

Award-Winning Israeli Filmmaker Available for North American Tour

AYELET BARGUR

Films available for public exhibition screenings:

The House on August Street (2007)

As if Nothing Happened (2000)

At the End of the Day (1999)

Day by Day (2004)

Intel Inside, Where? (2005)

The director of both feature and documentary films, Bargur is the recipient of several significant film awards. Fluent in English as well as Hebrew she has traveled and studied extensively, presenting her films worldwide.



Born in San Francisco in 1969, Ayelet Bargur has lived in Israel since 1970. She studied at the Camera Obscura School of Art in Tel Aviv and has an MA in disciplinary arts from Tel Aviv University. In 1995 she received a grant from the America Israel Cultural Foundation. During that time she produced the short film *A Good Place to Be*, which screened at the Cannes Film Festival.

Bargur's films often reflect a personal point of view. Two of her films are directly drawn from her own experiences: the award-winning feature film *As if Nothing Happened*, about an Israeli family waiting to hear if their son has been killed in the terror attack at the Beit Lid Junction, and the documentary film *At the End of the Day*, about the death of four paratrooper commanders in the same Israeli Defense Force unit.

Bargur most recent film *The House on August Street* tells the story of her great-aunt Beate Berger, a German Jew who rescued over 100 Jewish children. The film is based on a German language book written by Bargur after she received a prestigious year-long grant from the Berlin Artists-in-Residence program (Berliner Künstlerprogramm) of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), in 2003. Invited by the Academy of Arts in Berlin, Bargur spent the summer of 2004 as a guest of the 7th International Summer Academy in Rüdersdorf near Berlin. While in Berlin, she made the short film *An Israeli in Berlin* the first of several projects exploring issues of identity and her own family history.

DISTRIBUTION - PUBLIC PERFORMANCE SCREENINGS & DVD SALES:



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The House on August Street



THE HOUSE ON AUGUST STREET

(BEIT AHAVAH)

Israel, 2007, 63 min, Hebrew & German w/ English
Documentary with dramatic scenes

AWARDS

- **Second Prize for Best Documentary—Haifa International Film Festival 2007**
- **Grand Prix Award for Documentary—CIRCOM Regional, European Association of Regional Television 2008**
- **Nominated—Best Documentary, Israel Academy Awards 2008**

SELECTED FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

- **Boston Jewish Film Festival 2007**
- **Doc Leipzig, Germany 2007**
- **Israeli Film Festival Paris, France 2008**
- **Toronto Jewish Film Festival 2008**
- **Berlin Jewish Film Festival 2008**
- **Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival 2008**

TELEVISION BROADCASTS

- **RBB, Germany; MDR, Germany**
- **Channel 2, Israel**

The House on August Street tells the remarkable, unknown story of Beate Berger, a German Jew who single-handedly and with great resolve and vision rescued over 100 children during the Holocaust, smuggling them from Berlin to Palestine in the 1930s. Berger, founder of the House of Love Children's Home (*Beith Ahawah Kinderheim*) Berlin's first home for poor Jewish children, was quick to recognize the Nazi threat and resolved to protect the 120 children under her care on "August Street." Raising the funds and making all the clandestine arrangements herself, Berger brought groups of children into Palestine from Germany from 1934 to 1939. The *Beit Ahawah* orphanage in Haifa, founded by Berger to house her charges, remains open today.

With **The House on August Street**, award-winning director Ayelet Bargur pays tribute to Beate Berger, her great-aunt. Bargur's extensive research into her aunt's life yielded the 2006 book *Ahawah Heisst Liebe* on which the film is based and which resurrected the extraordinary story of this courageous and visionary woman. Bargur's innovative documentary weaves together rare archival film materials and interviews with Berger's "children" with elegantly presented monologues based on Berger's letters brought to life by the acclaimed German actress Naomi Krauss. These poignant, illuminating scenes were filmed on location in the now-empty Berlin building that was once a house of love.

Director: Ayelet Bargur

Based on Book *Ahawah Heisst Liebe* by: Ayelet Bargur

Producers: Edna Kowarsky, Elinor Kowarsky, Eden Productions

Actress Playing Beate Berger: Naomi Krauss

Critical Praise for *The House on August Street*

"Immeasurable love and emotion, without a drop of sentimentality nor nostalgic schmaltz. A meticulously forged work of cinema, both modest and humble, moving and inspiring."

-Yehuda Stav, *Yediot Aharonot*, Israel's largest daily newspaper

"Breathtaking moments for actor Naomi Krauss as Beate Berger. With chilling clarity and without the slightest hint of misrepresentation, she shares with the viewer the process whereby she realized that Germany is no longer a place for Jewish children."

-*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, German daily newspaper

"A stirring, unique compilation of human portraits that portrays the painful past, in the present."

-Noam Buxbaum, *Ha'aretz*, Israel

"Exceptionally moving."

-Yael Shuv, *Time Out Israel*

"A most impressive way to exhibit the prevailing ambiance in Germany at the rise of the Nazis... Extremely convincing dramatic moments are created through the imaginary dialogue between the director and her great aunt. "

-*Berliner Zeitung*, German daily newspaper

"Highly recommended."

-Yon Feder, *Ynet Israel*



**HAIFA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
JURY STATEMENT 2007
Awarded 2nd Prize for Best Documentary**

"This valuable historical document tells with great expertise and effectiveness the moving story of the children of Beit Ahavah in Berlin and the way they were brought to Israel. The director has made excellent use of varied cinematic tools to create a work which is important, artistically satisfying and engrossing."

As If Nothing Happened

Israel, 1999, 50 min, Hebrew w/ English subtitles. Feature Film

Director: Ayelet Bargur

Cast: Assi Dayan, Rivka Neuman, Sivan Shavit, Dani Steg, Guy Loel, Tal Kapitolinik



AWARDS

- Audience Choice, Israel Film Festival, NY & LA 2000 □
- Best Actress, Jerusalem Film Festival 1999 □
- Best TV Drama Jerusalem Film Festival 1999
- Nominated—Best TV Drama, Israel Academy Awards 1999

SELECTED FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

- Tiburon International Film Festival
- Toronto Jewish Film Festival
- San Jose Jewish Film Festival
- Atlanta Jewish Film Festival
- Hartford Jewish Film Festival
- UNESCO Film Festival for Women and Peace, Thessalonica, Greece

Ziv Gonen, an Israeli soldier waiting for a bus, may or may not have been a victim of a terrorist bombing. Ayelet Bargur's drama focuses on Ziv's family as they await news of his whereabouts. As they wait, family and friends pull together and fall apart as the tension mounts and the Gonen family home becomes the site of pent up hopes and fears. Beautifully crafted and stunningly acted, this award-winning feature film illuminates every Israeli family's nightmare.

As If Nothing Happened is based on the personal experience of director Ayelet Bargur and her family in the aftermath of the Beit Lid terrorist attack of January 22, 1995. Bargur's fictional account incorporates archival footage of the Beit Lid attack during which two suicide bombers killed nineteen Israelis on a quiet Sunday morning.

Critical Praise for **As If Nothing Happened**

"As If Nothing Happened is 50 minutes about a single moment that stretched out forever...The intense acting and the non melodramatic directing make this drama one of the best films I've seen on TV."

-Orna Landau, *Yediot Aharonot*

"The achievement of the director, Ayelet Bargur, is especially impressive because she takes a situation which easily could slide to the regions of melodrama and kitsch and navigates it with assurance, away from all these pitfalls. Excellent acting."

-*Jerusalem Post*

At the End of the Day

Israel, 2000, 50 min, Hebrew w/ English subtitles. Documentary
Director: Ayelet Bargur



SELECTED FILM FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

- Boston Jewish Film Festival
- Miami Jewish Film Festival
- Washington Jewish Film Festival
- Berlin Jewish Film Festival
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TELEVISION BROADCASTS

- Channel 1 & Channel 3, Israel

Four young men, all commanders in the same Israeli Defense Force Golan Heights paratrooper unit, were killed over a twenty-two month period from 1995 to 1997. Their families, realizing they all suffer a common fate, agree to meet and share their stories. With great sensitivity and skill, director Ayelet Bargur, whose brother Ziv was among those who died, documents the ongoing attempts by these families to come to terms with the deaths of their loved ones. This painful subject is one that touches many Israeli families today.

Critical Praise for At the End of the Day

"It is the faces of the parents and siblings—so open so natural in the best documentary filmmaking tradition—and in their increasing closeness to one another that the true meaning seems to lie. *At the End of the Day* offers a moving glimpse into the Israeli reality of life and death. But it goes even further to the universality of loss." -Neil Miller

Day by Day

Israel, 2004, 70 min, Hebrew w/ English subtitles. Documentary
Director: Ayelet Bargur



AWARDS

- Nominated for the Best Documentary, Israel Academy Awards

TELEVISION BROADCAST
Israel Channel 8 ▪

A moving film about three at risk teenagers in the Transition Apartments Project in Jerusalem. Rich, Schneur and Hazan are living together in one apartment and are struggling to maintain normal life and keep off the streets. Their fears and dreams are interwoven in the film via personal stories documenting the lives of those living Day by Day.

Amos Oz on Day by Day

"*Day by Day* is one of the best Israeli documentaries I have seen. It has depth and is full of emotion. It is very exciting but without emotionalism. The protagonists remain in the memory of the viewer as complex, multi dimensional people. The relationships between the homeless people and the social institutions which attempt to take care of them are transformed into a human and touching comedy. I recommend this picture with all my heart." -Amos Oz

Intel Inside, Where?

Israel, 2005, 60 min, Hebrew w/ English subtitles. Documentary
Director: Ayelet Bargur



FILM FESTIVAL & SPECIAL SCREENINGS

- World Premiere-Haifa International Film Festival, Israel
- The 1st China International Environmental Protection Films Festival, Beijing
- Ben Gurion University of the Negev
- Tel Aviv University, The Environmental Justice Clinic
- Eco Cinema-The Ecological and Environmental International Film Festival, Israel
- Sderot Social Conference

TELEVISION BROADCAST

- Channel 1, Israel

For two years the film "Intel Inside, Where?" was an underground film.

Intel Israel did everything in its power to prevent all screenings and public broadcast of this film. Ayelet Bargur went from town to town in Israel, screening the film to communities and schools interesting in seeing the film. In Nov 2005 the film finally aired on Israeli television Channel 1, and even then, an hour before the broadcast, Intel tried to prevent the film airing.

Bargur's film explores the impact of globalization and the fast-growing high tech economy on Israeli Society. Just a half hour drive from Tel Aviv, Qiryat-Gat, now home to Intel Israel, is home to a fragmented society shared by a new class of workers employed by multi-national corporations and working class Israelis who once worked in the textile industry and now find themselves left behind in the wake of progress in the new century.

Critical Praise for Intel Inside, Where?

"If films have power, than it is in this documentary."

-Docmovies.com