

ABULELE

Written and Directed by Jonathan Geva



Funded by The Israeli Film Fund, Jerusalem Film Fund & National Lottery

Dori Media Paran, Spiro Films
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Abulele: Technical features

Title: Abulele

Country: Israel

Year: 2015

Language: Hebrew with English subtitles

Running Time: 90 mins

Scriptwriter / Director: Jonathan Geva

Producers: Yoni Paran, Eitan Mansuri

Production Companies: Dori Media Paran, Spiro Films

Co-Producers: VFX and Animation, Snowball Studios

Distributors in Israel: United King, Dori Media Paran

Principal Cast: Yoav Sadian, Bar Paly, Idan Barkai, Makram Khoury, Yehuda Mor, Oded Leopold

Cinematographer: Giora Bejach

Editor: Omer Zaitman

Music: Frank Ilfman

Production Designer: Udi Tugendreich

Animator: Itamar Barak

Format available: DCP

***Distribution in Israel:** Autumn 2015

Abulele: Longline

A boy befriends an ancient monster called “Abulele”. By helping the monster get back home, he reconnects with his parents.

Abulele: Short Synopsis

Adam, a ten year-old, meets, Abulele, an ancient monster, huge, friendly and invisible.

Soon the two become best friends. But when a government Special Forces unit arrives to capture Abulele, Adam will have to put his own past behind him in order to save his friend, and learn that when you really love someone, you are never really alone.

Abulele: Long Synopsis

Adam's older brother was killed in a car crash a year ago. His family has not been the same since. As his parents struggle to cope with their grief, Adam (10), plagued with guilt over his brother's death feels he is all alone in the world.

But everything changes the day he meets Abulele.

The Abulele are ancient monsters, bear-sized. Local legends tell that they are extremely dangerous, but in fact, they turn out to be quite friendly and playful creatures.

Abulele quickly becomes Adam’s best and most secret friend.

Together, they outsmart Adam's mean schoolteacher and beat the class bullies.

But Adam's parents start to suspect he is harboring a secret, And when a government, Special Forces unit called “Thunder” appears in the neighborhood on a mission to capture Abulele things go from bad to worse.

In order to save his best friend, Adam will have to get Abulele back home to its family, and to do so, he will need to put the past behind him and realize that when you truly love someone, you are never really alone.

Abulele: Visual elements







Abulele: Producer's note of intent

Films for kids are rare to find in the Israeli cinema. Within the blossoming of the past years, most of the films made in Israel are director driven art house cinema or pure summer entertainment.

When I first read "Abulele" I knew immediately this is a film I need to produce. It is director driven sophisticated entertainment. It has in it exciting storytelling with thrilling adventure. It is extremely local yet could take place anywhere else on the globe and it has the right mixture of fear and fun.

It's a new step in the evolution of Israeli cinema.

Having kids of my own, I am always looking for interesting, inspiring films for them to watch. Films that can give them more than just amusement. Where the story can teach them something. I feel "Abulele" has that quality.

We live in a wonderful time, the world is getting smaller and we are all exposed to different colors and tastes more than ever but too often we still see these differences bring to conflict, it is still hard for us to except the one who is not exactly like us. I hope that maybe when the whole family can experience on screen the beauty of different kind of friendships, they just might go home a bit more open minded.

Abulele: Author's note of intent

We all had a monster living under our bed when we were growing up...
The monster I feared was "Abulele".

The Abulele are ancient monsters who live around the middle-east, all the grownups say they are dangerous, and so Arab and Israeli kids alike are scared of them.

For me, "Abulele" is a movie about overcoming fear. It is a story about a very special friendship that can only happen when you have the guts to befriend the one thing you are supposed to fear most.

That is the premise of my film, and I truly believe it is a story that will resonate with children worldwide: don't overcome to the fears of the "grownups", stay open-minded and you just might find your best friend...

For me, growing up in a city divided by fear of what is different from you, "Abulele is a story that has to be told.

Abulele: Bio-Filmography, Director

Jonathan Geva, a Film and commercial director, has a fast and colorful visual style that combines classic cinema work with, exiting storytelling ability and computer animation and effects.

Among his works are content for the Israeli Children's channel and commercials for leading international brands appealing to kids and youth.

Jonathan holds a bachelor's degree (magna cum laude) in film (BFA) from Tel-Aviv University's Film Department. His theses film, "One:Nil" premiered at the Palm-Springs international film festival and went on to participated in many film festivals and win several awards for best short film.

Growing up in Jerusalem during the 80s, he watched "The Return of the Jedi" with his father at the age of eight and fell in love with cinema. Soon after, he started making short SiFi films with his parents' old video camera, doing all of the special effects himself: A childhood hobby that became his passion and profession.

Abulele is his debut full length feature film.

Abulele: Bio-Filmography, Yoni Paran – Dori Media Paran



Dori Media Paran Group is a media company active in the international media and television market, specialising in the various business aspects of content for all platforms. Established in 1996, with offices in Israel, Argentina, Switzerland, USA and the Philippines. The company's office is based in the studios, which make the production very easy to monitor and cost effective. Dori Media Paran produces about 150 hours per year and growing. The back catalog contain more than 1,500 hours of successful dramas. The production volume allows operating an in house postproduction facilities designed with the latest technologies.

In more recent years Dori Media Paran has expanded the variety of genres of production, going into the world of children's TV dramas, quality dramas, reality TV, doco-reality, magazine shows, new media oriented content, and commercial content.

Yoni Paran has over 15 years' experience in the production and media industry in Israel majoring in drama and Telenovelas. Yoni has participated in various positions in all the projects and productions of Dori Media Paran and Dori Media Darset. After the retirement of Danny Paran in 2010 from the position of CEO, Yoni has taken the lead to the production companies of DMG in Israel.

Since 2013 Dori Media Paran is developing yet another field of expertise, and has opened a Feature Films division with Keren Michael handling the talent scouting , developing and financing . At summer 2014 screened the first feature film produced by DMP , **GALIS- The Journey to Astra**, and brought more than a quarter million viewers to the cinemas.

Abulele: Bio-Filmography, Eitan Mansuri – Spiro Films



Eitan Mansuri is a film producer. He was born in Jerusalem and is a graduate of the Sam Spiegel Film School in Jerusalem. He filled a variety of production positions throughout his career in local and international films. Among his productions are “*The Congress*” by Ari Folman (Cannes Film Festival, 2013) and “*Afterthought*” by Elad Keidan (Cannes official selection, 2015).

In 2013, Eitan established **Spiro Films**, an Israeli-based production company dedicated to producing artistically ambitious films, while aiming to promote expressive voices of the newly emerging generation of Israeli writers and directors alongside well-established, leading directors.