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THE CAMERA OF DOCTOR MORRIS

a film by

ITAMAR ALCALAY MEITAL ZVIELI

ORIGINAL MUSIC: ASHER GOLDSHMIDT | SOUND DESIGN & MIX: AVIV ALDEMA | DIGITAL COLORIST: TOMER BAKAR | GRAPHIC DESIGN: MERAV SHACHAM | EDITING CONSULTANT: DOLEV MORAN

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**"AN EXPRESSION OF PURE CINEMA... A TRULY
MAGICAL EXPERIENCE"**

- JURY JUSTIFICATION

THE CAMERA OF DOCTOR MORRIS

A film by Itamar Alcalay, Meital Zvieli
2022 / Israel / 74 min

For decades, Dr. Morris filmed his family. Their lives were captured on 8mm - years of births and deaths, joys and tragedies, dramas and quiet days spent in the sun - all unfolding in the heat of the Israeli desert. Long after his death, the footage is rediscovered. *The Camera of Doctor Morris* paints a portrait of a fascinating family and lives fully lived.



SYNOPSIS

An eccentric pilot in the British Armed Forces and his young wife flee a devastated post-WWII Europe and arrive in Eilat, the newly-founded Israel's southernmost town. Situated on the Red Sea, at the intersection of Israel, Egypt, and Jordan, Eilat was home primarily to soldiers, port workers, and released prisoners. Then the Morris Family came to town. In their own secluded paradise, Dr. and Mrs. Morris begin to build their unconventional lives. They set up a British bubble and raise their children in the heart of the desert, all the while keeping deadly crocodiles as family pets. When a mysterious accident leads to an orphaned young girl, the family confronts a loved but forgotten ghost. Decades later, a treasure trove of dozens of 8mm reels - all of film captured by Dr. Morris - are uncovered hidden away in the home the family once shared. Through the archives of fully lived and filmed lives, combined with recounting from Morris family members themselves, their unusual and absorbing story unfolds.



TRAILER





SELECT PRESS & REVIEWS

DOCAVIV WINNERS 2022

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CHILDREN OF THE MIST AND THE CAMERA OF DOCTOR MORRIS TRIUMPH AT

DOCAVIV

Cineuropa

REVIEW: THE CAMERA OF DOCTOR MORRIS

Cineuropa

DOCAVIV 2022: THE COMPLETE WINNERS

Modern Times Review

"THE CAMERA OF DR. MORRIS," "CHILDREN OF THE MIST" WIN TOP PRIZES AT

DOCAVIV '22

Realscreen

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

Like everyone else in Eilat, and many others in Israel, we too had heard of the mysterious British doctor who kept a crocodile named Clarence as a pet. We were fortunate enough to be able to meet Dr. Morris and Clarence the crocodile. Only after Dr. Morris' death, when Clarence was sent to live out his days at the zoo, did we return to the Morris home in hopes of telling the famed reptile's story.

It was then that Fay, Dr. Morris' wife, and their son Andrew revealed a closet full of 8mm reels of family film, all shot by Dr. Morris himself. We were amazed, not only by the rich and captivating footage, but also to discover another member of the Morris family: the eldest daughter Aviva, who had Down syndrome. Through conversations with the family, we learned about Aviva's passing and the subsequent adoption of Dolly, who, in some ways, took Aviva's place.

What unfolded in the Morris household is an intriguing and difficult story, one about the bonds of family and a will to persevere. As we learned from Fay recounting and Dr. Morris' forgotten footage, the show must go on at any cost. We decided to tell their story free of judgement, but full of understanding that the Morris family is exceptional in its documentations of joys and tragedies, but a normal family nonetheless.





DIRECTOR BIO - ITAMAR ALCALAY

Itamar Alcalay graduated from Beit Berl film school in Israel. He is a director, editor, writer, and producer.

He directed two docu-series including *DANCING WITH TEARS IN MY EYES*, which deals with the Israeli clubbing culture as an Anti-Zionist ethos movement and *OFF SEASON*, which shares the stories of five men that escaped into the deep desert of Eilat, the most isolated city in Israel. He also directed three documentary films: *STEFAN BRAUN* about a legendary fur designer from Tel Aviv in the '50s and his secret love story with a young man, *FOUR YEARS OF NIGHT*, about a photographer that captured the intimate life of a violent Neo-Nazi gang in Paris, and the short film *POMEGRANATE FLOWER*.

His award-winning films have screened in festivals and been broadcast around the world. His screenplays have been supported by and selected to Medienboard, the Israeli Film Fund, 24/7 Berlin Residence, Nipkow Program, Torino Film Lab, the Jerusalem International Film Lab, Berlinale Talents, and Cinemart.

DIRECTOR BIO - MEITAL ZVIELI

Meital Zvieli is a filmmaker that graduated from Jerusalem's Sam Spiegel Film & Television School screenwriting program with honors. She has over 20 years of experience as a freelance editor, screenwriter, director, and television format developer for all Israeli broadcast channels.

Most notably, Meital was the Head of Research for the animated documentary WALTZ WITH BASHIR by Ari Folman, a Golden Globe and Cesar winner for Best Foreign Film and Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Film. She was editor and screenwriter for THE LAST LEAGUE, a docu-series about Jewish and Arab football players competing in the last league of Israeli football. She wrote and edited for DESIGNING A NATION, a docu-series about Israel's design history. Along with writing and editing, Meital directed ADRENALINE, a docu-series examining Israelis' struggle with technology's takeover of everyday life. She is the editor of OFF SEASON , a docu-series portrait of Eilat, the most remote city in Israel.



CREDITS

DIRECTORS / PRODUCERS

Itamar Alcalay

Meital Zvieli

SCREENWRITERS / EDITORS

Meital Zvieli

Itamar Alcalay

COMPOSER

Asher Goldshmidt

SOUND DESIGNER / MIXER

Aviv Aldema

DIGITAL COLORIST

Tomer Bahat

EDITING CONSULTANT

Dolev Moran





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