



68°

Festival del film Locarno

**Silver Leopard  
Special Jury Prize**

Special Mention  
for the cinematography



**JERUSALEM  
FILM FESTIVAL**

**BEST FEATURE FILM  
BEST SCREENPLAY  
BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY  
BEST ACTOR**

# TIKKUN תיקון

A FILM BY AVISHAI SIVAN



## FILM INFO

Running time: 120 min

Country: Israel

Language: Hebrew, Yiddish

Production format: Digital

Filmed on: 5K WS / 5K / 4K

Camera: RED Epic / RED Scarlet

Speed: 24 fps

Color: B/W

Aspect Ratio: 2.39:1

Sound Mix: 5.1 surround

Screening format: DCP 2K

## PRODUCTION COMPANIES

### PLAN B PRODUCTIONS LTD.

Tel +972.54.664.9771

16 Fishman Maimon St. Tel Aviv, Israel 64236

ronenbental@gmail.com

www.planb-productions.com

### THE MOUTH AGAPE PRODUCTIONS

Tel +972.50.728.5159

46B Hertzl Street, Or Yehuda, Israel 6021146

TheMouthAgape@gmail.com

### UNITED KING FILMS

www.unitedking.co.il

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The Rabinovich Foundation for the Arts - Cinema Project

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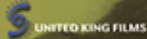
## SYNOPSIS

Haim-Aaron is a bright, Ultra-Orthodox religious scholar living in Jerusalem. His talents and devotion are envied by all.

One evening, following a self-imposed fast, Haim-Aaron collapses and loses consciousness. The paramedics announce his death, but his father takes over resuscitation efforts and, beyond all expectations, Haim-Aaron comes back to life.

After the accident, try as he might, Haim-Aaron remains apathetic to his studies. He feels overwhelmed by a sudden awakening of his body and suspects this is God testing him. He wonders if he should stray from the prescribed path and find a way to rekindle his faith.

The father notices his son's changed behavior and tries to forgive him. He is tormented by the fear of having crossed God's will, the night he resuscitated his son.





## CAST

Haim-Aaron - Aharon Traitel  
Haim-Aaron's Father - Khalifa Natour  
Haim-Aaron's Mother - Riki Blich  
Yanke - Gur Sheinberg  
Yeshiva Colleague - Omri Fuhrer  
Yeshiva Head Rabbi - Dani Kedem  
Young Female Driver - Shani Ben Haim

## CREW

Director and Writer - Avishai Sivan  
Producers - Ronen Ben-Tal, Avishai Sivan, Moshe Edery, Leon Edery  
Cinematographer - Shai Goldman  
Film Editors - Nili Feller, Avishai Sivan  
1st Assistant Director - Doron Ofer  
Line Producer - Uria Kedem  
Sound Design and Mix - Aviv Aldema  
Sound Recordist - Alfred Tesler  
Art Director - Amir Yaron  
Visual Effects - Dani Cohen  
Make Up Artist - Orly Ronen  
Costume Designer - Malky Fogel  
Casting - Bar Hadas



## About 'Tikkun':

In everyday Hebrew, the word 'Tikkun' means improvement or rectification. However, the term 'Tikkun' has a more metaphysical meaning in Judaism. The Jewish faith supports the idea of reincarnation – the belief in a soul's cycle or return to the world after biological death. 'Tikkun' refers to a soul returning to the living world in order to rectify an unresolved issue from its past life; to redeem itself before transitioning to the next world.

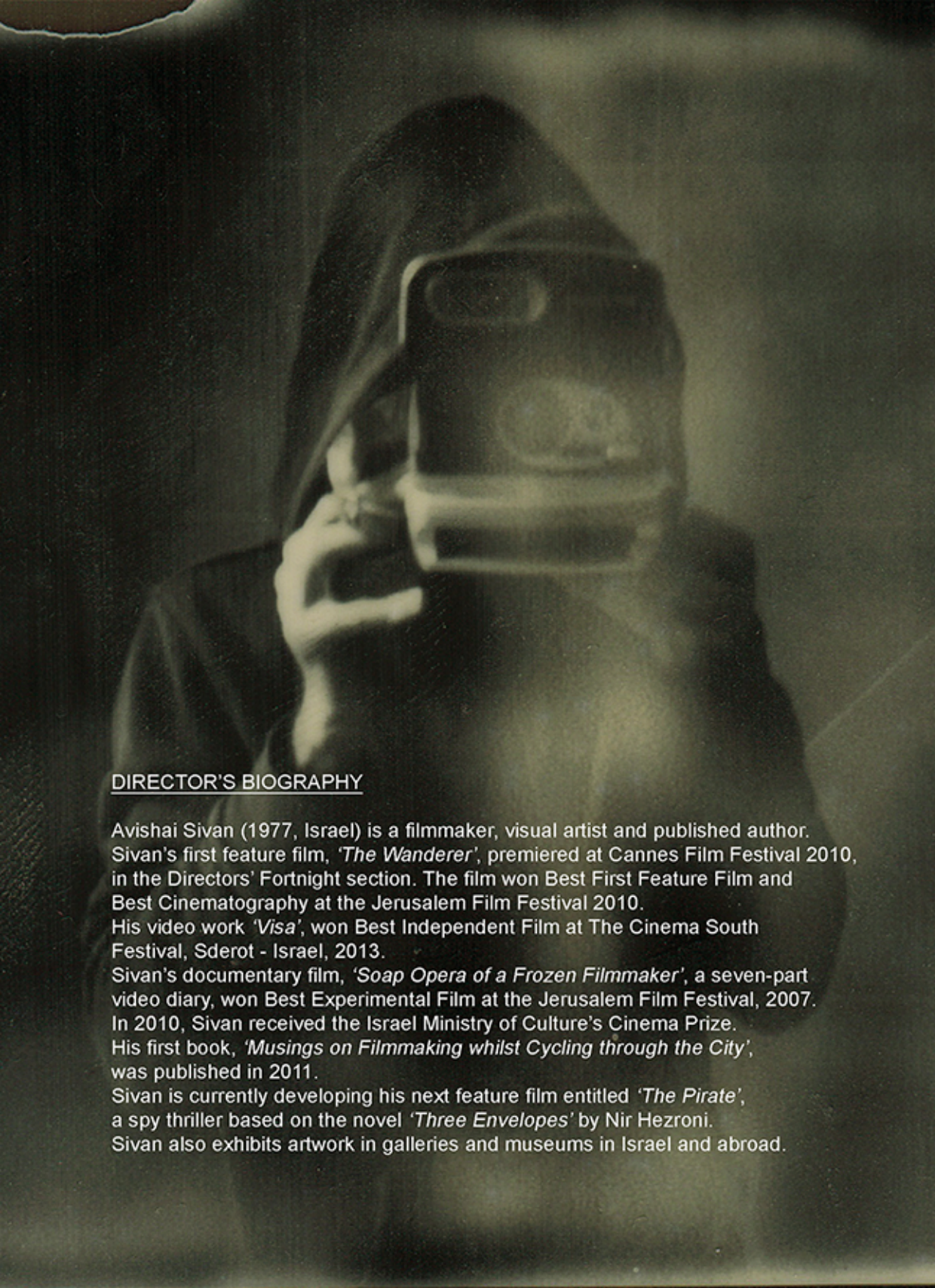
I started writing 'Tikkun' immediately after the premiere of my first feature film, 'The Wanderer', at Cannes Film Festival 2010. Within a month I had written a treatment that was accepted to Torino Film Lab. I had no doubt that my next film would also be set in the Jewish Ultra Orthodox world. Even before I shot 'The Wanderer', my vision was to create a trilogy based on a yeshiva scholar and his crisis of faith. Hence I was already mulling over the central themes of 'Tikkun', back when I wrote 'The Wanderer'. Like the treatment, I wrote the first draft of the script extremely quickly. I always describe the relationship between 'The Wanderer' and 'Tikkun' as an escalation: The film 'Tikkun' is more extreme in every respect, from the technicalities of shooting in black and white, to its focus on the regimented lives of the Ultra-Orthodox. The protagonist, Haim-Aaron lives in Me'a She'arim, one of the oldest Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem. For the Hasidic population, life in Me'a She'arim - close to the site of the Holy Temple - is in itself holy. Haim-Aaron is a student in yeshiva (religious college). He is regarded as an 'illui' or prodigy, a rare distinction given to yeshiva students for their extraordinary intelligence and insight. An illui is likely to become an important Rabbi or community leader. 'Tikkun' is a story of life and death, set in a closed society with rigid, clear-cut rules. At the start of the film, the lead character is an outstanding member of his community. Later, he starts questioning its religious rules, driven by an urgent need to challenge and deepen his faith.

The casting process lasted a year and a half, due to the enormous challenge of finding the lead actor. I met with many talented actors but something was always lacking. The more I researched, the more I wondered how I would manage to bring a non-religious, professional actor anywhere close to the specific mannerisms and dialect of a devout Hasidic Jew. Eventually we scouted ex-yeshiva scholars who had left religion. We tried teaching them basic acting techniques in the hope of discovering natural talent. Aharon Traitel, a former Hasidic Jew, responded to our casting advert and after the first few auditions I remained unsure about him. Then, unlike the other candidates, Aharon started suggesting script amendments and guided me in my research on Ultra Orthodox Jews. He also translated the relevant scenes to Yiddish. He had a hidden charm that I needed to surface and trust in order for him to take on the main role.

It was a risk worth taking as, over time, Aharon became deeply entrenched in the project and came to understand all the minutia of the story.

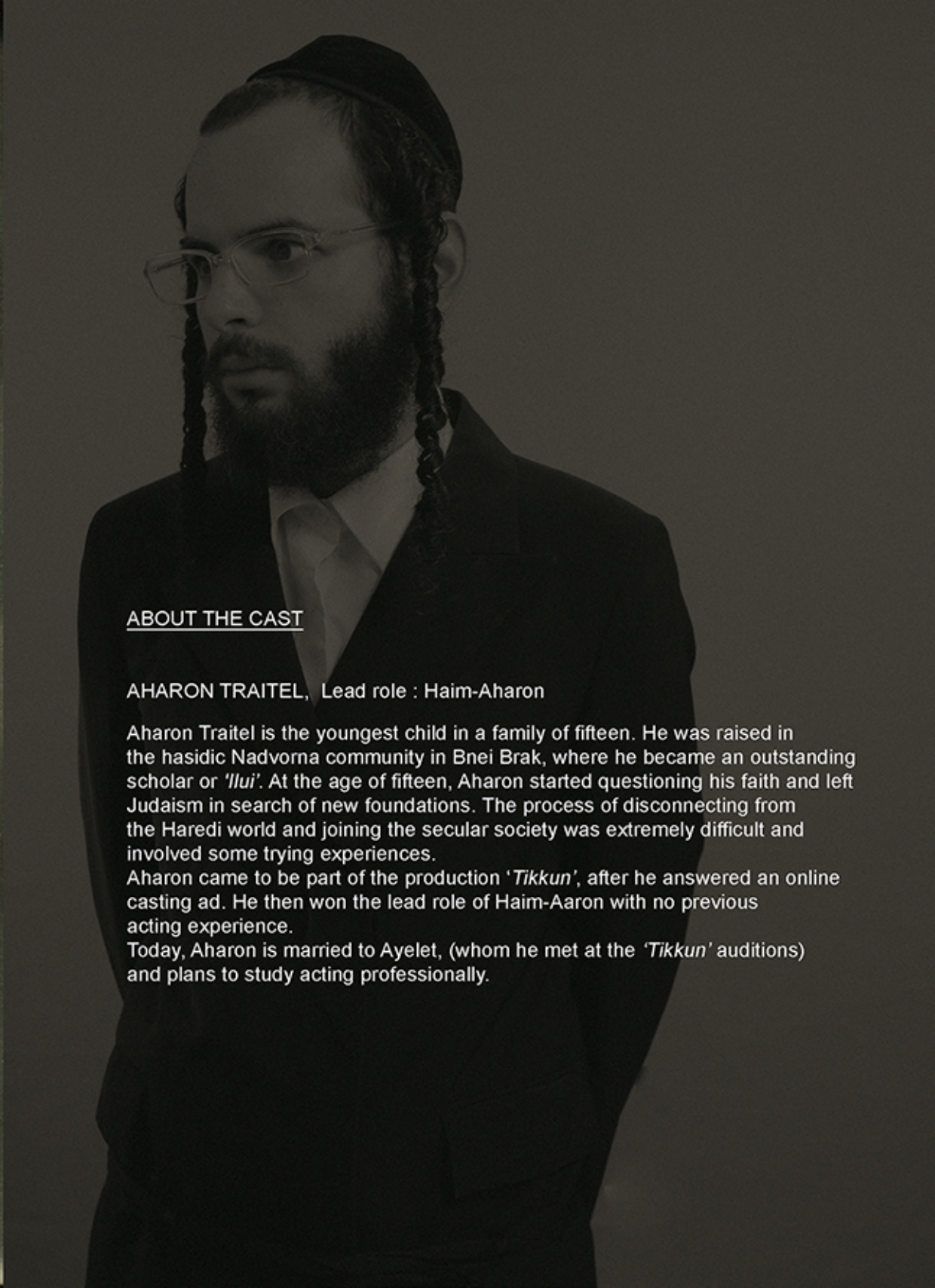
As a director, my most valuable document is my shooting script, which I write alone. I need this kind of intimacy so I can write freely and unhampered, imagining the film down to the last detail. For me, this is a lengthy process, longer than scriptwriting, after which I embellish the script and the direction. In addition, when writing the shooting script, I usually scout potential locations. The first person I consult is my cinematographer, Shai Goldman, who, with his rich experience, is the person to fine tune the shooting script, ahead of filming. 'Tikkun' had a scheduled 433 shots, 195 scenes, spread over 21 shooting days.





### DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Avishai Sivan (1977, Israel) is a filmmaker, visual artist and published author. Sivan's first feature film, *'The Wanderer'*, premiered at Cannes Film Festival 2010, in the Directors' Fortnight section. The film won Best First Feature Film and Best Cinematography at the Jerusalem Film Festival 2010. His video work *'Visa'*, won Best Independent Film at The Cinema South Festival, Sderot - Israel, 2013. Sivan's documentary film, *'Soap Opera of a Frozen Filmmaker'*, a seven-part video diary, won Best Experimental Film at the Jerusalem Film Festival, 2007. In 2010, Sivan received the Israel Ministry of Culture's Cinema Prize. His first book, *'Musings on Filmmaking whilst Cycling through the City'*, was published in 2011. Sivan is currently developing his next feature film entitled *'The Pirate'*, a spy thriller based on the novel *'Three Envelopes'* by Nir Hezroni. Sivan also exhibits artwork in galleries and museums in Israel and abroad.



### ABOUT THE CAST

AHARON TRAITTEL, Lead role : Haim-Aharon

Aharon Traitel is the youngest child in a family of fifteen. He was raised in the hasidic Nadvorna community in Bnei Brak, where he became an outstanding scholar or *'Ilui'*. At the age of fifteen, Aharon started questioning his faith and left Judaism in search of new foundations. The process of disconnecting from the Haredi world and joining the secular society was extremely difficult and involved some trying experiences.

Aharon came to be part of the production *'Tikkun'*, after he answered an online casting ad. He then won the lead role of Haim-Aaron with no previous acting experience.

Today, Aharon is married to Ayelet, (whom he met at the *'Tikkun'* auditions) and plans to study acting professionally.









### ABOUT THE CAST

**KHALIFA NATOUR, Lead role : Haim-Aaron's Father**

Khalifa Natour is a graduate of the Beit Zvi School of Performing Arts. In 2000, he decided to perform in his mother tongue, Arabic, and moved to Ramallah where he adapted and played in *'Stories Under Occupation'*, directed by Nizar Zuabi. The production travelled to The Young Vic in London and other venues. He adapted and played in the Palestinian National Theater's *'Jedareya (Mural)'* by the poet Mahmoud Darwish at the Edinburgh Festival, in Geneva and more. Khalifa won first prize at TheaterNetto 2006 for his one-man show *'In Spitting Distance'*, directed by Ofira Henig. The production travelled to Paris, London, New York, Zurich and more. He has participated in two productions by the renowned theatre director Peter Brook at the Bouffes Du Nord Theatre - *'Fragments'* by Samuel Beckett and *'11 and 12'* by Hampâté Bâ. Filmography: *'The Band's Visit'*, *'Rana's Wedding'*, *'The Other Son'* (*'Le Fils de l'autre'*), *'The Fisherman'* and more.



### ABOUT THE CAST

**RIKI BLICH, Lead role : Haim-Aaron's Mother**

Riki Blich was born in Tel Aviv in 1979. She began studying acting in first grade, and played her first lead role as a teenager in *'Under the Domim Tree'*, directed by Eli Cohen. The film premiered at Cannes Festival 1994 and won Best Israeli Film at The Jerusalem Film Festival the same year. Blich was nominated for Best Supporting Actress by The Israeli Academy at the age of 15. In 2002, Blich graduated from Seminar Ha'Kibbutzim School of Performing Arts in Tel Aviv. In 2003, she played the lead role of Esti in the hit comedy TV series *'Ugly Esti'* (Ugly Betty) and won Best Actress in A Comedy Series at The Israeli Academy of Television and Film Awards, after which she shot to fame. Since then, she has played lead roles in many television series such as *'The Sketch Show'*, *'Epidural'*, *'Lo Hivtahti Lach'*, *'Achat Efes Efes'* and more. Blich also played in the films *'Bchora'*, directed by Hagai Levi, *'My son'* by Jonathan Gurfinkel, *'Delusions'* by Nimrod Etzion Koren and Saar Lahmi, *'Stiches'* by Adia Imri Orr, winner of the Student Visionary Award at Tribeca Film Festival 2012, as well as *'Babylon Blues'* directed by Gudis Schneider, awarded Best Israeli Fringe Independent Film at Haifa film festival 2012. Since her graduation in 2002, Blich has been a resident actress at Israel's National Theatre *'Habima'*. There, she has played lead roles in productions such as *The Father* by August Strindberg, *Festen* by David Eldridge, *A Perfect Wedding* by Robin Hawdon, *O Go My Man* by Stella Feehily, *The Good Soldier Švejk* by Jaroslav Hašek, *Fatal Attraction* by James Dearden, and many more.



DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2015  
'TIKKUN', Feature film (120min).

2013  
'VISA', Video work (70min).

Cinema South Film Festival 2013, Awarded Best Independent Film.

2011  
'THE UZBEK TRILOGY', Documentary (61min).

2010  
'THE WANDERER', Feature film (35mm, 86min).

•Directors' Fortnight, Cannes Film Festival 2010.

•International Film Festival Rotterdam (Bright Future).

•Jerusalem Film Festival, winner of Best First/Second Feature and Best Cinematography Award for Full-Length Films.

2010  
'RETURNEE', Experimental film (16mm, 21min, silent).

2000-2007  
'SOAP OPERA OF A FROZEN FILMMAKER' Documentary – an anthology in 7 episodes (198min)

Awarded Best Experimental Film at the Jerusalem Film Festival 2007.

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16:00-3Feb  
11:00-4 Feb 2011 Royal Festival Hall



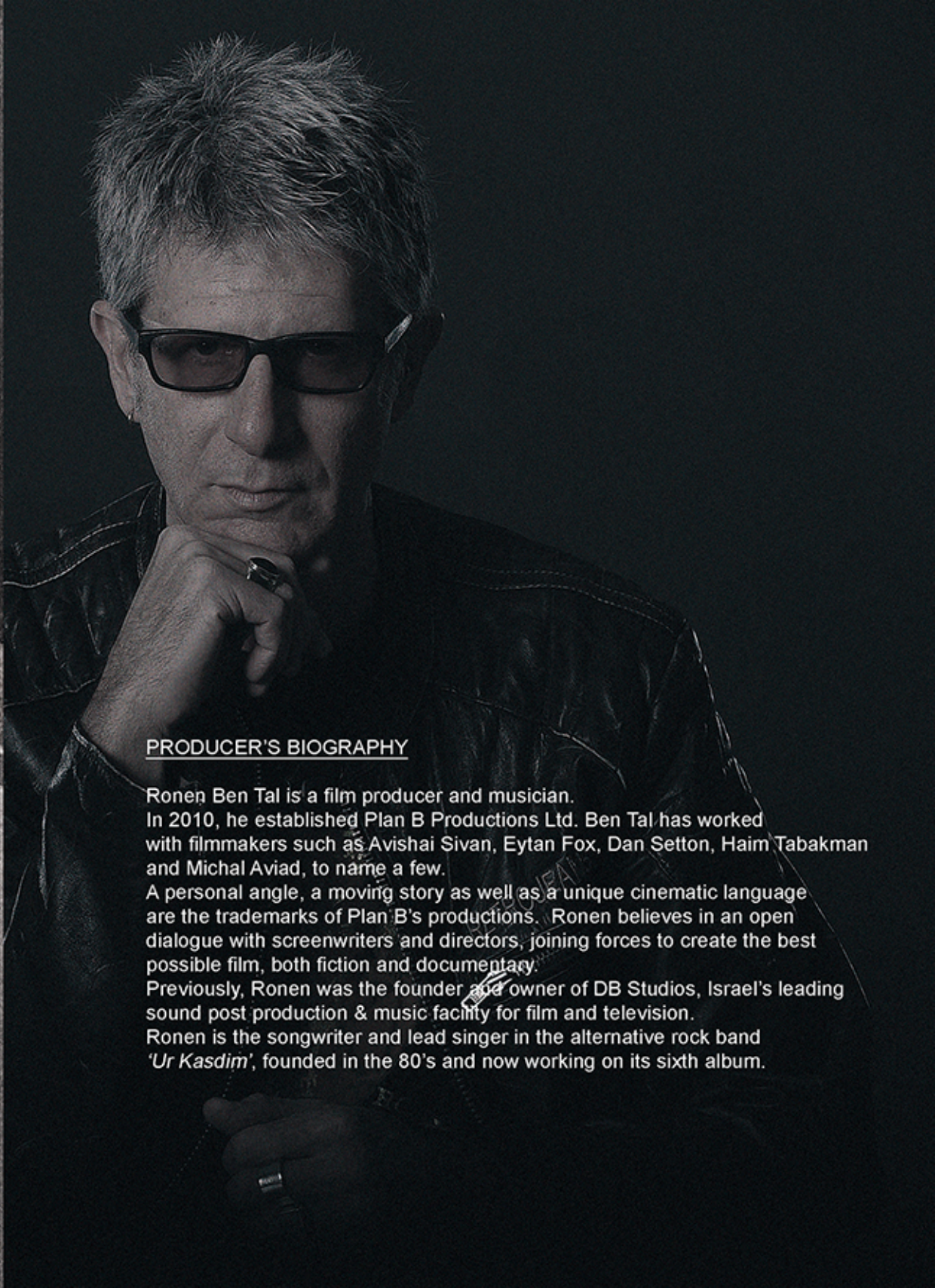
מחולל - סיפורים על חיינו...  
11:00-4 Feb 2011 Royal Festival Hall  
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#### PRODUCER'S BIOGRAPHY

Ronen Ben Tal is a film producer and musician. In 2010, he established Plan B Productions Ltd. Ben Tal has worked with filmmakers such as Avishai Sivan, Eytan Fox, Dan Setton, Haim Tabakman and Michal Aviad, to name a few. A personal angle, a moving story as well as a unique cinematic language are the trademarks of Plan B's productions. Ronen believes in an open dialogue with screenwriters and directors, joining forces to create the best possible film, both fiction and documentary. Previously, Ronen was the founder and owner of DB Studios, Israel's leading sound post production & music facility for film and television. Ronen is the songwriter and lead singer in the alternative rock band 'Ur Kasdim', founded in the 80's and now working on its sixth album.



A person wearing a dark, wide-brimmed hat and a dark, textured coat stands with their back to the camera in a field of tall, thin grass. The lighting is dim, creating a silhouette effect. The background is a pale, overcast sky. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

[tikkun.avishaisivan.com](http://tikkun.avishaisivan.com)