

PRESS KIT

UZZI

A short film by
IDO WEISMAN



Editing **TOMER WINBERG** Cinematography **IDO WEISMAN**
Producers **AMIR TAUZINGER HILA SHITRIT EFRAT COHENV**
Original Music **DAN BEN HAIM** Sound Editing **D.B STUDIOS** Online **PELEG LEVI**



ביה"ס לקולנוע וטלוויזיה ע"ש סטיב טיש
הפקולטה לאמנויות ע"ש יולנדה וודי כץ
אוניברסיטת תל אביב



UZZI

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English Title: "Uzzi"

Hebrew Title: "עוזי"

Director: Ido Weisman

Length: 20:55

Format: DCP 25 fps/ ProRes 422

Ratio: 16:9

Sound: Dolby 5.1

Production Country: Israel

Spoken Language: Hebrew

Production House: Gaudeamus Productions

Subtitles: English

Release: June, 2018

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/311182251>

Logline

At the age of 94, Prof. Uzzi Ornan continuing his lifelong ongoing struggles for upholding the Secular and Democratic image of the State of Israel, with his last endeavor to establish Civil Burial rights where he lives.

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"Uzzi" — synopsis

(Documentary film, 20 min)

Prof. Uzzi Ornan, one of the leaders of the struggle against religious coercion in Israel and one of the founders of the Canaanite movement in the late 1930s, remains optimistic about the radical possibility of establishing the civil state he dreamed of.

At the age of 94, Uzzi decides to embark on his last struggle against the religious establishment, demanding a secular burial place for him and the rest of the residents, in the place where he lives. While trying to enlist the support of the other residents, Uzzi meets with the representatives of the community and finds that also his own optimistic spirit is being undermined by the unexpected difficulties that lie ahead. The slow clock hands of the bureaucratic mechanisms are not moving in pace with the approaching end of his life.

As he struggles for his right to secular burial, another struggle takes place in Nofit, his place of residence. Within this beautiful rural community there is a growing protest by most of the residents regarding the possibility of adding Arab residents. Uzzi, with his determination, finds himself again in opposition to the majority, in the battle for the character and image of the community.

When these struggles are intertwined and the occupation with the nature of his future burial increases, the realization of his approaching death seeps through him and his wife, along with thoughts about the possibility that he will not be able to see in his lifetime the realization of his national vision.

It seems that this is Uzzi's last chance to create a real change, and that the success of his private struggle will be a significant milestone in his lifelong attempt to lead a revolution in the identity of the State of Israel.

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Director's statement

During the second year of my studies at the School of Film and Television at Tel Aviv University, I was asked to prepare a documentary about a human figure. The choice of Uzzi was immediate. Uzzi lives next door to my family in Nofit, a communal settlement in the north of the country where I was born and raised, and therefore my acquaintance with Uzzi goes back to my early childhood. Uzzi's well-known name in our community as an elderly man with radical ideological concepts has always intrigued me, but for various reasons, I never tried to deeply explore these concepts. Following the demand for an exercise on some character, I came to Uzzi with the camera in an attempt to understand his political views and to become familiar with his long public struggles related to the resistance to religious coercion in Israel.

Although I see myself as a person with a broad political consciousness, Uzzi's views went beyond the familiar political concepts and I was exposed to the unique "Canaanite" ideology that reshaped for me what I knew about the State of Israel as a "Jewish State".

For more than two years since that first time, when I met Uzzi with the camera, I accompanied him at various crossroads and moments along with his struggles for

secular burial and for the future character of the community in which he and my family live.

More than anything else, I was amazed and gripped by his ability to preserve the fire and intensity of his struggles for so many years, out of absolute faith in the justice of his path, without letting the powerful winds of resistance to stop or divert him from his way.

In the last years, a certain growing up in myself had taken place, together with a degree of skepticism about the real possibility of far-reaching changes in shaping the future path of our State. Following my encounter with Uzzi, a 94-year-old active revolutionary, I was re-infected with his youthful spirit and the faith in the power of a stubborn struggle.

Credits

Director

Ido Weisman

Editor

Tomer Weinberg

Cinematographer

Ido Weisman

Producers

Hilla Shitrit

Amir Tausinger

Efrat Cohen

Original Music

Dan Ben Haim

Re-recording mixer

Dan Ben Haim

Sound Editor

Michal Gidon

Online Editor

Peleg Levi

The Steve Tisch School of Film and Television

Yaron Bloch

Yosef Grunfeld

Yael Perlov

Thanks

Michal Ornan

Ali Hauash

Dalit Spector

Sigal Lavi

Eldad Porat

My dear family

Mom, Dad, Tomer, Orly, Anat and Ran.



Director's Biography

Ido Weisman

Thirty years old from Tel Aviv, Israel. Born, raised and educated in the community village of Nofit, in northern Israel.

Graduated from the Steve Tisch Film School at Tel Aviv University and is working on his final film.

Currently working as a cinematographer for short films and various television productions.

He has directed two short documentary films, "Uzzi" (2018, 21 min) and "Horah" (2018, 18 min), as well as a short fiction film "Pool" (2018, 12 min), that have been screened at several festivals.



Contact

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