

**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 (Cinelinek) 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

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

Sound by
Sound mix by
Production manager

Michael Stoliar
Yuri Priymenko
Itamar Schwartz

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