

**STRAND  
RELEASING**

*presents*

# AFRICA

A FILM BY  
**OREN GERNER**

*Starring Meir Gerner and Maya Gerner*

## PRESS NOTES

### **OFFICIAL SELECTION**

*Toronto International Film Festival 2019*

*San Sebastian International Film Festival New Directors*

Winner -2020 Haifa International Film Festival: Best Film, Best Debut Film and Best Actor

Nominated for 5 Ophir Award - Including Best Film and Best Director

Country of Origin: Israel  
Format: DCP/1.78/Color  
Sound: 5.1 Surround  
Running Time: 82 minutes  
Genre: Drama  
Not Rated  
In Hebrew with English Subtitles

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## **SYNOPSIS**

When retired 68 year-old Meir discovers that his 30 years of planning the annual village celebration have been summarily discarded and the job has been given to inexperienced local teens instead, the ground beneath his feet begins to give way. In his effort to restore a sense of meaning and vitality, Meir begins to rebel against the inevitable: the betrayal of his physical body, the growing distance from his children, and the loss of relevance. Reconstructing fiction from real life, *Africa* is the cinematic journey of an ageing parent crafted by the hands of his loving son, in this deeply personal story on reinventing oneself, as years go by.

## **DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

Through a long observation of my parents and the use of personal (biographical) materials of their lives and community in my hometown 'Nirit', I have developed the characters of the film. I sought to explore the character of my father, through a journey in which the banal and the fatal are intertwined. It's been five years since my father retired. There seems to be some peace in his new status, but at the same time there was a quiet and powerful drama.

*Africa* seeks to create a cinematic MRI image of a character who finds himself in a reality that has disassociated itself from the meanings on which he relied on during his life. The energy underlying his actions are a rebellion: rebellion against the betrayal of his body, against the growing distance from his children, against the absence of meaning. But by the very existence of this struggle, a new meaning is born, with a possibility of redemption.

The film consists of documentary materials from my parents' trip to Africa. It echoes through the film, reflecting an inner wild possibility of life.

## **OREN GERNER | BIOGRAPHY**

Oren Gerner studied filmmaking at Minshar for Arts Academy in Tel-Aviv, where he majored in directing and screenwriting, graduating with distinction. He currently works as a cinema lecturer in several filmmaking academies in Israel. He has directed several short films, which participated in more than 150 film festivals, such as Cannes, Sundance, San-Sebastian and more, and won 15 international prizes. *Africa* is Oren's first feature film.

## **DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

**“Africa”** (82 minutes)

First feature film. Won 1st prizes at the work-in-progress programs at the (Cinelink) Sarajevo film festival and also at the Jerusalem film festival pitch point. Development support by the rabinovich film fund.

**“Gabriel”** (12.5 minutes)

An Israeli French co-production, with 'WHY NOT PRODUCTIONS'. Starring Thomas Doret ("a kid on a bike"). Premiered at Cannes film festival official shorts competition (Palme D'Or nominee). Purchased by CANAL+

**“Greenland”** (17 minutes)

Graduation film. "Greenland" was nominated for the Israeli Oscar award ("Ofir") for best short and had its American premiere at the Sundance film festival. On its European premier, it won the 1st prize for best short film at the 62nd San-Sebastian international film festival in Spain. The film won the 1st prize for best Israeli short film on its local premier at the 16th Tel-Aviv international film festival. "Greenland" participated in more than 100 film festivals around the world and won 10 International prizes.

**“Shark tooth”** (29 minutes)

Nominated for the Israeli Oscar award, Aired on Israeli channel 1. Participated and won awards in Israel and abroad. Made with the support of the "Israel film fund" and Arava Film festival.

**“Test”** (6 minutes)

Premiered at the 17th Tel-Aviv International Film Festival, screened at the 51st Oscar qualifying Chicago international film festival, and was screened at a dozen other film festivals around the world.

## **Credits**

Written and Directed by Oren Gerner

### **Main Cast**

Meir Gerner  
Maya Gerner  
Oren Gerner  
Gilad Earel  
Alon Earel  
Haim Neiberg  
Tom Kroszynski  
Shai Nemet  
Hadas Earel  
Liat Tamari  
Sasha Israel Agronov  
Yuli Fainerman

**Produced by** Film Harbor  
**Producer** Itay Akirav

<b>Countries of production</b>	Israel
<b>Cinematography by</b>	Adi Mozes
<b>Editing by</b>	Gil Vesely
<b>Production design by</b>	Roi Alter
<b>Assistant director</b>	Omri Dekel-Kadosh

**Sound by**  
**Sound mix by**  
**Production manager**

Michael Stoliar  
Yuri Priymenko  
Itamar Schwartz

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