

BLUE MIRAGE

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	100 min
Language	French, Ladino
Shooting format	4K
Shooting location	France, Switzerland, Canary Islands
Shooting dates	January 2026
Expected date of completion	January 2027
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	3,387,960 €
Financing in place	N/A
Production company	Funderwoman
Workshop & platform attended	Women's Narrative Lab by the Israeli Cinema Fund and the New Fund

SYNOPSIS

Blue Mirage tells the story of 3 generations: Eloise, an introverted creative teenager, travels reluctantly with Luna, her childish mother, and Rina, her eccentric grandmother to an artistic hairstyle competition in the Canary Islands. Through her first experiences of adolescence, Eloise discovers the truth about her absent father, and finds her place in the women's folklore of her family. On a journey back to their familial roots, three generations of wandering Jewish women connect to their strength as a family and go through a process of self-discovery.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Eloise's story is inspired by my personal story: a family of immigrant women, strong and intertwined. Immigration changed my life and was a milestone in consolidating my identity. Through the character of Eloise, I'm Interested in touching upon the growing pains of puberty and the transition from girlhood to womanhood, in an honest and humorous tone. Within the world that I design in detail I seek to invent a microcosm: unique, fantastic but also revealing the crumbling walls and the 90' aesthetics. I want to show how the transition to adulthood is affected by family and cultural relationships. The process that the film's heroine goes through demonstrates how the formation of identity is intertwined with separation and reconnection to the roots. I seek to touch on the issues of intergenerational pains, immigration and questions about the place of women in family.

CONTACT

Producer - Inbal-Rotem Sagiv - inbalrotem.sagiv@gmail.com

Director - Orna Rottenberg - orna.rottenberg@gmail.com



PRODUCER INBAL-ROTEM SAGIV



Inbal-Rotem Sagiv is a producer and writer working between Tel Aviv and Los Angeles, whose films have presented at leading festivals and platforms worldwide. Inbal specializes in impact projects and raises funds for social endeavors and organizations in Israel. In 2023 she was selected to participate in CoPro's Impact Lab, she is a graduate of Series Mania's Israel-France Co-writing 2022 Residency, and Film Financing seminar at UCLA in 2017. Moreover, she produced the Sam Spiegel International Film and Series Labs, and is a Founding Board Member of "Big Sister", which promotes women in the Israeli TV and film industry.

DIRECTOR ORNA ROTTENBERG



Orna Rottenberg is an Israeli-Swiss filmmaker and art director. She graduated with honors from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, her visual language focuses on a unique aesthetic. Her short film "Artichoke Season" world premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2022, and has participated in dozens of leading festivals since then. "Blue Mirage", her first feature currently in development, was chosen to participate in the Women's Narrative Lab led by The Israeli Cinema Fund and the New Fund, and more recently accepted to the Aide à l'écriture de scénario - Cinéma et Audiovisuel de la région Ile de France.



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RETREAT

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama, Psychological thriller
Length	90 min
Language	Hebrew
Shooting format	4K
Shooting location	Israel
Shooting dates	N/A
Expected date of completion	May 2026

PRODUCTION

Budget	370,000 €
Financing in place	N/A
Production company	tiarafilms
Workshop & platform attended	PAS Studio Darom 2024

SYNOPSIS

In the midst of the desert, Hagar, a failed resort manager and her son, meet a captivating new guest - Roni. As Roni becomes a part of their lives, a bond forms between them, giving them hope for a better future. However, the ideas and actions of Roni set off a chain of strange and disturbing events, threatening Hagar's control of the resort and ultimately endangering her son's life.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"Retreat" draws from personal experiences and recent incidents involving spiritual leaders worldwide. As a child of a single mother who endured toxic relationships and as a personal victim of a deceptive mentor, this story resonates deeply with me. The film explores the power of in-group mentality, highlighting how they can trap individuals in dangerous social systems or transform them into leaders of such. I wish to show a man who isn't presented as a villain, but rather one who finds an opportunity and is drawn to it by his own trauma and misguided beliefs in doing good. The film also delves into the concept of "truth" in a world of manipulated narratives. It tries to reveal a way forward by showing on how honest relations can restore a true connection and a sense of togetherness. Through the Israeli desert's eerie beauty, "Retreat" oscillates between the surreal and thriller genres to reflect on family relations, social issues, and the chaos caused by extremism.

CONTACT

Producer - Harel Ben Melech - bmharel@gmail.com

Director - Roy Kanevsky - royknvsky@gmail.com



PRODUCER HAREL BEN MELECH



Harel is the owner of Tiara Films, a production company based in Israel. With over a decade of experience as a producer in the Israeli industry, Harel has produced around 20 award-winning short films showcased at festivals worldwide. Her film "The Visit" was screened at the Cannes Film Festival. Her film "The Sun Rises Down Below" won Best Short Film award at the JFF and was considered for an Oscar. Her company has also produced numerous commercials and music videos for leading brands and artists. Harel has been involved in producing film festivals and award-winning TV series. Currently, she is working on several short films distributions, and two features in post-production.

DIRECTOR ROY KANEVSKY



Roy is a writer and film director. Working on films, music videos and commercials. Graduated with honors from ORT Film & TV College, his last film 'The Guard' (Short, 2024) won the 'Short on the way' competition at TISFF 25#. His previous film 'The Fisherman's Wife' (Short, 2022) was funded by the Geshar Multi-cultural Fund and has been screened in several film festivals around the world. Roy has written and directed 6 short films so far, and is currently working on his first full-length feature film.



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2024

STUDIO DAROM · PAS WORKSHOP

THE LAST KLEZMERS

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	90 min
Language	Yiddish
Shooting format	N/A
Shooting location	Israel
Shooting dates	N/A
Expected date of completion	N/A
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	2,300,000. €
Financing in place	N/A
Production company	Lev Orlov Films
Workshop & platform attended	PAS Studio Darom 2024

SYNOPSIS

Over the course of one night, shortly after WWI, four klezmers wander between a “black wedding” in an ancient Jewish cemetery and a gig in a local roadhouse, playing for pennies and some food. Their destination is a rich Jewish wedding, from where they can safely continue to New York, to start from scratch. When a Jewish actress, fleeing from a violent pimp, joins them, the dynamics within the band change. By sunrise, they will go through a tumultuous journey in the polish woods, filled with music, adventures, and nocturnal encounters, at the end of which they will part ways, for good.

DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

The 4 klezmers and Sheyndel are thrown to a liminal space: one night in the woods, so they can evolve to their next chapter in life. Regarding the klezmers, the transition from a solid group to 4 different individuals with different destinies, resonates with the Jewish fate of constant travelling. Sheyndel is both the catalysator and the promise of a woman's liberation from the prison of traditional patriarchy. The connection between the men and the only female in the film is a sweet reminder of the necessary bond between genders, though old tensions DO exist.

The cinematic journey will be a non-sentimental, comic, and exciting homage to the forgotten eastern European Jewish culture before the holocaust: The music, the Yiddish language, the creativity, the humor, in the spirit of Bashevis Singer. It starts it with a gothic scene, but with a touch of irony that will remain through the film. And of course, tons of klezmer music – original but also freestyle.

CONTACT

Producer - Lev Orlov - orlov.lev95@gmail.com
Director - Shiri Nevo Fridental - shirinf77@gmail.com



PRODUCER LEV ORLOV



Lev Orlov is an independent film producer based in Tel Aviv and head of Lev Orlov Films. A graduate of the Innovative Producing Studies at Sam Spiegel Film School, he produced award-winning short films that have featured in festivals worldwide.

Currently, Lev focuses on producing fiction, documentary, and animation films with promising young Israeli and Palestinian filmmakers.

DIRECTOR SHIRI NEVO FRIDENTAL



A director and screenwriter. After several years as a criminal lawyer, mainly as a prosecutor, Shiri attended the film department of “Minshar” art school. Her final short film was “The Prosecution” which developed to be her debut feature film “All I Can Do”. The film premiered at the 2022

Jerusalem film festival and was distributed in Israel, USA and Canada. At the moment, Shiri is working on several projects, both for television and film, and will take part at the new edition of the Sam Spiegel lab for tv series. Shiri is also a lecturer at “Minshar” film department.



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2024

STUDIO DAROM · PAS WORKSHOP

THE SECRET RITUAL

MAIN DATA

Category	Drama
Length	90 min
Language	Hebrew, Arameic
Shooting format	4K
Shooting location	Israel
Shooting dates	2025
Expected date of completion	1 year from financing
Stage of production	In development

PRODUCTION

Budget	1,000,000 €
Financing in place	N/A
Production company	United Channels Movies
Workshop & platform attended	Private research workshop in a haredi community

SYNOPSIS

Haya, a 26-year-old Haredi woman from a strict Jewish orthodox group, has spent her entire life suppressing her mystical abilities, choosing instead to devote herself to her mundane existence as a wife and a mother. However, when the mystical voices return and she discovers she can heal others, she is jolted out of her monotonous routine. For the first time in her life, Haya must lie, conceal her secrets, defy her husband, and even neglect her young children. All, to fulfill her destiny of becoming a spiritual woman – a healer. Just like the great rabbis of the kabbalah.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I lived in Jerusalem for many years, and from a young age very close to the Ultraorthodox community. I walked the same streets, played in the same area. I was always interested in Jewish mysticism and studied Kabbalah. One day a religious friend of mine heard that I studied Kabbalah, and was shocked. Studying Kabbalah is forbidden for women. There is a deep inequality in the masculine religious community, where there is no access to spiritual knowledge for women. This prohibition fascinated me, leading me to reflect. If religion is intended for people to learn, pray and develop spiritually then why is it restricted for women? I was revolted, why is studying the most spiritual part of my Jewish tradition, forbidden? I wanted to expose this inequality in my work.

CONTACT

Producer - Itamar Pirchi - itamarpirchi@gmail.com

Director - Sofia Gutman - sofmganguti@gmail.com



PRODUCER ITAMAR PIRCHI



Itamar Pirchi, a seasoned veteran of the New York Stock Exchange, transitioned to social justice advocacy, serving on the board of Koach La'Ovdim, Israel's only democratic trade union. In 2018, he joined UCM as a partner/producer.

His filmography includes:

- "Vanishing Soldier" (2023) - Official Selection, Locarno Film Festival; Best Picture, Haifa Film Festival
 - "Arugam Bay" Director Marco Carmel (Post Production)
 - "The Stronghold" (2023) - TV Series/Feature Film (Lior Chefetz)
 - "Victory" (2023) -(Eliran Peled)
 - "Plan A" (2022) -(Doron Paz & Yoav Paz)
 - "Golden Voices" (2019) -(Evgeny Roman) Winner, Netpac Award Best Film, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival
- Currently, Itamar is involved in several exciting projects, including "Double Panther" a feature about the Israeli black panthers (Marco Carmel) and The Last Ballad, a TV series about the life of Ben Gurion (Eliran Peled)

DIRECTOR SOFIA GUTMAN



Sofia is an Israeli filmmaker who studies at Bezalel academy of arts. Her short film NIGHT TRAIN is diffused in cinemas in Germany and Switzerland via the KURZFILM catalogue. Her shorts were screened in hundreds of festivals including A-list ; St Petersburg IFF Message to Man Film Festival, KURZFILM Hamburg, La Fête de Court Métrage, Solidarity Tel Aviv Festival and others. Her film THE RACE – a franco Israeli co-production with SUR LA TABLE & THE HIVE STUDIO participated in the Jerusalem film festival Pitch point. Sofia's feature film The secret ritual received the Rabinovich fund and is edited by Yossi Madmoni.

Sofia worked as storyboard artist and concept artist on several productions. Her painterly animation-based approach has been the origine of the visually rich universes shown in her films.



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