



SEMAINE  
DE LA CRITIQUE  
CANNES 2016

a film by Asaph Polonsky

# ONE WEEK AND A DAY



## CAST

SHAI AVIVI as Eyal Spivak  
EVGENIA DODINA as Vicky Spivak  
TOMER KAPON as Zooler  
ALONA SHAULOFF as Bar  
SHARON ALEXANDER as Shmulik Zooler  
CARMIT MESILATI-KAPLAN as Keren Zooler  
URI GAVRIEL as Rafael

## CREW

DIRECTOR: Asaph Polonsky  
PRODUCERS: Saar Yogev, Naomi Levari  
SCREENPLAY: Asaph Polonsky  
CINEMATOGRAPHY: Moshe Mishali  
EDITING: Tali Halter Shenkar  
MUSIC: Tamar Aphek, Ran Bagno  
PRODUCTION DESIGN: Yoav Sinai  
SOUND DESIGN & MIX: Aviv Aldema

PHOTOS: Vered Adir

## FILM INFORMATION

Original title: Shavua Ve Yom  
English title: One Week and a Day  
Genre: Comedy-Drama  
Country: Israel  
Language: Hebrew  
Year: 2016  
World Premiere: Cannes 2016 –  
Semaine de la Critique  
Duration: 98 min  
Picture: Color  
Aspect Ratio: 2:35 SCOPE  
Sound: 5.1  
Available format: DCP

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

Black Sheep  
Film Productions Ltd.  
www.bsheepfilms.com

## PRODUCER'S CONTACT

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## LOGLINE

**WHEN EYAL FINISHES THE TRADITIONAL JEWISH WEEK OF MOURNING FOR HIS LATE SON, HIS WIFE URGES HIM TO RETURN TO THEIR ROUTINE. INSTEAD, HE GETS HIGH WITH A YOUNG NEIGHBOR AND SETS OUT TO DISCOVER THAT THERE ARE STILL THINGS IN HIS LIFE WORTH LIVING FOR.**

## SYNOPSIS

In the Jewish religion, a week of sitting Shiva (or mourning the deceased) is called for after a funeral. However, for Eyal and Vicky, a week is hardly enough time to properly mourn the loss of their 25-year-old son Ronnie. A married couple edging into the back half of middle age, the two find themselves reacting to the end of the Shiva in markedly different ways. A return to routine seems to be in order for Vicky, a teacher, as she finds herself back at school trying to abruptly kick out the substitute assigned in her stead. Meanwhile, shopkeeper Eyal opts for a total abdication of routine, as he steals his dead son's bag of medical marijuana, and proceeds to get high, play ping-pong and judge air guitar routines with his neighbor's stoner son Zooler.

As the world refuses to accommodate Vicky and Eyal's sensitivities during their time of bereavement – – taxi drivers are still difficult, neighbors are still obnoxious, and grave diggers are just as indifferent as anyone else in the service industry – – the two grieving parents find themselves acting out in outlandish ways as they attempt to regain a sense of control over their lives.

Asaph Polonsky's debut feature *ONE WEEK AND A DAY* juxtaposes the grieving process against the immutable fact that, despite the most painful losses imaginable, the world stops for no one's mourning. With endearing performances from Shai Avivi and Evgenia Dodina as Eyal and Vicky, and Tomer Kapon as Zooler, *ONE WEEK AND A DAY* provides a nuanced perspective on loss that is as merciless as it is funny and insightful.



# Q&A

WITH  
WRITER/DIRECTOR  
ASAPH POLONSKY

## **Can you explain what the Jewish tradition of “Shiva” is?**

A “Shiva” is a week-long Jewish tradition that begins immediately after the funeral at the home of the deceased or at the residence of an immediate family member. Relatives and friends arrive to support and help the family through their time of mourning. The Shiva ends after the morning service on the seventh day. Mourners do not work during the Shiva and for most of the time, stay at home.

## **Why did you choose to make a comedy on this subject?**

The only way for me to tell this tragic story of a grieving father, who does only what he wants, and his wife, who is trying to deal with him while figuring out her plans, was to reveal the absurdity of the situation and show a different take on it, allowing the humor of the human interactions to come out and shine a light on a dark tale.

Or to simplify it: I love laughing and crying. So I tried to put those two together.

## **Is the Israeli setting of the film important?**

In a way the film could take place anywhere in the world; parents lose a child and they deal with it. But what makes the film Israeli for me are the small details and behavior of the characters. Also, the Shiva tradition is rooted in the Jewish community in Israel and allows a new perspective on the grieving period. As much as the Shiva is a fascinating time I was interested in what happens when it ends. I find the Shiva tradition to be an extremely helpful one, but it also comes to an end and that's where I wanted to start the film – when reality kicks in.

**The film revolves around Eyal – did you have this actor in mind when writing the script?**

No. Shai Avivi who plays Eyal is a well-known actor in Israel but I didn't think about him when writing. But once we met and he auditioned for the role he really captured what I imagined and more importantly, brought to life things that only he could, and could have never been planned in advance.

**Can you tell us more about the cast and why you chose these actors for the roles? Did they have much comedic experience?**

Shai who portrays Eyal is a well-known comedic actor in Israel, he has done a lot of comedy work on TV, most of his film roles were comedic and he's also a standup comedian. While Evgenia, who is Vicky in the film, is known for her more serious roles, mostly in theater but also film and TV.

It was the clash between the two that brought out a lot of the humor. It blew my mind to see the two in their chemistry read, they have never met before, but from the get-go they felt like

they've known each other forever and had the chemistry of a married couple.

We only did one short rehearsal on location in pre-production. The casting was a long process and by the time they were chosen for the film, in a way, rehearsing was already done.

I spent with each a long meeting where they asked me all the questions they had. Aside from that I met with them a few times to just talk and eat and get them comfortable with each other. That was the most important, allowing the two to just spend time together. Towards the shoot I sent them out on a date, where they went to a museum and lunch at a restaurant.

The way they approached the material and their way of work was so different that I did not want to change it but actually have that be a strength of their dynamic.

Tomer, who is Zooler, has done mainly action roles and dramas, but not comedies. He gained weight for the film and lost his six-pack and action hero figure looks.

Tomer had a "Zooler Notebook" filled with Zooler's thoughts and

drawings. Once we started shooting he'd only go by 'Zooler' and kept wearing the same underwear throughout the shoot...

With him I also didn't do more than one rehearsal, aside from the 'air-guitar scene' that we rehearsed a lot, which also included him breaking a coffee table he was dancing on, even though he was asked not to dance on it.

The way the cast and I addressed the comedy in the film was by not addressing it. The actors were not focused on being funny but just on being true and present in the moment.

I wonder now if they even knew they were in a comedy...



# CAST & CREW



## ASAPH POLONSKY

WRITER-DIRECTOR

Asaph was born in Washington, DC in 1983. In Israel, where he grew up, he directed, wrote and produced two short films, both official selections of the Jerusalem Film Festival: ZIPPER and IN BED AT 10 P.M. In 2010 he attended The American Film Institute Conservatory's Directing Program where he directed the 2013 Student Academy Award Nominee thesis film SAMNANG, which premiered at the New York Film Festival and won awards and screened at several film festivals internationally. His debut feature film, ONE WEEK AND A DAY, was participated in the 2012 Sam Spiegel International Film Lab – Jerusalem, participated in the 2013 Sofia Meetings and won the 2015 Haifa Film Festival Work in Progress Award. Asaph was awarded AFI's Richard P. Rogers Spirit of Excellence Award, an Irwin and Sheila Allen Scholarship and an America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarship.





**SHAI AVIVI**  
EYAL SPIVAK

Shai Avivi is one of Israel's leading comedians, but has also acted in a variety of dramatic roles. He is best known for being a member of the HAHAMISHIA HAKAMERIT ensemble, a satirical show which is considered a milestone in Israeli television to this day. The ensemble continued working together after the show's end and produced the dramatic television show HABURGANIM. In 2006 Shai played a supporting role in the Sundance award-winning film SWEET MUD. In addition, Shai starred in and produced (alongside Saar Yogev) the comic primetime hit GOOD TIDINGS. He continues to participate in films and on television, both in dramatic and comedic roles.



**EVGENIA DODINA**  
VICKY SPIVAK

Evgenia Dodina, a graduate of the GITIS Royal Art School in Moscow, is one of Israel's most celebrated theater and cinema actresses. She starred in leading roles at the Maiakovski Theatre in Moscow. It was the encounter between Evgenia and Yevgeni Arye, a teacher at the theater, which led to her decision to emigrate to Israel in 1990. Since then, Evgenia is an ensemble member at the Geshen Theatre in Tel Aviv. Evgenia joined the theater upon its establishment, has performed in lead roles in the majority of the theater's productions and has garnered praise and enthusiastic reviews. Since 2007, Evgenia joined Habima, Israel's national theater. Her cinematic works include films by renowned Israeli directors such as Ari Folman, Samuel Maoz and Avi Nesher.



**TOMER KAPON**  
ZOLLER

Tomer Kapon was born in 1985 in Holon, Israel. He was drawn to acting from a young age. After three years serving as a paratrooper, he traveled the world and upon his return to Israel began working with horses, all the while dreaming of starring in a Spaghetti Western. He began studying acting at the Yoram Levinstein Drama Studio and began working soon after, although he continues to study and to improve his technique. He has starred in internationally acclaimed films and television shows, including Natalie Portman's A STORY OF LOVE AND DARKNESS, HOSTAGES and FAUDA.



**SAAR YOGEV**  
PRODUCER

A graduate of Tel Aviv University's Department of Film & TV (BFA). Starting as a Line Producer and a Unit Production Manager in large scale co-productions, Saar quickly gained recognition as a talented independent producer and was appointed Head Producer at JCS for two years before returning to produce independently. Between 2005-2007, Saar was invited to produce the Jerusalem Film Festival, after which he was asked to return to JCS, this time as Head of Productions and was responsible for numerous TV productions. In 2006, alongside Shai Avivi, Saar produced the primetime hit *GOOD TIDINGS*. In 2010 Saar joined forces with Naomi Levari and the two founded Black Sheep Film Productions. Saar is a 2013 *EAVE* alumni. In addition to his work as a producer, Saar acted as head of the Entrepreneurial Producers Program at the Sam Spiegel Film & TV School between 2010-15.



**NAOMI LEVARI**  
PRODUCER

Naomi is an award-winning director and producer, graduating summa cum laude from the Sam Spiegel Film & TV School. Her diploma film, *DRAFT*, gained international success, participating in numerous international film festivals. The passion for storytelling and the urge to make things happen routed Naomi to become an entrepreneur-producer and led her to co-found Black Sheep Film Productions with Saar Yogev in 2010. Through its documentary and fiction films, the company directs a spot light to the unheard and unseen corners of Israeli society. Naomi was chosen by the Israel Film Fund to take part in the Producers Lab at the 2011 Rotterdam Film Festival and was invited by CNC to participate at the 2013 Cannes Producer's Network as an emerging producer. In addition, Naomi acts as a sought out script editor, a reader for the Israel Film Fund, The Sam Spiegel International Film Lab – Jerusalem and a mentor and pitching trainer at educational international platforms and film schools.



## BLACK SHEEP SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY



### **APPLE OF MY EYE**

Feature Film Written  
& Directed by  
Yaron Shani  
Shooting  
Planned Release: 2017

### **FIG TREE**

Feature Film Written  
& Directed by  
Alamork Davidian  
Pre-Production  
Planned Release: 2017

### **MAMA'S ANGEL**

Television Drama  
Written by  
Keren Weissman  
Directed by  
Eyal Sella  
10 Episodes  
Series Mania 2016 Official  
Selection  
Airing June-August 2016

### **HANNA'S JOURNEY**

Feature Film Written  
by Julia von Heinz  
& John Quester  
Directed by  
Julia von Heinz  
Released 2014  
LOLA @Berlinale

### **AMEER GOT HIS GUN**

Creative  
Documentary Film  
Directed by  
Naomi Levari  
Released 2011  
Winner Grand Prix  
FIPA 2012

### **FAREWELL HERR**

**SCHWARTZ**  
Creative  
Documentary Film  
Directed by  
Yael Reuveni  
Released 2013  
Winner 10 international  
festival prizes including  
the DEFA Award DoK  
Leipzig 2013

