



Shai Lah Productions :: Documenting Life

www.ShaiLahProductions.com

Surreal a glance at a land that no longer exists

by erez t yanuv barzilay 
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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Announcing North American Premiere of

Surreal - a glance at a land that no longer exists

Opening Film of the Vancouver 2006 World Peace Forum Film Festival

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**Canadian Premiere & Global Webcast of
*A Cry for Madiom - ongoing Genocide in the Sudan***

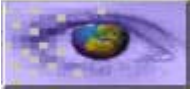
a special screening during the World Peace Forum Youth Day

**in a land filled with chaos and contradictions, *Surreal* takes a lyrical journey
into the madness through the lenses of two former Israelis**

Vancouver, BC (June 7, 2006) - Shai Lah Productions announces the North American Premiere of their latest feature documentary, *Surreal - a glance at a land that no longer exists* (93 min.), a personal journey through 20 of the Israeli Gaza Strip settlements one month prior to their inevitable destruction.

Surreal will be the Opening Film at the World Peace Forum Film Festival, on Monday, June 26, at the Royal Bank Cinema, Chan Centre for Performing Arts, University of British Columbia (UBC) at 12:30pm.

The documentary is based on a unique passenger seat point of view, a panoramic drive through the highly volatile region on the brink of Israel's unilateral withdrawal during the 2005 summer. The surprises are found in almost every turn of this mind boggling 12 hour journey.



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**"Still blowing the sand out of my eyes. I'm struck.
The music is hypnotic -- so forlorn and appropriate."**

*Tom Shandel, Documentary Filmmaker
(the innovator behind The Corporation phenomena)
Cowichan Bay, BC*

Two former Israeli friends, one lives in Canada, the other in Cambodia, on a farewell visit to the Israeli occupied Gaza Strip.

The result, a dramatic and emotional panoramic drive through 20 Israeli settlements dotting the Gaza Strip, **one month prior** to their inevitable destruction.

Combined with hundreds of close up digital images (taken by Dror Marcus), the wide screen panoramic digital video footage (taken by Erez Yanuv Barzilay) reveals an absolutely surreal experience: partially abandoned villages, flourishing agriculture projects and a unique mixture of inhabitants.

Most people they encounter are trying to deny their imminent fate. They are surrounded by concrete barricades and electronic fences, with massive armed forces buffering the diminishing Israeli presence from the independence seeking Palestinians.

In a land filled with chaos and contradictions, *Surreal* takes a lyrical journey into the madness through the lenses of the two former Israelis.

Surreal plays with the balance between Dror's still photography and Erez's moving images. Both immersed in a haunting and dramatic original score (composed by Ben Euerby).

Surreal uniquely engages with the different mediums to build tension and play between past, present and future.

A surreal glance at a land that no longer exists.

**"Surreal gave me a look at a piece of the world we hear so much about
at a moment in time that will never be repeated."**

Danny Singer, West Vancouver, BC

Surreal - a glance at a land that no longer exists is Produced and Directed by **Erez T Yanuv Barzilay**

(a former Israeli television news editor and video-journalist and a winner of 4 international awards with his last year's heart breaking feature documentary *A Cry for Madiom - ongoing Genocide in the Sudan*).

Erez was also ***Surreal's*** DOP, Digital Video Camera Operator and AVID Editor.

Co-produced and Digital Stills Imagery by **Dror Marcus**.

Original Score by **Ben Euerby**.



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"Brilliant work."

Dor Givon, Tel Aviv, Israel

Surreal - a glance at a land that no longer exists will **World Premiere** during [Ecofilms](#) International Film & Visual Arts Festival, Rhodes, Greece (June 24).

Erez T Yanuv Barzilay about his film:

"Surreal" is a personal journey turned into a testimony to absurdity.

The same absurdity that can now be conceived as a unique beacon of hope for peaceful conflict resolution.

It is still a mystery to me that after all we thought we knew about it, the reality was so surprising.

It raised big questions in my mind: about peace, hope, reality, the role of the media, the future of Israel, the future for the Palestinians.

I just wish that the people who will share the experience with Dror and myself, will also revile something new for themselves, learning as much as I did in the process of making "Surreal".

"Surreal shed light for me on a reality that I could not have otherwise imagined.

The farewell visit to the Gaza Strip is just that, Surreal.

For me it was both the first and the last time that I witnessed Israeli life in the Gaza Strip. I have only ever been exposed to brief flashes on the tv news or reportings on the radio but never a view from the angle that Erez presents to us in this documentary.

The combination of moving and still images is both creative and effective in capturing the essence of the journey by bringing the viewer along for the ride.

When watching the film I often felt that I was right there with them in the car.

The original musical score compliments the film exceptionally as it draws upon emotion and supports the "...glance at a land that no longer exists".

Nicole Carere, Vancouver, BC

Shai Lah Productions (SLP) is an independent producer of television features and documentaries based in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Driven by a strong commitment to use public media outlets to promote social justice, **Shai Lah Productions** is dedicated to ensuring thought provoking content is delivered through diverse multi-media projects, proactively involving the general public and encouraging positive actions.

Shai Lah Productions offers a complete **Avid®** Digital Video Pro DNxHD™ Editing Suite, DVD Authoring, 3D Design and FX Creation, combined with the rich and exclusive international [eyeTravel](#) archive.



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Shai Lah Productions' latest feature documentary **A Cry for Madiom (2004) - ongoing Genocide in the Sudan** has been **Officially Selected** by some twenty international film festivals and is **Winner** of the: 2006 Tuskegee Film Festival - **Best International Documentary Grand Prize**, 2005 Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival - **Humanitarian Award**, 2005 Boston International Film Festival - **Indie Spec Special Recognition Award** & 2005 Moondance **Columbine Award**.

Surreal's Electronic Press Kits and DVD preview copies available upon request.

For more information:

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<http://www.ShaiLahProductions.com>



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Canadian Premiere & Global Webcast of
A Cry for Madiom - ongoing Genocide in the Sudan
a special screening during the World Peace Forum Youth Day

A Cry for Madiom *ongoing Genocide in the Sudan* a feature documentary written by Erez T Yanuv Barzilay www.ShaiLahProductions.com



Shai Lah Productions is please to announce the **Canadian Premiere** of their last year's award winning heart breaking feature documentary, ***A Cry for Madiom - ongoing Genocide in the Sudan***.

A Cry for Madiom will be globally webcast at the end of a special Virtual Conference during the **World Peace Forum Youth Day, on Sunday, June 25, at the Norm Theater, Student Union Building (SUB), University of British Columbia (UBC) at 1pm.** (Virtual Conference & discussion to start at 11am)

A Cry for Madiom - ongoing Genocide in the Sudan is a rare experience exposing the shockingly harsh conditions of millions of ill-fated internally displaced Sudanese. The documentary drops you into a remote feeding centre, near the Darfur border, and leaves you there for 24 hours. To achieve this total sensorial experience, the documentary is created from mostly untouched, unedited material.

Vancouver-based director, Erez T. Yanuv Barzilay, uses no narration and bases the film on original footage recorded a few years ago in Ajiep, one of the hunger centres in the hard-hit famine regions of southern Sudan.

"Although the situation in southern Sudan has improved a bit, it is my sincere belief that ***A Cry for Madiom*** portrays the exact same situation which existed then, and which still exists at this very moment, in many of the displaced persons camps inside Sudan, Darfur and Chad," Says Erez.

The Virtual Conference and the global webcast is hosted by [Heart In Action.com](http://HeartInAction.com) - "The Power To Touch The World through Technologies and Youth" - in association with [Canadian Students for Darfur](http://CanadianStudentsforDarfur).



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For more details on this event please contact:

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Producer Director of the heart breaking feature documentary
A Cry for Madiom - ongoing Genocide in the Sudan
Officially Selected to over 20 International film Festivals
Winner of 4 international awards:
2006 Tuskegee Film Festival, Alabama - Best International Documentary
2005 Fort Lauderdale Int' Film Festival, Florida - Humanitarian Award
2005 Boston Int' Film Festival - Indie Spec Special Recognition Award
2005 Moondance Int' Film Festival, Boulder - Columbine Award

announcing the soon to be released feature documentary
Surreal - a glance at a land that no longer exists
World Premiers:
Opening Film, World Peace Forum, Vancouver, BC, Canada - June 26, 12:30pm, Chan Center, UBC
Ecofilms Int' Film & Visual Arts Festival, Rodos, Greece - June 24
Golden Apricot Int' Film Festival, Directors Across Borders Program, Yerevan, Armenia - July 10-15
Jerusalem, Israel; Ramallah, Palestine; Amann, Jordan - July 1-15

2006 Banff World Television CTV Fellowship Recipient

with the in-development feature documentary
My Rwanda - triumph in the land of Milles Collines

"Erez's films are very compelling though he uses little more than straight-up interviews, and visuals shot in some of the world's most controversial areas--taking tough subjects and without an evident political agenda, makes a very humane plea that goes straight to the heart."

Suzette Meyers, Filmmaker

2006 Vancouver World Peace Forum Film Festival Co-ordinator