

# THE LAB

A FEATURE DOCUMENTARY FILM  
DIRECTED BY: YOTAM FELDMAN  
PRODUCERS: YOAV ROEH AND AURIT ZAMIR



## SYNOPSIS

The occupied territories in the west bank, serve a real-life lab for testing urban warfare and weapons. The film will follow three sales agents, ex-military men, who sell products of 'the lab' – weapons and technologies for fighting in densely populated urban areas in the occupied territories. The film will unravel how Israel has become a leading worldwide exporter catering to armed conflicts around the world, and will question who stand to gain from this phenomenon.

## DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

This project stems from an understanding that there is more than meets the eye to the Israel/Palestine conflict. While the national and political aspects of it are very well known, the big business surrounding this regional tragedy lie far from public eye. This is a story told for the first time.

Dozens of Israeli travelling agents - representing various defense and security companies are touring the world as we speak, promoting products that were developed in the past few years and are constantly tested in

Palestine. These supply weapons, technologies of fencing and separation, military training, observation devices and more.

They are all distinguished by their ability to efficiently control the civic lives of a large urban population. This population can live in a Palestinian refugee camp, an Iraqi suburb or a Brazilian crime-infested neighborhood - the control devices are similar, and a huge portion of them are developed in Israel. This ability, constantly being developed in Israel in the past years, had become more and more attractive to countries all over the world, especially since 9/11. These sales agents don't only have the technical knowledge but also hold an asset almost no other country has: a 24 hour operating, living lab to test their products and a vast population of Palestinian guinea pigs. In the Palestinian laboratory these devices are being constantly tested and improved. "If it works in Palestine" they will say, "it will work anywhere".

The Israeli companies are everywhere: they're equipping US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, they've made in security camera system in London, They're involved in the construction of

the controversial US/Mexico fence, in separating EU and non EU countries and in the construction of gated communities for the upper class in the US, Brazil and India.

My view is that this story can only be told from the inside, and this is the voyage I'm offering. I'm accompanying three travelling agents in their attempt to sell the products of "the lab", around the world. These are the exporters of the small hell-on-earth of the Israeli occupation.

As the film unfolds conflict emerges: the travel agents are faced with the truth: the fact that they are making very substantial money out of the misery and tragedy of Palestine and Israel. This truth takes various forms: civilians having their privacy violated, families becoming victims of the use of Israeli weapon, and social groups being cut out by fencing and separation. The agents, on their part, are proud to be part of the Israeli global success, and believe they are helping to make the world a safer place.

The film will attempt to capture the complexity of the situation, and portray a different point of view on the Israel/Palestine conflict.

## GUM FILMS

YOAV ROEH AND AURIT ZAMIR,  
PRODUCERS

Gum Films is a production house for feature films and documentaries. Its founders, Yoav Roeh and Aurit Zamir, graduated from the prestigious Sam Spiegel Film and Television School and have been making movies since.

**Yoav** has produced feature films and documentaries within different collaborations. Among them: Zion and His Brother/Eran Merav (Sundance 2009), State of Israel vs. Tali Fahima/Tal Hakim (Jerusalem Film Festival, 2006), Noodle/Ayelet Menahemi (special Grand Prize of the Jury, Montreal, 2007), What A Wonderful Place/Eyal Halfon (Special Prize of the Jury, Karlovy Vary, 2005, Best Film-Israel Academy Awards, 2005), Melting Siberia/Ido Haar (Official Selection, Silverdocs, 2005), Miss Entebbe/Omri Levi (Special Mention, Berlinale, 2003).

**Aurit** has established herself as a leading first AD on feature films, dramas and TV series.

Their first documentary feature, "Long Distance" is premiering at Docaviv Film Festival, May 2009.

## YOTAM FELDMAN

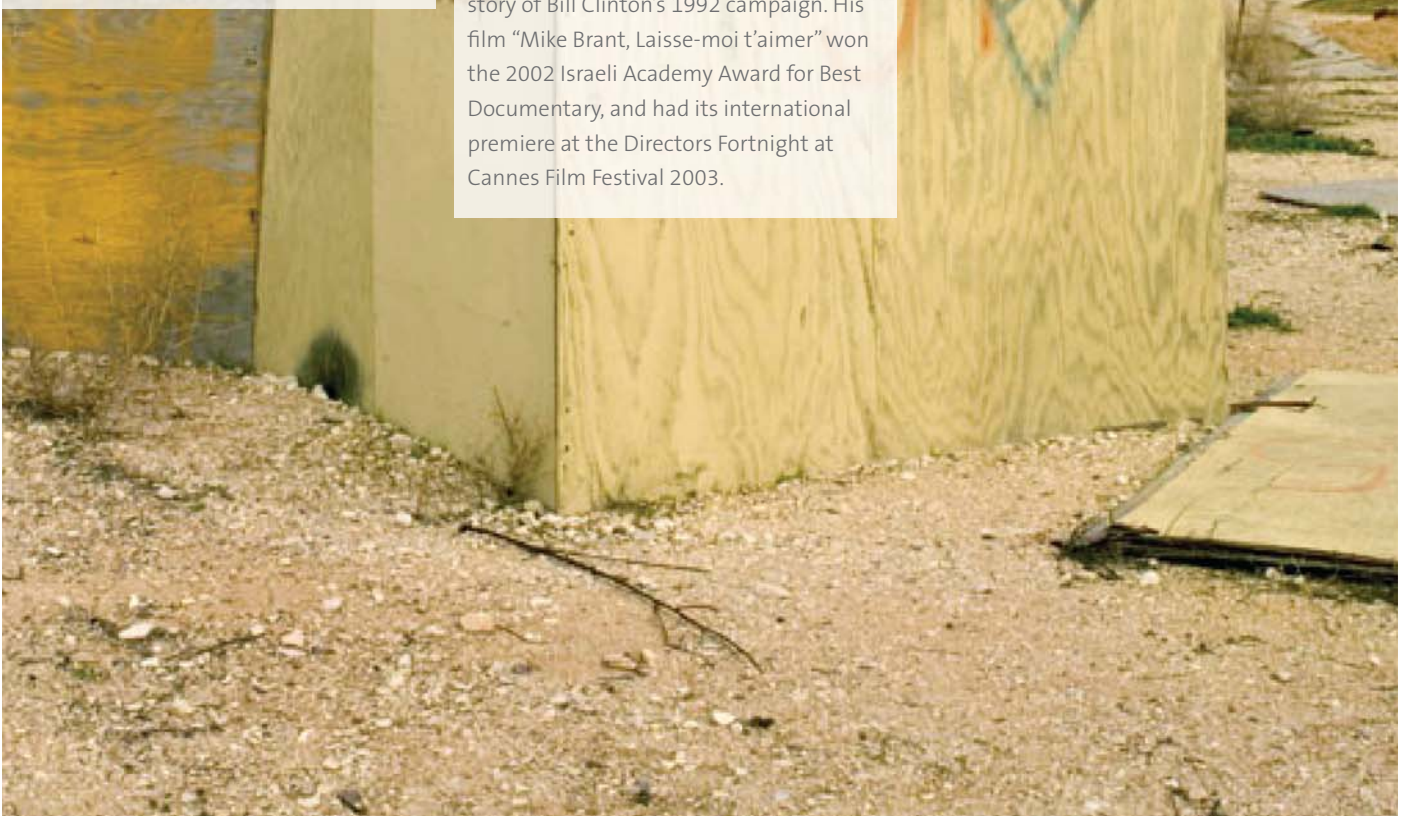
DIRECTOR

Yotam is a filmmaker, journalist and political activist, based in Tel-Aviv. In the past years he's been writing for Ha'aretz daily newspaper, bringing exclusive reports and footage from the political uprising in Burma, October 2007, exploring the Israeli sex industry in 2008, and reporting the activities of Israeli arms dealers in Angola in 2009. He has conducted interviews and research articles regarding the IDF and Israeli companies involved in the occupation of the Palestinian territories. Feldman has been making short films from a young age. "The Lab" is his first feature-length film. In addition he is a graduate student and teacher at Tel-Aviv University.

## EREZ LAUFER

DIRECTING/EDITING ADVISOR

Erez is an established documentary filmmaker and a world known film editor. Among his work as an editor is the Oscar nominee for Best Documentary 2006 "My Country My country" and the 1993 Oscar-nominated "The War Room", the story of Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign. His film "Mike Brant, Laisse-moi t'aimer" won the 2002 Israeli Academy Award for Best Documentary, and had its international premiere at the Directors Fortnight at Cannes Film Festival 2003.



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