



The Beit Ha'am Films kit was created and assembled by The Department of Irgoon and Israelis Abroad at the World Zionist Organization.

It consists of five short Israeli films that were carefully chosen from dozens of prize-winning works.

The films present various perspectives on Israeli society, the way of life in Israel, and issues of concern to young Israeli filmmakers. Watching them enables Jews in the Diaspora to become acquainted with and reflect on diverse and relevant themes and connect with their Jewish identity and the State of Israel from a different angle.

The films are not arranged according to any chronological order and it is not necessary to watch all of them. One or more activities can be planned around the films, based on the group's meeting place, needs and preferences.

You are welcome to contact Lior Sagi at <https://beit-haam.com/films/> if you have any question or request.

Etzleinu / Cleaning time



The Ethiopian Jewish Community in Israel

Assegedu, a 40 year old Ethiopian woman, makes a living cleaning the homes of rich people. Her daughter Haile (17) joins her after school. One afternoon Assegedu and Haile find a microphone and play with it, listening to the sound of their voices. Soon enough things go wrong and Assegedu finds herself in a moral and economical dilemma that will decide her future and her relationship with her daughter.

Directed by Alamork Marsha, 14 min.

Produced by Sam Spiegel Film and Television School.

Themes relevant to the topic: the immigrations to Israel, the Ethiopian community, economic inequalities, the weak and the strong, multiculturalism and generation gaps.

Barriers



The IDF's Checkpoints

Uri, a young officer, together with two soldiers under his command, is manning a checkpoint. Two women from the "Watch" organization are filming events at the checkpoint. Uri receives an order to close the checkpoint because of a bomb threat, and tension rises as an ambulance carrying a sick child arrives from a Palestinian village. Uri's choices will either save or sacrifice people's lives.

Directed by Golan Rise, 23 min.

Produced by Maaleh School of Film and Television

Themes relevant to the topic: the IDF, Jewish-Arab relations / Israeli-Palestinian relations, checkpoints, terrorism, perspectives, family, Zionism and Israeli society.

Blessed



Mizrachi Culture in Israel

In her big Moroccan family Zohara is the daughter everyone takes for granted while Oshrit is the beauty who is about to get married. On the day of the traditional henna ceremony preceding the wedding, Zohara steals Oshrit's blessing. The mystical power of this blessing transforms Zohara, bringing her love and changing the dynamics of her relationship with her sister.

Directed by: Prague Benbenisty, 16 min.

Produced by Sam Spiegel Film and Television School.

Topics for Discussion: ethnicity; tradition versus modernism; customs; particularistic versus universal; wedding and love; individual versus community and family; Israeli society; women in Israel; adaptation of Bible stories.

Tateh / Father



Jewish-Israeli Identities

Ran returns to the kibbutz to visit his father, who has suffered a sudden heart attack. There's been no contact between the two since Ran returned to his religious roots. Driving a rickety Hasidic van, which breaks down along the way, Ran is anxious about the impending encounter with his father and the options for reconciliation.

Directed by Yaniv Linton, 26 min.

Produced by Sam Spiegel Film and Television School.

Themes relevant to the topic: Israeli society, the kibbutz, newly devout Jews, Breslov Chassidic sect, Jewish identity in Israel.

Sabbath Entertainment



The meanings of Shabbat

It's Sabbath eve. Rachel sneaks out of her religious parents' house to go out with her secular friends. On their way to the party an accident happens and Rachel must face the consequences of her decisions.

Directed by Mihal Brezis and Oded Binnun, 20 min.

Produced by Sam Spiegel Film and Television School.

Themes relevant to the topic: Shabbat, Shabbat Eve, religious Jews, secular Jews, "yotzim beshela" (Orthodox Jews who have left the fold), parent-child relationships.

Pinhas



The Jewish-Russian Immigration to Israel

The story of nine-year-old Pinhas, a new immigrant from Russia and the son of a single mom who barely makes a living working the night shift. Pinhas finds the warmth and family togetherness that he is missing in his own home at the home of his Sephardi religious neighbors. It is there that he meets Hannale, a girl his age, and Shimon, her older brother, who introduces him to the world of religion. The troubles begin when the different cultural worlds of the two families clash.

Directed by Pini Tavger, Israel 2008, 32 minutes.

Produced at The School of Film and Television, Tel Aviv University / World Sales: Go2Films, Hedva Goldschmidt

Topics for discussion: The Russian immigration to Israel: culture shock, integration hardships, Generation 1.5, Religion and tradition as opposed to secularism, East as opposed to West, Identities in Israeli society.