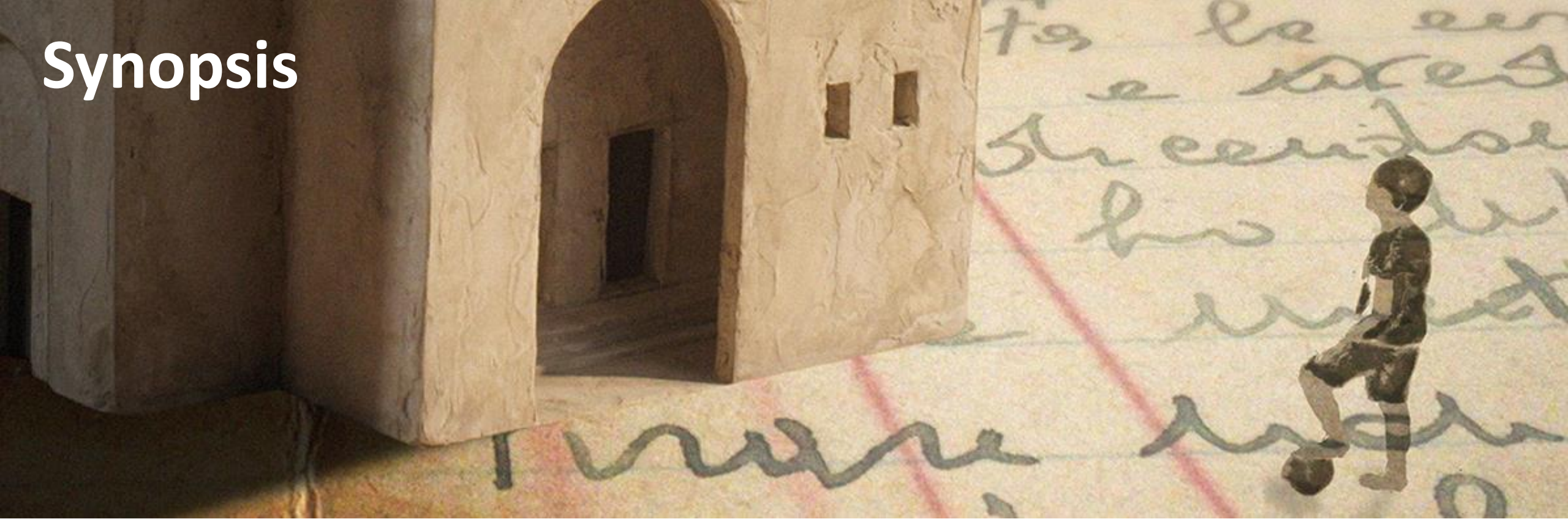


GIADO

A decades-hidden diary unveils harrowing stories from Giado, a WWII concentration camp in the Libyan desert, as Yosef Dadush shares his story of endurance and survival.

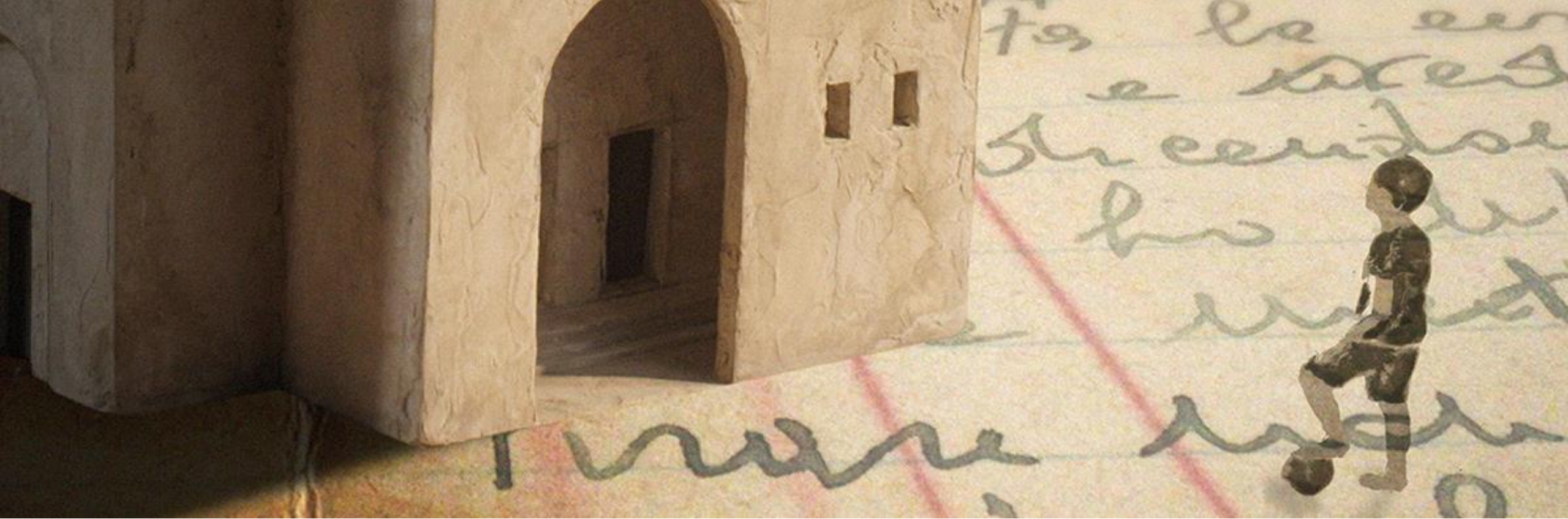
Director: Sharon Yaish, Golan Rise | Producers: Sharon Yaish, Golan Rise
Israel | Documentary | 2023 | 56/75 min.

Synopsis



At the young age of 20, Yosef Dadush was among 3,000 Jews, who were sent from their homes in Benghazi to the Giado concentration camp nestled in the heart of the Libyan desert. Amidst extreme conditions, he bravely chronicled life within the camp through a secret diary. For seven decades, his diary remained locked away in a closet, concealed from the world, until after his passing.

Yosef's diary provides an extraordinary and rare window into the harrowing routine at Giado. It captures the atrocities endured by its inhabitants in real time, offering an intimate and chilling account of their suffering. Despite his dedication to raising awareness about the Holocaust of Libyan Jews and fighting for its recognition by the State of Israel, Yosef chose to keep his personal ordeal hidden from his own children.



In an endeavor to bring this compelling story to life on the screen, a unique model of the camp was constructed and photographed. Using animations, this model serves as a visual bridge, connecting the haunting texts of the diary with the stark reality of the camp. The resulting film merges historical accuracy with a distinctive cinematic language, offering a powerful and immersive exploration of Yosef's profound journey and the dark legacy he left behind.

Production Personnel

Sharon Yaish – Producer & Director

Sharon Yaish is an Israeli director and editor. She wrote and co-directed the Israeli documentary film “A Whore Like Me”, which was praised by critics as "one of the most important films ever made about prostitution". The film won an Israeli Academy Award for Best Mid-length Documentary. She has been working as a director and editor for more than 25 years.

Among her notable projects:

"Lost Angeles" (Best Cinematography, Docaviv 2022 & Best Screenplay, AGIFF Toronto 2023)

"Love It Was Not" (Best Israeli Documentary, Docaviv 2020)

"How to Say Silence" (Best Debut Film, Docaviv 2021)

"Elish's Notebooks" (Editing Award, Docaviv 2017)



Director's Statement

For a considerable period, I carried this family story, yet I remained distant from it, unwilling to fully engage. Growing up in a family that refrained from acknowledging trauma, I was repeatedly urged to "move on" and avoid dwelling on painful experiences. This perspective, undoubtedly empowering and fostering resilience, allowed me to navigate life actively and persevere. However, while adhering to this mindset, I unknowingly concealed parts of myself—parts that would occasionally emerge unexpectedly, catching me off guard and deviating from my intended path.

One such concealed aspect is my second name, Ada. I never truly delved into the reasons behind this name, choosing instead to hide it as it felt unfamiliar and outdated. But today, after completing this film and discovering that I was named after a baby girl who tragically perished in the Holocaust, I proudly embrace it.

In this introspective journey, I made another profound observation: by erasing significant portions of our past, we inadvertently grant others permission to do the same. When we fail to acknowledge and confront our personal history, others may follow suit, perpetuating a cycle of forgetting and detachment.

Through the process of uncovering my grandfather's journal, I realized the significance of reconnecting with our personal history. It is through this connection that we can truly understand ourselves, find strength in our roots, and honor the resilience of those who came before us.





Production Personnel

Golan Rise – Director & Producer

An Israeli director and screenwriter. He is a graduate of the Ma'aleh Film School in Jerusalem. His graduation films "Blockages" and the documentary "Breakfast Parliament" have won many festivals in Israel and around the world.

Among his notable works:

"Elish's Notebooks", (Editing Award, Docaviv 2017)

"Blind Spot" (2021).

"Lost Angeles" (Best Cinematography, Docaviv 2022 & Best Screenplay, AGIFF Toronto 2023)



Director's Statement

My mother was born in Libya and during the war, she was enslaved and taken to a labor camp in Libya. I have heard many stories about this period, but for us as well the main message was to continue to be happy. There was no place in the family narrative for what my mother's family went through. I personally feel a huge mission to tell the story of the Holocaust of Libyan Jews. A holocaust that has not been told to this day.

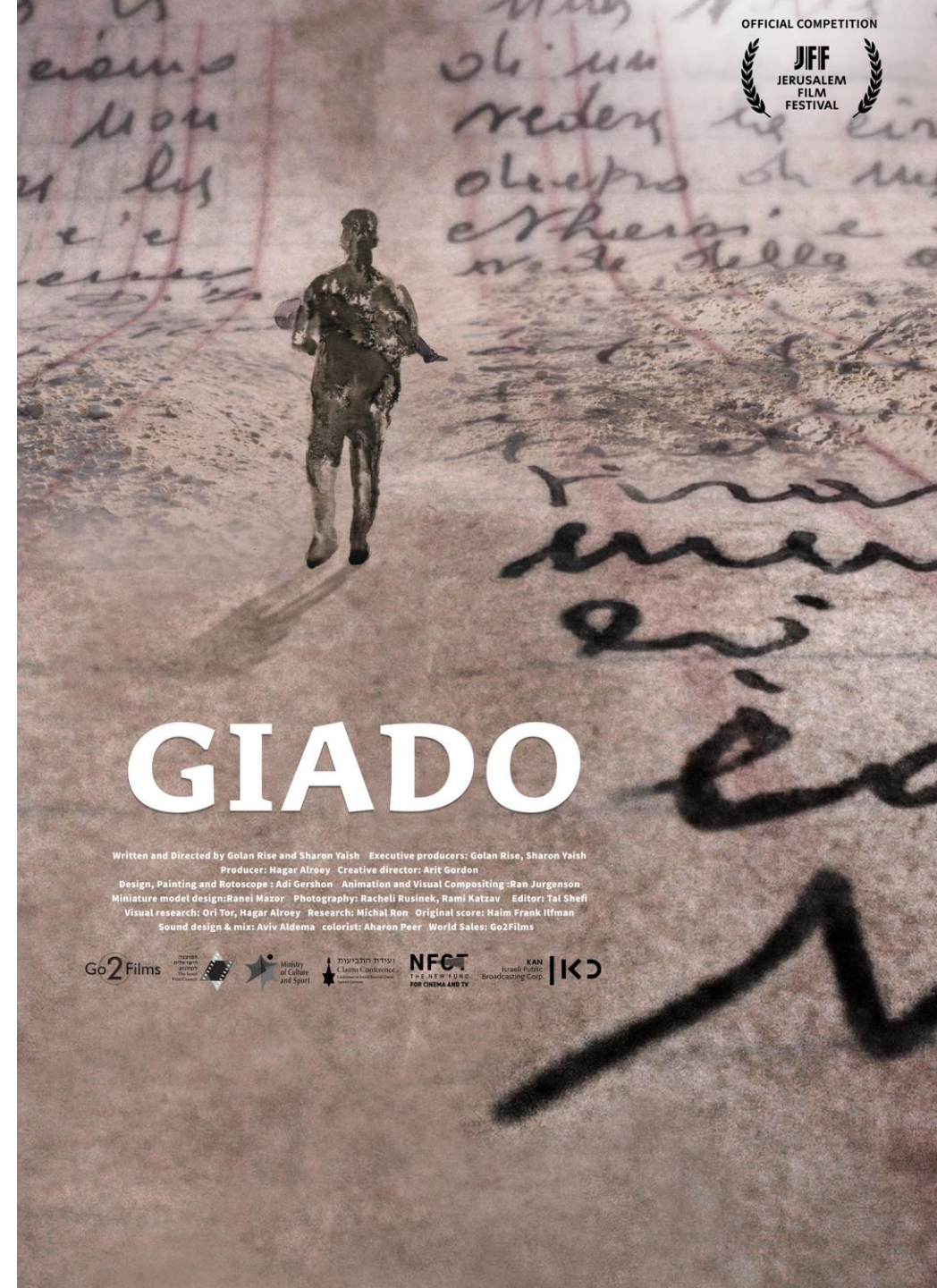


Impact Statement

We as documentary filmmakers believe that we should not only make films as documentation but also bring about social change. This film will hopefully shed light on a holocaust that was denied and was never told - the Holocaust of North African Jewry.

We believe it is important to shed light on the myriad victims affected by the Holocaust and by Nazi ideology. Sephardic Jews, disabled people, Roma, homosexuals, communists, and artists were all persecuted under the Nazi regime. These are global Holocaust histories which are crucial to document in order to illuminate the global and diverse nature of the Holocaust, which transpired in continental Europe but also in European colonies and satellite states, imprisoning Jews in North Africa and sending shockwaves as far away as Iraq. We hope to illuminate the truly transnational nature of history through film and archival work.

The film creates another way to reach out to the Arab countries, which were once the home of many Jews. The story may bring hearts together between enemy countries since the Holocaust happened on their soil.



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Hedva Goldschmidt, Managing Director

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