For My Children

A Film by Michal Aviad

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synopsis

Living and raising children in Israel while the home television explodes with violence:
When is it time to leave?. Didn't all the grandparents become immigrants because they,
too, fled unbearable circumstances? And didn't all of them come to Israel, now home to
the filmmaker and her family?

It is October 2000, the first two weeks of the second Intifada. New anxiety is mixed with
fragments from family life experience as the filmmaker unravels her moral dilemmas and
questions of survival. In a stream of images, public and private archives, home videos and
great historical events unleash new meanings. This personal journey into the past leads
the filmmaker to search for premonitions to guarantee hints of hope and safety for her
children's uncertain future in Israel.

Produced in co-production with ZDF-ARTE and Nogah Communication, Channel 8.

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festivals

San Francisco International Film Festival

Leipzig Documentary Film Festival

Visions du Reel Nyon International Film Festival

INPUT 2003

Munich International Documentary Film Festival

Istanbul International Documentary Film Festival

Cleveland International Film Festival

San Francisco Jewish Film Festival

Washington Jewish Film Festival

Boston Jewish Film Festival

Buenos Aires Human Rights Film Festival

Haifa International Film Festival

Palestinian-Israeli Film Festival

Museum of Modern Art, NY

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credits

Director/Producer
Michal Aviad

Editor
Dani Itshaki

Music
Jonathan Bar Giora

Camera
Meir Wigoder
David Gurfinkel
Eytan Harris
Shimshon Wigoder
Michal Aviad

and anonymous
cinematographers

Israel • 65 min • Video • Color

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director's biography

MICHAL AVIAD has been working as a director and producer of documentary films in San Francisco and Tel Aviv since 1986.

Among her films are the 1987 award-winning American documentary *Acting Our Age* (60 min, 16mm), which she produced and directed. The film explores women and aging and was part of many international film festivals including the U.S. Sundance Film Festival and the Telluride Film Festival. The film was aired in many countries and was selected in 1988 to be the first program on PBS's P.O.V documentary series.

In 1992 Aviad produced and directed *The Women Next Door* (80-min, 16mm). Filmed during the Intifada, the film examines the roles of Palestinian and Israeli women in the conflict. The film was part of the Forum in the Berlin International Film Festival where it received Honorable Mention. It took part of many festivals including Jerusalem, Pesaro, Munich, Chicago, San Paolo, Portugal, and INPUT '93. The film was aired in many countries including a national broadcast on PBS's P.O.V. series.

In 1995 she directed *Ever Shot Anyone?* (produced by Amit Goren, 60-min, beta.) This documentary explores Israeli male culture from a woman's point of view. The video was part of the Hong Kong International Film Festival, Feminale, the Liepzig Film Festival, INPUT '96, London Jewish Film Festival, Washington Jewish Film Festival, Flaherty film Seminar and many others. It was aired in Canada, Israel, Holland, Denmark, Russia and other countries.

In 1997 Aviad completed producing and directing *Jenny & Jenny* (60 min Beta), a film on two teenage working-class Israeli girls. *Jenny & Jenny* was awarded Best Israeli Documentary for 1997 from the Israel Film Institute. It was part of the Jerusalem International Film Festival, Denver Film Festival, Boston Film Festival, Feminale, San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, Films des Femmes in France and INPUT '98. To date it was aired in Germany, Sweden and Israel.

In July 2001 Aviad completed directing and co-producing *Ramleh* (60-min Beta, co-produced by Yulie Gerstel,) a social-political film about the lives of four women in the town of Ramleh. Ramleh, a Jewish- Arab town, is a powerful example to the disintegration of a country of displaced people torn by religious, national and cultural differences. The film premiered at the Jerusalem International Film Festival.

Next to *Ramleh*, she directed *For My Children*.

Aviad teaches film production at Tel Aviv University. She is also the coordinator of the Tel Aviv International Students Film Festival.