected, is collapsing.

By the time they understand that their 'Iranian Paradise' is turning into hell, it is almost too late, and they stand to find themselves in the middle of the Islamist revolution, due to take Iran by storm.

Using rare archive footage, interviews with diplomats, Mossad agents, businessmen and their families, the director – whose family had been part of the very same community – reveals a new perspective on the revolution that changed the world.

What starts as a nostalgic look at a lost era, becomes a thrilling story where huge dreams are shattered in a dark reality of greed, blindness and lust for power.

BEFORE **قبل از انقلاب** THE REVOLUTION לפני המהפכה



Photo: Aline Lev Har

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I spent the first year of my life in Tehran, My parents and elder brother had been living there for around three years, forming part of the large Israeli community there. Shortly after the revolution that drove us back to Israel, my father died unexpectedly. Fifteen years later my mother died.

Over the years, our photos in Tehran have become the few pieces of evidence remaining of our life as a whole and happy family. However, when I finally started examining what lies behind the utopian images my parents handed down to me, I understood that our family story was only a small part of a large-scale cooperation that had existed between two countries, that today are fierce enemies. That the revolution – that had always been described to me as a dark force that expelled us from paradise – originated as an uprising resulting from years of oppression; and that best case, we as Israelis had been blind to this, or worst case, had actively participated in.

Before the Revolution is the product of a long and exciting journey that helped me get a little bit closer to my parents, their dreams and their values as a young Israeli couple, confronted by a rare, hugely significant and historic event.

On the eve of a potential war between Israel, the West and Iran I hope that this film will enable the Israeli and Western viewer to think a little differently about the people we are used to viewing as enemies; about our responsibility for a history of oppression that brought about the current reality; and that the price of our comfortable lifestyle – whether in Tel Aviv or another place in world – claims on other peoples' lives.

DAN SHADUR / DIRECTOR

A graduate of the Film and Television Department in Tel Aviv University, Dan was a writer and editor in some of the main newspapers in Israel, before shifting into Film and TV making. Dan was the founder and chief editor of the cultural section of Globes - Israel's leading financial newspaper, and founder of Shadurian Publisher's – a publishing house for cutting edge literature from Israeli and international writers.

In the last couple of years he made a few shorts, video clips and various works for TV, including a 30 minutes fiction film - "Sunburn".

BEFORE **قبل از انقلاب** THE REVOLUTION לפני המהפכה



Photo: Tamar Tal

BARAK HEYMANN / PRODUCER

- 2013 Director & Producer – **Families** (24 episodes series)
- 2012 Director & Producer – **End of the Story** (5 episodes documentary series)
- 2011 Producer – **Life in Stills**
Ophir Academy award for Best Documentary (Israeli Oscar); Best Film Award and Best Editing Award - DocAviv Int'l Documentary FF; Talent Dove Award - DokLeipzig Int'l FF; Hot Docs Top 5 films Audience favorite; Best Documentary Award of Shanghai TV Festival; Special Jury Mention Zagreb FF; Moscow Int'l FF; Special Jury Mention - Zagreb FF
- 2011 Producer – **The Queen Has No Crown**
Berlinale premiere; Krakow Int'l FF, Frameline; San Francisco Jewish FF; NewFest; TLVFest
- 2010 Producer – **I Shot My Love**
Berlinale premiere; Best Documentary - HotDocs; Audience Award - Taiwan Documentary Int'l FF; Best Documentary - Side By Side GLBT FF; Best Director & Best Film - Madrid GLBT FF; Special Jury mention - Queer Lisboa GLBT FF; Grand Prix & Best Documentary - Warsaw Jewish FF; Sheffield DOC/FEST; **Co-produced with WDR/ARTE**
- 2010 Director & Producer – **Lone Samaritan**
Golden Award – Shanghai Int'l TV Festival; Creative Documentary Award – Int'l Human Rights FF Paris; Best Documentary Award – Toronto Jewish FF; Best Documentary Award – Israeli Documentary Competition; FIPA International FF; Krakow Int'l FF; Corona Cork Int'l FF Ireland; Mediawave Int'l FF Hungary; Haifa Int'l FF
- 2009 Producer – **The way Home**
First prize Jerusalem FF, first prize Israeli documentary competition
- 2009 Producer – **Sayed Kashua - Forever Scared**
IDFA competition
- 2008 Producer – **Lady Kul-El Arab**
Special Jury Award – IDFA
- 2007 Director & co-producer – **Dancing Alfonso**
Silver Award - Shanghai Int'l TV festival; Best Director Award - Cronograf Int'l Documentary FF; Moldova International Documentary FF Chronograph; South by Southwest FF; UK Jewish FF
- 2007 Director & co-producer – **Debut**
First prize - Israeli Documentary Competition
- 2007 Producer – **Stalags- Holocaust and Pornography in Israel**
HotDocs; Miami International FF; It's All True Documentary FF; Viennale International FF; Melbourne International FF; Seattle International FF; First Camera Award – RIDM FF
- 2006 Director & Producer – **Bridge Over the Wadi**
IDFA; Sylverdocs; Golden Award – Shanghai Int'l TV Festival; Audience award One World FF Prague; first prize Kiev Contact - International Documentary FF; Audience Award - WatchDocs Human Rights FF; **Co-produced with ITVS**

BEFORE **قبل از انقلاب** THE REVOLUTION לפני המהפכה

NILI FELLER / EDITOR

An accomplished and well-respected film editor with an extensive portfolio of documentary films and TV series as well as feature films. Among her numerous editing credits are Ari Folman's "*Waltz with Bashir*", which was nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Film, won a Golden Globe Award and was screened in many prestigious international film festivals, including Cannes. She has also edited Ran Tal's "*Garden of Eden*", which is in the official competition for Hot Docs 2013. She is currently editing Ari Folman's new film "The Congress".

RAN TAL / ARTISTIC CONSULTANT

One of the more distinguish and successful documentary film directors in Israel.

His film, "*Children of the Sun*" (co-produced with ITVS), won first prize at the Jerusalem Int'l Film Festival 2007, The Ophir Award (The Israeli Oscar) for best documentary film of the same year and was admitted to many prestigious film festivals in the world, such as Toronto, Hong Kong, San Francisco, Istanbul, etc.

His latest film "*Garden of Eden*" won the best directing award at the Jerusalem Int'l Film Festival 2013 and was selected to the competition at HotDocs 2013.

ITAI NEEMAN / DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Itai has worked as a cinema and television cameraman for over 20 years and is considered to be one of the most talented and experienced professionals in his field in Israel. "*The Champagne Spy*" and "*A Film Unfinished*" (both co-produced with ARTE) took part in important international film festivals and won substantial awards at Sundance and Berlin.

ITAY MAROM / DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Since completing his studies at the Sam Spiegel Film & Television School, Itay has managed to film an impressive number of documentary films and feature films that were presented in numerous international festivals and awarded prizes, among them "*The Cutoff Man*" directed by Idan Hubel, that competed in Venice Film Festival 2012.

ISHI ADAR / ORIGINAL SCORE COMPOSER

Ishai Adar, AKA Oosh, is a musician, composer and multidisciplinary artist. Ishai has been composing soundtracks for feature and documentary films for several years. Among his work Oscar nominated "*Beaufort*" (2007), and the award winning "*A Film Unfinished*" (2010).

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KEY FACTS:

The film was produced for yes Docu, Israel and was funded by Rabinovich Foundation, Geshher Multicultural Film Fund and Israel Lottery Council For Culture & Arts.

Co-Produced with ITVS

MAIN CREDITS:

A film by **Dan Shadur & Barak Heymann**

Director: **Dan Shadur**

Producer: **Barak Heymann**

Editor: **Nili Feller**

Artistic consultant: **Ran Tal**

Cinematography: **Itay Marom, Itai Neeman**

Original music: **Ishai Adar**

Researcher and co-producer: **Dan Shadur**

Production company: **Heymann Brothers Films**

TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Country of production: **ISRAEL**

Language: **HEBREW**

Subtitles: **ENGLISH**

Running Time: **52 MIN. / 60 MIN.**

Presentation Format: **Apple ProRes, HDCAM, Digital Beta, Beta SP**

Sound Format: **STEREO**

International Premiere: **April 2013, HOTDOCS**

