

# THE ISLAND

A film by Adam Weingrod



## SYNOPSIS

An intimate look at the complex human mosaic of the people who populate the French Hospital St. Louis- a hospice for the terminally ill, located on the tense line between East and West Jerusalem opposite the old city walls.

Delicate portraits of patients and staff, each one and their own story crafted to show the LIFE that continues inside the hospital walls. Simon, a Tunisian Jew decides that in his remaining weeks he will learn how to paint for the first time. David, an Italian monk who is considered to be the best care taker starts begins to think of his aging and about his own death. Yigal a true born Jerusalemite is looking forward with anticipation to be taken by his son to his favorite concert- Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Jawaher an East Jerusalem Muslim spends her time painting the horrors of the "outside world" that she sees on TV. These are but some of the captivating and touching individuals which the camera encounters.

Through the hospital windows we look out, at one of the most contentious areas in the world. A strong dissonance is felt between the violent streets of Jerusalem to the compassion and grace that fills the hospital walls.

**The film was supported by channel "yes Docu" / Gesher multicultural film fund / JDC- Israel (Eshel) / The Israel film council and Ministry of culture**

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## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

6 years ago my mother decided to retrain as a “spiritual counselor” – a profession which meant dealing with people facing imminent death: old people, those with terminal illness and often children. I tried to understand what caused her to become involved with this work. Over time, I began to deepen my understanding of her work among the people at the French Hospital. I discovered a hidden place, a kind of secret island that existed in the middle of the crazy city of Jerusalem, an island that few of us dare to look into.

The first two weeks at the hospital, left me with a stomach that felt like a wrung out floor rag, but as time went on, I began to relax. The longer I remained and allowed myself to ease in, I discovered the freedom and strength the place gave my life.

After spending months observing the LIFE in the hospital I understood I must make this film, to understand and capture this last part of life, as an equal part to all parts of life.

As a born and raised Jerusalemite I suddenly saw the French hospital as a reflection of the city I wish Jerusalem to be. A place of peace and respect between a human being to another human being just for being a human being, no matter religion, race, beliefs etc’

## CREDITS

Director, Producer and cinematographer: **Adam Weingrod**

Editor: **katia shepeliavaya**

Sound design: **Rotam Dror**

Color Design: **Tomer Bahat**

Original music: **Adam Weingrod**

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## **ADAM WEINGROD- DIRECTOR, CINEMATOGRAPHER, PRODUCER / ISRAEL**

Adam was born in the late 80's to a family of artists in Jerusalem, Israel.

After graduating his B.A studies in Music at the Jerusalem Rubin Academy majoring in the Jazz department and performing all over the globe Adam returned to his oldest passion Film.

In 2016 Adam graduated with honors from the MFA program in Film at the Tel Aviv University. Adam has directed and produced the short film "Funjoya" (16min) that won the Audience Award at the Tel Aviv International student festival 2016. In 2016 Adam received 1st prize for development at the Copro Israeli film market for his film "The Island" which later was picked up by the main Israeli TV channel yes Docu and premiered at the "DocAviv" film festival 2017. During the past years Adam has been working as a freelance Editor working on projects such as the short film "Out" that was premiered at the "Cinema South Film Festival" and commissioned by the "Rbinovich Film Fund".

Currently Adam is working on two new Documentary films.

**"Song of the Sampaguita"**- The story of a seven year old girl who fled Nazi Germany to the only place that took her in, the Philippines.

The film was chosen for the "Docu Start" lab, funded by "The Israeli Documentary Filmmakers Forum" and "Gesher multicultural film fund".

**"At the Foot of the Volcano"**- Danny lives on a "Kibutz" beside the Lebanese border, he fought in all of Israel wars. Now at the age of 67 he retires and goes around the world searching for one question: "Why do people keep living underneath active Volcanoes?"

The Film started its principal shooting in Feb' 2017 in Nicaragua and will continue in Dec' 2018 in Japan and the Philippines.

## **TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS**

Presentation Format: **DCP, QuickTime MOV**

Aspect Ration: **16:9**

Sound Format: **Surround**

Language: **English, Hebrew, French, Arabic**

Subtitles: **English**

Running Time: **59min**

Production Country: **Israel**