

The Main Feature



Season 36 - Issue 4 screening 22.10.15

Our annual contribution to mark:



Our VISION of OWW 2015 is of:

People working together to build a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

**INSPIRING A CULTURE OF HOPE TO BUILD
A MORE EQUAL AND PEACEFUL WORLD**

We believe that:

When we understand each others perspectives, our lives can be transformed and enriched.

THE BAND'S VISIT



Bikur Ha-Tizmoret

Israel

2007

87 mins

Cert 12A

Directed and Written by: Eran Krolirin
Edited by: Airk Lahav Leibovitz

Director of Photography: Shai Goldman
Music by: Habib Shehadeh Hanna

Cast:

Sasson Gabai (Lieutenant-colonel Tawfiq Zacharya)

Imad Jabarin (Major-general Camal Abdel Azim)

Saleh Bakri (Haled)

Uri Gavriel (Avrum)

Khalifa Natour (Simon)

Franois Khell (Makram)

Ronit Elkabetz (Dina)

Ahuva Keren (Lea)

Shlomi Avraham (Papi)

Hisham Khoury (Fauzi).

Eran Krolirin's gently low-key character piece, the Alexandria Ceremonial Police Orchestra - an eight-piece band from Egypt - flies in to Israel to play at the opening of an Arab Cultural Center in Petah Tiqva. Through miscommunication (there is no letter P in Arabic) they take a bus to the similar-sounding Bet Hatikva, a dusty little town in the middle of the Negev Desert. Or, in the words of one inhabitant, "Nowhere."

The band must rely on the kindness of strangers, which allows first-time director Krolirin to unwrap the idiosyncrasies of human relationships. The focus falls on band-leader Tawfiq (Gabai) and Israeli bar-owner Dina (Elkabetz), the former characterised by dignity and restraint, the latter a provocative swagger.

The band members don't speak Hebrew. And the residents of Nowheresville, Israel, don't speak Arabic. So they all end up communicating in the only common language they have: English. Broken English.

(That, incidentally -- and ridiculously -- is where the film ran foul of the Oscar rules, since any film entered in the foreign-language Academy category must be filmed predominately in the submitting country's official language. As a result this film was excluded from the list of possible contenders).

First-time writer and director Eran Krolirin kept the stories small and intimate and made a point of avoiding the expected cliches of cultural collision. Each side gradually unpeels their emotional shield in the course of witty, almost comedic interplay peppered with both misunderstanding and sympathy.

Indeed perhaps the cleverest aspect of the film is the way the subtext that sets the table for the film is never actually mentioned, never discussed, never used as a bludgeon to deliver the filmmakers' message.

Krolirin films it as a wry comical parable on Israeli-Arab relations that smoothly turns into a human interest story about loneliness and alienation, something people from all over the world can relate to.

After seeing the film I hope members will agree that the selection of this film meets both the OWW 2015 vision and the organisation's belief statement, both of which are shown on the front page of these notes.

Iain McGlashan

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When I read the following article on the BBC website I thought that he could have asked his local film club if they would have undertaken a special screening for him, which would probably cost a lot less!

Incidentally, if any member would like to discuss organising a special personal screening of their favourite film via WNCC please see me or any other Committee member.

Monty Python's Life of Brian will get its first ever screening in Bournemouth after a 35-year stand-off with censors.



Distributors would not release the film unless it was given an AA certificate, but in 1980 the town slapped an X rating on the legendary comedy.

Adrian Cox, who wanted to put on a screening for his birthday, begged censors to reclassify the film.

They agreed Brian can now be considered less of a naughty boy and will get his night at the seaside.

Train driver Mr Cox has hired his favourite cinema, the ABC, in a move he admitted was "horribly expensive".

Life of Brian - the story of a man born at the same time as Jesus Christ and who is mistaken for the Messiah - was released at the end of 1979 and immediately stepped into a huge blasphemy row.

Bournemouth council's environmental services committee met the following year to decide if the age limit for the film should be raised from 14 (the AA certificate) to 18.

Ben Grower, who was on the committee at the time, said: "There were quite a number of right wing, religious councillors in those days. Maybe they thought it would offend the people of Bournemouth.

"Personally I think the people of Bournemouth would have laughed their socks off.

"It is better late than never, I hope those who go enjoy it."

Mr Cox estimates he has spent more than £3,000 on the event for 150 to 200 people.

Andrew Morgan, the current chairman of the Licensing Board at Bournemouth Borough Council, said: "I wasn't formally asked but if I had been I would have said it was high time the film was shown."

Life of Brian is also due to be shown publicly in the town next month.

Comments and reactions to: **Belle**

A fine film: interesting, entertaining. A good evening

Where the personal becomes the political

Brilliant. Such important issues. Good acting

Brilliant film, acting, scenery and history

A beautiful film , well acted with lovely music

Very fine and strong plot. Acting very fine

Powerful performance by Tom Wilkinson

Fine performance by Tom Wilkinson in a rather overwrought film

A bit on the "fairy tale" side but an enjoyable film for all that

Great historical comment and content, sensitively handled. More please!

Period dramas get my vote everytime. Magnificent film.

Fascinating story – it beggars belief that things like this ever happened

Sheer delight – a film of social significance in delightful surrounding, well acted and well directed

A good choice

Superb

A bit too Mills & Boon for me

A period drama with sugary icing

Brilliant powerful period drama

Very watchable film, well acted

Epic and beautifully acted

Score	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	~	~	~	~	~	2	1	7	17	9	3

No of reaction slips received = 39

Average Score = 8.00

Position	Film	Average Score
1 st	Belle	8.00
2 nd	The Theory of Everything	7.84
3 rd	Rebel Without a Cause	7.16

Our next film on 12 November:

"an exquisitely composed portrayal of the despair and futility of World War I as seen from the rarely revealed viewpoint of an idealistic young woman."

"This is no dusty history piece or judgemental look back at the past but a fresh, immediate, personal testimony that speaks across the ages."

"Alicia Vikander is not only drop-dead gorgeous, she is as good an actress as I've ever seen, worth the price of admission alone. Almost hopelessly romantic, there was not one slow moment in this film. On a scale of 10, I'd like to give this an 11."

