

DUCKIN' & DIVIN' FILMS | MAYA FILMS
in association with
PASSION PICTURES

FOREVER PURE

A film by MAYA ZINSHTEIN
85 MINS

OFFICIAL SELECTION

Toronto Film festival 2016
Jerusalem Film Festival 2016

AWARDS

Jerusalem Film Festival 2016
The Van Leer Award for Best Director of a Documentary
The Haggiag Award for Best Editing
The Jewish Experience Awards - Honorable Mention

Contact
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"By placing it in a wider socio-political and historical context, the film transcends its nominal subject, football and explores issues such as racism, mob mentality and abuse of power."

- Jury of the Jerusalem Film Festival

"high quality-piece of factual filmmaking"

- SCREEN INTERNATIONAL

"We present an Honorable Mention in the Jewish Experience category to "Forever Pure" by Maya Zinshtein. Her courageous and disturbing first film documents the destructive powers of hatred and incitement, as they threaten Jewish and democratic values in contemporary Israel."

- Jewish Experience by Yad Vashem - The World Holocaust Remembrance Center

SYNOPSIS

Beitar Jerusalem F.C. is the most popular and controversial football team in Israel, the only club in the Premier League never to sign an Arab player. Mid-way through the 2012-13 season, a secretive transfer deal by the owner, Russian-Israeli oligarch Arcadi Gaydamak, brought two Muslim players from Chechnya. The deal inspired the most racist campaign in Israeli sport that sent the club spiralling out of control. One season in a life of this famed club is a story of Israeli society, personal identity, politics, money and a window into how racism is destroying a team and society from within.

CREDITS
FEATURING

Eli Cohen - Head Coach
Arcadi Gaydamak - Owner of Beitar Jerusalem F.C
Ariel Harush - Goalkeeper
Ramzan Kadyrov - Head of the Chechen Republic
Dzhabrail Kadiyev - Defender
Itzik Korenfine - Chairman
Ofir Kriaf - Defender
Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin - President of Israel
Zaur Sadayev - Striker

FILMMAKERS

Directed & Produced by
Maya Zinshtein

Produced by
Geoff Arbourne

Executive Producers
John Battsek | Nicole Stott

Edited by
Justine Wright | Noam Amit

Co-produced by
Alan Maher | Torstein Grude

Director of Photography
Sergei (Israel) Freedman

Music by
Stephen Rennicks

Story Consultant
Joe Bini

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Two Muslim players entered the locker room of Beitar F.C and I was there. I was the first person to welcome Zaur and Gabriel into Israel and the last to say goodbye.

Zaur and Gabriel were full of hope, telling me they'd just come to play football. No politics. This found myself living from Saturday to Saturday, sitting in the stands, biting my nails, and hoping that the story that started so badly would change direction

For years as a journalist at Haaretz newspaper I've covered many of the ills of Israeli society.

Two young men were thrown into an impossible situation and forced to deal with it, alone. Withdrawing into themselves they lost all interest in the team and the championship. The anxiety of two mothers escalates due to the fate of their sons. The struggle of individuals, as chairman Kornfein and local Beitar player Ariel tried to battle against the flow but were defined as betrayers. The silence of the masses surrendered by the extreme.

The film explores the relationship between the club's fan base and mainstream politics, and raises concerns that the silence of the right wing politicians legitimises the ingrained racism on the terraces. My aim in this movie is to move beyond the clichés centred on public debate, enabling the viewer to look inside the team's experience and possibly into themselves. want to put a mirror to the Israeli society and show how racism is destroying a team and society from within.

- ***Maya Zinshtein***

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Maya Zinshtein is an Israeli filmmaker and journalist, who emigrated from Russia during her childhood - now living in Tel Aviv. She holds a BA in Cinema and French studies, and an MA in Security and Diplomacy from Tel Aviv University. She has produced documentaries, among them: Thieves by Law (by Alexander Gentelev, ARTE/ZDF), the inside story of Russian Mafia, Operation Successor (By Alexander Gentelev, Channel 1, Israel), about the 2008 presidential elections in Russia. For years as an investigative journalist (Haaretz newspaper) she covered many of the ills of Israeli society and directed investigative stories for Israeli channels.

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