



THE ISRAEL YOU HAVEN'T SEEN

By Jan Lisa Huttner
SPECIAL FOR CFIC '08

As a fervent fan of Israeli cinema for well over a decade now, I've noticed an exciting trend in the past few years. When I first started watching, most of the films I saw were located in either Jerusalem or Tel Aviv. That made sense, of course, because Tel Aviv is Israel's commercial center, and Jerusalem is the spiritual home of the Jewish people. But those of us who've either lived in Israel or traveled beyond the beaten path know there is amazing diversity, and filmmakers are finally putting more of it on screen.

The port city of Ashdod comes to life in the bittersweet drama *Love and Dance*, and the heat and dust of Be'er Sheva are palpable in both the crime caper *She's Got It* as well as the soccer story *Vasermil*. But I was especially thrilled to see the holy city of Sfat play a starring role in Avi Neshet's new film *The Secrets*. A few years back, he set his box office powerhouse *Turn Left at the End of the World* in a mythical development town somewhere in the south, but *The Secrets* is very firmly located in the shaded archways and sun-blached steps of Sfat, the very place where generations of mystics have studied Kaballah.

Come to this year's CFIC and visit parts of Israel you may never have seen before!

*** Jan's 2008 Schedule @ Pipers Alley Theatre ***

Film Title	Day	Date	When	What
LOVE & DANCE	Sun	11/2	3:30 PM	Intro/Q&A
SOUVENIRS	Sun	11/2	6:00 PM	Q&A

+

Sunday AM Brunch Discussion with members of Chicago ORT
11 AM @ O'Briens Restaurant on Wells

*** Jan's 2008 Schedule @ Wilmette Theatre ***

Film Title	Day	Date	When	What
DANCING ALFONSO	Tues	11/4	3:00 PM	Intro
LADY KUL EL-ARAB	Weds	11/5	6:00 PM	Intro/Q+A
with special festival guest director Ibtisam Mara'ana				
STRANGERS	Sat	11/8	9:00 PM	Intro/Q&A
TIME OF FAVOR	Sat	11/8	10:00 PM	Intro/Q&A

Tziviah bat Yisroel v'Hudah (Jan Lisa Huttner) writes the monthly "Tzivi's Spotlight" column for Chicago's *JUF News*. Her award-winning features and film reviews have appeared in *All About Jewish Theatre*, the *Forward*, *Jewish Film World*, and the *World Jewish Digest*, and she has posted interviews with noted Israeli filmmakers including Nir Bergman and Joseph Cedar on her website FILMS FOR TWO© (www.films42.com). Jan worships with Congregation Kol-Ami, and she is a proud member of several local Jewish organizations including Chicago YIVO, Hadassah's AGAM Chapter, ORT, and the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies. A popular speaker on campuses all around Illinois, Jan has presented programs on Israel film for both Hillel and Hadassah, and she served as moderator for numerous post-screening Q&A sessions during last year's Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema.