



Synopsis

From acclaimed director/writer Yair Hochner arriving the first Israeli queer romantic sexy comedy.

In two days, Omer will hit a milestone; his 30th birthday. Like many his age, he hasn't found himself. But then Omer is hardly looking. Instead he chooses to loose himself among the stacks of books at the local library, where he works. It is a respite from real life. From time to time he goes on blind dates. He meets Danny on one of his dates. 20 years old and full of enthusiasm, Danny dreams of becoming a dancer.

Shirley, Omer's little sister, has her own problems. Aside from being Omer's greatest annoyance, she is in an unconventional relationship with, Michal, owner of the city's hippest coffeehouse and her boss.

Just when it seems that Omer has completely lost his spark and all seems lost, Enter Ronen, the handsome journalist who ignites the flame Omer has been seeking.

Everyone is hoping for a change. They are waiting for the light. The light that will thaw their frozen hearts. But only one person has the answer, Matilda Rose, the alien loving best-selling novelist can solve the issue; Is love dead or are we just looking in all the wrong places?



Yair Hochner

Short Vita:

A graduate of "Kamera Obscura" art school. Good Boys (Yeladim Tovim, 2005), his directorial debut won in several film festivals including LA Outfest, NY NewFest and Montreal. The New York MOMA showcased Good Boys in a gay film retrospective event, 2006. Yair taught cinema for five years in a high school. He is currently a writer and film critic for an Israeli website and writes T.V. reviews for Timeout Tel Aviv. Yair is directing for the third year TLVFest, the LGBT Film Festival in Tel Aviv that he co-founded in 2006. His second feature "Antarctica" will open in Israel July 2008.

Long Vita:

Born in Kfar Save, Israel. After finishing his three years service in the Israeli Defense Force in 1997, Yair began and completed his studies at "Kamera Obscura" art school where he graduated with distinction, in 2000. Several short scripts that he wrote soon garnered interest and ultimately received grants from esteemed organizations such as the Eli Gelfand Fund, the America Israel Cultural Foundation, the Yehoshua Rabinovits Fund for Arts and the Snunit fund of channel 2.

With the encouragement of notable directors Keren Yedaya and Tomer Heiman, Yair set out to direct his next script, Good Boys (Yeladim Tovim). Much to his delight, the completed film has become a festival darling and has afforded him the opportunity to travel and speak to captivated audiences worldwide. Good Boys won in several film festivals in Los Angeles, New York, Montreal, Tampa & Eilat. The Museum of Modern Art, in New York, showcased Good Boys in a gay film retrospective event in July 2006, where it was the only film in the series to screen twice for sold-out audiences.

Yair taught cinema for five years high school students in Netania and moonlights as a writer and film critic for Israel's leading website on cinema, Seret. Yair also write T.V review for Time Out Tel Aviv. He has also written articles for Cinematheque Magazine as well as short stories for Tel Aviv newspaper and for Camera Obscura magazine, some of which were used for student films.

In June, 2006 he co-founded, with Gadi Leshman, The First LGBT Film Festival in Tel Aviv. With a need for this genre of film festival, its huge success far exceed all expectations. In addition to all of his other activities, Yair is already preparing for next year's festival. (www.tlvfest.com) For more information on Yair and his film, Good Boys, please visit the website, www.goodboysfilm.com





Director's Note

"Antarctica" is an independent film that follows the lives of a young group of 20 and 30-year-olds in Tel Aviv, a city that never stops. People have asked me why I chose to make a romantic comedy while the world around us is ridden with war and madness and our small State faces new dangers by the minute.

Why is there no reference to the fragile political state or security? And I ask myself, do we not deserve a moment of sanity? Do we not deserve, instead of thinking of Iranian nuclear bombs, raging Hamas in Gaza, scheming Hezbollah in Lebanon, or the Haredi and religious community attempting to legislate anti-LGBT laws, in the crazed Israeli reality, do we not deserve one moment of serenity? If that's not a political stand in itself, I don't know what is.

The characters in "Antarctica" seek exactly this type of moment, where they can lay their heads down beside someone they love. This is a universal need. There is not one person in the world that does not search for their soul mate, a loving home, a daily quiet routine, the light that brings internal salvation.

After the surprising domestic and international success of "Good Boys," everyone was certain my next film would also be bleak and realistic. Yet they were not aware that in 1999 I wrote the first draft of what would eventually become my second feature entitled "Antarctica." I began writing the script while still in film school at Tel-Aviv's Camera Obscura. Those days, it was a romantic comedy about a bunch of straight female characters looking for love. During the writing process I added a plot line of a serial killer targeting young women on blind dates. When I came out of the closet and moved in with my partner, my life changed entirely and I decided to change the script and turn it into a drama, and a romantic comedy about a group of young Lesbians and Gay men in Tel Aviv searching for love.

In essence the ensemble cast reflect familiar characters we all know in the queer community: the confused youngster who's unclear about his life; the stud who only has one-night stands with a different guy every night; the mature Lesbian who wants to have a baby and create family; the shy boy who prefers reading books to going out on the town and thus will never meet anyone. We even meet a Jewish mother (actor

Noam Huberman, aka his stage name of Miss Laila Carry), who constantly nudges her kids at their jobs. She wants grandchildren, she match-makes, and behind everyone's backs she...well you'll have to watch the film to find out.

If my first film was influenced by both critical realism and neo-realism, "Antarctica" is heavily inspired by Michael Winterbottom's "Wonderland"; attempts to capture the solitude of bachelorhood in the big city. I am also an avid admirer of John Waters and Divine, and so decided to fill the role of Shoshana, the Jewish mother from hell, with Noam Huberman, one of Israel's most talented Drag artists today.

The Lesbian character Shirley contemplates marriage with her partner Michal. She fears settling down will change her life and prevent her from dreamed after travel adventures to Antarctica. Same sex marriage remains illegal in Israel today, where all marriages are conducted only by the acceptance of the official Head Rabbinate. To have a civil union of any kind, Israelis must wander off to Europe or Canada.

In this film no one comes out of the closet, no Lesbian commits suicide, no one carries a flag or goes out to demonstrate. People just live their lives.

